

COMPASSION

# explorer

SPECIAL  
GIFT  
CATALOG  
INSERT INSIDE!

NEVER TOO  
YOUNG TO

TRY NEW  
THINGS



# HELLO, AMAZING EXPLORERS!

My name is Grace, and I am the kid editor for this issue! I started working with Compassion as a volunteer and advocate when I was 9 years old. Through that work I have learned that kids can do amazing things and should never be afraid to do anything because they are young. So in this issue, we are talking about how you are never too young to do all sorts of things!



## GIGGLE

See photo captions that Explorers like you wrote!

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These kids aren't afraid to try new things.

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Kid editor Grace tries new things to help others.

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See what it means to walk in someone else's shoes.

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# GIGGLE

Remember this picture from the Fall 2023 Compassion Explorer Magazine? It shows a girl in Thailand playing at her Compassion center's playground. Here are some of your great captions! Find more at [explorer.compassion.com/explorers](https://explorer.compassion.com/explorers).

I never knew school could be this fun!

Ava and Carolina, 14 and 12  
Stevens Point, Wis.

I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream!

Matthew, 7  
Omaha, Neb.

Hey, guys, a "FUN-der"-storm is heading this way!

Eliana, 10  
Mechanicsburg, Pa.

Ready or not, here I come!

Beth, 14  
Lincoln, Neb.

This is the best playground ever!

Paxley, 8  
Columbia, Mo.

The British are coming!

Darcy, 11  
Choctaw, Okla.

Why did the chicken cross the playground? He wanted to get to the other slide!

Mercy, 10  
Omaha, Neb.

Why is there a big speech bubble next to me?

Lily, 9  
Elkhart, Ind.

Mom! I need to go to the bathroom!

Cole, 9  
Houston, Texas

Aah! I'm so excited for this!

Joanna, 5  
San Antonio, Texas.

Where's the slide? How am I supposed to get down?

Kaia, 7  
Elkhart, Ind.

Look! There's a monkey in a tree!

Grace, 16  
Vancouver, Wash.



Check out the next Giggle photo on the back cover!



YOU'RE NEVER  
TOO YOUNG TO  
TRY SOMETHING  
**NEW**



All around the world, kids in Compassion's program love to learn and try new things. But a lot of times, kids in poverty can't afford to pick up new hobbies. And sometimes just being young can make it scary to try something new — but that doesn't stop these kids from exploring different hobbies!

**You're never too young to try something new! So let's meet some kids who are learning new things.**

## A TEAM OF SCIENTISTS IN HONDURAS



Zoe, 4, Tairy, 6, Fatima, 6, Daniela, 4, and Johanna, 5, are best friends. They all come from families who live on less than \$2 per day. But when their Compassion center started a robotics club, they were able to show off their STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) skills and teamwork. They made a windmill and won the creativity award at the first-ever Honduras National Lego League!

Try a new language! In Spanish, Honduras' most common language, science is called *ciencia*.

"I'm learning Spanish right now, and it's a ton of fun!" — Grace



## MAKING MUSIC

Staying safe can be hard for kids in poverty when there are so many dangers in the streets where they live. But trying a new hobby is a great way for kids to have fun and stay out of mischief. For **Manases, 12**, in Colombia, music is a new way to have fun. He says, "My life has changed thanks to music classes. In the past, I used to waste time in the street. Now I have a lot of fun practicing music." Manases even made his very own bass to practice on at home!

Try a new language! In Spanish, Colombia's most common language, music is called *música*.



## FRIENDS WHO FARM

In Indonesia, **Putri, 6**, **Vincky, 10**, and **Hans, 6**, are friends who farm vegetables. Many families in poverty struggle to make money and don't have enough healthy food to eat. But these kids learn new skills at their Compassion center so they can grow food in the garden to help feed their families. Ten-year-old Vinky says, "I love to help my parents in our garden when I'm off school. I love planting vegetables because we can save money after my mother sells the vegetables at the market."

Try a new language! In Indonesian, Indonesia's most common language, a garden is called a *kebun*.



