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Filing date: **09/25/2019**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

Proceeding	91249817
Party	Defendant CompassionUS Inc.
Correspondence Address	GINA M HARASTI BOWIE & JENSEN, LLC 210 W PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, SUITE 400 TOWSON, MD 21204 UNITED STATES harasti@bowie-jensen.com, noell@bowie-jensen.com, prim@bowie-jensen.com, trademarks@bowie-jensen.com 410-583-2400
Submission	Motion to Amend/Amended Answer or Counterclaim
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Signature	/Gina M. Harasti/
Date	09/25/2019
Attachments	Amended Answer to Notice of Opposition FINAL1.pdf(6011468 bytes)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board

In the Matter of Application Serial No. 88196675

Mark: COMPASSIONUS
Applicant: CompassionUS Inc.
Filed: November 16, 2018
Published in
the **Official Gazette**: April 2, 2019

Compassion International, Inc.)	
)	
Opposer)	
)	
v.)	Opposition No. 91249817
)	
CompassionUS Inc.)	
)	
Applicant)	

**APPLICANT’S AMENDED ANSWER TO OPPOSER’S NOTICE OF OPPOSITION
AND STATEMENT OF GROUNDS FOR OPPOSITION**

Applicant CompassionUS Inc. (“Applicant” and/or “CompassionUS”), by its attorneys, Gina M. Harasti and Bowie & Jensen, LLC, hereby responds to the Notice of Opposition and Statement of Grounds for Opposition filed by Opposer, Compassion International, Inc. (“Opposer” and/or “Compassion International”), and states as follows:

INTRODUCTION

On November 16, 2018, CompassionUS filed a trademark application, Serial No. 88196675, with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (“USPTO”) to register the word mark, COMPASSIONUS, in **Class 35** for services identified as:

Charitable services in the nature of coordination of the procurement and distribution of food donations from the general public to needy persons;

Charitable services in the nature of matching philanthropists with nonprofit organizations and causes in the field of drug and alcohol addiction, gun violence, fatherlessness, educational reform, domestic violence, homelessness, sex trafficking, racial reconciliation, media accountability, prison reform, mental illness, immigration reform, partisan division, government accountability and chronic poverty;

Charitable services, namely, providing business administration and management of care facilities, housing facilities, and nursing home facilities for others, namely, the elderly, children in need, and adults with disabilities;

Charitable services, namely, coordination of non-monetary contributions to charities and non-profits; Charitable services, namely, coordination of the procurement and distribution of food donations from manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, and government agencies to organizations providing free food to needy people;

Charitable services, namely, coordination of the procurement and distribution of gift-in-kind product donations from manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, and government agencies to organizations providing free products to needy people;

Charitable services, namely, coordination of the procurement and distribution of holiday gift donations from the general public to orphaned children;

Charitable services, namely, coordination of the procurement and sale of donor vehicles for charities; Charitable services, namely, employment counseling services for those living in poverty in the areas of preparing for, obtaining, maintaining and advancing in employment opportunities;

Charitable services, namely, facilitating administrative coordination among charitable organizations;

Charitable services, namely, organizing and conducting volunteer programs and community service projects;

Charitable services, namely, organizing and conducting volunteer programs and community service projects aimed at increasing support and morale of families of deceased war veterans, war veterans, current members and future members of the United States military;

Charitable services, namely, organizing and conducting volunteer programs and community service projects aimed at increasing support and morale of members of the United States military;

Charitable services, namely, organizing and developing programs that aim to improve the lives of formerly incarcerated persons, their families, and those at risk for incarceration;

Charitable services, namely, organizing and developing projects that aim to improve the lives of underprivileged and impoverished people;

Charitable services, namely, organizing and developing projects that aim to promote global awareness about human trafficking and commercial sex industry;

Charitable services, namely, organizing women's groups to undertake projects which benefit the homeless, abused, at risk women and women in transition and in pain, while encouraging empowerment among women of all ages and ethnicities;

