



SHAPING DESTINY

SUMMER 2018 NEWSLETTER

**BUILDING A
FUTURE**
FRANKLIN'S STORY
PG. 1 & 2

**FRISBEE
FOR THE
FATHERLESS**
PG. 2 & 3

**TURNING
TRAGEDY
INTO HOPE**
PG. 3 & 4

FRANKLIN'S SPONSOR IS HELPING HIM BUILD HIS FUTURE

► Our childhood helps us develop into the person we are today. Can you imagine growing up without a mother to love and care for you? Or what about not having a father to guide and protect you? While either of those situations would be devastating, can you imagine growing up without any parents? This was the case for Franklin, one of the young men in our Sponsorship Program. Both of Franklin's parents passed away when he was just a baby and he never knew them. Thankfully, he was not abandoned for long because his sweet grandmother took him in and raised him as her own. However, being elderly and poor, they always struggled financially as his grandma did the best she could with the little that she had. Due to their poverty, Franklin was never able to attend school, so when he entered our program he was a late-teen without any formal education. He couldn't read or write and soon needed more guidance and parenting than his grandma could offer. He didn't know what he was going to do as he was quickly

approaching adulthood.

Thankfully, Franklin was identified in the community and taken into our Sponsorship Program. Because of his age, we decided that it would be more beneficial for him to learn a trade that could help set him up for success in the future. He is now learning carpentry, a great trade to learn and popular among other young men in Cameroon society. His grandmother and our team in Cameroon decided it'd be best to place Franklin with a foster family to help guide him as he enters adulthood and learns important lessons about responsibility, hard work, and self-discipline. And thankfully, because of Franklin's sponsor, he now has a brighter future! He is able to give back to his community through his trade and will be able to provide for his own family one day. We are so grateful for his faithful sponsor whose continued support has helped provide the means to turn his life around and make sure he has the training, medical care, [CONTINUED ON PG. 2](#)



"Because of Franklin's sponsor, he's able to give back to his community and provide for his own family one day."

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FEATURE CONTINUED

and family structure that will help him grow into a wonderful adult. But there are still many children in our program, just like Franklin, who are still awaiting a sponsor too.

Children are the future leaders of tomorrow and we are all called to pour into the next generation. Many times younger children are more appealing to sponsor, but teenagers are just as important because they too need loving families to support and mentor them into adulthood and as future leaders. Only the almighty God knows these children's destinies and He wants to use us to help shape them. If you already sponsor a child with us, thank you so much...we need more people like you! You make these stories of hope and transformation possible. These children depend on you, and so do we.

If you are considering sponsoring a child, please visit shapingdestiny.org/sponsor to find out more and sign up today.

CHANGING LIVES THROUGH FRISBEE

▶ Who would have thought that an exciting sport like Ultimate Frisbee could be used to change lives? When we hosted our first Frisbee for the Fatherless Tournament 4 years ago, we could have only hoped for it to be the inspiring event that it has become. Each year, passionate people have come together to make a difference in the world, one child at a time. And this year, they want to take it to the next level!

In 2017, over 200 incredible participants and generous supporters joined together and raised almost \$12,000 to sponsor 28 children for an entire year! That's 28 children given education, medical care, and support through family placement. 28 future leaders of tomorrow -- developed to be the change they hope to see in the world.

This year, the tournament will be held on August 18th in Cedar Park, TX and our Ultimate teams have an even bigger dream, but they need help to accomplish it. They are passionate and determined to advocate, fundraise, and have fun in this tournament, all for the purpose of changing lives but they can't do this alone. **CONTINUED ON PG. 3**






FAITH



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28 children given medical care
children given education
future leaders of tomorrow

This year, the goal is to raise enough to sponsor 50 children for the next year (including the 28 children from last year). We know that if we all work together, we can make that happen! Each team is working hard to knock on doors, ask their friends and family, and give from their own pockets to help these children and we are so inspired by them! This year, Frisbee for the Fatherless is going to be used

to change even more lives and we want to celebrate ahead of time how mighty our God is to use a simple sport to make such a huge impact for His children!