# FOOTBALL IN FADAMA



In Ghana, a Compassion center started a soccer team to help kids stay out of trouble while also helping them dream for the future. The team is dedicated, and the players love to perfect their new skills in soccer. **Blessing**, a 12-year-old on the team, says, "Every day, when we finish school, we go to the park after to train and play ball. If we don't go to the pitch, we play by ourselves at home." The team even competes against other Compassion centers to win trophies! It's always fun to learn a new skill for a sport or to play a game with new friends.



**Fun fact:**  
English is the official language of Ghana! But what we might call soccer they know and love as football.



**Cook**  
**HELADO de BATATA con COCO**  
(sweet potato ice cream with coconut)

"This was so easy and fun to make! And it actually turned out really good too!"



Try a new flavor this holiday season: ice cream made with white sweet potatoes! Kids in the Dominican Republic love this dessert, called *helado de batata* in Spanish. It can be served in plastic baggies or on sticks as ice pops. This recipe is made *con coco*, which means "with coconut."

### Ingredients

- 1 lb. white sweet potatoes, peeled.
- ¼ tsp. salt.
- 1-2 cinnamon sticks.
- 2 c. milk.
- 1 c. coconut milk.
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract.
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon.
- ¾ c. sugar.



### Batata!

This white sweet potato has a different flavor than the orange one popular at Thanksgiving. Look for it in your local grocery store. If you can't find it, you can use any kind of sweet potato.

### Instructions

1. *Adult help needed.* Cut the sweet potatoes into small cubes.
2. Add the salt to a large stockpot of water and bring it to a boil.
3. Add the potatoes and cinnamon sticks to the pot and boil until tender. Remove from the water and let the potatoes cool to room temperature.
4. Add the potatoes, milk, coconut milk, vanilla, ground cinnamon and sugar to a blender. Blend until liquefied. Taste it and add more sugar if you want it sweeter.
5. Pour into plastic baggies or ice-pop molds. Freeze for at least 3 hours or until firm before enjoying!



This woman in the Dominican Republic makes *helado de batata con coco*. She pours hers into plastic bags, which she sells in her neighborhood.



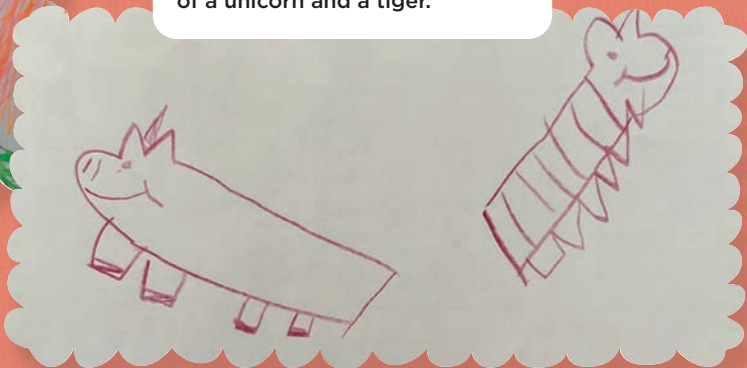


We asked Explorers to draw pictures of what baby Sathinee was dreaming about. Here are some of the drawings! See more at [explorer.compassion.com/baby-sathinee](http://explorer.compassion.com/baby-sathinee).



