

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step" — Laozi

DEAR FRIENDS,

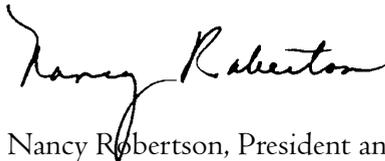
As **The Grace Children's Foundation** (TGCF) celebrates 20 years of service to children in need, it seems that we are beginning again, stepping onto a path to the future, first envisioned on an airplane ride from the Middle Kingdom to New York City on New Year's Day, 1995. When **TGCF** formally launched in 1997 we embarked on a journey that would take us to places I never imagined. I realized that even the simplest gesture could change the outcome for a child in need. And there was grace in its many forms, most importantly in the person and spirit of my beautiful daughter.

When my husband Brooks and I first met Grace in Shanghai, China it became clear that our paths would merge with a tribe of fearless people working on the frontlines to rejuvenate children suffering from war, poverty, neglect and disease. On that return trip home we came up with the idea of creating a center of resources with an emphasis on healthcare. **TGCF** began its first decade focusing in China. In the second ten years the Foundation expanded its outreach globally, caring for children on a case-by-case basis. Now in year 20, in partnership with innovators in technology and healthcare, the **Children's Resource Exchange Center** (CREC) is transitioning from a manual network to a connective digital platform, combining human conscientiousness with technology. Our endeavor, massive in scope, will help scale the solution to the magnitude of the problem.

As I write this letter there are children and their caregivers all over the world feeling lost and alone, looking for a beacon of hope to help lift them from their present despair. Each person I have had the privilege to serve has brought me to a place of learning, a better understanding of life's meaning and how we can all help. Each child has a unique story where **TGCF** helped with some finishing touches. And like little birds, the children have taken flight on their own incredible journeys.

My message to all of those children and the people who love them is, *"Thank you for allowing me to walk with you and sharing your vision to see the children to a place where they have elevated themselves beyond survival, to a place where they have flourished and have regained lives with dignity and purpose."*

Dedicated to the children who wait,



Nancy Robertson, President and CEO