We invite you to join in with what these Ultimate life-changing teams are doing! They'll need all the help they can get. To donate to show your support or register to play, please visit shapingdestiny.org/



TURNING TRAGEDY INTO HOPE - ELLIE'S STORY

From One Orphaned Child to Another

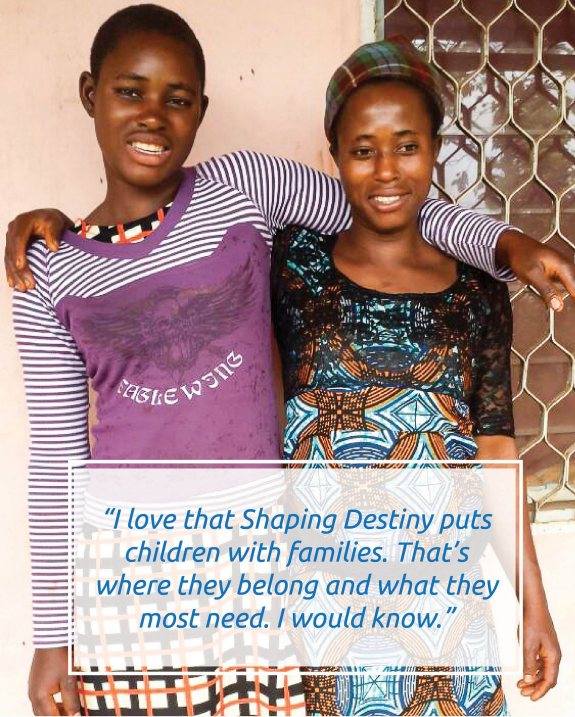
▶ On the surface, Ellie looks like your average 20-year-old recent Baylor graduate. But little would you know, she can personally relate to the heartache many children in our program live with every day.

When Ellie was only 3 years old her mom passed away from cancer. Her dad, who never remarried, committed his life to raising Ellie. However, when she was in high school, he was diagnosed with heart and kidney failure. Just two days before

Ellie started college, her dad passed away also.

Suddenly, being an orphan became very real to Ellie and her heart broke for children in similar situations. Wanting to help, she began using her creativity to start Tied + True, a purposeful jewelry business run right from her living room. It may be small, but boy is it making a difference! Through her business, Ellie gives a portion of her proceeds to sponsor a child in our program, Irene.

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"I love that Shaping Destiny puts children with families. That's where they belong and what they most need. I would know."

Irene is a bright and strong young lady, but she's lived a difficult life. She never knew her father and her mother are mentally ill and unable to take care of her alone. Irene's grandparents have taken them both in, but they have always struggled. Irene had to drop out of school and was selling peanuts in the market to help care for the family. She had given up her dreams of being a nurse...that is, until Ellie stepped in and sponsored her.

Now, because of Ellie, Irene is able to return to school and continue her education. She receives regular medical care and her family is strengthened, and able to remain together. They have been given hope and Irene is working hard to help others one day through nursing.

Ellie's decision to sponsor a child, has made all this possible in Irene's life. When asked why, Ellie responded, "If I can give \$35 a month and make a difference in a child's life...well, I just couldn't imagine not doing that."

Check out Ellie's beautiful jewelry on Instagram

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please continue to pray for peace, leadership, and direction in Cameroon as well as wisdom and safety for our staff and missionaries on the ground.



DID YOU KNOW?

Soccer is the most popular sport in Cameroon. Children grow up playing soccer...many times barefoot or wearing sandals. If they don't have a ball, they will happily make one with whatever they can find.



COMING UP

Orphan Sunday is in November and we would love to partner with you to share God's heart for the orphan and how we all can be pivotal people in other's lives. Contact us if you would like more information about Orphan Sunday to share at your church and/or would like us to come speak at your church.