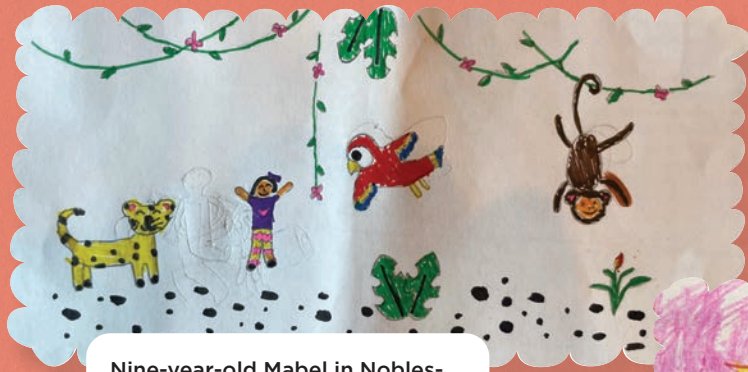
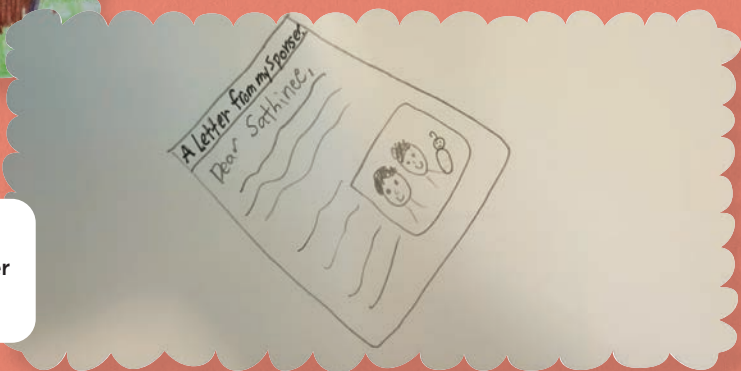
Julia, 10, in Winona, Ohio, drew Sathinee playing with Jesus under some trees.

Everly, 4, in Carlsbad, Calif., thought Sathinee was dreaming of a unicorn and a tiger.



Emry, a 10-year-old in Houston, Texas, imagined Sathinee dreaming of her big future.

Hattie, 12, in Prairie Grove, Ark., drew Sathinee dreaming of a letter from her sponsor.



Nine-year-old Mabel in Noblesville, Ind., drew Sathinee playing with jungle animals!



Annalisa, 10, in Arlington, Texas, knows that babies love Jesus — and giant bottles.



Halle Beth, 5, in Alexandria, Va., drew this. She says, "Baby Sathinee is dreaming about her mom under a mango tree, because she really likes mangoes."



This detailed dream drawing comes from June, 8, in San Diego, Calif.



Julia, 12, in Greer, S.C., drew a comic strip about how Compassion helps kids like Sathinee.



Eden, 10, from Independence, Mo., drew Sathinee dreaming of an elephant playmate!





