

# Give the gift of joy this Christmas!

Dear friend,

**Do you remember the tickle in your tummy on a swing?** Or maybe you have a child in your life who absolutely loves the local park. There is something so special about hearing children's laughter as they whizz down a slide or spin on a roundabout. Higher! Faster! Again!

I remember my daughter's total lack of fear in the park, which often made me panic. I remember too how my son tentatively climbed the slide for the first time, feeling much less brave than his big sister. He learned from her, following in her footsteps, listening to her encouraging him to keep climbing.

**Play is more than fun. It's how children heal, learn, and grow.** It builds confidence, sparks creativity, and helps those who need it to recover from trauma. For those who have lost parents and security, play is a lifeline.

**Children like Rani age 15, Ramesh age 11 and Rupa, who is just 4 (pictured right).**

We found these precious children lying on the floor of the shack they knew as home. Alone and traumatised, they had lost their father and then their mother to HIV. All had watched their parents die in front of them without the medical care and pain relief we take for granted.

**Orphaned and alone, these children were desperate for help.** Perhaps the hardest hit was the eldest sister, having to be the main carer for their mum, and also for her two siblings. Can you imagine how she felt, grieving for her parents and not knowing how she could provide for her little brother and sister?

Thankfully, a compassionate person like you has sponsored these children. They are now recovering and being cared for at Shanti Children's village. But while their physical health has improved, it's going to take much longer to heal their hearts and minds. They need to have the opportunity to just be children, without worry or care.

**Sadly, there are many children living at Shanti Nivas who share a similar story. Part of their healing happens through play.** It's how they let go of the struggles that have shaped their young lives. They need to learn to laugh again and regain the childhood they deserve.

**But right now, the old swings, slides and play equipment at Shanti Nivas are broken and unsafe.** Poor quality equipment has rusted and there are very sharp edges. Swings have corroded and are broken.

**This Christmas, will you help to build a playground to help restore joy?** A bright, safe space where laughter rings out and hope takes root. Quality, fun equipment that is safe and durable. Imagine the joy of children swinging high, sliding down, or holding tight on a roundabout for the first time. That's the miracle you can make happen.

And, excitingly, a compassionate child sponsor who shares your kind heart has offered to **match fund every pound you give!** That means your gift will create twice the impact.

Thank you for sharing the love of Christmas with children who need it most.

May you know the joy of the coming of our Lord Jesus at this special time of year.

Every blessing

*Louise*

Louise Timmins  
UK Country Head (voluntary)

**P.S. It will cost £5,987 to buy everything that is needed, and today any gift you give will be doubled! Together, we can build a new place of joy for Christmas.**



# I'M GIVING CHILDREN THE GIFT OF JOY AND LAUGHTER THIS CHRISTMAS!



- ☐ £25 Could provide materials for a swing.
- ☐ £50 Could help build a slide.
- ☐ £100 Could start a climbing frame where friendships begin.
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ my own amount

You can give by sending a cheque to the address below, or directly to **Brighter Future's** bank account:

**BRIGHTER FUTURE INTERNATIONAL, METRO BANK**

One Southampton Row, London, WC1B 5HA

Account Number: 3908 9378, Sort Code: 23-05-80

## GIFT AID DECLARATION

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Forename: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town/City: \_\_\_\_\_ Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish **BRIGHTER FUTURE INTERNATIONAL** to treat

☐ the enclosed donation of £ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ the donation(s) of £ \_\_\_\_\_ which I made on \_\_\_\_\_

and all donations I make from the date of this declaration, until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### NOTES

- 1 You can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying Brighter Future International in writing
- 2 You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the tax year (currently 25p for each £1 you give)
- 3 If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and/ or capital gains tax equal to that the Charity reclaims, you can cancel your declaration (see note 1)
- 4 If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief for yourself in your Self-Assessment tax return
- 5 Please notify Brighter Future International if you change your name or address. Thank you