

Please share this publication.



A CHANGE FOR CHILDREN PUBLICATION

BUILDING BRIDGES



Change
for Children

celebrating
35Years

Celebrating 35 years of social justice & partnership

THIS ISSUE:

- Development vs. Aid
- Grassroots Solutions to the Global Food Crisis
- Inspired by Social Justice
- Youth Council: Mentorship Project
- Giving – Why it Matters

“Thank you, Canada for 35 years of making a difference”



Thanks to the commitment and support from our Canadian partners, over 75,000 people now have access to clean drinking water in the Chinandega region of northern Nicaragua.

As we look back over our rich 35-year history, we see a great deal of change. Change amongst the people who we work with in the South. Change in our own community here in the North. Many of Change for Children’s partner organizations have been with us for most of our journey, and some are relatively new. All have deep roots in their communities. All are local organizations proposing local solutions and working with us shoulder-to-shoulder to improve conditions for people living in poverty. All make us proud to be involved in the movement for change.

From the time that Change for Children was founded in 1976, we have maintained our commitment to making a difference. We have done that successfully through building partnerships – bridges between our communities here in the North to our diverse beneficiary communities in the south. Canadian organizations like Change for Children are unique

in development circles, not only for what we do – bringing clean water to thousands of people who need it, building necessary health and education infrastructure, and providing training, equipment and materials for sustainable agriculture – but for how we do it. We are relationship builders. And through these relationships we have grown, learned, improved and evolved.

Thanks to all of you for walking with us on this journey, for being open to learn and evolve and for supporting our important work. Your support has helped us make a difference in the lives of so many.

**Justice is our Vision:
Partnership is our Action.**

Lorraine Swift
Program Manager – International
Projects

Editor	Trina Moyles
Contributors	Breanne Kullman Shelaine Sparrow Susan Spronk Lorraine Swift
Designer	Michelle McBride
Cover Photo	Lorraine Swift

Canadian Publication Agreement
#40050574

Change for Children partners with grassroots organizations in Latin America & Africa to support community-based solutions to poverty and social injustice while providing unique global education programs here in Canada.

Change for Children is a non-sectarian, non-partisan, non-profit organization operating from Edmonton, AB since 1976.

10808-124 Street, 2nd Floor
Edmonton, AB, T5M 0H3

Ph: 780.448.1505
Fax: 780.448.1507
www.changeforchildren.org

Registered Charitable Organization No.
11884 9496 RR0001



DEVELOPMENT VS. AID

Miskito primary school children in San Andres,
BOSAWAS, Nicaragua.



Change for Children has always been committed to a human rights-based approach to development, and in more recent years we increasingly recognize the need to both share and promote this approach. We play a unique role in the myriad of governments, global entities, civil society organizations (CSOs) and private companies that are involved in providing development assistance. Why do CSOs like Change for Children do what we do? And how do we do it? What is the most effective way to ensure that resources benefit those who need it the most?

Today organizations like Change for Children are challenged to define and differentiate themselves from other actors in the development scene. CFCA is an organization that emphasizes local solutions and north-south partnership among equals. We believe that local people should hold the decision making power in regards to solutions for improved growth and development. We believe that partnerships with

local communities are the best delivery method to ensure that local capacity is developed, and resources reach the poorest of the poor.

We in the North who enjoy the benefits of drinking clean water, sending our kids to school in a quality public education system and accessing a strong public health system have a great deal to learn from the activists of the South. And as we walk with them working for change together in their communities, they teach us a great deal about how to protect what we have here at home. We work on water projects not to deliver charity, but because access to clean drinking water is a human right. We focus on education and health not because we wish for everyone to learn exactly what we are learning or practice our type of medicine, but because we recognize the rights of everyone to access these services and we all reap the benefits of an educated and healthy global population.

When Miskito children fulfill their rights to attend primary and secondary school, they gain the education necessary to lead their indigenous communities in self-governance and territorial land management. Indigenous youth are learning about the importance of the forests of the BOSAWAS Biosphere Reserve in Nicaragua as essential carbon sinks for the planet, and they recognize their communities as stewards of that forest.

As donor governments and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) head into the 4th High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, South Korea in November 2011, organizations like Change for Children are advocating for a change to the title of the process to Development Effectiveness, highlighting our main goal for the future. Development is a solution based approach, rather than a Band-Aid approach, and CSOs working for change are committed to solutions and to the productive delivery of resources – with the local people involved in deciding what best suits them for progressive growth.

Grassroots Solutions to the Global Food Crisis

Holistic approaches to improving food security in the Americas & Africa

In our world today, almost a billion people are suffering from hunger and malnutrition. People growing food are dealing with alternating flooding and drought – either the rain pours down and rots the crops in the fields, or there is no rain at all and the crops dry up. And thus, people buying food have seen massive increases and volatility in food prices, which threaten the wellbeing of the world's poorest consumers, who already spend 80% of their incomes on food.