Charitable services, namely, organizing youth groups to undertake charitable projects in the field of disaster response;

Charitable services, namely, organizing youth groups to undertake projects to benefit the needy and the community to encourage leadership, character, compassion, and good citizenship;

Charitable services, namely, promoting public awareness about poverty in the United States through a media fast program conducted by young people;

Charitable services, namely, promoting public awareness of the solutions for ending chronic poverty in America;

Charitable services, namely, providing a free online resource in the nature of a website for connecting people who have service needs with people who are willing to provide volunteer services;

Marketing services, namely, promotional services in the field of planned-giving for non-profit and charitable organizations;

Providing on-line web directory services featuring hyperlinks to the websites of charitable organizations.

A screenshot of the web site for CompassionUS, <https://compassionus.org/> is attached hereto as **Exhibit 1** and incorporated by reference.

The trademark application by CompassionUS was approved by the USPTO Examiner and on April 2, 2019, was published for opposition in the USPTO Official Gazette.

On April 10, 2019, Opposer filed its First 90 Day Request for Extension of Time to Oppose for Good Cause, and on July 29, 2019 filed its formal Notice of Opposition to the registration being sought by CompassionUS.

A screenshot of Opposer's website at www.compassion.com is attached hereto as **Exhibit 2** and incorporated by reference.

ANSWER

In answer to Opposer's Notice of Opposition, Applicant incorporates herein by reference and realleges the above Introduction and further states:

1. CompassionUS is without sufficient information or knowledge to form a belief as to the allegations set forth in Paragraph 1 of the Notice of Opposition and therefore denies same.

2. In response to the allegations contained in Paragraph 2 of the Notice of Opposition, CompassionUS admits that Opposer has provided copies of various trademark registrations using the word "Compassion." Applicant is without sufficient information or knowledge to form a belief as to the allegations set forth in Paragraph 2 of the Notice of Opposition and therefore denies same.

3. CompassionUS denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 3 of the Notice of Opposition.

4. CompassionUS is without sufficient information or knowledge to form a belief as to the allegations set forth in Paragraph 4 of the Notice of Opposition and therefore denies same.

5. In response to the allegations contained in Paragraph 5 of the Notice of Opposition, CompassionUS admits that Opposer has provided a list of various trademark registrations it owns using the word "Compassion."

6. CompassionUS admits the allegations contained in Paragraph 6 of the Notice of Opposition.

7. CompassionUS denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 7 of the Notice of Opposition.

8. CompassionUS denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 8 of the Notice of Opposition.

9. CompassionUS is without sufficient information or knowledge to form a belief as to the allegations set forth in Paragraph 9 of the Notice of Opposition and therefore denies same.

10. In response to the allegations contained in Paragraph 10 of the Notice of Opposition, CompassionUS admits that Opposer has not given it permission or approval to use or register the mark, COMPASSIONUS, and states further that the USPTO Examiner approved the application and no such permission or approval is necessary.

11. CompassionUS denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 11 of the Notice of Opposition.

12. CompassionUS denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 12 of the Notice of Opposition.

13. CompassionUS denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 13 of the Notice of Opposition.

14. CompassionUS denies each and every allegation not specifically admitted herein.

STATEMENT OF GROUNDS AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

CompassionUS re-alleges and incorporates by reference its responses to the allegations in Paragraphs 1 through 14 above as if fully set forth herein and further asserts the following affirmative defenses:

A. The Notice of Opposition by Opposer fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

B. The USPTO Examiner, who conducted the search and approved Applicant's mark, COMPASSIONUS, for publication on April 2, 2019, found no conflicting marks for similar services and determined no likelihood of confusion existed.

