

CHICKS 2 CHICKS

- BE THE BLESSING -

Talking Points

- ❖ **Thank your guests and explain why you support Chicks2Chicks.**
- ❖ **The purpose of Chicks2Chicks** is to empower women in developing countries by providing them with opportunities like health care, microenterprises, job skills training, food, safe water, solar lights and more. We choose programs and projects that give women the best opportunity to improve the quality of their lives. Chicks2Chicks is dedicated to women reaching women. By joining together, we can help our sisters and their families one blessing at a time.
- ❖ **With so many options to support women's causes, why choose Chicks2Chicks?**
Two reasons...
 1. More than 98% of the money raised will go directly to support programs for women through OB.
 2. The programs are changing lives. Show the video, and look at the stories that follow, which you can tell personally. (Don't worry, the video is under four minutes.)
- ❖ **What was the idea behind Chicks2Chicks?** Chicks2Chicks was inspired by a high school speech given by a teenage girl who believed that western women must embrace the responsibility to help women in the rest of the world who live in desperate circumstances. Chicks2Chicks is a response to this call for action and an affirmation of the critical need for women in our community to make an investment in women living lives of dignity and opportunity around the world. Whether a teenage girl, a single woman, a young mom, a workingwoman or a grandmother, we can all be the blessing and create lasting change in women's lives, including our own!
- ❖ **Explain how your guests can join the movement.**
 1. Become a member of the Chicks Empowerment Club with a gift of \$1,000. As a member, you will receive updates on how Chicks2Chicks is empowering women around the world and have the chance to participate in programs and projects as Chicks2Chicks expands globally. As a special gift, you will also receive a custom bracelet from Haiti.
 2. Host a Hen Party of your own to raise money and mobilize your friends.
 3. Become a Chicks2Chicks Monthly Sustainer. Ongoing support will allow Chicks2Chicks to continue essential programs that offer a helping hand to the world's most vulnerable women.
 4. Make a donation to the hen party and become a Chicks2Chicks partner with a gift of \$25, \$50, \$100 or more today!
 5. Spread the Word. Become an ambassador for Chicks2Chicks by sharing the cause with other women who have a heart to help others and change the world.

- ❖ **Why call it “Chicks2Chicks”?** Chicks2Chicks was inspired by the women of the Maasai Tribe in Kenya. In their culture, the men raise cattle because, to them, four-legged cattle represent the “breath of life.” The cattle symbolize wealth and prestige for Maasai men. Two-legged chickens, on the other hand, are jeered at and overlooked by men. For women, though, these birds still symbolize hope and opportunity. Not only are chickens a source of food for their families, they also offer women a source of income that can provide education and better health care for their children. Cattle may represent the breath of life for men; but for these women, chickens offer a path to a brighter future.
- ❖ **Chicks2Chicks Projects:** Below you will find descriptions of programs, ways you can help and personal stories.

Microenterprise Start-ups for Women:

Raising children comes with enough challenges on its own, but the financial burden of raising children as a single mom with limited options to earn money can seem an insurmountable task. Single moms struggle to be the breadwinners for their families, especially if they have not received a proper education. Operation Blessing provides unemployed mothers with grants to start microenterprises or to boost existing businesses with capital. Examples of businesses started include: home-based bakeries, home-based stores selling vegetables and/or refreshments, food carts, small home-based restaurants, salons and sewing businesses.

OBI’s poultry farming projects aim to train and encourage single moms in the breeding and marketability of chickens. The program’s activities include the construction of a coop, learning about the nutritional needs of the animals and how to care for them, as well as breeding them to sustain a flock. Each chicken project includes 100 chickens, feed and materials to construct a chicken coop. Average increase of income is 48%!

Ways to help:

Invest in microenterprise(s) for single mom(s): \$500-\$800 each

Give single mom(s) poultry breeding business(es): \$725 each

Personal Story:



Lucia loves nothing more than being a mom to her daughters Angie, 7, and Valeria, 5. The girls are everything to Lucia, and everything she does is for them. “We call ourselves the Three Musketeers,” she said, because they are always together.

The hardest thing about motherhood for Lucia has been her inability to provide for her daughters’ basic needs, especially when it comes to housing. Their old home was made of woven rush mats with a corrugated iron roof. Over time, the structure weakened considerably leaving them at the mercy of the elements. Lucia would patch any hole she could, but an injury made further repairs impossible.

Lucia’s heart would break over her daughters’ fears that the house would collapse. “I felt sad because I could not offer my daughters a strong roof. They tell me sometimes, ‘Mom, the house is going to fall!’ because it shook.”

The girls know their mom works hard. “She does everything!” Valeria said. Still, they would have nightmares that the house was going to cave in at any given moment.

“We prayed that our house would not fall and we asked God to give us a strong house,” Angie said. They hoped for a wooden house that could withstand the elements, one where holes wouldn’t have to be patched and the structure wouldn’t bend with the wind.

