



**STAND  
BY me**

**Impact  
Report  
2025**



*Stand by Me's mission is to rescue kids from terrible circumstances, then do whatever it takes to provide the care, love and attention they need to thrive.*



## A message from the director

I am delighted to share our latest Impact Report, which reflects what we were able to achieve in 2025 thanks to God's provision and your generosity. This was a particularly special year as we celebrated 30 years of rescuing children from extreme poverty and helping them thrive. As we marked this milestone, we gave thanks to God for His faithfulness and for the transformation we have witnessed in the lives of children and families over three decades. From rescuing 60 boys in Lebanon to today caring for more than 4,000 children worldwide, we have continually seen God's hand at work.

During the year, I had the privilege of visiting our projects in Kenya and Colombia, where I spent time with our children and their families. Listening to their stories was a powerful reminder of the significance of our work and of the daily realities our children face. I was deeply encouraged by the care each child receives and by the life-changing impact of meeting their individual needs and walking alongside them as they build brighter futures. I returned inspired and humbled by our dedicated staff on the ground whose compassion and commitment ensure every child is supported to achieve beyond what society has determined for them.

Looking ahead to the next 30 years can feel daunting, but I am greatly encouraged by your continued support. Your generosity has brought education, food and healthcare to thousands of children as well as enable us to respond to the



earthquake in Myanmar, delivering emergency aid to families who were made homeless, and to begin building a safe and secure children's home for our Agape family. I am deeply thankful for God's faithfulness and for your commitment, which helped us raise over £3.13 million in 2025, helping children become who God created them to be.

It is through God's provision and your faithful prayers and support that so many children now have hope. I trust this report will encourage you as you reflect on the part you have played in transforming lives.

Ahmad Ayoubi  
Executive Director

# Helping children become everything they are born to be

Each child is unique, so we take care to meet each of their individual needs, from food and healthcare, to loving parents and a quality education. We're motivated by Jesus' example to make a lasting difference in our children's lives by tackling each and every obstacle they face.



## Our child-centred care

### Loving care

We get to know each child and invest our time raising them to know that they're loved and accepted for who they are.



### Strong families

We work hard to keep families together. In the absence of a stable family, we welcome children into our loving family homes.



### Great education

Our education programmes equip our kids to rise above their circumstances and help change their communities.



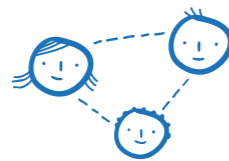
### Access to healthcare

We go the extra mile to make sure that our kids are fit and well, and can enjoy their childhood.



### A reason for hope

It's a privilege to demonstrate Jesus' love to our kids through the quality of our care.



### Caring relationships

Child sponsorship helps our kids to feel loved, cared for and part of a wider family.

# Our care programmes

Each child is unique but like all children they need unconditional love and acceptance. Because they come from complex backgrounds, we have developed four key care programmes to meet their individual needs.



## Children's Homes

Our children's homes are just like any family home should be – comfortable, safe and filled with love.



## Care Centres

Our care centres provide tutoring, meals, clothes, medical care and counselling for children and their families who need extra care.



## Schools

Our schools provide a quality education, equipping children to rise above their circumstances and do great things.



## Family Support

We provide families with food, rent support, medical care and small business grants to enable them to stand on their own two feet.



# Caring for over 4,000 kids worldwide

## Colombia

Providing care and psychological support to children overwhelmed by abuse, family breakups, neglect and poverty.

## Romania

Supporting children and their families living in deep poverty in the community through the provision of a free education, daily food and family support.

## Ethiopia

Providing an education to children living in poverty, a loving family for orphaned children and extensive healthcare for children and their family members. Offering a programme for those living with HIV and self-sufficiency projects for families.

## Kenya

Giving orphaned and abandoned children loving care in our family homes. Providing a quality education to children trapped in poverty and offering community support, skills training and sustainability programmes.

## India

Providing loving care and an education to children rescued from a life of civil unrest, violence and child trafficking.

## Myanmar

Offering a loving family home to orphaned children from persecuted minorities and providing an education for children in our schools so that they can rise above their difficult circumstances.



# Our impact

## Brighter futures in Colombia



Colombia



Dainer age 11.

In the Banana Zone of northern Colombia there is very little hope. Families live in terrible conditions, far below the poverty line and are surrounded by the constant threat of violence. For children growing up in a small, neglected town, the cycle of poverty seems inescapable and the chance of a brighter future, impossible.

