

COMPASSION explorer®



Gold
Medal
Kids

It's been a strange year, Explorers.

COVID-19 has caused some big changes and challenges! Many Explorers are returning to classes and hobbies this fall. Others are waiting for the green light before getting back to some of their normal activities. So this issue is all about perseverance, or keeping up the hard work even when you face challenges. Inside you'll meet gold-medal kids — sponsored children who won awards for persevering in sports, school or other challenges!



over some clever photo captions.

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DISCOVER

how these sponsored kids earned medals, trophies and other awards!

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a word puzzle about a proverb.

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a "gold medal" from items around the house!

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a sweet rice pudding from Bangladesh.

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with creativity, like two Alaskan sisters do.

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in perseverance with this devotional.

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Remember this picture from the summer 2020
Compassion Explorer Magazine?
Here are some of your great captions! Find more
at explorer.compassion.com/explorers.

Snow with a chance of pizzas.

Hannah, 8
Simpsonville, S.C.

Oh, no! Sugar attack!

Chase, 7
Rosemount, Minn.

Uhh, Mom ... we... umm, let's just say: Where's the blender top?

Laurel, 10
Tallahassee, Fla.

Do you think this was the shower Mom was talking about?

Jonah, 9
Lansing, Mich.

Baking in outer space is fun!

Kaleb, 8
Woodbridge, Va.

It's raining flour!

Emma, 8
Glendale, Ariz.

The first step is: Throw the flour everywhere!

Giuliana, 9
Utica, N.Y.

Man, this always seems to happen when I cook.

Levi, 12
Placerville, Calif.

Look, brother! It's snowing!

Dominic, 6
Marysville, Calif.

April showers may bring flour!

Audrey, 12
Remington, Ind.

Reporting News: Parents, this is normal anywhere: Kids are messy.

Naela and Janae, 10 and 8
Laporte, Minn.



Check out the next Giggle photo on the back cover!

GOLD MEDAL KIDS

Have you ever won an award like a medal, trophy or other prize? How did it feel to have your hard work noticed?

Lots of sponsored kids around the world work hard at sports, school, art, music or other skills. Not all of them win awards, but they are thankful for the chance to try!

Some kids who live in poverty don't get to join in activities like team sports, art or even school because their families can't afford the costs.

Thankfully, sponsored kids learn new skills at their Compassion centers. Some have won awards for their hard work. Let's meet some of those kids!



STRAIGHT-A STUDENTS
HONDURAS

In the town of San Juan, many families can't afford to send their kids to school. Thanks to sponsors, kids in Compassion's program — like the girls pictured on this page — go to school and learn skills they'll need to get good jobs someday. But one Compassion center in San Juan gives sponsored kids even more reasons to study hard.

Sponsored kids at this center earn prize money, called a scholarship, for earning straight A's in school. The students receive \$25 to \$30 a month to spend on anything that helps their education, like extra school supplies, printed materials, internet fees and extra uniforms. So far more than 200 sponsored kids have won the prize money, including **10-year-old Ibania**, pictured at right. Her secret to good grades? "When I get home, I do my homework," she says. "And after that I relax a little bit by playing outside with my friends. I'm grateful for the scholarship so I can afford extra school supplies. I wish to become a nurse and help those in need in my community."



Write down or draw every school supply you can think of.

ALONDRA
AGE 10, EL SALVADOR



This is **Alondra**, who loves to play tennis. Before she joined Compassion's program, she didn't play sports. She spent her extra time helping her mom sell homemade snacks. The money they earned at the snack stand was all they had, and it wasn't enough to meet their needs.

But then Alondra joined Compassion's program at a church near their home. A teacher there asked if she'd like to take tennis, and Alondra said yes! Her coach said she had talent but still needed to practice hard. Soon she began winning medals in tennis competitions. At one competition she won a trophy, a professional racquet and a backpack! "I told my sponsor about it, and she was very happy for me," says Alondra, who loves to write to her sponsor in the U.S. In her free time, Alondra still helps her mom sell snacks (pictured bottom left).