Operation Blessing learned of Lucia and her daughters’ situation and wanted to help. After seeing Lucia’s skills, the OB team decided a food truck in front of her house would suit Lucia’s needs. She could set a small menu and earn income quadruple of what she made with her odd jobs. OB Peru also set Lucia, Angie and Valeria up with a new wooden house. The OB team and fifteen other volunteers worked together to build Lucia’s family a safe haven, one that won’t bend and break, or need holes patched.

“This is a gift from heaven,” Lucia said. She and her daughters can be safe, well cared for, well fed and feel comfortable and proud of their new home. Valeria’s birthday just passed and she was able to have a birthday party with her friends in her new house.

Lucia, Valeria and Angie weren’t the only ones who received gifts. OB Peru and the other volunteers were treated to a song of thanks by the three ladies from their overflowing hearts of gratitude.

“This is the house of my dreams,” Lucia said. “I can barely believe it. Thank you so much, Operation Blessing.”

Vocational Training: Pakistan, Nepal, Latin America

Whether an earthquake victim in Nepal, a young persecuted Christian in Pakistan or an unemployed mom in Latin America, women in poverty throughout the world are marginalized by a lack of education and job skills training. One of the most effective ways to empower women is to offer skills training and literacy classes. Operation Blessing provides job training in cosmetology, sewing and cooking to women, as well as literacy classes in several countries. These programs create an opportunity to substantially increase income potential for these women, with many eventually owning their own small businesses.

Ways to help:

Fund training for 5 Christian Pakistani women in a skill and provide literacy classes for \$1,750.

Host a Hen Party and fund 25 women in a cosmetology training program in Latin America for \$2,000.

Fund training for an earthquake victim in Nepal and provide capital for a start-up business for \$1,200.

Personal Story:

NEPAL – Sita has seen more than her fair share of tragedy over the past few years, but she is determined that she and her daughter will have a better future.

Last year, her husband traveled from their remote village in Nepal to India in search of a medical procedure he badly needed—but he fell into a dangerous trap and was killed by organ harvesters. Then, Sita’s home and most of her village was completely destroyed when the massive 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck.

With nowhere to turn, Sita took her five-year-old daughter and made the long trek to the capital of Kathmandu, hoping to find shelter and supplies. Today, she lives in a camp with hundreds of other earthquake survivors.

As she waits for her village to be rebuilt, Sita is desperate to provide for her little girl, but the camps can be dangerous for women on their own and jobs are hard to come by. Single women risk being preyed upon by opportunists and sex traffickers, so she must be careful to protect herself and her daughter.

Operation Blessing teams were working in these camps, providing safe drinking water, when OBI staff met Sita and learned about her situation and the needs of countless women like her. In response, Operation Blessing developed a special training center where single and widowed women could come to learn a marketable skill and effective business practices. There, women are able to learn cooking or cosmetology skills and lessons on how to turn those skills into a profitable business.

After intense training, Sita graduated from the program and received all of the tools she would need to launch her very own business.

“I was fortunate to attend the graduation of the first group of women,” said David Darg, OBI’s vice president of international operations. “They are overcomers, not letting the quake dictate their future and earning a path towards a steady future.”

Throughout the months that followed her graduation, Sita continued to receive support from the Operation Blessing team as she worked to carve out a new future for herself and her daughter—a future of dignity and success.

Women’s Health – Cervical Cancer Prevention (Peru)

In Peru, cervical cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths for women—more Peruvian women die from cervical cancer than breast cancer and lung cancer combined. The death of a mother can create tragic circumstances for her children, especially if the mother is single. In many instances, children face homelessness, hunger, sickness and abuse with the loss of a mother. Operation Blessing is working to prevent cervical cancer in Peru by conducting educational workshops on early detection and prevention of cervical cancer. Each participant receives education, a PAP test, treatment and follow up visits, resulting in lives saved and children who will continue to be cared for. This program directly impacts over 360 women and indirectly benefits over 1,000 children.

Ways to help:

Fund this program for \$13,140 or about \$37 per direct beneficiary.

Personal Story:



IQUITOS, Peru – Maribel is a young wife and mother of two, and she’s thankful to be alive.

About a year ago, she was enjoying quality time with her daughters, 11-year-old Maria and six-year-old Brillith, when she started to experience what she thought was bladder pain. Maribel went to the health center in her community, but the painkillers prescribed to her didn't fix the problem.

Without the financial means to get a second opinion, Maribel's pain continued. Operation Blessing learned of Maribel's situation and provided for her to be examined at a private obstetrician's office, where she learned that the source of her pain was not only pelvic inflammatory disease, but also cervical cysts.

When Maribel's first round of treatment was complete, a doctor ran a biopsy on one of her cysts, and the results were not what she had hoped for; she needed to have surgery to have the abnormal cells removed. The cells, if left in Maribel's body, could become cancerous. "For a moment I thought the worst, I thought I could die," Maribel said.

OBI provided transport to and from the procedure, and also took care of the bill. Operation Blessing also gave Maribel counseling throughout the treatment process so that she would understand what she needed and what was happening in her body. Household visits will continue to ensure Maribel is getting the health care she needs in order to stay cancer-free. Maribel's first concern was always for her daughters, because nothing makes her happier than being a mother to Maria and Brillith. Maribel is ever thankful to have been given a second chance at life with her family.