



# BUILDING Bridges

A Change for Children Publication

MAY 2001

## Celebrating 25 Years of Change!

This year is a special year as CFCA celebrates twenty-five years of existence. For a quarter of a century Change For Children has promoted action for systemic change and sustainable development through solidarity and partnership, by nurturing community, and by maintaining an integral, vital, and stable organization.

Every year gone by has been highlighted by changes. Some of these have been deeply distressing, as with earthquakes or war. Others have been deeply rewarding, as with finding opportunities to respond through creative fundraising, to visit our projects in the South, and to have our partners from the South visit us. New faces have appeared on the staff and Board. Some years we have experienced severe cut-backs from our major funders, or we have had to endure sad stories or the death of members here and in the South.



Change for Children founder Hank Zyp with Painting Peace/Youth Tour 2000 participants

There is beauty in all this in that we have been able to maintain our mission as an agency. We continue to strive to make Canadians aware of the importance of solidarity with their friends and partners from other places. Development and partnership are crucial to partners to avoid the colonialism and paternalism that characterizes so much development work that is well meaning but can and does become destructive to communities.

Despite these struggles, changes, and challenges that have confronted us, CFCA has maintained a very stable organization. To many supporters this stability has made a solid foundation on which to build an understanding of what it means to be a believer of social-justice in a world of contradictions.

The newsletter articles that

follow will tell you in more detail what has happened to CFCA the last twenty-five years, and the goals for the New Year.

I also invite you to come and celebrate our 25th anniversary with a supper, dance, the launching of a new endowment fund, and the unveiling of the Painting Peace mural.

I would like to thank our many donors, long time members, volunteers, staff, board members, and our partners from the south for contributing, believing and supporting CFCA.

Let us continue to work towards a vision of a just, caring, and humane world, even though it might look like an overwhelming task.

*– In peace and solidarity,  
Delmy Garcia-Hoyt, President,  
CFCA Board of Directors*

### IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 The Quebec Summit:  
A Different Perspective
- 3 Ron Berezan Moves On
- 4 Reflections from Change for  
Children Partners & Friends
- 8 CFC Crossword Challenge
- 9 25th Anniversary Celebrations
- 10 Earthquakes in El Salvador
- 11 Meet the Interns

# Berta Caceres and the Quebec Summit

Berta Caceres. For me, the Quebec Summit began and ended with Berta. A thirty-year old indigenous woman from Honduras, she taught me all I really needed to know about the summit. And she could have done it without a single word from her lips.

Berta spent only one full day in Edmonton, a Sunday in late March. She had left her husband and four children to travel alone, across a foreign land, entrusting herself to city after city of strangers, in order to give another perspective on free trade. She is a small woman, looking more youthful than her years, a golden glow to her brown skin. Amidst tall buildings of grey concrete, we walked with our heads bent low into a biting wind. Unaccustomed to such cold, Berta strode forward cupping one hand over her nose and mouth. Upon her back she wore a thin winter coat lent to her by a thoughtful soul in Toronto. Shortly afterwards, at the back of the room prior to her afternoon presentation, Berta sat alone, a black toque on her head and a small square of colored cloth draped over her knees, still trying to shake off the Canadian cold while making notes in a scribbler.

Later that day, Berta came to our home. It was a short visit, perhaps thirty minutes in all. Our two young children took to her. For Berta's quiet warmth, her natural smile and gentle manner were those of a mother, perhaps of a mother feeling the distance between herself and her own children. And I was moved by the realization that I was seeing the familiar comforts and possessions of our home through her eyes.

During her evening presenta-



Truth. Where is one more likely to find it?



tion, Berta spoke of two facts of life in Honduras - poverty and repression. She and her family were personally acquainted with both. As she spoke, I saw those soft dark eyes burn with conviction. And I saw her knees quiver beneath the now familiar square of cloth that was draped over them. That night, after we said goodbye to her, a Guatemalan friend commented that poverty in Honduras exceeds that of his own country. I have seen Guatemala. I know the numbers. I had not thought that life could be more difficult somewhere else.

And what of the Quebec Summit? Of all the sight and sounds I encountered, three will stay with me for a long time.

One. The constant, ever-present sound of helicopters flying low overhead, their propellers stuttering as they chop through the warm spring air. I did not hear that sound as one of comfort and protection. I heard only intimidation and repression. The last time I experienced such sounds was in Guatemala, in the jungle communities of recently returned

refugees. For many of them, civilians like myself, that sound meant terror, bloodshed and death. Two hundred thousand in all during 36 years of civil war. And now this sound had arrived to Canada, to the cobblestone streets and quaint tourist shops of Quebec City. The ferocity of those massacres, like a horrible blizzard, has reverberated in waves of suffering humanity, washing north over vast distances of geography and time, moving amongst the thousands of people gathered in Quebec, easily scaling over and passing through the fence erected to keep such disturbances out. Perhaps hearing the sad sound of those helicopters in Canada was ultimately inevitable, another by-product of globalization.