C. Opposer's Opposition is barred by the doctrine of laches.

D. The USPTO Examiner found no evidence of *likelihood of confusion* between Applicant's pending mark, COMPASSIONUS, and Opposer's marks using the word "Compassion," and with good reason given the marked differences in the mission and goals of each party as set forth in their respective websites, screen shots of which are attached as **Exhibits 1 and 2**, and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein. Moreover, it is abundantly clear the USPTO Examiner was correct given the following indisputable facts:

1. Opposer goes out of its way to demonstrate its focus is on international children with numerous photographs and international sponsorship opportunities that can be processed immediately. Moreover, unlike Applicant, Opposer identifies itself as a "Ministry" designed primarily for sponsorship of children internationally, stating specifically: "*We are Christ-centered, church-based and child-focused.*" See <https://www.compassion.com/about/what-makes-us-distinct.htm> attached as part of **Exhibit 2**.

2. Applicant's focus, on the other hand, is specific to the United States, identifying as its mission "*to heal our nation by bringing people together to provide relief for the suffering, hope for the needy and inspiration to the next generation here in the United States of America.*" Applicant's concentration is

on addressing gun violence, homelessness, drug and alcohol addiction, domestic violence, sex trafficking, racial division, chronic poverty, to name a few, through reform in mental health, education, immigration, and media and government accountability. See <https://compassionus.org/> attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**.

E. Given the foregoing, there is no evidence of *false suggestion* of a connection with persons, living or dead, institutions, beliefs, or national symbols, or [that] brings them into contempt, or disrepute between Applicant's pending mark, COMPASSIONUS, and Opposer's marks using the word "Compassion" as is abundantly clear from the marked differences in each party's focus, mission, and goals portrayed on their respective websites at **Exhibits 1 and 2**.

F. Likewise, the mark COMPASSIONUS is not likely to cause confusion or to *cause mistake or to deceive as to the affiliation, connection or association* of Applicant with Opposer, or as to the *origin, sponsorship, or approval* of Applicant's goods or services by Opposer, as is abundantly clear by the marked differences and portrayal of each party's focus, mission and goals set forth in the content of their respective website set forth at **Exhibits 1 and 2**.

G. Upon information and belief, Opposer has not suffered and is not likely to suffer any injury or damage from Applicant's intended use and registration of Applicant's mark, COMPASSIONUS.

H. Applicant raises all defenses available pursuant to the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1051, et. seq.

I. Applicant reserves the right to amend or supplement this Answer.

J. Applicant reserves the right to rely on and raise additional affirmative defenses under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Lanham Act and any other defenses or counterclaims at law or in equity that may become apparent through discovery and up to trial.

WHEREFORE, having fully answered the Notice of Opposition, Applicant requests that the Opposer's Notice of Opposition be dismissed with prejudice and that judgment be entered in favor of Applicant; that Opposer pay Applicant's attorney fees and costs related to this Opposition; and that the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board ("TTAB") order that Applicant's mark, COMPASSIONUS, proceed to registration; and for such other and further relief as the TTAB may deem appropriate and just.

Date: September 25, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ *Gina M. Harasti*

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Towson, Maryland 21204
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Attorneys for Applicant

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and complete copy of the foregoing Applicant's Answer to Opposer's Notice of Opposition and Statement of Grounds for Opposition has been served on Mark Fischer, Attorney for Opposer, by forwarding said copy on September 25, 2019, via email:

Clay LaPoint
Sherri L. Eastley
Jared Matthyse
PIRKEY BARBER PLLC
1801 East 6th Street, Suite 300
Austin, TX 78702

