

Giving Soles to Bless Souls

For 10-year-old Alex Chipilipili, walking barefoot meant  more than just having dirty feet at night. For someone who'd never worn a pair of shoes until recently, it meant having sores and incessant itching caused by blood-sucking parasites that found a breeding ground in the cracks of his heels and between his toes. "I have been bothering my parents to [see] if they could buy me shoes, but they tell me that they don't have money," Alex says.

But one gift to World Vision, a partner of TOMS shoes, changed everything for Alex; his mother, Mary Chipilipili; and his brother after they each received a new pair of shoes.

"It is shameful and heartbreaking to fail to provide for children when they ask for something," Mary says. "I am really humbled, and today I will sleep with a free mind and joyful heart."