Think of three things you need to buy to play tennis.



Rashid, pictured above left, and **Frola**, above right, are friends who met when they joined Compassion’s program at age 6. At the time they never imagined that five years later they’d be winning awards at a big film festival (sort of like the Oscars of Tanzania)!

Rashid and Frola wrote a short play about a common problem in their town: “Parents abandon their families, and those left to suffer are the children,” explains Rashid. When he and Frola performed the play, their talent impressed teachers at their Compassion center — like the man pictured with Frola at right. The teachers helped the friends turn the play into a movie, filming it at the center with 55 sponsored kids joining the cast! Then they sent the movie to the film festival judges, who invited Rashid and Frola to an awards party in the capital city. That’s where they were named the youngest actors ever to win Best Actor and Best Actress in Tanzania! Now the friends are famous in their town.



Go online with an adult to research what gear is needed to make a film.



This is **Jeronimo**. He was born with a hip problem that made it hard for him to walk. His parents took him to physical therapy to help. The doctor said Jeronimo should play a sport to keep his body active and improve his hip. Jeronimo had tried in-line skating before and wanted to do it again. But his parents didn’t have enough money to buy him the skates he needed.

Jeronimo is sponsored and goes to a Compassion center at a church, which helped pay for a new pair of skates! He began taking skating lessons, training Mondays through Saturdays after class at his Compassion center. Now, this 4-year-old competes in skating contests and wins medals!



Besides skates, what gear does a skater need to buy?





MOLLIKA
AGE 11, BANGLADESH

Mollika, pictured above without and with her dance makeup, didn't think twice when teachers at her Compassion center asked if she wanted to take dance lessons. "I was so excited to get this opportunity," Mollika says, "that I signed up for the dance class without my parents' consent." When she told her parents, they said they didn't have money to pay for the class. But Mollika told them that the Compassion center would pay for it! Then they were happy because they want their daughter to follow her dreams.

Mollika goes to dance practice two to three times every week. She made lots of friends in the class. Because of her hard work, she now competes in citywide and statewide dance contests! She has won medals and money for her beautiful dancing and dreams of becoming a professional dancer someday.



Think of three clothing items a dancer might buy.

Solve

Better Than Gold

The sponsored children on the previous pages won gold medals and trophies. But the kids are earning something more important than gold! Figure out what it is by solving this color-coded word puzzle. First look at the filled-in boxes below to see which color box should go around which letter. Then write those letters in the empty boxes of the same color. Finally, go back to see if you can guess which letters are missing from the gray boxes.

H O W M

E T R to get

I S A N

G , to get

!

— Proverbs 16:16, NIV

Read

Goals for the Gold


If you want to earn an award — like a medal in sports or a place on the honor roll — it helps to set goals. One expert in goals is Santiago “Jimmy” Mellado, president of Compassion! Jimmy was born in El Salvador, and he grew up in seven different countries. He loved sports, especially the high jump. This is his true story of how he competed in the Olympic Games! He trained for 16 years to get there, and he set many small and big goals along the way.




Hi! I'm Jimmy. I want to tell you about the power of goals. Goals help you imagine and dream big. Then they give you direction for reaching those dreams!

A great goal will stretch us to do the very best we can. And after giving it our best, we can rely on God for the results. When we put our best efforts in the hands of our miraculous God, things we can't even imagine are possible!


I started high jumping in Nicaragua when I was 8 or 9 years old. I don't know why. I was short, and short people don't go into high jump. But I did.



My friends and I started out jumping over tree limbs. There were no mats or anything to land on. We jumped over, and ... dirt.



By the time I was 12 years old, I was able to jump so high that I would have been able to make it over my own head! Then I set a new goal: to see how much higher I could jump over my own standing height (which kept going up as I grew older).



