

ChildFund[®]
International

ChildWorld

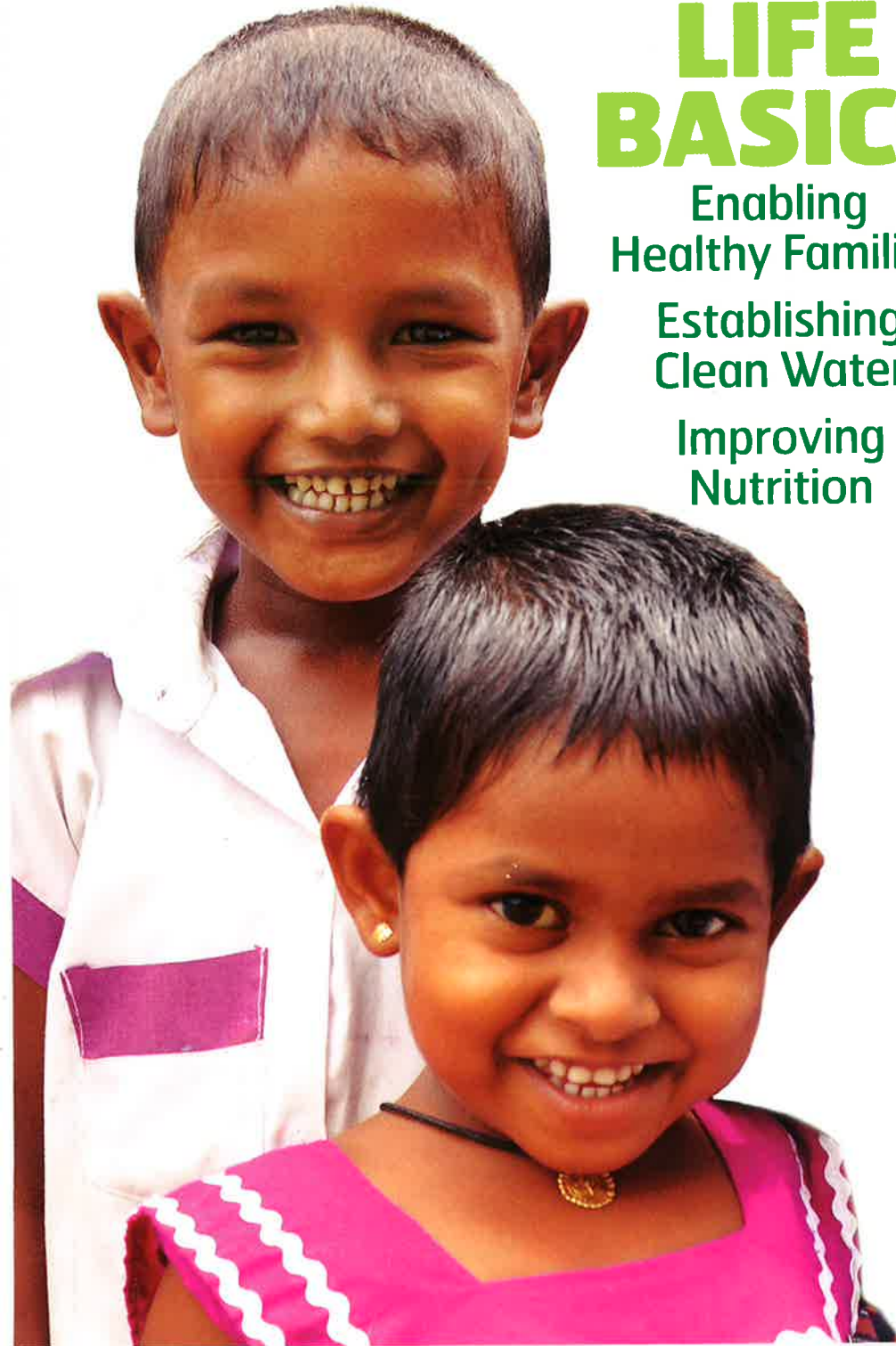
SUMMER 2011

LIFE BASICS

Enabling
Healthy Families

Establishing
Clean Water

Improving
Nutrition



One Person Makes a Difference

BY ANIETRA HAMPER, CHILDFUND CORRESPONDENT

Pat Penrose decided a long time ago that she would build her legacy by touching young lives. But when Penrose and her late husband decided to become ChildFund International sponsors in 1983, they had no idea just how far their generosity would go. Today, Penrose sponsors 10 children around the world and she knows beyond a doubt that she has made an impact.

She says, "I have been blessed to be a blessing. And, it is so much fun."

Recently Penrose, accompanied by her grandson, visited her sponsored child in LaPaz, Bolivia. She has sponsored Suzana for 12 years and only knew her through letters and pictures. When Suzana turned 18 this year, Penrose, who had watched her grow into a lovely young woman from a distance, wanted to meet her.

When Penrose arrived, she had no idea what to expect. The years she spent as a sponsor helping to shape this young life all came down to this moment. Penrose said the language barrier made for an awkward introduction, but it was eclipsed by heartfelt compassion that required no translation.

"She has written such cute and loving notes all these years. We just held hands for two days. She referred to me in Spanish as her godmother," Penrose said.

It was not long before Penrose recognized the ripple effect of her contributions. Her connection with the young woman extended to the entire family. Sanchez's mother and sister also stayed close to Penrose the entire visit. We were family. There were lots of hugs and kisses," she said.

Penrose said she saw first-hand how



Pat Penrose (2nd from right) visited her sponsored child in Brazil, where she also met staff and saw program activities firsthand.

ChildFund transforms the lives of these children, their families and the community as a whole. She witnessed the mothers of children in the program helping with meals and learning parenting skills. She saw doctors administering inoculations to children in LaPaz. Seeing these moments of life change in progress convinced Penrose even more of the power of one person.

While interacting with children there, Penrose saw that some children were not sponsored. She was so touched to see them happy and thriving in the ChildFund environment that she reached out, on the spot, to sponsor two more children in the class she was visiting; two young girls, who both want to be doctors, and because of ChildFund, and Penrose, might have that chance.

Penrose has dedicated her life to sharing what she has to make a difference. She wants to leave a legacy for her own grandchildren and for those young lives in this world who can find comfort in knowing someone is reaching out for them. **CW**