Attorneys for Opposer

/s/ *Gina M. Harasti*

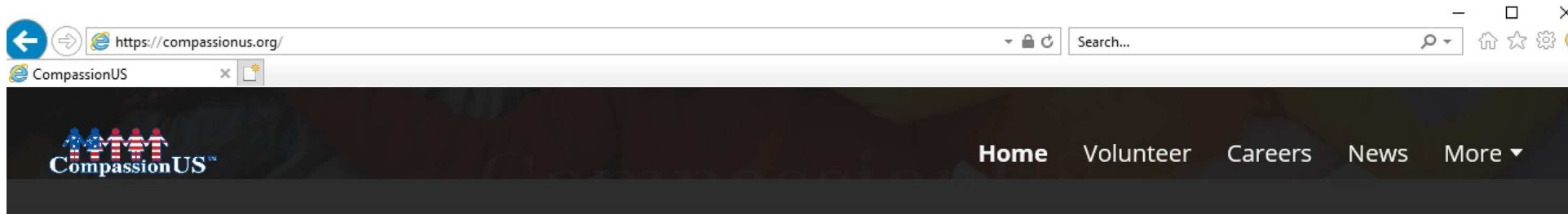
Gina M. Harasti, Esquire

Date: September 25, 2019

EXHIBIT 1

Screenshots of Applicant's website at <https://compassionus.org/>

See attached.

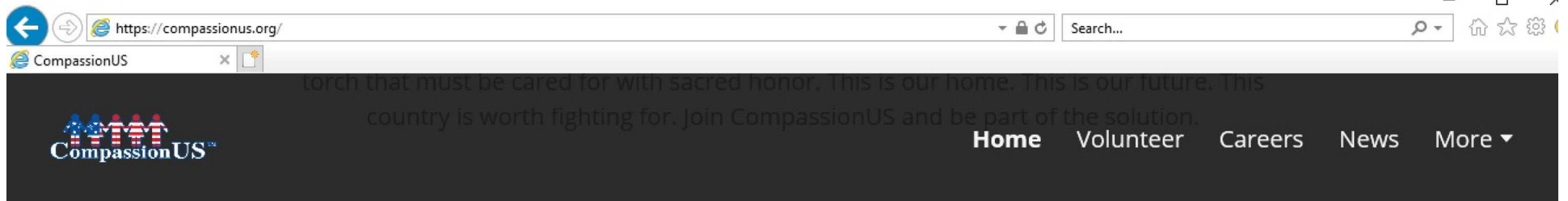


Welcome to CompassionUS!

Have you had enough of the bitterness and division in our country? Do you want to see real solutions to our problems? You have come to the right place!

Uniting to Heal Our Broken Nation

United we stand, divided we fall. The United States of America is one of the greatest countries to ever exist on planet earth. To deny this fact is to deny some of the greatest human achievements. We have overcome painful division in the past and it is time that "We The People", from sea to shining sea, rise to the occasion once again. We must reject the divisiveness that is tearing our country apart and provide real solutions to our very real problems. We are living in an exciting period of history filled with boundless opportunity. We must take hold of the torch that is being passed to our generation; a torch that must be cared for with sacred honor. This is our home. This is our future. This country is worth fighting for. Join CompassionUS and be part of the solution.



Common Sense Solutions

The freedoms we enjoy as Americans were bought at a price that we will never be able to repay. Our elected leaders must reflect the dignity, respect and honor worthy of such a high-calling. However, we cannot expect the government to solve all of our problems. Caring for the needs of our neighbor starts with us and is the responsibility of "We The People". The good news is that we don't need the government's permission to start healing our nation! There are real solutions to the problems that are causing a great deal of suffering in America starting with:

- Gun Violence
- Homelessness
- Drug & Alcohol Addiction
- Chronic Poverty
- Racial Reconciliation
- Fatherlessness
- Domestic Abuse
- Sex Trafficking
- Partisan Division



of suffering in America starting with:

[Home](#) [Volunteer](#) [Careers](#) [News](#) [More ▼](#)

Gun Violence
Homelessness
Drug & Alcohol Addiction
Chronic Poverty
Racial Reconciliation
Fatherlessness
Domestic Abuse
Sex Trafficking
Partisan Division

In order to eliminate these problems or at least minimize their effects we need to address the following root causes through:

Mental Health Reform
Educational Reform
Immigration Reform
Media Accountability
Government Accountability

SOLUTIONS START HERE



How Can You Be Part of the Solution?