Two. Saturday night, after over 20,000 people had marched in a peaceful protest, and when tear gas and rubber bullets were still trying to encourage others to "just go home", I was on the ferry crossing the St. Lawrence River to Levis. Behind and above, I saw the Hotel Frontenac, the lights of the old city, and helicopters still thrashing the night, their red lights blinking while search lights swept across a darkened sky. And I thought of the words told to me by a Guatemalan earlier in the day - that last year in his country, when 5,000 extra-judicial executions took place, 90% of all those who passed before a judge were convicted of crimes against property. The sacred nature of private property. In order to protect it, an impoverished country directs an obscene proportion of its resources to maintain a military, police and justice system. And I realize that in Canada, in Quebec City, the protection of private property is equally as sacred. Yet

## Moving On...

where is the sanctity of a human life? Then turning to look ahead, to Levis on the other side of the river, a group called Artists for Peace had erected tall white letters that flashed against a black backdrop. The letters read "S.O.S." - Save our Souls.

Three. On Sunday afternoon, we had to pass through a dizzying maze of detours and security check-points in order to get to the Quebec City airport. As I sat waiting in the lounge, I witnessed the departure of the heads of state. Esso "Tony the Tiger" vans shuttled officials back and forth across the tarmac. Shell and Esso fuel trucks, their lights flashing, did the same. There were police cars and men in uniform; there was the bright scarlet red of the RCMP; there were sleek black BMWs and more men in long coats and suits; there were handshakes and embraces. There were presidential jets. And there were helicopters overhead.

And I began to think about truth. Where is one more likely to find it? Is it protected behind wire fences, behind barricades and armored police? Is it nurtured in the soft hands of men in tailored suits with expensive tastes? Must one pass through a maze of detours and security personnel in order to catch a glimpse of its light?

In my mind's eye, I see Berta quietly boarding a bus, wearing borrowed clothes, the colored cloth tied around her neck, shivering from the cold and flashing a warm smile of encouragement to the lone person who came to see her off.

— Randy Kohan

For five years I have had the tremendous pleasure and privilege of serving as the Education Coordinator for Change for Children. So much more than "a job", this position has brought me into a community of solidarity and set me further down a path of personal transformation and learning. My time with this small but very dynamic organization has given me many treasured moments and relationships that I value deeply.

From leading groups of youth on educational tours in Central America and Canada where I have witnessed new understandings and passions erupting in the minds and hearts of Central Americans and Canadians alike, to the hundreds of school, church, and community workshops, to countless potlucks and planning meetings, marathon fundraising events, youth social justice conferences and many inspiring artistic endeavours - I am truly grateful for my time with this organization.

Beginning in the middle of May, 2001, I will be moving to Canada World Youth as the Program Manager for the prairies, NWT, and Nunavut. Canada World Youth is a national non-governmental organization that develops youth exchanges promoting intercultural understand-



A familiar sight: Ron addresses a group of high school students

ing, human rights and global justice.

I would like to thank my colleagues at Change for Children, our Board of Directors and the many volunteers and supporters who have shared this time with me over the past five years. I believe that Change for Children is a unique and very worthwhile organization that plays a critical role in linking North and South in the struggle for justice and sustainability. I hope you will continue to support this work and become active participants in the vision and the community that Change for Children embodies.

— Ron Berezan

*The Board and staff of Change for Children thank Ron for his tremendous dedication, hard work, and inspiration over the past five years. All the best at Canada World Youth, amigo!*

### CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Are you energetic and creative? Concerned about social justice issues? Looking for a rewarding place to volunteer? Change for Children is looking for individuals interested in helping out with our programs and activities. If you are considering joining our Board of Directors, one of our committees, or would like to help around the office or at CFCA events, please give Cherie a call at (780) 448-1505. We offer a fun and relaxed community environment, the opportunity to work with people committed to solidarity with our Southern partners, and a chance to participate in the struggle against poverty and injustice. If this sounds good to you, please call!

# Reflections from Our Southern Partners

Years ago I came across the charming and catchy name of this organization: Change For Children. What a pleasure!

A pleasure because for 44 years children have been the drive in my life as an educator, especially for the last 30 years here in Bahian country, with impoverished children, where I, like them, grew more mature.

A pleasure because I saw and felt that our comrades on the other side of the world, in a country so prosperous and developed, and where children live in conditions that foster life and childhood, are committed to changes in the inhumane situations in which others live and grow up.

A pleasure because solidarity, participation, and socialization are the characteristics that can lead to change for humanity.

A pleasure because that change reached us: a small and mistreated barrio in the great city of Salvador - born in the sea, on a bed of garbage supported by stilts - that today is in a better situation standing out as a new barrio of the periphery.

That change continues. Throughout our partnership, we feel that we have forged ahead in our aims at citizenship education, along the way overcoming difficulties with courage, perseverance, and Change for Children's support and solidarity.

And now, here we are celebrating with you Change for Children's 25-year anniversary and thanking you from the bottom of our hearts for all your efforts to provide us with better conditions for the growth required for a more humane and dignified existence as

citizens and children of God.

Congratulations to the children, youth, and adults who comprise your great organization and make it grow as an instrument of change through solidarity - long-term, fundamental change for a new society based on equality, justice, and camaraderie!

