

CFCA Annual Dinner & Silent Auction Fundraiser

September 25th, 2005 @ 6pm
Khazana Restaurant
 10177 - 107 Street, Edmonton

Join us for an evening of music, delicious East Indian cuisine, arts and crafts from around the world and good company! The evening will wrap up with a cake auction, of delicious home-made and gourmet bakery cakes.

Tickets \$55/each
 (partial tax receipt available)

For more information and to purchase tickets contact CFCA (780) 448-1505.

Check out our newly launched (and partially still under construction) website!
www.changeforchildren.org

CHANGE FOR CHILDREN



Justice is our vision.
 Partnership is our action.

RESOURCES

The information provided in this issue of *Building Bridges* has been compiled with the help of the following resources.

Patrick Bond Article
www.counterpunch.org/bond06172005.html

Make Poverty History-Canada
www.makepovertyhistory.ca

Canadian Council for International Cooperation
www.ccic.ca

UNESCO - Teaching and Learning for a Sustainable Future
www.unesco.org/education/tlsf/

Global Citizens for Change
www.citizens4change.org

Friends of the Earth International
www.foei.org

Rights Action
www.rightsaction.org



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THE ROOTS OF POVERTY

Small victories in the battle against HIV/AIDS

Roatan is the largest of the three Bay Islands in the North of Honduras. Despite its image as a vacation paradise, most tourists are not aware of the growing AIDS epidemic that is currently sweeping across this scenic little sand patch in the midst of the ocean. The World Health Organization estimates that by 2001, approximately 11,800 AIDS cases had been reported in Honduras, which has the largest HIV-infection rate in the Western Hemisphere. In 2001 alone, the estimated number of deaths due to AIDS was 3,300. The estimated number of children under 15 who had lost one or both parents to AIDS-related deaths by the end of 2001 was 14,000. Perhaps the most disturbing piece of this picture is the 7 million dollars in HIV/AIDS medical aid that lays stagnant with the Honduran Health Ministry due to a lack of trained physicians with the knowledge of how to use anti-retroviral drugs, and the unwillingness of the Health Ministry to pay doctors for this specialized training.

In response to these alarming statistics, and the increasing number of AIDS-related diagnoses and deaths on the island, Valerie Nelson, a Canadian-born social worker, founded 'Familias Saludables' (FS) in Roatan. "It seemed like a building burning down with people inside...how could we see this and not decide to stop and help extinguish the flames?" she says. Nelson estimates that the current HIV-infection rate in Roatan may be as high as 10%. Accurate rates of HIV



exposure are difficult to detect because of the silence and stigma surrounding the virus. Only an estimated one in ten positively infected people in Roatan seeks testing, partially due to the fear of knowing one's positive status. On an island with little medical support, meager sanitation facilities, and poor nutrition, an HIV-positive diagnosis is "like a death wish," Nelson states. While the estimated time lapse between diagnosis of HIV to death from AIDS in the developed world is, at an average, nine years, it is about six months in Roatan.

A primary function of FS is to challenge stigma and misinformation through a community-based educational curriculum and skilled staff members. Nelson's office doors are always open. "Everyone needs someone to listen to them", she announces one day, after dozens of people, mostly women, come in and out of her busy office to talk about health, poverty, broken hearts, or simply the

weather. Unfortunately, for this community, it is common to know someone who has died of AIDS-related causes. The unspoken fear of the exponential increase in death rates due to AIDS resonates loudly in thoughts about future generations. Hope resides in the erosion of stigma, in the confidence of islanders as they develop a sense of entitlement to a long and healthy life, and in small victories as a community continues to battle against AIDS.

Hope resides in the erosion of stigma

Change for Children is developing a new partnership with Familias Saludables in Roatan, Honduras and supporting their work to train local health promoters, prevent and treat HIV/AIDS, engage in human rights advocacy and policy changes, and build capacity of Familias Saludables as a leading Honduran NGO that is addressing the HIV/AIDS crisis. For more information on this project, and how to support it, please contact Change for Children Association.

SUPPORT CFCA – 29 YEARS OF MAKING POVERTY HISTORY

All donors who contribute \$10 or more automatically gain membership in Change for Children Association and will receive our *Building Bridges* newsletter three times annually.

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

- \$ _____ Undesignated - to be used as needed by Change for Children
- \$ _____ General project account (supporting a variety of projects as required)
- \$ _____ Supporting projects in the country of _____
- \$ _____ A specific project: _____
- \$ _____ Change for Children's Global Education Program in Canada
- \$ _____ The Change for Children Endowment Fund
- \$ _____ **Total Amount Enclosed** Please make cheques payable to Change for Children

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Pre-Authorized Payment Plan Option

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

Change for Children Association #222, 9624 - 108 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 1A4 • www.changeforchildren.org

The production and mailing of this quarterly publication, which we consider an educational tool, represents an investment by Change for Children of \$10,850 and we expect to raise from donors on an annual basis the sum of \$250,000. Proceeds will be used as designated by donor on reply form.

ORDINARY PEOPLE MAKING POVERTY HISTORY

Change for Children, in collaboration with all members of the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation (ACGC), is currently working to implement an Alberta-wide campaign with two goals: 1) to profile the work of Alberta NGOs and their contributions to "Make Poverty History"; and 2) to encourage Albertans to get involved in Making Poverty History in their communities and with Southern partners to bring life to the issue of global poverty. There will be Alberta events held on September 10th and December 10th. This Alberta specific campaign builds on the existing national Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC) -led campaign, Make Poverty History, which is itself based on the International "Global Call to Action Against Poverty" campaign. **Make Poverty History** was officially launched on February 11, 2005 in Ottawa and this coalition unites diverse organizations such as NGOs, unions, churches, artists, musicians, universities, and many other individuals with the common belief that poverty can be eradicated on a global and also domestic level.