# WHERE'D THE FOOD GO?

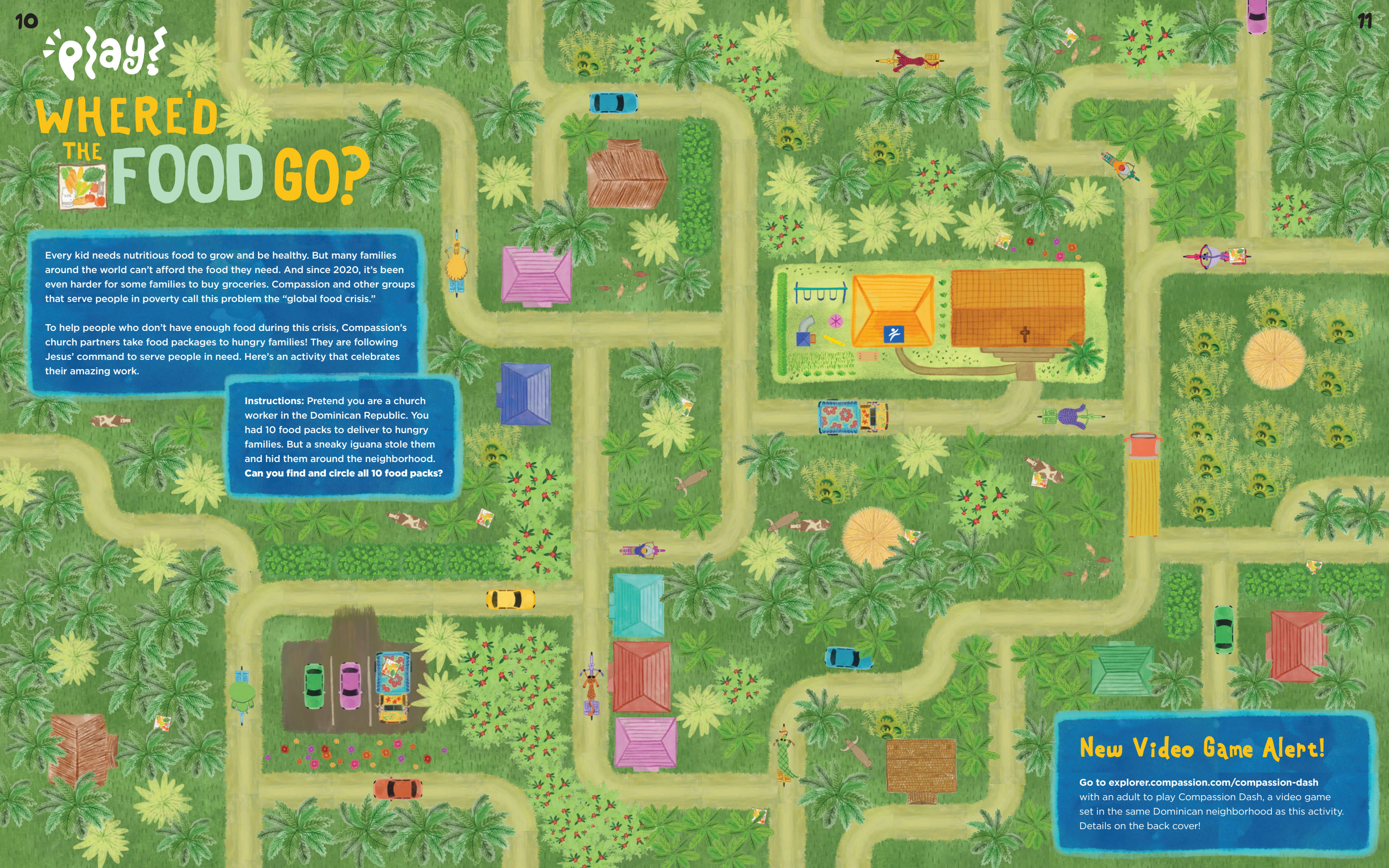
Every kid needs nutritious food to grow and be healthy. But many families around the world can't afford the food they need. And since 2020, it's been even harder for some families to buy groceries. Compassion and other groups that serve people in poverty call this problem the "global food crisis."

To help people who don't have enough food during this crisis, Compassion's church partners take food packages to hungry families! They are following Jesus' command to serve people in need. Here's an activity that celebrates their amazing work.

**Instructions:** Pretend you are a church worker in the Dominican Republic. You had 10 food packs to deliver to hungry families. But a sneaky iguana stole them and hid them around the neighborhood. **Can you find and circle all 10 food packs?**

## New Video Game Alert!

Go to [explorer.compassion.com/compassion-dash](https://explorer.compassion.com/compassion-dash) with an adult to play Compassion Dash, a video game set in the same Dominican neighborhood as this activity. Details on the back cover!








# Craft


## HELPING HANDS WREATH


You have special talents you can use to help people in need! The holiday season is the perfect time to find ways to help people around your house, around your community and even around the world. There are so many ways that you can make a difference. **God wants you to use your hands to help other people and honor him. You can also use your hands to make cool crafts.** So let's make a festive wreath that shows all the ways you can be a helper this holiday season!


- 


Pencil
- 


Yarn or String
- 

Large Bowl and 1 Medium Bowl
- 

Colorful Paper
- 

Large Piece of Cardboard
- 

Glue
- 

Scissors
- 

Fun Decorations

You can use scrapbook paper, construction paper, wrapping paper scraps or holiday catalogs.

Try glitter, ribbons or stickers.

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. *Adult help needed.* Place the large bowl on the cardboard. Use your pencil to draw a circle around the bowl.

2. Carefully cut out the circle. Then, trace around the smaller bowl in the center of the big circle. Cut out the smaller circle you just drew to create the base of your wreath.

3. Using your scissors, poke a small hole through the top of the cardboard ring.

4. To make a hanger for your wreath, thread some string or yarn through the hole and tie the ends in a knot.

5. Trace your hand on a sheet of colorful paper. Then carefully cut out the paper hand you drew. If you are reusing paper scraps, you can paint or color them to make them more decorative.