— *Aluisio Simao Pereira*  
*Free Association of the People of Mangueira (ALMM)*  
*Salvador, Bahia, Brazil*



Aluisio (left) with Projects Coordinator Ric Acuña, in Mangueira

I am probably one of the oldest Change For Children overseas partners today. This is a sign that these years have been mutually enriching and profitable. What I value above all else is the relationship of solidarity and support.

Those who dedicate their lives to the struggle against poverty need to feel that they are not alone, and that they are trusted by their partners. The road is often dark and lonely, with few people willing to travel it. Today many have become completely cynical and indifferent about social issues, to the point that they do not even want to hear about it. Change For Children continues willing to listen, to endure our frustrated outbursts, and, above all, to build bridges with us. There have been times when I have had more support from far away Change For

Children than from nearby Brazilian Church and society.

Financial involvement is only one facet of the struggle for the development of peoples. In itself it is not capable of overcoming cultural discrimination, racism, sexism and ecological destruction. Change For Children has a broad approach to world issues, while at the same time investing directly in smaller "people projects". This prevents us from becoming either do-gooders or administrators of government funds. On this level, the office workers of Change For Children cannot imagine how precious their service is. They reduce the mountains of paper to a mole hill for us to climb. They translate our projects and reports into official language, leaving us free to express ourselves in our own way, including bad English and grammar.

Change For Children's involvement in my work is its contribution to the endless struggle for land reform in Brazil's backlands. The purposely low profile I have retained has helped to maintain the confidence of the scattered communities where I work. Used and abused by government and non-government agencies, they know that their anonymous friends offer real support, and for this they say "Deus lhes pague!" In a globalized, monochromatic world, friends must join hands and efforts to strengthen new and creative alternatives, based on people rather than development statistics. May the past 25 years of life be a beacon to orient the next 25!

— *Paulo Ehle Canudos,*  
*Bahia Brazil*

*“Change For Children continues willing to listen...to build bridges with us.”*

Change for Children has contributed to the increase in the self-esteem of the children and adolescents with whom it has been directly involved. Moreover, it has improved personal relations among the children, boosted their public recognition, and helped them feel like persons who deserve to be treated without prejudice.

All this has contributed gradually to an increase in their self-esteem, the desire to continue their studies, and a feeling that they are able to grow in an environment with better conditions for them and their families.

The facilitation in the last few years of exchange tours by the Lights of the Future, theatre group, and muralism group, comprised of a total of 17 children and youth and 5 adults, constitutes an unforgettable experience for me.

CFCA has helped the institution develop lines of direct action with children and adolescents through development of artistic and cultural abilities: painting and muralist abilities, music, and theatre; by solidifying itself in cultural groups with local, national, and international outreach; and allowing personal, group, and institutional outreach and recognition. It has helped us develop children who communicate - as is manifested by the creation of the INPRHU Children's Communications Commission, which is in charge of the radio program and the publishing of the *Desde la Calle* magazine.

CFCA has also helped us continue to provide special attention to girls and adolescents who are victims of sexual abuse and early pregnancy. This has allowed the

children and adolescents to overcome violent crisis situations and reintegrate in their social environments through the Young Mothers' Shelter Project. The support from interns has given us a permanent learning and exchange experience in the functions of the program dynamic as well as the provision of knowledge regarding territorial work.

With the help of all the above contributions, we have played a role in consciousness-raising through the artistic, cultural, and media expressions of the people comprising the INPRHU projects.

In celebration of this great anniversary, we want to express our congratulations and recognition for the work which you have developed for the benefit of less privileged classes throughout the last 25 years.

– Fanny Acevedo  
*The INPRHU Family and Community Program, Nicaragua*



INPRHU psychologist Vladimir Hernandez works with at-risk girls

Our relationship with Change for Children is fraternal. This is not always the case when organizations of the South establish relationships with their counterparts in the North. I think of the Change for Children team as comrades and friends, as persons who want to support us and in whom we can trust. This horizontal (or equal)

relationship that we have established fosters assurance and confidence between us.

With Change for Children's support, we are continuing the Muralism Workshops Project (Proyecto Talleres de Muralismo), in which approximately 350 girls and boys with scarce economic resources participate. The studios are located in the communities where the girls and boys live. For the youth, the studios make up one of the few alternatives through which they have opportunities to learn and reflect upon themes related to their reality, history, and culture and to express artistically and highly visibly their ideas, emotions, and proposals while simultaneously beautifying their communities.

The murals which the girls and boys paint are valued by their communities. This appreciation has contributed positively to the strengthening of the youths' self-esteem allowing them to participate actively as members of a community whose education they support through the creation of murals conveying messages about environmental conservation, the struggle for human rights, and the construction of more just and equal societies in which solidarity, peace, unity, respect, understanding, and love abound.

This type of participation changes the lives of the children and youths, making them subjects, not objects, in a community which values and recognizes their abilities and welcomes their participation in its development.