In 1983 when I was in college, I was on a track and field championship team.



Then I competed in the 1987 Pan American Games. I kept training in all the sporting events that are part of the decathlon, a multi-day Olympic event.



Then in 1988, I competed in the decathlon at the Summer Olympics in Seoul, South Korea. I was competing for El Salvador.



I was in the same group as the world-record holder in the high jump, Daley Thompson from Great Britain. The bar kept getting pushed up higher and higher as we kept clearing it.




Finally, everyone got eliminated except the two of us. The bar was getting close to 7 feet! I was thinking ...




“Wow, that's high. That's really high.”



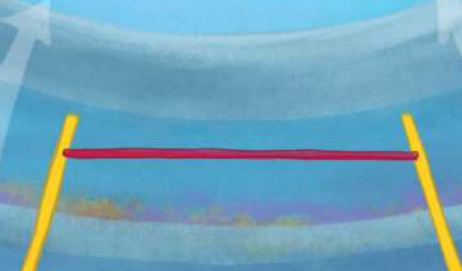
In training, every time I believed the bar was too high, I never made it. Every time I doubted I could make it, I never made it.



Now that doesn't mean that every time I believed I made it. But every time I doubted, I missed it.



I had to take a different perspective, or viewpoint, of my goal. I looked up at the top of the stadium, then back at the bar. I thought, “That bar's not high. The top of the stadium is high. It's really high. The bar's not high.” Compared with the roof, the bar didn't seem so high anymore.



Right in that moment, I believed I could get over. In my mind I saw myself clearing the bar. Sometimes when you simply change your perspective, the unbelievable becomes believable.


Then, I ran.



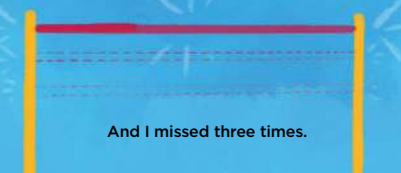
I jumped.



I made it.




Daley missed his last attempt. I won for my group in high jump as the shortest decathlete in the group. But it didn't end there! What do you think they did with the bar after that? They raised it again!




And I missed three times.

But I did not feel like a failure. Why not? First, I realized that every high jump event ends in failure at some point, since the bar keeps getting raised higher and higher until the jumper doesn't make it over. Second, I was so happy that the Lord gave me the gift of making that last jump in Seoul.



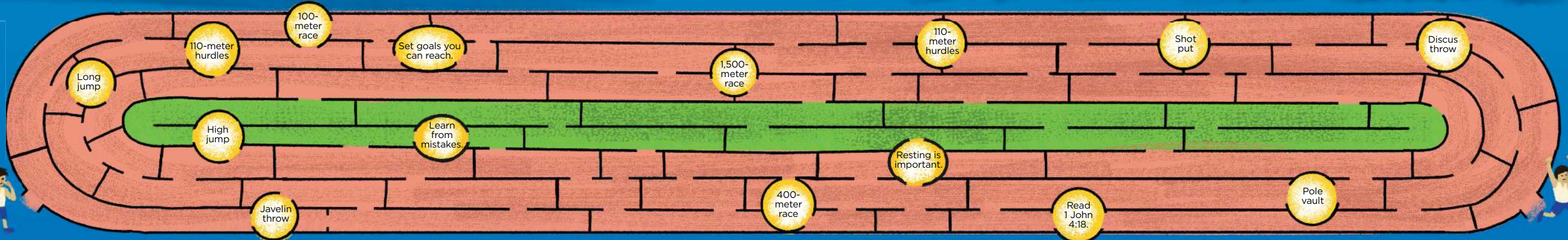
I walked away after that and retired as an athlete. I left the high jump with this big lesson:

Goals don't define you, but they can help you achieve things you never expected ... and sometimes it's the best parts of you that you didn't know were there!