6. Keep tracing and cutting out colorful paper hands until you have enough to cover your entire wreath.
7. Now think about all the ways you can use your hands to help others and make a difference.

*Can you help with chores around the house? Can you help your community by volunteering at a local food bank? Could you even get creative and think about ways to help kids around the world who are living in poverty?*

8. After you've thought about all the ways you can be a helper, write or draw pictures of an idea on each of your paper hands!

9. Glue the hands on the cardboard wreath so they overlap a little but you can still see the writing and artwork on each one.

10. Once the glue is dry, get creative and add some finishing touches like ribbons, glitter or stickers.



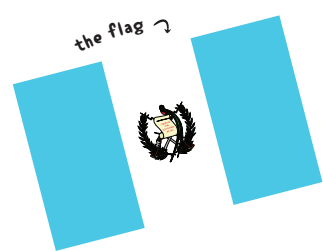
### TAKE ACTION!

Hang your wreath as a reminder of how important it is to help others and show God's love to everyone. Challenge yourself to see how many acts of kindness on your helping hands wreath you can accomplish this holiday season!

Make cookies and give to neighbors

Unload the dishwasher

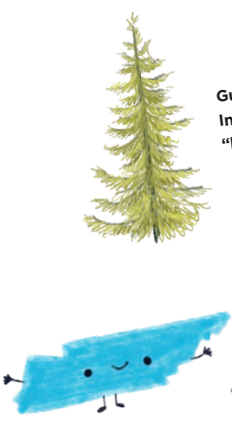
Volunteer at church



# DISCOVER GUATEMALA



Guatemala's name comes from an Indigenous people's word meaning "land of many trees."



At 42,042 square miles, it's about the same size as Tennessee (41,234 square miles).



Guatemala's Lake Atitlan is the deepest in Central America.

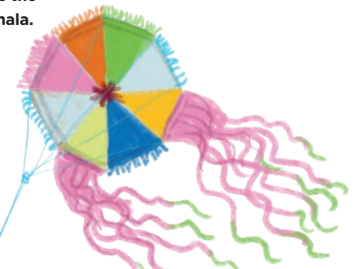
Guatemala was first to make chocolate into a drink!



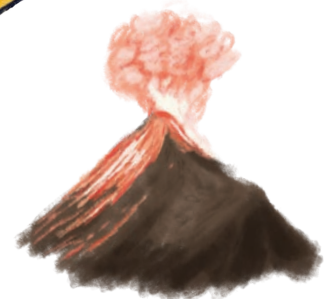
Popular sports: soccer, white-water rafting and mountain biking.



The resplendent quetzal is the national animal of Guatemala.










Guatemala celebrates an annual festival of handmade kites.



Home to 37 volcanoes! Sometimes you can see lava flows at night and even roast marshmallows over them on guided tours!



Stats	Guatemala 	United States 
Population 	17,980,803	339,665,118
People Living Below Poverty Line 	47%	15.1%
Languages 	Spanish (official), Maya languages	English, Spanish, other Indo-European and Asian
Religions 	Roman Catholic 41.7% Evangelical 38.8% none 13.8% unspecified or other 5.7%	Protestant 46.5% none/other 26.1% Roman Catholic 20.8% Jewish 1.9% Mormon 1.6% Muslim 0.9% Jehovah's Witness 0.8% Buddhist 0.7% Hindu 0.7%
Typical Family Income 	\$9,590 per year	\$70,784 per year



Strong storms and crime can make it unsafe for children to be on the streets.

Many families cannot afford food and do not have access to safe water.



Sponsored children go to Compassion centers for playtime and learning!

Sponsored children get checkups to make sure they are getting enough food and water.





Trying new things can be scary, especially when we are young.

But God calls us to be brave and try new things even when we're young. In **1 Timothy 4:12 (NIV)**, it says, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."

Oftentimes we like to stay inside our comfort zones and only do things we are already comfortable with. But what would happen if we took a step outside of that zone? Could we find things we like that we thought we wouldn't? Could we make a difference and help in other people's lives?

