



MADRE

Spring 2015

www.madre.org

Dear Friend,

I have never felt as transformed as I did the moment they first placed my son in my arms. All those years ago, I knew that my life had changed, that this new life would require me to be braver and more determined than I even thought possible.

The brave women that you support through MADRE are leading the global fight for women's rights, and they have helped me understand new meanings of motherhood. There is the mother I met in Nicaragua who stood up against forced early marriage and the sale of girls in her community. There is another woman in Kenya who secured her family's survival through drought by innovating a way to harvest rainwater. And then there are the women lifesavers in Iraq, who are guiding women escaping extremist violence to safety.

Mothers the world over are caring for their families, protecting their communities and promoting peace, all with a powerful determination to create a better, safer world for their children. And many times, when I've asked these women who instilled in them values of courage and caring, the words fall easily from their mouths: "My mother."

This Mother's Day, we honor the brave mothers we work with, and all mothers around the world, who are fighting every day to build the world we all want to live in. Thank you for all you make possible for mothers worldwide through your support of MADRE.



With appreciation,

Yifat Susskind
Executive Director



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Yanar Mohammed (center), President of MADRE's Iraqi partners, OWFI, in the Peace Farm's greenhouse.

Your Support in Action!

You're helping to protect survivors of wartime rape.

In Iraq, you support an organic Women's Peace Farm that shelters and feeds women farmers escaping rape and sexual slavery by the extremist group ISIS. Thanks to you, 54 people, mainly mothers and their children, have found safe haven at the farm, where they are receiving counseling and medical care. "When I came here, I had lost everything. I couldn't sleep at night," one mother told us. "But I can breathe here, and my children are safe and going to school. Thank you."

You're helping women combat climate change.

In Kenya, frequent droughts devastate rural communities, leaving their land parched and threatening lives. Your support helps women farmers store water to last through droughts. Thanks to your support, we are ready to install two new clean water tanks in two Indigenous communities! And that's not all. You also support trainings for women to harvest and conserve rainwater. Thanks to you, Indigenous women are learning to sustain their families through climate disaster.



Make a Gift in Honor of a Mother in Your Life

Are you looking for a meaningful way to celebrate someone special this Mother's Day? Donate to support women's rights in their honor at www.madre.org/mother. We'll send them a beautiful card notifying them of your thoughtful gift.



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MADRE Celebrates Mothers Demanding Rights and Nurturing Peace

Mothers are the backbone of our work. With your support, we help mothers around the world demand their rights, protect their families and build better futures. This Mother's Day—and every day—we celebrate them.

WE CELEBRATE MOTHERS BUILDING BETTER LIVES FOR THEIR DAUGHTERS.

"Thanks to the chickens I received through MADRE, I have eggs to feed my family and extras to sell in the market. With the money I earn, I am sending my daughter to school. I am so grateful she is getting the education that I did not. Thank you for making this possible!"

-Catarina, member of MUIXIL, MADRE's Indigenous Ixil partner organization in Guatemala

WE CELEBRATE MOTHERS CREATING FUTURE ACTIVISTS.

"When we talk of women's rights, we're not just talking about women. We're talking about families. We have to teach our children. My son was born during a time of great conflict in Nicaragua. Women were suffering mass rape, killings and other horrible abuses during the US-sponsored Contra war. As a child, he saw me and other women in our community working for peace and fighting for our rights, with MADRE's support. He learned from us. Now, he's an activist too, fighting for the rights of women and families in Nicaragua."

-Rose Cunningham, director of Wangki Tangni, MADRE's longtime partner organization in Nicaragua

WE CELEBRATE MOTHERHOOD AS A SOURCE OF STRENGTH.

"Becoming a mother changes you from an individual into someone who is inextricably connected to—and responsible for—other people's lives. It makes you more durable, and ultimately, more willing to take on the work of nurturing. And it prepares you for the even bigger mission of creating positive, social change, which needs to be birthed, nurtured and committed to with constancy. I see this in the women of Iraq. They are more resilient because of the experience of being mothers. And thanks to your support, they are seeing their children through war."

-Yanar Mohammed, director of MADRE's partner group the Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq

To learn more about the incredible changes that Rose, Catarina, Yanar and others are creating, visit www.madre.org/yourimpact



Above, Catarina and daughter, Ana; at left, Rose Cunningham and her son, Otis; and below, Yanar with a young child whose family found refuge from ISIS brutality, thanks to your support.

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DONOR SPOTLIGHT: Why I Choose to Celebrate Mothers Through MADRE

Jane Kavaloski, a MADRE supporter since 1986, has for many years chosen to honor the mothers in her life through MADRE. Here's why:

"Mother's Day became a national holiday in the United

States over one hundred years ago this May. The wish of founder Anna Jarvis was to set aside a day to remember those who have died in war and to work for peace. For years I have thought that the best way to commemorate Mother's Day, and to honor my mother, sisters and daughters, was to make a donation to MADRE. MADRE is an organization that supports women and children living in the midst of war and violence around the globe."

We thank Jane for her longtime support of MADRE and for her commitment and dedication to women's human rights. Thank you, Jane!

WOMEN OUT LOUD: Motherhood and Activism

Check out MADRE's new podcast! *Women Out Loud* shares the stories of activists defining the future of women's human rights around the world.

Listen to our latest episode on motherhood, activism and the courageous mothers you support at www.madre.org/podcast.

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