– FUNARTE, *Fundacion de Apoyo al Arte Creador Infantil, Estelí, Nicaragua*

## *“This has been a horizontal relationship of ongoing dialogue...”*

Comunidad A.C. is a community foundation in Morelos, Mexico, which has had the privilege of partnering with Change for Children for the last four years. This has been a horizontal relationship of ongoing dialogue to seek the best forms of realizing our projects in support of communities implementing work in products and services.

Through the projects supported by CFCA we have achieved an important presence in local communities in need. We have been able to offer them educational and financial support, and we have begun building a network of relations and activities which we see as a strategic support to the social development of Mexico.

As a young organization, the support of Change for Children has been very important not only to our subsistence, but also to enable us to grow and unite ourselves to the movement. Our extensive previous experience was valued, and the novelty of the concept of a community foundation was supported and encouraged.

Another difference in our partnership has been the constant communication, the revision of proposals, and the useful suggestions that have made the approval of the projects possible.

Our board and staff team send a fraternal greeting to the members of CFCA, its Board of Directors and its staff team on its 25 Anniversary, and wishes you a long life in service of the peoples of our continent. At the same time, we thank you for your dedication in raising awareness in Canada about the Latin American reality, and achieving a consciousness of

solidarity among the people of Canada, and particularly the people of Edmonton.

– *Comunidad A.C.*  
*Morelos, Mexico*



The La Maroma Cooperative in Usulután, El Salvador

While I was in Edmonton, I learned a bit about what Change for Children does but did not become aware of its impact on communities or cooperatives. But now that I am in Usulután, in one of the coastal zones in El Salvador, I can see the significant support that Change for Children provides. Thank-you Change for Children and Edmontonians for always keeping in mind your Salvadorean brothers and sisters!

The La Maroma Cooperative, in which my family and I live and are partners, is forging ahead toward development. This year, we have increased our yields of papaya, platano, maracaya, loroco, and coloured pepper harvests. And, of course, production has considerably improved with the irrigation system that Change for Children supports. From what we have seen thus far, we believe that in the next few years our advances will be greater still.

Aside from the assistance for production, you also responded in solidarity upon hearing the news that the earthquakes had destroyed our houses. We want to express our profound gratitude

for the aid, which you have channeled to us while we bear this great cross. You truly help us stay hopeful.

Thank-you brothers and sisters at Change of Children. May Archbishop Romero always bless us on our path of solidarity.

– *Raul Rivera*  
*Equipo Pastoral Zonacosta,*  
*Usulután, El Salvador*

---

### **AND FROM OUR NORTHERN FRIENDS...**

When I reflect on my involvement with Change for Children, a variety of scenes splash around in my head: sharing a cob of steaming hot corn with street children in Brazil; Mexican farmers offering me the last of the day's tortillas while ignoring the rumblings of their own empty bellies; serving up pots of donated stews to enthusiastic high school students during Global Awareness Weekends.

As Development Educator for CFC, I offered food for thought, cooked up critical thinking skills and planted seeds of social justice that I hoped would eventually blossom. My own perspectives, convictions and values were fertilized and nourished. I tasted the reality of life in the developing world and swallowed my impatient and idealistic assumptions. I learned the importance of binging on hope and purging the sense of disempowerment that lurks in all of us. I developed recipes for drawing parallels between community development challenges in the developing world and those here at home. Above all, I grasped the need to maintain a healthy diet of community, cooperation and compassion.

– *Buen provecho!*  
*Annette Flaherty*

## *“we learned to dance and make music and paint and laugh together”*

When Ronaldo Lessa was elected governor of Alagoas, Brazil, in late 1998, it wasn't entirely unexpected. The “movimientos populares” that Change for Children and St. Joe's (now Rainbow of Hope for Children) have supported in Alagoas since 1989 have conscientized enough people, even illiterate people, that Lessa, against the combined wealth and power of the ruling class, nonetheless won the governorship. And placing Maria Jose Viana at the head of the ministry of education assured Alagoans that at last public education, long moribund, practically dead, would have a magnificent rebirth. Canadians often ask our NGOs, “Do you actually make a difference?” Of course we do, but this election and the work of Maria Jose is dramatic evidence, incontrovertible evidence that yes, the development work does “make a difference.”

– *Alphonse Gerwing*

Development education and community building are what CFC does very well. CFC involves young people in this work and many of them become enthusiastic. Enthusiastic about helping communities see the value of interdependence. In a world where individualism is rampant, young people - and older ones too - develop an understanding of the value of doing things together. These are young people not only from Canada but also from the South. They learn from each other. They learn that self-esteem does not have to come from having things. Showing love and consideration and support for each other's gifts and more, are the attributes that will make for a society that I for one would love to see my grandchildren grow up

in. With confidence and excitement will we celebrate 25 years of CFCA, because we know that “community” is the better way.

– *Clarence Visser*

I have been strongly connected to Central America for over ten years, with a long-term connection with my church's sister parish in El Salvador. My involvement in CFC has been a marvelous extension of that commitment. It has enhanced my life by allowing me to learn more about the lives of the poor in Central America, who always amaze us with their commitment, determination, courage and joy of life. I have been moved by the Painting Peace Project, the Nicaraguan drama troupe, and CFC's response to Hurricane Mitch and the earthquakes in El Salvador. CFC has been a great organization to be a part of.