"Like" us on Facebook and "Follow" us on Twitter. Then like, share and retweet our positive messages designed to help heal our nation and provide solutions to our very real problems. We believe that everyone who calls America "home" has a part to play. We know that the overwhelming majority of Americans are hardworking men and women whose time is extremely valuable to them. That's why CompassionUS makes it very easy for you to be part of the solution. Social media is an extremely valuable and powerful tool that we intend to use to help unite our nation. As the message of CompassionUS gains followers and supporters throughout the United States "We The People" will become a powerful voice of reason not just on election day but every day. If you don't use social media, sign-up for our monthly newsletter below to stay up-to-date on our progress, upcoming events and learn more about how you can be part of the solution.

Finally, we need your financial support to fund the mission. Your tax-deductible donations are greatly appreciated and very much needed. Please consider becoming a CompassionUS monthly donor.

CompassionUS, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.



CompassionUS, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

[Home](#) [Volunteer](#) [Careers](#) [News](#) [More ▾](#)

Join Us on This Amazing Journey

We are very aware of the immensity of this mission as we forge ahead through the early stages of program development. We are in the process of building an extensive website that will include much more detail and information regarding CompassionUS, our programs, efforts and results as we quickly expand to cover every major city and corner of the United States. This effort is much bigger than any one group of individuals and we know that we are going to need a small army of staff and volunteers. Please visit our careers and volunteer pages to advance the mission of CompassionUS in your area.

CompassionUS Mission Statement

The mission of CompassionUS is to heal our nation by bringing people together to provide relief for the suffering, hope for the needy and inspiration to the next generation here in the United States of America.



Relief for the Suffering



Hope for the Needy



Inspiration for the Next
Generation

Donate Now

Your generous gifts fund the mission.

 **DONATE NOW**

EXHIBIT 2

Website screenshots of Opposer's website at <https://www.compassion.com/>

Screenshots include pages from:

- HOME PAGE
- ABOUT US: "What we Do"
- ABOUT US: "Where we Work"
- ABOUT US: "What Makes Us Different"
- ABOUT US FAQS: "How many countries does Compassion work in?"
- ABOUT US FAQS: "Where countries does Compassion work in?"
- ABOUT US FAQS: "Why does Compassion focus on individual child development rather than broader community development work?"

Sponsor a Child Today!

When you sponsor a child, you'll be personally connected with a boy or girl who will know your name and treasure the thought that you care. Your support of \$36 per month provides life-changing opportunities such as:

- an opportunity to attend or stay in school
- medical care, which often saves lives
- nourishing food
- mentoring and a safe environment through a local evangelical church
- and most important, opportunities to hear the gospel!

Compassion child sponsorship works! Millions of children have "graduated" from our program and are now responsible, fulfilled Christian adults. Allow God to work through you in the life of a child in poverty. [Sponsor a child today!](#)

Fill their bellies, feed their souls.



Nourish a malnourished child by giving food today.

[GIVE NOW >](#)

Sponsor a Waiting Child Today!

Make an eternal difference in the life of a child in need. Sponsor a child who has been waiting over six months for a sponsor.

<p>David Tanzania 6/15/2013 CHOOSE ME</p>	<p>Fredys Colombia 3/8/2013 CHOOSE ME</p>	<p>Justine Tanzania 2/20/2015 CHOOSE ME</p>	<p>Elia Tanzania 2/20/2015 CHOOSE ME</p>
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When you sponsor a child in poverty, your sponsored child will be linked directly to you. Your sponsored child will know your name and you will be able to write letters to each other.

[View Waiting Children >](#)

[Search for Children >](#)

It's NOW or maybe NEVER for him ...

Older children (ages 9 and up) are five times more likely to go unsponsored, and at such a critical age. Extend God's grace to one of them.

Sponsor an older child today!

[Sponsor Now >](#)

What makes child sponsorship with Compassion unique?

