

**Susan Hillis, PhD, Senior Advisor for Global Health, Office of the Director
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

My life changed on that cold January day. It was the day my husband and I walked away from the orphanage, hand-in-hand with the first two – of our ten total – adopted children, having stepped into a realm where it is often winter and seldom Christmas. That, though, is not what caused The Change to which I refer. What changed me is this: I turned around and looked back, to see a sea of faces peering through the chain-linked fence capped by barbed wire. And this is what their hands were holding: that cold wire fence. That day I decided to do my part to change the world for children – not just my children, but all vulnerable children. A dream this monumental would only become real if leaders around the world could see it, too. Today, this historic launch by the US Government of the global Action Plan for Children in Adversity makes me believe that my dream has become yours, and that, together, we will see our dream become real. We will see nurture replacing violence; light replacing darkness; hope replacing despair. United with global leaders in governments, civil society, and business, we will walk hand-in-hand, devoted to changing the world for children.