Change for Children's food security projects emphasize a holistic approach to improved agricultural production, which is resulting in increased production and diversity of food crops, while stimulating local, value-added food processing. Along with our partner organizations in the field, we are investigating native seed varieties that are resistant to climate change, implementing participatory approaches that involve entire regions in food production and processing, and emphasizing the role of women in production, diversification and nutrition. Hand-in hand with our indigenous partner organizations in the Americas, we are working to protect land rights and promote self-government in land management, to ensure that subsistence agriculturalists will always have land on which to grow food.

BOLIVIA



Maria Fernandez, Moseten Indigenous girl from Simay, Palos Blancos, Bolivia.

Better Nutrition, Better Learning

Women Entrepreneurs Organize in Support of School Feeding Initiatives

When Maria Fernandez receives breakfast at school after rising early and walking for several kilometers, she is able to concentrate in class. The breakfast is made from nutritious, local ingredients and processed by local women into breads, juices and dried fruit snacks. Locally produced and processed school breakfasts are an excellent way to stimulate the local economy, reduce food wastage, improve nutrition and raise educational performance. Maria is doing better in school now because she can concentrate on learning and is no longer distracted by hunger.



HONDURAS & NICARAGUA

Indigenous women participating in a capacity building workshop in the Rio Patuca Reserve, Honduras.

Food in the Forest

Indigenous Capacity Building for Food Security, Improved Nutrition & Poverty Alleviation

Evelia, an indigenous teacher in the Rio Patuca Ecological Reserve in SE Honduras is working to build community capacity to improve food security through initiatives in the classroom. Soil erosion caused by frequent hurricanes and deforestation around the buffer zones of the reserve are threatening traditional subsistence farming. With food security as one of the most severe social realities here (child poverty and malnutrition rates are approximately 60%), Miskito indigenous populations are struggling to survive. Evelia is committed to changing that. Her students have planted a school garden and are learning practical applications of high yield agriculture and diet diversification.



GUATEMALA

(Photo credit: Breanne Kullman)

Community Food Security

Agroecological Farming and Training Initiative in Rural Households and Schools

AMMID (Mayan-Mam Association of Research and Development) provides sustainable solutions to the issue of food security in the highlands of Comitancillo region of Guatemala. Over 75% of children in the Comitancillo area are malnourished, and due to deforestation and exploitive mining practices led by transnational corporations, along with climate change, vulnerability in the region has increased. AMMID partners with CFCA to promote agro-ecological farming initiatives, training men and women how to cultivate and prepare a variety of nutritious crops in their own household gardens. Garden projects have also been implemented in rural schools to engage children in sustainable food production.



Mayan-Mam indigenous women and farmers gather to learn about food preparation in Comitancillo, Guatemala.



UGANDA



A group of women gather in the Kigezi region of Uganda. Here CFCA provides micro-credit loans for seeds, livestock and tools, and offers nutritional counselling to help women care for their families and many children who've been orphaned by HIV-AIDS.

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Communities

Improved Health, Nutrition & Poverty Alleviation for Mothers & Children

Mary Emmanuel has about 1/3 of an acre of land around her home in the Kigezi region of south western Uganda, where 80% of the children in the area are malnourished. She has two children, one of whom, Victor, has cerebral palsy and thus requires extra care. Through KIHEFO's food security and micro-credit loan program, Mary Emmanuel was able to purchase chickens in order to supplement her family's diet and improve protein intake. She also sells the eggs every week in a local market, which improves the family's ability to purchase other food items. KIHEFO's health and food security initiatives address the rights of women (who are generally responsible for household food production in the region) and make it easier for women like Mary Emmanuel to care for their children.



GLOBAL CORN PRICES SKY-ROCKET CREATING FOOD SCARCITY IN GUATEMALA

A quintal of corn (100 pounds or 45 kg) was at its normal price of about \$15 in May of this year and then rose sharply month-by-month to reach a 100% increase by September when it cost of \$30 per quintal. Never in history have we seen such a sharp increase in such a short time. Corn has always been a low-cost staple that women used for making tortillas and feeding chickens in patio gardens. Usually when households could not afford anything else, corn was always available, but now it, too, has risen to the price of a luxury commodity – yet another symptom the growing severity of the global food crisis. In Guatemala, many farmers are no longer growing food crops and storing them between harvests to feed their families. Instead, many are now involved in cash-crop production of export commodities, such as carnations and brussel sprouts, and expected to use cash to buy food – but due to the price hikes, can no longer afford to do so.

CONTRIBUTE TO FOOD SECURITY – VISIT OUR 'PROJECTS' PAGE AT CHANGEFORCHILDREN.ORG

Inspired by Social Justice

Susan Spronk – Assistant Professor, International Development, University of Ottawa

HOW AND WHEN DID YOU FIRST GET INVOLVED WITH CFCA?

I first became involved in Change for Children as a high school student in the early 1990s. I attended a Global Justice weekend and felt that I had met “my people”—other kids who wanted to change the world! After that, I started to volunteer, which mostly consisted of stuffing envelopes for the mail out of the newsletters. Through those mail-outs, I got to know the staff and became more deeply involved. While studying at the University of Alberta, I attended two “Instruments for Change” tours to Nicaragua, and after my graduation, I worked as a CIDA intern with the Institute for Human Promotion in Managua, Nicaragua in 1999 (one of CFCA’s partners).