[Sponsoring a child](#) with Compassion is the most cost-effective way to end extreme child poverty. It not only addresses a child's immediate physical needs, it also builds self-esteem and self-respect. Although these are similarities across other child sponsorship programs, Compassion's approach is unique because we are:



Christ-Centered

In response to God's call to care for the poor, Compassion gives help to the hopeless, meeting practical needs and sharing the good news about Jesus in a culturally relevant, unconditional way to all we serve.



Child-Focused

Our child sponsorship ministry connects one child with one sponsor to help the child achieve his or her God-given potential. Sponsors write and receive letters, pray for and encourage their sponsored children and may even visit their children.



Church-Based

Every sponsored child is linked with a Christ-centered church in his or her community. Compassion partners with over 7,500 evangelical church partners in 25 countries around the world.

Donate to Help Children in Need

Your gift will provide nourishing food, medical care and other lifesaving interventions that share the love of Christ in a meaningful way. Give to the most urgent needs now. [Learn more](#)

One Time
[Donate Now](#)



Friends of Compassion

Many Christian leaders, speakers and music artists pray for and [sponsor a child](#) through Compassion's Christian child sponsorship program. They include Michael W. Smith, Casting Crowns, UNITED, Matthew West, for KING & COUNTRY, Louie Giglio, Candace Cameron Bure, Aron Vosskamp and many others.



FEATURED ON



Ways to Give

[Sponsor a Child](#)
[Ways to Donate](#)
[Youth Development](#)
[Meet Critical Needs](#)

[Compassion Sunday](#)
[ACT for Compassion](#)
[The Village Movement](#)
[International Library Day](#)
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Compassion and Compassion International are Registered Trademarks of Compassion International, Inc.

All donations in the United States are tax-deductible in full or part.

Compassion strives to protect children from all forms of abuse. [Learn more.](#)

ABOUT US

What We Do

We are the world's leading authority in holistic child development through sponsorship.



WE RELEASE CHILDREN FROM POVERTY IN JESUS' NAME

That is our mission, which we work to achieve through a **holistic approach to child development**. We carefully blend physical, social, economic and spiritual care together...[in Jesus' name](#).

WE HELP DEVELOP CHILDREN INTO ALL GOD INTENDS THEM TO BE

Child development equips children today with skills to succeed tomorrow. Holistic child development provides opportunities that encourage the healthy development of all aspects of a child — spiritually, physically, socially, emotionally, and even economically.

Holistic child development means we begin assisting a child in poverty, in some cases, when the child is still in the womb, and it means we go all the way through young adulthood with the child.

Holistic child development requires a long-term approach and goes beyond simple involvement in the life of a child. It involves long-term dedication and perseverance, and it changes as a child's needs change. Holistic child development is tailored to a child's age, gender, health, culture and family situation.

>> [Learn More About How We View Child Development](#)

WE DO ALL OF OUR WORK THROUGH LOCAL CHURCHES

We work with thousands of local churches around the world, and each church partner tailors our holistic child development model to the contextualized needs of the children in its community, to best deliver the [whole-life care](#) the children need.

We work primarily through child sponsorship, but also have specific initiatives to help babies and mothers, to develop future leaders, and to meet critical needs.



Child Sponsorship

In a world where hundreds of millions of children live in extreme poverty, connecting one child with one sponsor is the most strategic way to end child poverty.



Compassion Survival

Compassion Survival focuses on promoting development and survival of the most vulnerable babies, while also providing education and support for the mother or primary caregiver.



Youth Development

To help young people finish well we provide youth ages 12 and older with customized training and educational paths according to their own unique potential, and God-given talents and purpose.



Critical Needs

Critical needs include opportunities to provide medical assistance, extra food and nutritional supplements, emergency home repairs and disaster relief, access to clean and safe water, education assistance, and other necessities.