– *Eugene Ulmer*



Without the support of others who believe deeply in justice and freedom as a basic and non-negotiable human right throughout the world, we are left feeling unempowered and led to despair. CFCA enables a foundation of solidarity, enjoining those of us in Canada with our Southern friends and partners in the ongoing struggles toward our mutual goals. CFCA brings partnership and hope to all of us. Thank you to all the people who continue to maintain this organization. – *Sharon Strong*

CFCA has been an inspiration to me because of the knowledge, competence, and integrity of the people who work together to do development work that seeks to transform. The partnerships with people from Latin America are indeed real partnerships characterized by respect and sensitivity. The staff are dedicated, well-informed professionals who go about their work with enthusiasm and creativity. The board functions as a strong, supportive community presence in the solidarity work with all our sisters and brothers. – *Melle Huizinga*

How do I write about Change for Children? When you need to understand something large, always start small. Find a corner of the room, a crack in the woodwork. Kneel down and sift through the crumbs on the carpet. What do you find there? I found a couch with worn cushions you could drown in, and Pirate cookies in the afternoon. I found buckets of paint with lids caked on, a little white bus that jitterbugged down bumpy Central American roads. I found brothers and sisters I couldn't speak to, but we learned to dance and make music and paint and laugh together. I found hunger and injustice and need, and strength. I found so much strength. And in the midst of drought, I found moments of peace. The kind of peace the earth must have felt when the bus wheels churned mud, not dust, the day it rained in Somotillo.

– *Sarah Shaughnessy*

---

*Photo: Long-time volunteer and past-President Pat Sears, with 1999 Youth Tour members Alison Roberts and Alyssa Fraser*

# The Change for Children Crossword Challenge

## ACROSS

1. Change for Children's founders
4. For real, sustainable change, this is needed more than charity
8. Brazilian state where CFCA partner organization CEAPA works in land reform and rural community development
11. CFCA southern partner country who recently elected a new president
14. While visiting Central America, many Canadians find the early morning roosters to be very \_\_\_\_\_
16. A skill taught at INPRHU's project in Las Torres: screen-\_\_\_\_\_ing
17. CFCA turns \_\_\_\_\_ years old in 2001
18. No matter what their background is, all people are members of this
19. A fragile gift in many parts of Latin America
21. Acronym for organizations like CFCA
23. A famous Gerwing who has been supporting projects in Brazil for many years
24. "\_\_\_\_\_ Against The Machine": this provincial leader supported the Painting Peace project
26. CFCA's governing body
27. "New revolutionaries" led by Marcos
30. Mexican coin
31. A recent three year global campaign drawing on an ancient biblical tradition
34. What we love to develop with our partners in the South
35. Millions of people have signed petitions to end this modern day form of slavery
36. Current economic patterns continue to see this happening to budgets for education, health, housing, and other basic needs
38. How we sometimes feel when confronted by global injustice
40. A word stronger than "I"
41. A type of trade with growing grassroots interest
43. U.S. body with a tradition of training torturers and de-stabilizing democratic governments in Central America