**For a while, I was scared to talk to new people and try to make new friends. I was stuck in my comfort zone.** Eventually, I had the courage to take a step outside that circle, and it was amazing! There were so many friendships and relationships I realized I was missing out on because I was stuck in that zone. Once I stepped out, I made so many more friends.

The same goes for serving others. **When I was 9, I decided to host my first Compassion Sunday™ event.** I had never done anything like that, and I had never spoken in front of people before. But I decided to step out of my comfort zone and not let age be an obstacle. When I took a leap of faith, it had a big impact on those around me. Many kids

were sponsored because I took a step into the unknown.

**The unknown can be scary, but if we trust God, we can do anything because he will always be there to guide us and help us through new things, no matter if we are 6 or 60!** So even if you are young, start trying new things! You may never know the things you're capable of if you don't try!

So whether that's trying a new food or hosting a Compassion Sunday, take a leap of faith and trust God as you try a new thing!

*Written by Grace, guest kid editor of this issue of Compassion Explorer Magazine.*

# A mile in Their shoes

The Bible talks a lot about something called empathy. It might not be a word you use every day, but it's actually really simple. You know how you get sad when your best friend is sad? Or how you get excited on Christmas morning because everyone else is excited? That's empathy.

**Empathy is when you're able to feel and care about how someone else is feeling.**

So, what does the Bible say about empathy? In Romans 12:15 (NIV), Paul tells the church to "rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn." That's a fancy way of saying to **be happy with people who are happy and be sad with people who are sad.** Why? Because it makes them feel loved and that how they feel matters.

No one will ever have more empathy than Jesus. Because Jesus had empathy for our broken world, he came down from heaven to us on Christmas. That was the greatest act of empathy ever!

So what would it look like for us to be filled with empathy like Jesus?

One way is to use your imagination to **see things from someone else's perspective!** Think of how easy it is for you to get a glass of water in the morning. All you need to do is walk to the kitchen! But now imagine what it's like for **a child your same age who has to walk for over an hour just to get water.**

Using your imagination like this is called walking in someone else's shoes. Now that's a funny phrase. But think about it. What do you do with shoes on? The answer is pretty much everything! And that's the whole point. Walking in someone else's shoes means putting yourself in their place, imagining what their life is like.

So let's try it! Think about what it's like for someone else to go through their day. What are the good things? What makes it hard? When we start walking in other people's shoes, we start to understand their story and their struggles.

Loving others and joining them in their struggles. That's what empathy is all about. **So, let's try to walk in someone else's shoes and treat them more like Jesus would. When we do that, we'll be acting with empathy!**

## Act

You can practice empathy by learning about poverty. Ask an adult to visit Compassion's website and read about the challenges children face around the world.

## Pray

Ask God to help you see things from someone else's perspective and walk in their shoes with empathy.

## Read

Luke 10:25-37. See how the Samaritan acted with empathy!







## GIGGLE

**Submit your caption at:**

[explorer.compassion.com/giggles](http://explorer.compassion.com/giggles)

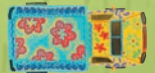
Baby Shavan is clearly excited to show off the medicine that made him all better when he was very sick. He and his mom, Maggie, couldn't afford the medicine on their own. But a church in their Ugandan neighborhood helped them by giving them the medicine that healed Shavan. The church also gave them groceries to keep them growing strong!



### Play the New Compassion Dash Video Game!

In this fast-paced game, rush to deliver groceries to hungry families in the Dominican Republic. As you dodge roadblocks, you'll earn hearts to spend on new animal characters. The levels get harder as you work to unlock the invincible Super Llama! Most importantly, you'll celebrate how churches around the world are helping with the real-life global food crisis that's leaving many families unable to afford the food they need.

## COMPASSION DASH



To play the game, ask an adult to go to  
[explorer.compassion.com/compassion-dash](http://explorer.compassion.com/compassion-dash)  
on a mobile device or computer.

### About the cover

José Ricardo, 11, goes to a Compassion center in Brazil. He gets to try a lot of new activities at the center. Playing the violin is the activity he loves more than anything, and he practices often!