Ways to Give

[Sponsor a Child](#)
[Ways to Donate](#)
[Youth Development](#)
[Meet Critical Needs](#)

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Child Development Model - Compassion International

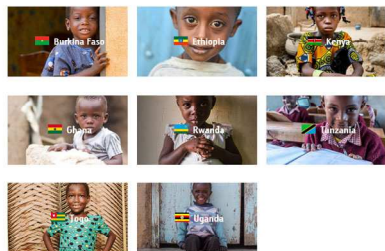
Where We Work

We do all of our work through partnerships with thousands of local churches in 25 countries around the world. We partner with churches and denominations in [Africa](#), [Asia](#), [Central America and the Caribbean](#), and [South America](#) to provide children with the opportunity to rise above their circumstances and become all God has created them to be. These frontline church partners help our holistic child development model to be contextualized needs of the children in their communities. In fact, deliver the whole life care that the children they serve most need.

Additional support for our frontline church partners comes from [14 global partner offices](#) who work with us to release children from poverty in Jesus' name. Together, we are the world's leading authority in holistic child development through sponsorship.



AFRICA



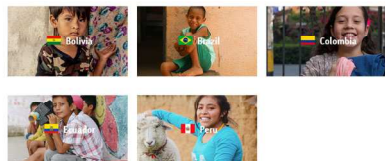
ASIA



CENTRAL AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN



SOUTH AMERICA



What makes child sponsorship with Compassion unique?

Sponsoring a child with Compassion is the most cost effective way to end extreme child poverty. It not only addresses a child's immediate physical needs, it also builds self-esteem and self-respect. Although these are similarities across other child sponsorship programs, Compassion's approach is unique because we are:



Christ-Centered

In response to God's call to care for the poor, Compassion gives hope to the hopeless, meeting practical needs and sharing the good news about Jesus in a culturally relevant, unconditional way to all we serve.



Child-Focused

Our child sponsorship ministry connects one child with one sponsor to help the child achieve his or her God-given potential. Sponsors write and receive letters, pray for and encourage their sponsored children and may even visit their children.



Church-Based

Every sponsored child is linked with a Christ-centered church in his or her community. Compassion partners with over 7,500 evangelical church partners in 25 countries around the world.



Ways to Give

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[Ways to Donate](#)

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Compassion Sunday

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Compassion offers to protect children from all forms of abuse. [Learn More](#)



A "THREE-CORD" APPROACH TO MINISTRY

We are Christ-centered, church-based and child-focused.

Taken individually each cord is not unique. However, when taken together, why we serve, how we serve and who we serve creates a distinct approach to ministry.



CHRIST-CENTERED

We help the poorest of the poor, the children in greatest need, without ulterior motive because we are a "love thy neighbor" ministry. Beginning in 1952 when Rex Everett Swanson first developed special sponsorship programs for individuals, families or churches to help support Korean War orphans for a few dollars a month, we have worked to help children realize their full potential and develop into all God intends them to be. Jesus' life and teachings shape our programs and guide all aspects of our ministry. From [how we recruit](#) to how we treat people, respect communities and cooperate with nations, our response to a world filled with hundreds of millions of children living in extreme poverty is to love like Jesus did.

Because Jesus is our core, everything we do for children is meant to reflect God's heart.

We love God, and we demonstrate our love and live out our faith by extending care to others — [in Jesus' name](#) — irrespective of caste, creed, class or religion. The way of living is modeled and shared with the beneficiaries of our programs in age-appropriate, culturally relevant ways without coercion, manipulation or forced compliance. All the checks for physical care, the safe environments for play and instruction, the regular meetings and talking, all our work is done in accord with the teaching of Jesus to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves (Matthew 22:36-40, NIV).

65+ YEARS
SERVING
CHILDREN IN
JESUS' NAME
CHRIST-CENTERED



CHURCH-BASED

We do all of our work through partnerships with thousands of local churches in 25 countries around the world.

