

Change for Children is proud to be a project partner in

Christmas Future

Change the world...for good.



ChristmasFuture is a new way to give a holiday gift - one that helps eradicate extreme poverty and changes the way we think about ourselves and our motivations for giving.

On November 5th, 2007 ChristmasFuture (based out of Calgary, AB) released new web-based technology on www.christmasfuture.org which allows the gift recipient to choose from a database of projects where the gift funds are directed. Change for Children is delighted to be a part of this exciting new initiative. Please visit www.christmasfuture.org and look for Change for Children projects!

Gifts of Solidarity Cards supporting our international projects are also available for your Holiday gift giving. Simply let us know with your donation to whom you want your card to be sent. Contact CFCA via phone, email or in person at the office.

Change for
Children's

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Join board and staff to celebrate
the holiday season on
December 7
2007
5:00 – 9:00 PM

Everyone is welcome
and food and drinks
are provided.

JUST Christmas

Justice at Christmas is a global marketplace for quality arts, handmade crafts and other goods. When you purchase a gift from the non-profit and charitable organizations in this market, the money you spend goes towards the building of healthy communities around the world.

The event includes Change for Children and 25 different non-profit and charitable organizations that represent causes critical to the improvement of conditions for people in developing nations.

Friday, November 23
from 5:30 – 9:00 pm
Saturday, November 24
from 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

New location:
Alberta Avenue Community Hall
at 9210-118 Avenue, Edmonton.

justchristmas.org



FALL 2007

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A CHANGE FOR CHILDREN PUBLICATION

Christmas Shopping and Justice

This winter edition focuses on the Rights of Children as of 2007: both what has been achieved and what remains to be done. Change for Children, 31 years ago, recognized the enormous impact that poverty has on the well being and development of children, and made a commitment to address the root causes of poverty. As we celebrate this holiday season, let us commit again to justice for all children. According to the International Labour Organization, as of 2001, there were 71.3 million child labourers in Africa and 19.7 million in Latin America. Children worldwide are continually denied access to the most basic of human needs.

We enjoy abundance in our society, and never more so than during the holiday season. Billions of dollars are spent on gifts, often made by children or women working in unhealthy and unjust conditions. This season let us reflect on the work that we can do, and the innovative solutions that our international partners are implementing, to ensure that children thrive. Thank you to everyone who has supported Children for Children this year and generously contributed to solutions, to human dignity, healthy communities, and global justice. In *this* holiday season, let us give the gift of solidarity, and end poverty for all children.

Sincerely,
Fiona Cavanagh – Education Coordinator



CHANGE FOR CHILDREN ASSOCIATION (CFCA) is an Edmonton-based non-profit, non-governmental organization with a 31-year history of working for sustainable, grassroots community development in Latin America and Africa. Our development projects, their cost and priority, are determined by our Southern partners according to the current needs of their communities. In Canada, our Global Education program engages the public in a process of awareness raising, analysis and action on issues of global justice. While CFCA highly values its partnerships with communities of various religious and political persuasions, we are a non-sectarian, non-partisan society.

Registered Charitable Organization No. 11884 9496 RR0001



Beyond Walls and Murals

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Rights and Realities



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EDITORS: Fiona Cavanagh and Beth Hunter

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context of children's lives. Beyond simply looking at the management and/or rhetoric of rights, to look at the actualization of rights requires not just the examination of outcomes and numbers, but also to commitment towards context. What good are increased formal education statistics if the quality of the schools is poor? If the students are too hungry to concentrate? What good is the elimination of child labor if it means a notable decreased quality of life because the children and their families are dependent on that wage? What good does job training do for former child soldiers, if there are no

jobs for them to enter? Conflict, social exclusion, poverty, sexism, and environmental destruction are just a few of the many necessary elements, therefore, that are related and crucial to consider when attempting to grasp the 'status' of children's rights in 2007.

In this sense, while the establishment of children's rights may have shifted the attention of children's needs to a format easier to 'manage' or quantify, there remains much further to go. As opposed to solely engaging with the rhetoric of rights, there remains a great necessity, perhaps now more than

ever, for policy makers, agency heads, and child advocates to engage with the context and structures of children's daily lives, the substance of which can often be difficult to 'measure'.

Mikaela Luttrell-Rowland is a researcher for the University of Bath in the department of Economics and International Development. Her research interests include the politics of representation and child rights, cross-comparative theories of childhood institutional policy enactment, with a particular area focus on Peru.

Rights and Realities

What has been achieved for Children globally?

What is the status of 'children's rights' in 2007?

