Dear Friends,

We have had the great privilege of bringing two remarkable true stories about young animals facing great adversity from around the world to readers young and old. Owen, a young Kenyan hippo orphaned during the Asian Tsunami, was raised by a giant tortoise named Mzee. Knut, a young polar bear cub who was abandoned by his mother at birth, was raised for months, night and day, by a zookeeper named Thomas at the Berlin Zoo.

We now have a more urgent story to tell about another young animal in distress: a baby mountain gorilla named Miza who lost her mother in the jungles of the Democratic Republic of Congo. What makes this story difficult is that many mountain gorillas have been killed by poachers, roving militias, and people illegally seeking charcoal from the gorillas' natural habitat. The future of the world's remaining population of 700 mountain gorillas is darkly clouded by a clear and present threat of extinction. While these killings seem utterly senseless, the solutions to saving the mountain gorillas are quite complicated. Yet, solutions and answers are needed.

So to answer a few of our questions and help find solutions, we thought we would ask our friends to see if, together, we could help protect and save the gorillas. So we asked President Bill Clinton and the Clinton Global Initiative if they would help. We also asked Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Dr. Richard Leakey, the famed anthropologist, and his organization WildlifeDirect. Now we hope that you will join us as we try to figure this out together, but we have to do it very quickly since time is running short. With your help, we know we can save these majestic creatures! Miza, her family, and the brave rangers who protect the gorillas, are counting on us. Here is their inspiring, true story.

With love and hope,

Craig Hatkoff Juliana Hatkoff Isabella Hatkoff