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Building a Bridge to a Brighter Tomorrow

SERVE - HEAL - INSPIRE - NURTURE - EMPOWER

You Can Make a Life-Changing Impact

Dear Friends,

God calls us to take care of widows and orphans, with over 80 Scripture references in the Bible. My heart breaks for the young men and women who age out of the foster care system, those who are orphans, and those who are struggling to leave behind an impoverished environment as they are thrust out on their own. With few resources available for these young people, **SHINE is working to build a bridge from their current environment to a future that allows for access to the necessities of a productive life: food, water, shelter, education and employment.**

Please read this newsletter to understand our mission, purpose and plans. We are a new organization, but **one committed to building a bridge to a better tomorrow** for the lives of these young adults as we provide the support needed to help them successfully transition to a stable life. Our focus is on providing education, counseling and career development to ensure that these young adults are given real-life skills to be contributing members of their local communities.

To accomplish our goals, we need your help. Would you consider joining our support team and make a life-changing impact for these young adults by supporting SHINE through donations, prayer and volunteering?

[Click Here to Join our Support Team](#)



SHINE exists to Serve, Heal, Inspire, Nurture and Empower vulnerable children, both domestically and internationally, who are transitioning from foster and orphan care or impoverished environments.

SHINE's mission is to bring individuals together to support these children by creating a bridge from their current environment to a future that allows for access to the necessities of a productive life: food, water, shelter, and employment. With a focus on education, skills development and career development, SHINE endeavors to ensure that these young adults are given real-life skills to be contributing members of their local communities.

Why SHINE?

Psalm 68:5 tells us, "Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation." His aim is to show orphans mercy, care, and protection, and because these waiting children are essential to him, they should be essential to us as his Church.

- **More than 23,000** kids age out of U.S. foster care every year
 - **70% of foster kids** would like to go to college but **only 3%** of kids who age out will earn a college degree
 - **1 in 4** won't graduate from high school or get a GED
 - **60% of boys** who age out or are legally emancipated have been convicted of a crime
 - **1 in 2** who age out will develop substance dependence
 - **7 in 10 girls** who age out will become pregnant before age 21
 - **32% of children** who reached 18 in foster care were waiting in the system for more than 3 years
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SHINE'S AREAS OF FOCUS



- **Community Connections:** Connections and community relationships in the areas we strive to serve are essential for creating a lasting and positive impact on the lives of at risk and vulnerable youth in these areas. SHINE will be raising funds in 2023 for a medical brigade to deploy in 2024. This brigade will provide medical assistance to a community in La Paz, Honduras while also helping Ocone Memorial Hospital in Seneca, SC provide valuable hands-on experience to interns.
- **Monthly Sponsorships:** Youth in foster and orphan care often have low self-worth as a result of their circumstances. Monetary donations will help provide food, clothing, school supplies, and GED certification or skills development. Monthly sponsors will also provide consistent one-on-one emotional support and encouragement.
- **Education:** Through supporting GED and mentoring programs, ensuring access to necessary school supplies and clothing, and offering scholarship funding to pay for continued education, SHINE strives to bridge the gaps that are preventing youth who either cannot attend school or did not graduate prior to aging out of foster care from receiving the education necessary for a bright and productive future.
- **Skills Development:** Traditional education is not the best fit for every child. Through internships and training programs, we aim to equip vulnerable youth with the skills necessary to contribute to the key industries in their local community. SHINE has partnered with a skills center in Tutule, Honduras and a public school in La Paz, Honduras aimed at equipping at-risk youth with income-earning skills specific to the industries in their local communities.

**SAVE THE DATE****SHINE's 1st Annual Golf Tournament**



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