I recently had the opportunity to interview a range of directors and policy heads of NGO's, in Lima, Peru, about the state of 'children's rights' in 2007. One of the questions I asked is: 'What do you think is the difference, if any, between children's rights and human rights?' Surprisingly, answer was more difficult for people to articulate than I expected.

One of the first and most common answers inevitably involves the Child Right's Convention Act (CRC) of 1989. The CRC is the most ratified human rights treaty in the world; the only two states who have not ratified it are the United States and Somalia. This treaty requires states to monitor and report on their progress in terms of key outcomes such as child health, education, and child labor. It also includes children's right to 'participation' and identity. The global monitoring of these outcomes is clearly one major feature and distinction between the discussion of 'children's rights', and a more general conversation about 'human' rights.

But what else makes children's rights different from human rights? My own answer would involve a discussion of the opportunity for commitment. Recognizing 'children' as a unique category within the human rights discussion opens up the space for particular attention to, and focus

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on, difference. Often compared to women's rights or African American rights for this reason, the establishment of the CRC marked the prospect for a deepening of commitment to children's rights and raised attention from states, governments and local child advocates. This opportunity for increased awareness towards difference is something that has rightly been celebrated. Conceptualizing children as their own distinct category deserving of rights, therefore, has perhaps made it easier for those working for and with children to articulate children's needs in a different way.

Despite this increased commitment, however, and the near global acknowledgement of children as deserving their own separate 'rights', what movement and progress has been made in the past twenty years to make the world a better and more just place for children? Since the establishment of the CRC in 1989, how have the ideals of 'children's rights' been actualized? Where are we, in practical terms, with the status of 'children's rights' and children's needs?

These questions, and the attempt to understand the current 'status' of children's rights, are complicated. At the least, the process is twofold. On the one hand, there are the 'practical' and 'measurable' outcomes to consider. Often referred to as 'benchmarks,' with the increased monitoring by states and local agencies, it is more feasible to track quantifiable changes to the lives of children than it was twenty years ago. Girls' entrance into formal education is one prime example of such tracking, often cited and played up in public media. More girls are in formal education than twenty years ago, particularly so in countries such as Africa and the Middle East. Trying to understand and evaluate the status of children's needs and rights, therefore, involves an attention to details and tangible outcomes.

The other piece, often less discussed, but equally important, is a commitment to looking at the

Beyond Walls and Murals

Rights in Action

by Melissa Milakovic & Trina Moyles

The first time we met Freddy Neyra Arauz, 16 years old, he was perched high on the scaffolding, his paint-flecked jeans and Converse sneakers dangling like wind chimes, focusing intently on painting the expression of a young man seated in a wheelchair. Freddy was among seven other young *chavalos* from FUNARTE, one of CFCA's Nicaraguan partners,, fully engaged in painting the scene of boys and girls reading and learning in harmony. This latest mural, designed by the young participants of FUNARTE's weekly mural workshops, depicted the theme of equality and access to education. It was, indeed, a moving experience to witness Freddy and his fellow emerging muralists immersed in their collective art: passing paint and brushes, sharing skills and advice, and stepping back to examine and reflect upon their work as they brought the mural to life.

Freddy is not unlike any other rock-loving-air-guitar-playing 16 year old. He divides his time between going to school, working in his family's small hardware tienda, and spending time with friends. But come Saturday afternoons, he dons painting gear and pedals to the community centre in the neighborhood of Omar Torrijos. For 6 years, Freddy has been a participant in the weekly muralism workshops offered to hundreds of children in several of the poorest neighborhoods of Estelí, Nicaragua. Freddy speaks passionately of his experiences



“FUNARTE teaches about solidarity beyond the murals and the walls of Estelí...they teach positive ideas so that kids cannot be easily influenced to do bad things, like get involved in gangs.”

– Freddy Neyra Arauz



with the paintbrush and the power of FUNARTE's human rights-based education. To date he has shared in the completion and restoration of over 10.

Talking to Freddy about the work FUNARTE has been doing in Estelí for over 20 years and what it has done for him personally affirmed for us the true value of the mural workshops. This energetic 16-year-old spoke of collectivism, solidarity and the importance of human rights education with the wisdom and certainty of a wise man: “FUNARTE teaches about solidarity beyond the murals and the walls of Estelí...they teach positive ideas so that kids cannot be easily influenced to do bad things, like get involved in gangs.” Because gang activity is a problem in many of the barrios in Estelí (although it has decreased dramatically in the past few years), there is comfort in knowing that FUNARTE not only provides a safe environment for these children but also a solid education that covers everything from basic human rights, to children's rights; from environmental aware-

ness to gender equality.