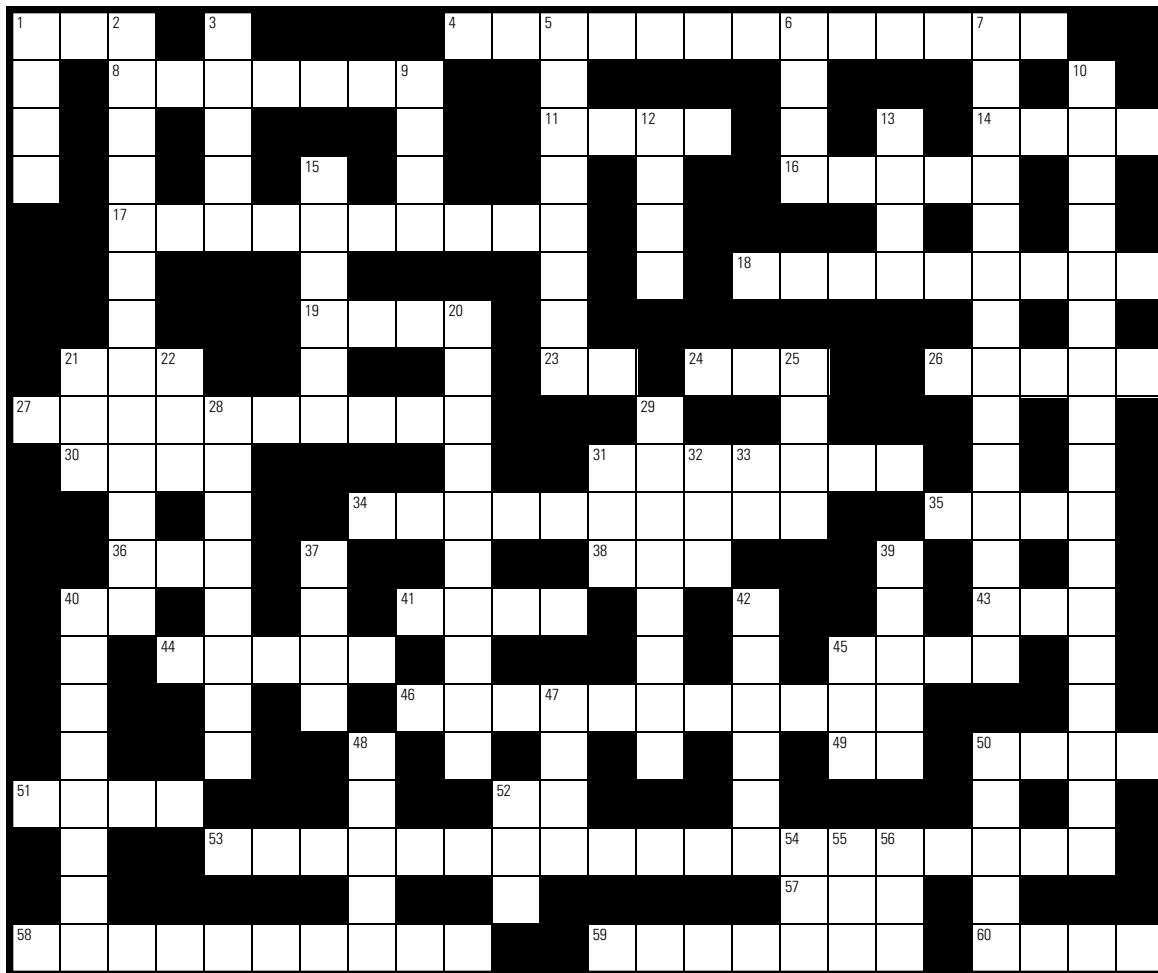
44. Deforestation causes land to do this during a natural disaster – resulting in many more deaths
45. Common mode of transportation in rural Central America
46. CFCA sponsored conference for young people
49. An exclamation sometimes uttered by first timers to CFCA educational events
50. An agreement that had many people taking to the streets in Quebec
51. The U.S. secretly sold these to Iran, in order to finance the Contra war in the 1980s
52. \_\_\_\_\_PRHU: the Institute for Human Promotion in Nicaragua
53. CFCA's annual fundraising concert and silent auction
57. Chinese for "the way"
58. Benefits include free library usage, discounts at special events, receiving Building Bridges, and more!
59. CFCA members have free access to this wonderful resource in our office
60. Structural Adjustment Programs of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank

## DOWN

1. CFCA's founders had plenty of this
2. An artistic project for youth from Alberta and Central America
3. Through Fair Trade coffees, many Canadians are developing a "\_\_\_\_\_ " for justice
5. A traditional form of Brazilian martial/arts dance with a growing following in Canada
6. The development program of the United Nations
7. UNESCO's theme for the Year 2000 and this decade
9. \_\_\_\_\_-sufficiency
10. Edmonton alternative Yuletide craft fair
12. According to the Jubilee tradition, even the land deserves this
13. CFCA's primary source of government funding
15. Where the "market economy" takes place for most women and children in the South

20. A small country on very shaky ground
21. What we never have time for
22. Political body comprised of leaders from North, Central, and South America
25. The Nicaraguan revolution is celebrated on the 19th of this month
28. Daily bread for many in the South
29. This art is a popular form of public expression in Latin America
31. The "Peace \_\_\_\_\_" - a CFCA musical event for youth focusing on songs of peace
32. What our supporters love to do at silent auctions
33. "Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world, in fact \_\_\_\_\_ is the only thing that ever has" *Margaret Mead*
37. The Fair Trade campaign encourages companies to implement and enforce a \_\_\_\_\_ of conduct
39. Central American drama group tour, hosted in Alberta by CFCA under the name "Voices from the \_\_\_\_\_"
40. Provincial funding source for CFCA projects
42. Assassinated for speaking out on behalf of the poor, he is considered a saint by many in Central America
45. Spanish for "mine"
47. The "Lights of the Future," a visiting youth Salsa band from Nicaragua, had youth from around Alberta singing a different one
48. This hurricane left thousands dead and hundreds of thousands homeless in Central America
50. Something CFCA staff and volunteers are always looking for
52. A global institution regulating currency exchange rates, often criticized for imposing economic reforms that hurt the poor
54. The controversial North American \_\_\_\_\_ links Canada, the U.S. and Mexico
55. An unlikely purchase for the majority of our friends in the South
56. "Today" in Mexico City, San Salvador, Managua and Lima





**Test your CFCA knowledge and win a prize!**

Mail in your completed crossword by June 21st, 2001, or bring it to our 25th Anniversary celebration. Correct puzzles will be entered into a draw for one of five great prizes! Draw will take place at 9 pm, Saturday, June 23, at the Arts Barns in Edmonton.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_



## Change for Children's 25th Anniversary Celebration Itinerary



**25th Anniversary**  
Change for Children

Friday, June 22nd, St. Michael's School (10545-92St.)  
Change for Children's Annual General Meeting  
7:00pm AGM • 9:00pm Reception