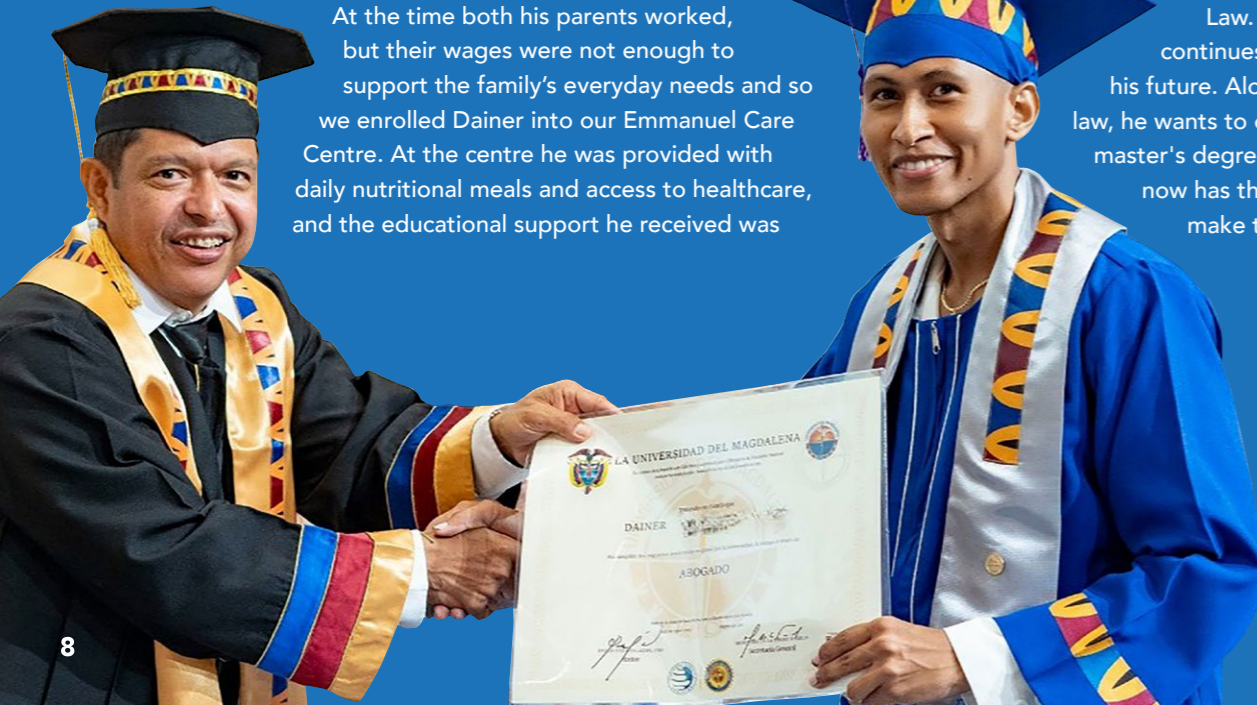
especially transformational. With the centre's support Dainer progressed all the way through his primary and secondary level education and successfully enrolled into university to study Law.

During his time at university our Emmanuel Care Centre continued to stand by Dainer and provided essentials like rent, food and study materials. But his success was not merely a result of our care, Dainer took advantage of every chance to succeed, representing his university in athletics competitions, moving to France for a study exchange year and securing a work placement in a legal office.

This year we received the exciting news that Dainer graduated from university with a degree in Law. Filled with hope, he continues to dream big for his future. Along with working in law, he wants to one day study for his master's degree and PhD and he now has the tools he needs to make these dreams a reality.

Dainer was only 11 when he joined our care.

At the time both his parents worked, but their wages were not enough to support the family's everyday needs and so we enrolled Dainer into our Emmanuel Care Centre. At the centre he was provided with daily nutritional meals and access to healthcare, and the educational support he received was



## Hope in the rubble



Myanmar

On 28th March, a 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck Myanmar where we care for 2,000 children. In the wake of the earthquake over 5,000 people were killed and millions were displaced. We are incredibly grateful that none of our children or staff were injured, but when our staff on the ground saw the devastation that was caused, they approached us with a desire to help.

To meet the desperate need we launched our Myanmar Earthquake Appeal, fundraising to provide life-saving aid packages and thanks to our generous supporters we have been able to bring hope to those in need.

