



## **Reader urges support of children in developing countries**

Submitted by Rebecca Gee, CRS Baltimore

As a frequent reader of the Elmhurst Independent, I am struck by how many stories and events center around children. I am proud to be a member of a community that supports children of all ages and helps them grow and develop to be the best citizens they can be.

It is so important that each child has a solid foundation in which they can learn and advance their academic, social and emotional intelligence. I believe this attention to children must extend beyond the boundaries of our community, state and nation.

Most people don't know that since 1990, U.S. international aid has saved the lives of nearly 100 million children. This is an amazing accomplishment, but we need to make sure that children do more than survive; we need to help them thrive. In developing countries, integrating Early Childhood Development (ECD) into child-focused foreign assistance only costs 50 cents per child per year and we know it significantly improves their long-term well-being. In fact, the benefits of ECD programming are worth six times their cost. Activities such as reading, singing, playing with colorful objects and eating nutritious meals help stimulate young minds and start children on the right path for lifetime success.

ECD can mitigate some of the worst effects that come with children living in poverty, war-torn areas and refugee camps. Yet, our U.S. government does not integrate ECD into international programs for children. Therefore, as your neighbor, I would like to urge readers to join me in contacting Representative Mike Quigley to co-sponsor legislation being introduced by



Representatives Castro (D-TX) and Fitzpatrick (R-PA) that would bring early childhood development to children all around the world. Please take a moment to call or email Representative Quigley. Together we can help build a strong foundation for children to achieve their potential here in Elmhurst and across the globe.

Link: [https://issuu.com/southernlakesnewspapersllc/docs/ai\\_10.10.19](https://issuu.com/southernlakesnewspapersllc/docs/ai_10.10.19)