Saturday, June 23rd, The Edmonton Arts Barns (10330-84 Ave.)  
**25 Years of Change, A Celebration**  
Hosted by Peter Brown of CBC Radio 1  
6:00pm Opening Reception  
7:00pm Dinner (catering by Upper Crust)  
8:00pm Dessert Silent Auction  
9:00pm Program & Awards Presentation  
10:00pm Dance, featuring the live Latin music of Orquesta Energia

Sunday, June 24th, The Salvation Army Building (9618-101a Ave.)  
2:00pm Edmonton Youth Peace Mural Unveiling and Celebration

**Please call Cherie at the office, (780) 448-1505, for more information and tickets.**

# Earthquakes Wreak Havoc in El Salvador

Over the past few months El Salvador has been devastated by a series of earthquakes. The first major quake hit on January 13, measured 7.6 on the Richter scale, killed 827 people and left 1.1 million people homeless. This was followed by thousands of aftershocks, nearly paralyzing the country with anxiety. In the second major quake (magnitude 6.6) on February 13, 322 more people were killed and the number of homeless reached 1.5 million. In total, 150,000 homes were destroyed, 178,000 were damaged, 1500 schools and 23 hospitals were affected. To date there have been 619 landslides. The fact that many churches and hospitals are also in ruins has compounded the chaos. In addition, transport routes, bridges and communication lines sustained severe damage, causing much difficulty for relief efforts. Thousands remain without shelter, food, potable water, and medical supplies.

A number of NGOs have responded to the disaster with emergency aid and reconstruction programs. There are countless



The church in Tierra Blanca, which hosted both CFC intern Yamit More and the Painting Peace group, is still standing but has major damage.

stories of communities rallying together in the relief effort. But most rural communities had little to start with, and in many areas most of the buildings have been destroyed. Damage to wells has been another major problem, and temporary shelters must be built before the rains begin in May.

The communities that Change for Children supports were severely affected. Geoff Herzog of the NGO *Voices on the Border*, did initial inspection. He reported that in Nueva Esperanza 10 houses need to come down, water wells are dirty, and while the new community water tank and pipes survived the pump is not working

now. Tierra Blanca, a major population center of some 4,000 people, has 90% or greater losses with homes and businesses either collapsed or in very bad condition. In La California, a community of 380 families, leaders told Geoff that he was the first person to enter their settlement to ask about the condition of the people. No one had come from the government, from emergency services or from other non-profit organizations. No one was badly injured but most homes were in bad shape and there were few supplies. In La Noria, the majority of structures will have to be torn down. There are no dead or wounded in the Bajo Lempa, but housing, wells, and dikes - recently built by hand - were lost or damaged.

CFC responded immediately with a Salvadorean Earthquake Relief Fund. To date, we've raised approximately \$12,000 -100% of the funds have been sent directly to our partners in El Salvador as we received them. We have also applied to CIDA for a grant for long-term reconstruction in the department of Usulután.

CFC funds are currently being used for reconstruction in an area where the first earthquake destroyed over 90% of homes. People in the communities have organized into "block committees" and are overseeing construction (by volunteers) on the basis of immediate need and available resources.

Our Salvadorean brothers and sisters still have a huge burden to rebuild their communities and regain a "normal" existence. We welcome your ongoing financial support to help them in their struggle.

— Eugene Ulmer

Julia Pereira, one of the Salvadorean Painting Peace members that visited Edmonton in October writes:

*"The effects (of the earthquake) are due to the fact that our country is located in a zone of great seismic activity, but they are mostly due to the tremendous deterioration of our environment and the extreme poverty that most of the population live in. The problem becomes even worse when we observe that the donations that the government is receiving are not reaching those in need, and that in the midst of a crisis it gives itself the luxury of rejecting assistance and medical personnel from Cuba and Spain. Our Salvadorean brothers and sisters find themselves sleeping outside, without a roof to protect them, at great risk of epidemic resulting from lack of services like potable water, sanitary service, and adequate nutrition. The tremors, apparently, are beginning to wind down – that is an advantage. But, what will happen when the rainy season begins? Given the current condition of the ground, the rains could cause more slides which would bury more houses and cover more victims."*

# New Faces: Our 2001 Interns

## Rene M. Guerra Salazar

It is a pleasure to write this as the new CFCA Youth Intern for Brazil. I'm a 24-year-old Salvadorean-Canadian and soon-to-be graduate of the University of Alberta Faculty of Science. I've served as a volunteer fieldworker with Amnesty International Canada, primarily with its Youth & Student Network, and as a volunteer with the Centre for Exchange and Solidarity in El Salvador, where I worked as an ESL teacher, human rights network contributor, and rural community survey team member. I'm working within the Salvadorean-Canadian community in Edmonton on political and cultural issues.

This awesome ten-month internship with Change for Children will see my travelling to Salvador, Bahia, Brazil in July. There, I'll work for six months with the Free Association of the People of Mangueira (ALMM), a strong, long-time CFCA partner. My work with the ALMM will consist of general support for the new CFCA-supported Vocational Training Cooperative project, and

other development and cultural programs. The Vocational Training Cooperative seeks to give community youth the skills necessary to increase their chances of employment within the community.