Local churches are catalysts for community change, representing the mutual respect, resources and common purpose critical in caring for children in poverty.

We work in partnership with local churches because we desire to equip the Church to fulfill its role as salt and light to the world.

A local church is best suited to address the needs of the children in its community because the church is already located in and involved in the community. Only the local church can effectively deliver the Jesus-based teaching and [whole-life care](#) that children in poverty deserve.

It is our honor to walk alongside local churches as they share the love of Jesus in their neighborhoods. We trust the Church's ability to create an environment of unparalleled stability where children experience God's love and acceptance in tangible ways.

7,500+ INTERNATIONAL
CHURCH
PARTNERS
CHURCH-BASED



CHILD-FOCUSED

When a child is registered in our Child Sponsorship Program the beneficiary of the support is the specific sponsored child. Siblings, parents and other caregivers may receive additional or indirect benefits from our programs, but our focus is the one child.

Through our holistic child development model, we blend physical, social, economic and spiritual care together to help children in poverty fully realize in every facet of life and transcend what is often a generational legacy of poverty. Communities often feel the positive impact of the "Child Shift" work our church partners do because what happens in the life of a child ripples throughout his environment, but we are unashamedly and singularly focused on children.

We are the world's leading authority in holistic child development through sponsorship.

Child development means each child assisted by our church partners receives [whole-life care](#) that is personal, individualized, maternal, and tailored to the child's age, gender, health, culture and family situation. Our focus on children involves a commitment to long-term involvement in a child's life. It is an investment in and for the life of the child.

1,900,000+ SPONSORED
CHILDREN
CHILD-FOCUSED



OUR COMMITMENT TO SPONSORS AND DONORS

For more than 65 years we have worked to release children from poverty in Jesus' name and have trusted the ability of our church partners to create environments of unparalleled stability where children can experience God's love and acceptance in tangible ways. We are, and have always been, Christ-centered, church-based and child-focused. That is simply [who we are](#). And we commit to remaining so. Because that is what God intends for us to be.

We also commit to continue:

- developing children individually and holistically: mind, body and spirit
- providing the safety and protection of the children in our programs
- educating you about the complex issues of poverty and the effects of poverty on children
- the highest standards of financial integrity and accountability, including only using money for the purpose for which it was raised, regularly performing program audits to ensure our programs are well managed and funds are properly disbursed and applied, and balancing low administrative and fundraising costs with high-quality programs
- taking each child to only one sponsor at a time
- giving every child in our program a chance to learn about Jesus, respond to the gospel, and develop a lifelong relationship with God

Is Compassion a good organization?

How does Compassion work?

How many countries does Compassion work in?

Compassion currently works in 25 countries around the world.

Where countries does Compassion work in?

How does Compassion choose which countries to work in?

What makes Compassion stand out among other child development and/or sponsorship organizations?

Can you explain Compassion's rating on Charity Navigator?

Why does Compassion focus on individual child development rather than broader community development work?

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How does Compassion work?

How many countries does Compassion work in?

Where countries does Compassion work in?

In Africa, Compassion works in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda.

In Central America and the Caribbean, Compassion works in the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua and Mexico.

In South America, Compassion works in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

In Asia, Compassion works in Bangladesh, Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

How does Compassion choose which countries to work in?

What makes Compassion stand out among other child development and/or

Can you explain Compassion's rating on Charity Navigator?

Why does Compassion focus on individual child development rather than broader community development work?

During Compassion's 65-plus years of development work, we've seen various approaches to breaking the cycle of poverty in children's lives. We've discovered that changed circumstances rarely change people's lives, while changed people inevitably change their circumstances.

Community development is important work that addresses the external circumstances of poverty and is an important complement to our work. However, our primary focus is individual child development—an inside-out, bottom-up approach that recognizes the God-given value and potential of each individual child. Many of these children grow up to become positive influences in their own communities.

When did Compassion International start?

Who started Compassion International?

Who is the CEO of Compassion International?