Aid began with our Myanmar Director, David, taking a small team to deliver packages in the capital city Naypidaw. There he witnessed the scale of damage and the enormous hardship people were facing. Families lined the local train station platform in makeshift shelters without electricity or clean

running water and with heavy rains destroying the few belongings they had left. **"To see them is heartbreaking."** David expressed.

Since March, our staff have delivered hundreds of aid packages filled with essentials like rice, oil, drinking water, mosquito nets and hygiene items. David shared: **"During this challenging time, through your great support, we had the privilege of assisting those affected both in the immediate aftermath of the tremors and in the days that followed. The heart-wrenching stories we encountered, particularly those of families who lost loved ones, left a lasting impression. Yet amidst this sorrow, it was advantageous to extend our hands and reach out to those people."**

Our aid work in Myanmar still continues today, bringing incredible hope to those in need.



## A place to learn, grow and fulfil potential

***"I am so happy about this new facility, which will offer us everything we need in one place"*** shared Biftu on the long-awaited opening day of our High School Centre in Ethiopia, ***"It creates a wonderful opportunity for us to study hard and achieve good results. I am deeply grateful to the donors who made this building possible."***

Biftu and her classmates were thrilled at the opening of our High School Centre which has been a huge project to complete. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, our Grade 9 – 12 students are now attending tutoring classes, receiving their daily meals and finding the support they need to thrive in their education.

The High School Centre is a place of learning and hope, where caring teachers are always at hand. An incredibly important aspect of the centre is that it is a place of safety and encouragement for girls who up until now have faced risks travelling to tutoring classes late at night and inequality at the government school. As all our high school students have started to make use of this excellent facility, we are beginning to see them thrive in their education as well as develop life skills which will prepare them for the next chapter of university or work.

Our students now have the reassurance that whatever challenges they face at high school, they will have the safety and support of the High School Centre to help them overcome every obstacle and achieve. This

excellent facility is showing our high school students that they are full of potential and worthy of this investment.



Biftu and her friend.

## "At camp you feel very loved"

Many children in Colombia face neglect, trauma and hopelessness in their home lives. Our Emmanuel Care Centre is providing children with the daily support, food, education and counselling they need to overcome such challenges.

Knowing the hardship our children experience at home, we believe it is incredibly important to give them a fun and hopeful experience at summer camp. Before joining the Emmanuel Care Centre, none of our kids had ever been to camp, many had never even left their town.

Thanks to the support of sponsors, we gave the older children a few days away at summer camp and the younger children a camp at the care centre. The camp was run by our dedicated staff and an amazing visiting team who are passionate about seeing children realise they are special and that God loves them. The camps provided three

excellent meals a day, games and sports, crafts, competitions, swimming, Bible studies and songs, offering so much excitement, happiness and new friendships for our children.



***"This year was my first time at camp. I really enjoyed going to the pool because it was refreshing and we all played. I would say that at camp you feel very loved, and that in addition to playing, we***

***also learn about God and sing beautifully. It was great!"*** - Zuleinis, age 8.

For our children who come from terrible backgrounds, the opportunity to have fun, receive encouragement and hear they are special to God has made an incredible difference.





## A hopeful environment for our youngest learners



Romania

Our Denisa Care Centre opened a new building for our Grade 1 to 4 children equipped with two spacious classrooms where our dedicated staff can continue to provide life-changing educational support. Our youngest children are now enjoying lessons in their own facilities only a short distance from our original Denisa Care Centre building.

When our kids first entered the new building, they were overwhelmed with happiness. Maria in Grade 4 shared:

***"The first day in the new building was very emotional. I like that it is quieter. Every child needs a space where they can feel they have the chance to succeed. This centre is that space. In every corner, there is a place for a good idea. I enjoy spending my time here."*** - Maria, age 11.

The new building is a place of learning and hope for children like Maria and will help ensure that they have the environment to thrive. As our youngest children begin to make use of this facility, we know we will see them receive an excellent start to their education.

Cami, our Romania Director, shared what the opening of the new building meant to the staff and children in Romania:

***"We were filled with gratitude as we have opened the doors to our brand-new building for children in grades 1 to 4. This building wasn't just a dream, it was a necessity, helping us meet the standards of quality every child deserves. With two bright classrooms, a big welcoming hallway, and three fully equipped bathrooms, our children now have a safe, joyful place where they can do their homework each day, play and take part in fun, creative activities."*** - Cami, Romania Director.



## The chance of a healthy life



Kenya

We want every child to have a healthy childhood. But being born into poverty in Kenya means that many can't afford to access basic healthcare which puts children's lives at risk. This was the case for 10-year-old Kimberly who began experiencing pain while swallowing food due to the inflammation of her tonsils. As her condition worsened, even breathing became difficult and she struggled to sleep and eat.



Kimberly has made an incredible recovery. Today, she is able to have fun with her friends, learn at school and enjoy renewed health.

***"If they had not intervened, Kimberly's treatment would have been delayed because we simply could not afford the huge hospital bills"*** - Kimberly's mother.

Thankfully, Kimberly is a Stand by Me child and attends our school where we have employed a nurse, Eva, who immediately recognised her tonsillitis and referred her to the hospital where Kimberly underwent surgery. Nurse Eva treats 675 cases in the school clinic each year, keeping our children healthy and able to stay in school to pursue their dreams. Of these cases about 13 children experience serious illnesses and are referred to the hospital.

Our school clinic provides regular checkups to monitor our children's health and bring early intervention to serious illness, giving our children the best chance at a healthy life.





## A new beginning at Abdi Academy

Each year, we are privileged to welcome children into our care who urgently need support and deserve the chance of a life-changing education. In September, we opened our doors to 40 new children at our Abdi Academy in Ethiopia.

Two of the newest pupils are six-year-old twins, Bonsa and Bona. Three years ago, their father passed away due to illness, leaving their mother to care for five children alone. Their living conditions are very humble, living in a two roomed mud house and sleeping on the bare floor together, using old blankets and clothes for warmth.

Unable to work due to her poor health, Bonsa and Bona's mum begs on the roadside while their elder sister works to provide for the family, but her labour bears little fruit and the family often struggle to afford the necessities. Without an education, the twins would have no way of escaping poverty, but now they have hope.

Since joining our Abdi Academy, the twins have received school uniforms, regular meals and health checks. With a great education they are now on their way to reaching their full potential. And not only do the twins benefit, but so does the whole family as the burden to provide for their needs is shared and their mother receives vital healthcare support.

Bonsa and Bona love heading to school each morning where they are enjoying learning the alphabet and how to count. Both share the ambition of becoming doctors and with the right support and their hard work, we believe this dream can become a reality.

Bonsa, Bona and our newest kindergarten children at Abdi Academy have settled into school life, excited at the chance to learn. In time, we believe the opportunity of an education and the family support from the school will benefit them all and help them rise out of poverty.



# How we did it

Everything we are able to achieve is thanks to our amazing supporters and sponsors who share their skills, resources, finances and time to change the lives of some of the most vulnerable children worldwide.



## Appeals

Our appeals allow us to respond to our children's urgent needs. Our **Emergency Myanmar Earthquake Appeal** raised an incredible £65,149 enabling us to provide over 1,700 people with aid packages filled with essentials like rice, oil, drinking water, mosquito nets and hygiene items.

*"My husband has been in the warzone for three years now. I live with my children. This is the third time I have received the aid. When I received it, joy came down. It's so valuable for us, it means a lot to be able to feed my children. May God bless you all."* - Vung, aid recipient.



Vung.

Our **Myanmar Agape Home Appeal** raised £79,743 to build a safe and secure home for our Agape family. This incredible generosity will enable us to begin constructing a new home to ensure our children will enjoy greater security, no longer fearing flooding, evacuation or the loss of their belongings. On behalf of all the children, Sarah, our Agape Home Director, shared the impact of this generosity:

*"For a long time, we have been praying for a safe and strong shelter for the children, especially during the rainy season and times of flooding. We have faced many challenges, but we always trusted that God would provide. And now, through your kindness and generosity, God is answering our prayers and making it possible for us to build a new home where the children can stay safe and secure in every season."*

*Words cannot fully express how much this means to us. The children will be overjoyed, and we continuously remind them of your loving and giving hearts. Your act of love is a testimony of God's faithfulness and we will always be grateful."* - Sarah, Agape Children's Home Director.



Agape Home family, Myanmar.

Our supporters' generosity also enabled us to complete essential improvements and provide significant experiences for our children, raising aising £3,918 to help provide a summer camp for children in **Colombia**, £1,699 towards giving children the experience of a school trip in **Kenya**, £1,944 contributing to essential school renovations at the Abdi Academy in **Ethiopia** and £675 towards a brand new kitchen for our children in **India**.



Kenya school trip.



Colombia summer camp.

This year, our Christmas Appeal raised funds to **Keep Families Together** raising £26,497 which enabled us to provide families with the security and support they need to stay together over Christmas and to start the year with confidence. These donations meant that children could focus on their education instead of dangerous work and parents could access vital medical care, helping entire families like Lalise's look forward to a future filled with dignity and hope.

*"I have no words to explain what Stand by Me has done for me and my children. Without the Keeping Families Together programme, my children and I would have been forced to beg on the streets, and they would have grown up without education. Now, my daughter is in Grade 9, and I hope that when she finishes school, she will be able to help look after us. Thanks to Stand by Me, our lives have changed."*

- Lalise's Mum



Lalise with her family.

## Child Sponsorship

We are grateful that this year a further 247 people provided a child with an extended family by becoming a sponsor. We are thankful for all our wonderful child sponsors who have made our children feel so loved, sending a total of 4,061 emails, 947 letters and 4,105 monetary gifts to their sponsored children.

**Child Sponsorship** is a fantastic way to impact a child's life. It's so much more than a monthly donation providing for a child's food, clothes, medical care and education; it means a child feels loved, cared for and part of a family. The encouragement of a sponsor means the world to our children, a sentiment expressed so well by Luke in Myanmar who, before leaving our care, wrote a beautiful goodbye to say thank you to his sponsor:

*"I am writing this letter because I would like to say my final goodbye to you. First of all, I want to say a very big thank you. I'm deeply grateful to God for allowing me to know someone as kind and loving as you. Knowing you has brought so much joy into my life, God has used you to fulfil my needs in so many ways. During all my years at the children's home, you were like a parent to me. Even though we are far apart, I can always feel your warmth and love. I will never forget your encouraging words, your birthday gifts and all the prayers you prayed for me. Thank you for being a light in my life. I can never express in words how truly grateful I am for you.*

*With much love, Luke."*



Luke, age 18.



## Alternative Gifts

Our Alternative Gift Catalogue raised a fantastic £29,020 from supporters who purchased school uniforms, books, medical care, food packs, underwear, toys and other daily necessities and treats to help our children fulfil their potential.

## Greatest Need donations

Unrestricted giving allows us to meet the needs of children and communities around the world as and when they arise. We value every donation from the smallest to the largest and pride ourselves on thanking and updating our amazing supporters regularly, ensuring they know exactly where their money is used and how it is making a difference to our children.

Open Arms  
Academy, Kenya





Mahilet and family with their new bed.

## Fundraising

Our history has been shaped by individuals and groups who have seen the needs of our children and have done something to make an extraordinary difference, changing our kids' lives. Whether it's cycling, hosting quizzes or holding coffee mornings to more unique ideas like dying your hair bright pink, every fundraiser has brought our kids the care and love they deserve.



This year our annual **February on the Floor** fundraising event raised £40,670 to help children around the world receive beds, breakfast for a year, new uniforms, school bags and pursue their dreams.



We wanted to make our 30th year extra special for our children and set out to look for 30 people to help us celebrate by fundraising for our Stand by Me kids. To mark the milestone, our amazing **30 for Thirty** fundraisers took on challenges and hosted events, from Laura McCartney's paddleboarding challenge, Chic and Marian Blakely's Ukelele concert, Amy Cope's Musical Evening and Jenni Doey's CD launch, together enabling them to raise £20,185 for our kids. Their fundraising has left a lasting legacy in our kids' lives providing them with daily food, education, medical care and so much more.

*"My family and I have produced two albums of well-known sacred songs: **STAND (2024)** and **HOPE (2026)**. We first heard about the work of Stand by Me in 2022. We were moved and encouraged by the well organised and impactful way the charity works. We could see exactly where the money we were giving was going and the difference that it was making on the ground. We have so*



*much to be thankful for in our country, it is a joy to be able to share our gifts with brothers and sisters around the world. Our prayer is that the money raised through selling our CDs brings hope to many lives."* – Jenni Doey, 30 for Thirty fundraiser.

You can find Jenni's music online by searching Jennifer Doey.

## Legacy and in memoriam gifts

Our children are unlikely to ever be included in anyone's inheritance, so legacy and in memoriam gifts left to Stand by Me mean so much and allow us to continue to make lasting and far-reaching improvements in children's lives.

## Spreading the word

We spoke in schools and churches throughout the year. New speaking opportunities and our existing relationships with schools, churches, clubs and youth groups resulted in more children being sponsored as well as one-off donations impacting children's lives.

## Trusts

We would like to thank the Charitable Trusts who have contributed to our projects this year and without whom we would not be able to complete essential projects.

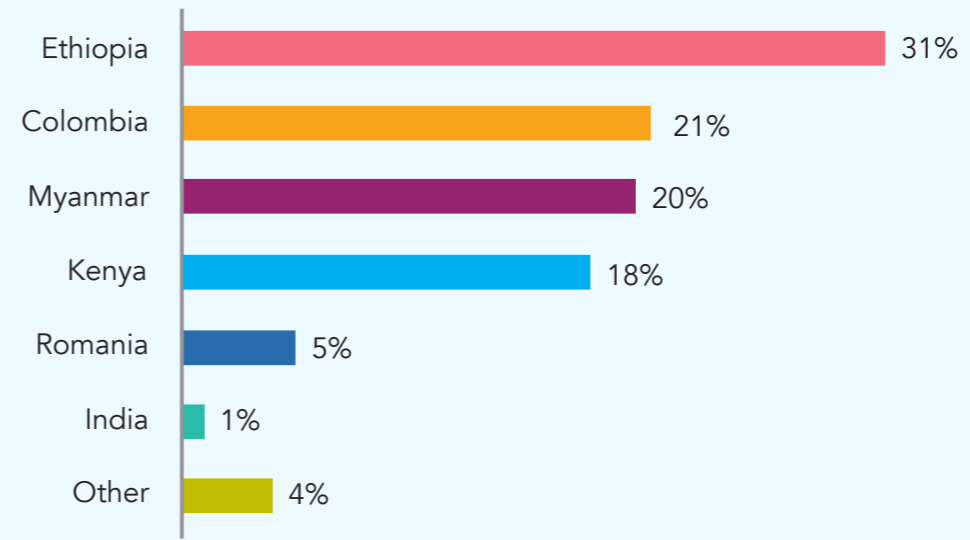


# How we spent your money

Charity is a tool that we use to meet the needs of children. But we're not here just to run a charity, we're here to change the lives of the children in our care, then to reach out and rescue more. When we spend money, it's because it's the best way to make a difference in our kids' lives.

This year we spent **£2,170,000** directly on our projects.

## What we spent directly on our projects in 2025\*



\* Figures are from Stand by Me's pre-audited accounts 2025



# Looking forward

As we celebrate all we have achieved over 2025, we also look forward to all we hope to accomplish in 2026, continuing to rescue children from terrible circumstances and doing all we can to provide them with nutritious food, essential healthcare, family support and a life-changing education. The year ahead will be focused on continuing to transform children's lives.

## Education

To continue our commitment to excellent early-years education in Ethiopia, we will begin work to build purpose-built kindergarten facilities at both Abdi Academy and Bethany School. These new buildings will give children the very best start in life, creating safe, nurturing and engaging learning environments. This important development will ensure our schools continue to be centres of excellence, while also enabling us to welcome more children into our care and offer them the opportunity of a life-changing education.

## Quality Care

In 2025, we raised funds to provide our 37 children in our Agape Home with a new home, ensuring they are comfortable, safe and protected from flooding and we hope to complete the construction in 2026. This new home will provide a secure, loving environment where the Agape family can receive the stability they need to grow and flourish.

At the heart of Stand by Me's mission is our commitment to providing the very best possible care for every child. In 2026, we will begin rolling out our new Standard of Care across all countries where we work. This includes staff training in trauma awareness and response and further equipping them to understand and support children who have experienced loss, neglect or abuse.

## Vision

As we reflect on 30 years of rescuing children and providing life-changing care, we have been developing a five-year-vision that will guide our work through to 2030. From 2026, our focus will be on deepening and strengthening the quality, consistency and long-term impact of our care.

By 2030, Stand by Me will continue to be known for rescuing children from poverty and providing exceptional care, while ensuring every Stand by Me child is equipped for life by strengthening their education, nurturing emotional and spiritual wellbeing and offering them sustainable pathways to independence, so that each child can step confidently into a hopeful future.





**STAND  
BY me**

England Office  
630 Upper Brentwood Road,  
Romford, Essex, RM2 6HS  
Tel: 01708 442271

Ireland Office  
16 West Street,  
Carrickfergus,  
Co. Antrim, BT38 7AR  
Tel: 028 9335 0009

Stand By Me is a registered  
Charitable Incorporated  
Organisation in the UK  
(No. 1185124)

[www.standby.me](http://www.standby.me)