THE CAMPAIGN [www.makepovertyhistory.ca]

More and Better Aid: The campaign is calling for the Canadian Government to reach the UN target of 0.7 percent of Gross National Income by 2015.

Trade Justice: Currently international trade is neither free nor fair. The campaign calls for the creation of trade legislation that puts human rights and environmental protection at the forefront.

Debt Cancellation: Promote immediate and unconditional cancellation of 100 percent of multilateral and bi-lateral debt owed by the poorest countries.

End Child Poverty in Canada: Call to end child poverty in Canada through living wage employment, universal and affordable housing, universal and affordable early learning and childcare.

CFCA PHILOSOPHY ON MAKING POVERTY HISTORY

SOLIDARITY: CFCA supports communities in the South in their struggles to make poverty history.

PARTNERSHIP: Since the majority of the world's poor live in the global South we seek to support their goals and visions for eradicating poverty, while providing Canadians with an opportunity to partner with them.

CRITICAL THINKING: Patrick Bond, a South African academic, provides an interesting critique of the Global Action Against Poverty Campaign (that Make Poverty History is a part of), claiming that "any top down campaign against poverty is both unrealistic and subject to early cooption." Bond also mentions that the Global Call to Action Against Poverty makes no reference to the history of anti-

poverty movements in the Global South that existed long before this campaign originated. He also discusses the fact that within the campaign there is no recognition of the history of movements to end poverty in the 80's and 90's such as "global indigenous movements, global justice activism since Seattle, the Social Forum movement, anti-war demonstrations, and the revival of the left in Latin America." Some extra food for thought is that the entire Global Call to End Poverty originated in Britain; and while its goals are honourable it lacks a thorough analysis of poverty. Also, given that the G-8 leaders and international financial bodies have been instilling injustice for centuries, perhaps we need to build stronger grassroots social movements rather than expect leaders to legislate justice.

INTERRUPT HISTORY – POVERTY IS NOT INEVITABLE

Change for Children is preparing for our **30th Anniversary in June 2006**. With this historic milestone we want to make as big an impact as possible in the months leading up to the date by increasing our fundraising efforts, improving programming and renewing commitment to alleviating poverty.

Our Challenge to Ourselves:

- Raise donation dollars and continue with efforts to ensure that federal funding is in place so that we can put into action projects that answer critical need.
- Create opportunities for our members to dialogue on issues of international development such as Canada's 2005 International Policy Statement, which is the first of its kind.

OUR CHALLENGE TO YOU:

Get **involved** and bring a friend to a Global Education Event at the Change for Children Office or **host** one in your community.

Attend a Make Poverty History Event on Sept. 10 and Dec. 10, 2005 or **Organize** one in your community.

Tell us your stories of global citizenship and making poverty history with Change for Children as we lead up to our 30th anniversary.

Participate in the Rural Roots Project: Alberta Youth Making Poverty History.

Hold a **fundraising** event in partnership with Change for Children.

Your **financial** donations make a difference.



ONE PERSON CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Bishop Denis Croteau, who runs not one, but two of the world's largest dioceses (Mackenzie-Fort Smith in the North West Territories and Whitehorse in the Yukon) is an inspiring example of how one person, committed to change, can make a difference in his/her community and in solidarity with other communities in the South. Bishop Croteau has raised over \$200,000 for CFCA's Rural Community Water Project in Nicaragua, by involving his family, friends and the communities where he works in a concrete project that is directly helping people.



In 2002, this inspirational man began working with Change for Children – telling the stories of Nicaraguan communities lacking access to potable water, suffering from waterborne disease and spending hours a day collecting water. People responded to the Bishop's efforts and mobilized together to make a difference.

So far, the Rural Community Water Project has **brought potable water to 22 rural communities** in Nicaragua!

CFCA thanks the Bishop and his friends and family for the enormous difference they are making.

SHARING THEIR JOY

This summer, two couples have encouraged their wedding guests to donate to Change for Children in lieu of gifts.

Vanessa Cosco & Dave Woo explain that "We saw our wedding as an excellent opportunity to organize people to give to a worthwhile cause and to give to those who truly need it."

"We wanted our wedding to be about community and sharing. Since weddings have traditionally involved large groups of people coming together to celebrate the joy of a single couple, it seemed natural to further extend this sense of community. **Both of us feel that CFCA is a very progressive and effective charity, and we are proud to be associated with it."**

Vanessa says that "CFCA stands out because of its emphasis on community based projects that are driven by community partners." David and Anne Fath agree, saying "We like the idea that this CFCA project may eventually sustain itself, and that we are making an initial contribution



in what we see as a long term investment."

Donations from David and Anne's wedding will go towards projects of a new CFCA partner, Mosoj Yan in Bolivia, while contributions from Vanessa & Dave's friends and family will support primary school construction in Guatemala.

Congratulations to both couples and thank-you for extending your joy to communities in the global South!

A NOTE TO OUR MEMBERS:

This issue of Building Bridges has been condensed as we are including a copy of our annual report with this mailout.