I'm very excited at the opportunity to work with and learn from CFCA and the ALMM. My sincere and humble gratitude goes out to everyone at Change for Children, and I look forward to contributing, if only in a small way, to the fundamental change we all seek.

---

## Kaia Kjar

Saludos a todos! I am pleased to be joining Change for Children over the next 10 months for the Nicaragua internship. I am anxiously awaiting my convocation from the Sociology program at the University of Alberta and I'm extremely excited to have jumped so quickly into such a fantastic opportunity for work abroad. I plan to make a career out of international solidarity work and I feel very fortunate to have this internship as my first step.

Over the next two months I'll be working at the office here in Edmonton overseeing the completion of the Peace Mural and organizing a rockin' ceremony for its unveiling, as well as developing working relations with staff from Talleres de Muralismo in Nicaragua, and brushing up on my Spanish and Latin dancing skills as much as possible before I go!

During my 6 months in the South I'll put my youth work experience to good use, assisting in the painting workshops run by Talleres de Muralismo while learning the ropes of life in Estelí and making occasional trips to other project sites throughout Nicaragua. I'll also be playing a key role in organizing the orientation and itinerary for the 2002 Youth Tour to Central America.

I can't express enough the elation I feel at being a part of such an amazing project. I think I've said "I'm so excited!" about a zillion times since I started at the beginning of the month. Come by and see me in the office sometime, I'll be the one with the perma-grin...

---

## Did you know Change for Children Association has established an Endowment Fund?

In order to ensure our long-term viability and commitment to our Southern partners, CFCA has established a reserve fund. If you would like to make a contribution to this fund, please check the "endowment fund" allocation box on the donation form at the back of this newsletter when you enclose your donation. For more information on how to make a bequest to the organization, please contact our office at (780) 448-1505.

## CHANGE FOR CHILDREN PRESENTATION Coming to a Venue Near You:

We would be happy to join your community group, church, school, or group of friends interested in finding out more about ways to get involved with CFCA. If you would like information about having a CFCA representative spend some time with your group, please contact the office at (780) 448-1505, or return this form with your contact information to CFCA.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# Come Take a Walk...

*A song written by Edmontonian James Morrissey – it was inspired by the Nicaraguan youth group "Voices from the South" and the people of the rural community of Jiñocua, Nicaragua*

Come take a walk down the road  
Where the kids sell their water like gold  
And they hold up their gold to their gods  
Saying thanks a lot, thanks a lot god

Come take a walk in the fields  
Where the corn grows and the love  
grows for real  
And the folks there can teach us  
some things  
Like brotherhood, sisterhood, dreams

But it's a road less traveled by far  
But by far it's the best test of  
who we are  
And your love will set all of us free  
Hand in hand...solidarity

Come take a walk in the marketplace  
Where the bright coloured mask  
hides their face  
And they act out their history with pride  
For those who turned the tide  
and those that died

Come take a walk with old young friends  
As kids they're adults now it's  
not pretend  
Meet Ana, Yahira and Juan  
They're mothers, fathers,  
daughters and sons

But it's a road less traveled by far...

Come take a walk down your own street  
There's water and shelter and  
plenty to eat  
And if you share your good fortune  
you'll find  
Your peace of mind and a kinder mankind

It's solidarity

## BUILDING Bridges

is published three times annually by Change for Children as part of its education program. The views expressed by the publication are not necessarily those of Change for Children Association. • *Editing and Design: Chris Peters*



While Change For Children Association (CFCA) highly values its partnerships with communities of various religious and political persuasions, we are a non-sectarian, non-partisan society. Our development projects are located primarily in Central and South America, Mexico, and the Philippines. Types of projects, their cost and priority are determined by the indigenous co-operants living in these communities, according to their current needs.

We appreciate receiving your comments, suggestions or criticisms about this publication or its content. Please mail, fax, or e-mail us at:

CFCA, 10545 - 92 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 1V1  
Fax: 780-448-1507 • email: cfca@web.net

For more information, please call us at 780-448-1505 or visit our website:  
**www.changeforchildren.org**

Registered Charitable Organization No. 11884 9496 RR0001

### Please support CFCA's Important Work with a CHARITABLE DONATION

Please find enclosed a tax-creditable donation to be used in the following areas:

- \$ 15.00 To purchase a 2001 Change for Children membership (non tax receiptable)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Undesignated - to be used as needed by Change for Children Association
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Your general project account (supporting a variety of projects as required)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Your projects in the country of \_\_\_\_\_  
(current projects are in Mexico, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, Peru, Brazil)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Your Development Education Program here in Canada
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Helping to start an Endowment Fund
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Amount Enclosed**

*Please make cheques payable to Change for Children Association*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENT PLAN OPTION

I/We authorize Change for Children Association to begin Automatic monthly withdrawals from my/our bank account as specified on the enclosed cheque marked "VOID." This authority is to remain in effect until further notification from myself/ourselves or Change for Children.

Please make a withdrawal in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month on the \_\_\_\_\_th day of each month.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature(s) of Account Holder

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed