Thanks to the generosity of in-country child sponsors, two young women who aspired to complete their college educations were able to—Georgette earned her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Financial Management and Chavelita completed her Bachelor’s in Industrial Technology and Food Services. Both young ladies graduated from Bulacan State University.

Chavelita, fondly called “Chave” by all her family and friends, has been a sponsored child since she was in elementary school. Her sponsor is one of the pioneers of Pearl S. Buck Foundation Philippines, Inc. (PSBP), Marilyn F. Manuel, who is now President of the Foundation. Chave has three older siblings and both of her parents are active volunteers in their community. Since they are volunteers, however, neither of them has a regular or fixed income, which made it difficult for them to continue financing Chave’s education. Thanks to the support of her sponsor and PSBP’s In-Country Sponsorship Program, however, Chave was able to graduate, which will enable her to start a career and contribute to helping her own family. Chave and her entire family are grateful to Ms. Manuel’s educational sponsorship.

According to Chave, she is now looking forward to achieving her big dream, which is to become a successful chef. She knows that the road to her greater success is yet to come and she is ready and willing to make that journey despite any hindrances or difficulties along the way. Having the tools now to build a brighter future for herself and her family thanks to her child sponsor, she knows she can face any challenge head-on.

Georgette, the second young lady, was close to having to drop out of college because she couldn’t afford to continue her education. Knowing that earning a degree and finding a good job were going to be the key to Georgette lifting herself and her family out of poverty, PSBP’s outgoing President, Prof. Elizabeth Lorenzana-Díaz, found an in-country child sponsor to enable Georgette to finish school. Armed with her new degree, Georgette now has the chance to change her future for the better through employment at her sponsor’s own company in Manila.

The generosity of child sponsors truly changes lives of children such as Chave and Georgette every day. Thank you to all our child sponsors for everything you do to bridge cultures and change lives!
In an effort to expand the cross-cultural and life-changing legacy of our humanitarian and activist founder Pearl Buck, Pearl S. Buck International is announcing new partnerships with two Montgomery County-based mission-oriented entities—the non-profit charity Chariots for Hope, which works in Kenya, and Bethlehem Baptist Church in Spring House, whose senior pastor, the Reverend Charles W. Quann, is a Pearl S. Buck International Board member. In an age when the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a greater humanitarian crisis for children in need around the world, Pearl S. Buck International is joining forces with these like-minded organizations to bring help and hope to even more children and families than ever before.

Chariots for Hope was founded in 2009 to provide for and nurture vulnerable and orphaned children in Kenya. What started as two children’s homes has now grown to two babies’ homes and six children’s homes that serve and care for over 830 children. The staff at the homes not only care for the physical needs of the children but their emotional needs as well. Just like at Pearl S. Buck International, Chariots for Hope’s goal is to help children break the cycle of poverty, with education the most important tool to make that happen. Staying in school and completing their education is the key to these children being able to build a better life for themselves and future generations.

The leadership and congregation of Bethlehem Baptist Church sponsors the Ogada Children’s Home, one of the orphanages operated by Chariots for Hope, through donations toward operating costs and child sponsorship. Bethlehem Baptist Church also makes biennial trips to Ogada to meet with the children and staff and assist with any necessary repairs or improvements to the facilities. In addition to sponsoring children, the Bethlehem Baptist congregation supports projects such as buying a cow and other livestock and raising the funds to install a rainwater catchment system.

One of the first collaborations planned for Pearl S. Buck International’s new partnerships is to help raise funds for a playground for the children living in the Ogada Children’s Home. Future collaboration is planned to include supporting the sponsorship of children living in the Ogada orphanage.

To find out more about the Ogada Children’s Home Playground Project or to make a contribution, go to https://pearlsbuck.org/fund-a-project/playground.