It is through education that the cycle of poverty can be stopped and Freddy knows this better than most. In a very matter-of-fact tone, Freddy tells of the cyclical movement of ideas and principals that pass through generations, from participants to educators and back. Sharing and understanding through ongoing education. Now Freddy draws a circle, marking a point on the top and another directly opposite. He explains that the point on the top is one of the educators at FUNARTE and the one on the bottom represents him, and this is how the cycle works. There is a constant flow, movement, exchange of knowledge and compassion - and just as the educators started as participants, he too will one day join the exceptional team of muralists at FUNARTE.

PROJECT HOPE is a program of the Grant MacEwan Students' Union, which partnered in 2006-7 with FUNARTE.

No SWEAT

An epidemic of positive change

On September 15, 2007 an inspired audience of over 600 people gave an enthusiastic standing ovation to the NoSweat display of fashion and art. NoSweat '07 showcased both ethical consumer choices and Edmonton's diverse youth talent in their annual event aimed at positive change. This year, Change for Children was thrilled to be the beneficiary of the event.

The No Sweat '07 theme, "an epidemic of positive change," was embodied in a dynamic theatrical production that included diverse performances combined with ethically manufactured fashion. The message: creativity, self expression, and conscious consumer choices can change the world. Performances by Edmonton artists included hip-hop, skipping, lotus



dancing, fire mime, percussionists, rap, a unicyclist, salsa dancers, and Japanese drummers. Ethically produced clothing from several Edmonton stores was modeled throughout the performance. The positive energy that ignited the theatre lingered well after the show.

No Sweat's dedicated coordinators, Jon Jon Rivero, Cecilia Lee and Jill Pelton, work with "a small army of motivated and talented volunteers" to make this annual show possible. All of the proceeds from No Sweat '07 benefit Change for Children's Child Rights Education project with FUNARTE.

Creating a legacy of global education

Margarete Daugela is the first recipient of Change for Children's newly founded Global Education Graduate Award, which recognizes a student who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to global justice and human rights both in their academic research and through their community involvement. Margarete is in her second year of a Masters Degree and her research focuses on the Rights of the Child.

Change for Children has made a five-year commitment to the Faculty of Education and will award one thousand dollars annually. This award is given to any full time Masters or PHD student in the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta. Please contact Change for Children if you would like to donate to this award.

THANK YOU

To our partners in the *first annual Joffre Lupul Golf Tournament*, which took place in August 2007.

e-Newsletter

Visit www.changeforchildren.org to subscribe to our monthly electronic newsletter



Rights and skills build alternatives to child labour

Potosí, Bolivia

Today, most of the immense mineral wealth once found in Bolivia's Cerro Rico Mountain has been exploited. Major mining companies have left the area, and residents of Potosí, at the base of the mountain, live in poverty. Poverty, rising mineral prices and a stagnant economy encourage residents of Potosí to continue working in the abandoned mines despite serious health and safety concerns. Many among these informal mining workers are children and youth. CFCA's partner in Potosí, CEPROMIN, estimates that

13,000 people currently work in Cerro Rico and that a significant proportion of them are children.

Families depend on the money children are able to contribute from their work in the mines. CFCA's project with CEPROMIN, seeks to build economic alternatives for families in order to break the dependency on dangerous child labour. This project provides vocational skills training to Potosí's young people at times that do not conflict with their formal education or current work. Upon completion of the two-year skills

training program, students will have a trade qualification. Throughout the project they have access to a microcredit loan scheme, and girls receive scholarships to continue their higher education. These options will allow young people to move into stable employment. The project's inclusion of community education about young people's rights and child labour's role in a continuing cycle of poverty will build momentum for brighter futures in Potosí.

Creating solutions to violence and HIV/AIDS: Human rights and art for strong communities

Estelí and Managua, Nicaragua

In Nicaragua, threats of gang violence and HIV/AIDS are increasing dramatically due to prolonged economic crisis. Poor neighbourhoods in urban centers like the capital city, Managua, and the Northern city of Estelí, grapple daily with these growing problems. Children and youth in these communities are deprived of opportunities to develop the skills and confidence necessary to prevent violence and HIV/AIDS, and

to chart the direction of future positive change.

In partnership with FUNARTE (Foundation ART!) and INPHRU, CFCA is working to provide artistic and cultural programming to children of these impoverished communities. Through creative activities, this project ensures that Nicaraguan youth are aware of their rights and involved in building a society that respects them.

Muralism workshops, cultural

performances and the creation of a youth-led magazine will involve young people in leadership roles in their communities. These often disrespected and marginalized youth will lead campaigns against gang violence and will provide HIV/AIDS education to their peers. This project builds self-esteem, supports future leadership and develops solutions from the hearts of those who need them most.