Dizzy Decathlon

Jimmy is ready to start a decathlon [duh-KATH-lahn], a competition of 10 track and field events. But this track is wack! Guide Jimmy to the end of the maze, through all 10 events and the tips he needs to remember for reaching his goals.





Craft

2-4-6-8, Who Do We Appreciate?

Here's a craft that can bring fun for the whole family for days to come. Make your own medals! Then you decide what to give them out for. Maybe your family can do a sports relay in the backyard and award medals to the winners ... maybe you can do a family game night ... maybe you can hand out medals for best cookies, best dress up, best drawing or best snuggle. Your imagination is your only limitation. So get the family together and make some memories while making some medals.

Supplies

- jar lid or a lid of a plastic container — such as Pringles or similar chips, yogurt, nuts — or even a paper circle cut from a paper plate
- acrylic paint in gold, silver and bronze (or yellow, gray and orange)
- paintbrush
- hair dryer (to speed up drying process, optional)
- foam shapes (for stars)
- glitter glue
- thick ribbon
- glue gun or strong craft glue

Instructions (adult help needed)

1. Place your lids on a flat piece of cardboard or any flat surface you can easily clean, and, using the acrylic paints, paint your lids to your liking. It may take a couple of coats.
2. Let your painted medals dry. (Use a hair dryer to speed it up if you want.)
3. Use a small bit of glue to attach the foam shapes to the painted lids. You can then repeat steps one and two to paint the foam shapes if you choose, or continue on to the next step.
4. Spread a small amount of glitter glue over the medal to add some sparkle. Let dry.
5. Glue one end of the ribbon to the backside of the medal. Loop the ribbon so it looks like a necklace and glue the other ribbon end on top of the ribbon end you glued first.
6. Award your medals and have fun!

MEDAL IDEAS

- Most Encouraging
- Great Helper
- Master Dish-Washer
- Game Night Champion
- Prayer Warrior

Other Explorers with their gold medals!



Cook

Payesh

Kids in Bangladesh like to eat this sweet rice pudding, usually for dessert. Try making it with your family. You can put some in a jar and refrigerate it overnight. In the morning you'll have a handy breakfast to get the energy you need to reach your goals!



Ingredients

- ¼ cup basmati rice
- ¼ cup warm full-fat milk
- pinch of saffron threads
- 4 cups full-fat milk
- ½ cup sugar
- 2 bay leaves
- ¼ tsp. cardamom powder
- ¼ cup chopped mixed nuts (unsalted cashews, almonds and pistachios)

Directions (adult help needed)

1. Rinse, then soak rice in water for 30 minutes. Drain and set aside. Combine ¼ cup warm milk and saffron threads in a bowl and set aside.
2. Simmer 4 cups milk in a deep, nonstick pan for 8 minutes. Stir in rice and cook on medium heat, stirring occasionally, for 20 minutes.
3. Add sugar, bay leaves, cardamom and saffron-milk mixture. Mix well and cook on medium heat for 4 minutes, stirring continuously. Turn off heat, discard bay leaves, add nuts and mix well.
4. Refrigerate at least 1 hour; serve chilled.



These kids are enjoying a meal at their Compassion center.

Stories of
compassionate
kids like you.

Care



Per-Sisters!

Sisters Madison and Kinley don't give up easily. They study hard in school, and they're also serious about dance. They might not always feel like going to dance practice, but they do it anyway because they are persistent. That means they keep trying without giving up when they really want something.

But becoming excellent at dance isn't the only thing these sisters want. They also want to help people. When Madison was in fourth grade, her teacher brought three special packets to class. Each included a photo and details about a child in Compassion's program who needed a sponsor. "There were two boys and a girl," Madison says. "I took the girl's packet home, and I persistently asked my mom."

Madison's persistence helped convince her parents that she was serious about sponsoring the child, a girl named Asti in Indonesia. "My mom said, 'OK, all right, but if you're going to sponsor a girl, you're

going to have to find a way (to pay for the cost of the sponsorship)," Madison says. "So she taught me how to make earrings."



Madison persisted until she was really good at making earrings. At the same time, younger sis Kinley was making jewelry of her own — molding melted crayons into colorful rings. To raise money to sponsor Asti, the sisters started selling their jewelry, calling their business Chic Creek Boutique. They set up shop at their church in Alaska, which holds a big fair that draws people from all over town. Chic Creek Boutique sold enough jewelry to pay for a full year of Asti's sponsorship!

Meanwhile Kinley dreamed of sponsoring a child of her own. A few years later when she was in fourth grade, her family went to see the band For King and Country in concert. On every chair was a packet telling about a child who needed a sponsor. Kinley's grandma picked up a packet about a 4-year-old girl named Katya in Ecuador. She seemed like the perfect child for Kinley to sponsor!

"I wanted a child who was a little younger than me, so I could give money to [help support] her and feel happy inside," Kinley says. "So my family started talking and decided that it was OK for me to start sponsoring."

It's been two years since Kinley became a sponsor, and five years since Madison became a sponsor. Kinley, now 11, and Madison, 14, persist in selling their handmade jewelry to sponsor Asti and Katya. They love to write to their faraway friends and receive letters back from them. They're so glad that sponsorship helps give their friends better lives.

"It makes me happy because I know that I am affecting somebody and changing their life even though they're very, very far away from me."

— Madison

Calling
all kids!

Have you done something special to help Compassion-sponsored children? Let us know by emailing compassionkids@compassion.com!

GROW



Inventor Thomas Edison was once hard at work, testing, planning and figuring when his friend came for a visit. Edison was trying to create a new type of battery. His friend asked him about it and learned that Edison had conducted more than 9,000 experiments and still the battery did not work!

With pity, his friend said, "Isn't it a shame that with the tremendous amount of work you have done you haven't been able to get any results?" Edison turned and with a smile replied: "Results! Why, man, I have gotten a lot of results! I know several thousand things that won't work."

Can you imagine? At some point Edison must have gotten discouraged, but he never failed. You can only fail if you completely give up. This secret for never failing is in the Bible, too.

In Hebrews 12:1-2, the apostle Paul wrote: "Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith."

Have you ever run a race? Runners who compete in the Olympic games train very hard, and it's not always fun. But to win the gold medal, they have to persevere — to push forward even when things are tough, just like Edison did with his inventions.

Jesus sometimes calls us to do hard things. He does this because he knows the truth about you and me — that we are designed to persevere.

So whenever you feel like quitting, like things are too hard, or you get discouraged when things seem like they won't work, remember who created you.

Remember God has a purpose for your life, and he's given you a spirit that is strong enough to overcome any challenge.

Hebrews 12:1-3

Set a goal to memorize this passage over the next few days. Start bit by bit, with small goals, and work your way up to all three verses.



Color a picture of a gold medal. Think about a tough activity you do, like playing a sport or instrument. Even if you don't get a medal for it, what will you "win" by working hard and not giving up? Write it on your gold medal.



- Ask God to help you and your sponsored child to persevere when you face challenges.
- Thank Jesus for suffering on the cross so that you can go to heaven someday.



GIGGLE



Submit your caption at:

explorer.compassion.com/giggles

Wow — these gymnasts in Peru are pretty flexible! The girl on the right is Carmen, a 15-year-old in Compassion's program. She has won national contests in rhythmic gymnastics. She practices so much that she may get to the Olympics someday soon! Even though Carmen lives in poverty, she knows she can still reach her big dreams.

Explorers, love this magazine? Want more? explorer.compassion.com

COMPASSION
explorer

IN988 [8/20]

About the cover

These girls learn karate at their Compassion center in Brazil. They have won competitions. But their karate teacher reminds them that winning isn't what really matters. He tells them: "Our biggest prize is not a medal. Our biggest prize is Jesus."

