Dear Friends,

**Have you ever felt overwhelming joy from an unexpected act of kindness during a dark season in your life?** The gesture that makes your eyes water as you feel seen? And gives you a feeling of warmth to realize the genuine care from another?

Your generosity this year has touched the lives of thousands of the most vulnerable children and their families during their darkest days. Your gifts have not only lightened their burdens and made them feel seen, but they have also experienced God's warm, tangible love through You.

This past year children and families in Ghana, India, Kyrgyzstan, Paraguay, Romania, and Ukraine have continued to experience the devastating and far-reaching impacts of war, global inflation, COVID, and climate change. Parents have struggled to put food on the table and meet their child’s basic needs. **And today, there are more orphans in the world than ever before.**

We know from prior crises that when a family is not able to meet their child’s needs, they are at an increased risk of separation as children are often sent to an orphanage. However, even with the best of intentions, orphanages simply cannot offer children the consistent love, care, and permanency that a family provides. **Decades of research note the developmental benefits that show children thrive in families—where they belong!**

As the war in Ukraine enters its third year, poverty has increased from 5% to 25%, 65% of Ukrainian children are displaced, and over 65,000 children have been orphaned by the war. Children may not know or understand these statistics, but they feel the pressures and stress of their families. A recent survey showed 4 out of 5 Ukrainian children fear “family separation” more than anything. More than bombs, losing their home, or even death.

**But YOU have been a source of hope to these children, letting “light shine out of darkness.”**

Your gifts have returned children displaced by war to their families, evacuated children and families from combat zones to safety, given families supplies to heat their homes during the winter, and built greenhouses for food security for families. Your generosity has equipped caregivers in trauma-informed care, improved child welfare policies for orphans, and raised up churches, foster families, and adoptive parents to care for children in need. These and many other efforts share in a common goal in every nation served—**to help children REMAIN in, REUNITE with, or REGAIN a family**. *(Keep an eye out for these themes in the 2023 Annual Report stories!)*

Thank you for your tremendous support and care for the orphaned and vulnerable child. Thank you for allowing them to be seen during their darkest days. We hope you are encouraged and inspired by the stories you are about to read—none of which would be possible without you!

With joy and gratitude,

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Heather Dyer  
Executive Director

*“For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ.”* 2 Corinthians 4:6