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED THROUGH YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH CFCA?

My experience with CFCA provided me with my first experience with international development. It was a wonderful place to meet like-minded people and discuss global politics and social justice issues, setting me on my current career path. One of the things that has always impressed me about CFCA is how such a small organization of dedicated staff and volunteers can accomplish so much. The other lesson that I have learned from CFCA is the importance of connecting the local to the global. I have always admired CFCA’s insistence on the principle that change starts at home, which makes the educational programs that focus on youth in schools so important.

“Change for Children taught me that social justice is fundamentally about a more equitable distribution of assets and wealth.”

HOW HAS CFCA INFLUENCED WHAT YOU’RE DOING TODAY AND YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?

In my ‘Intro to Development’ class at the U of O, I start the class by quoting Hank Zyp’s (CFCA Founder) twist on an old cliché: “If you give a fish to feed a hungry person today he/she will need another one tomorrow; if you teach a whole community to fish they will have food for a lifetime. Wise words, but what is missing is what to do if they do not have a lake to fish in.” CFCA taught me that social justice is fundamentally about a more equitable distribution of assets and wealth. As such, ‘development’ is not a technical, but a political problem that requires collective solutions. This message is one that I work to impart on my students. I also feel inspired to keep my research connected to grassroots struggles. My work in Ottawa might have offered me better access to upper-policy circles, but my inspiration still comes from social movements in Latin America. For that reason, I aim to produce academic research that matters and hope to continue to do so in the future!



2012 Youth Council: International Development Mentorship Project

Change for Children invites youth in the Edmonton area (ages 14-19), who are passionate about global issues, social justice, and want to learn more about international development to participate in the Youth Council: International Development Mentorship Project. Meeting for biweekly workshops from January to March 2012, the Council will challenge youth to explore the roots of global poverty and injustice, expose them to innovative projects in Latin America and Africa, and connect them to diverse individuals, groups and efforts involved in the CFCA community.

Workshops will offer hands-on activities, inspiring presentations, group dialogue, creative projects, and be guided by the interests of the youth who participate!

Apply today – contact Trina Moyles at trina@changeforchildren.org or 780.448.1505.

Share Stories of Justice as part of your holiday giving – visit changeforchildren.org to find out how easy it is.

Giving - Why it matters

Your donations are transformed into education, health and better lives for others.

Your monthly pledges, student fundraisers, annual donations, and tribute gifts provide the resources necessary to realise initiatives in the south that break the cycle of poverty and injustice.

Your advocacy and active involvement creates strong, engaged, and informed communities in the north that sustain the movement for a more just and caring world .

This is our solution to achieving human dignity, healthy communities, global justice.

"Knowing that the money we raised is going directly to a single project in Uganda lets us see we're actually making a difference..." **Michelle Huget, University of Alberta undergrad student**, "I liked that Change for Children is locally operated, and we could personally interact with staff when needed ...we had never done anything like this before, but we received a lot of support from family and friends...I think raising \$750 in a night is an accomplishment!"

"I like that Change for Children is an accessible and local organization focused on educational programming locally and internationally. In my opinion education is the forefront of community development whether or not it's across the alley or across the ocean. I barely notice my automatic monthly donation that helps make these programs possible,"

Scott Portingale, photographer and filmmaker

"Our association with Change for Children began a number of years ago with support for the building of a school in Guatemala. Since my husband passed away our family makes an annual contribution in his name. It has become a meaningful tradition for us and a way to keep Don's passion for education alive. We appreciate the staff at Change for Children and admire their dedication to improving standards of living in developing countries,"

Donna Savard (and family)

Thank you for helping us achieve a more caring and just world - one solution at a time.

**CARE
SHARE
GIVE**
CHANGEFORCHILDREN.ORG



Students of Edmonton's St. Angela Elementary School committed to learning about local and global water resource issues year-round to complement their fundraising spell-a-thon that raised over \$10,000 to finance a water well in CFCA's Nicaragua Water Project.



Mark your 2012 calendar

Change for Children's Annual Development Dinner ~
Friday, September 28, 2012, Edmonton

An evening of story and opportunity focused on an international project that needs our support.

Educator's Corner – visit our
'Tools for Schools' page at
change4children.org

Visit our website: www.changeforchildren.org

Download CFCA's 2011 Annual Report, keep up to date through the Latest News, utilize educational resources for all ages, learn more about our international and local projects, and find out how you can get involved today.

CHANGE FOR CHILDREN'S ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

Friday, December 9, 2011,
5:00 – 11:00 pm
10808-124 Street, 2nd Floor
(the Change for Children Office)

Food and refreshments provided.
Come celebrate with us!

CURRENT PROJECTS
CLICK HERE FOR MORE...



PHOTOS & VIDEO
CLICK HERE FOR MORE...



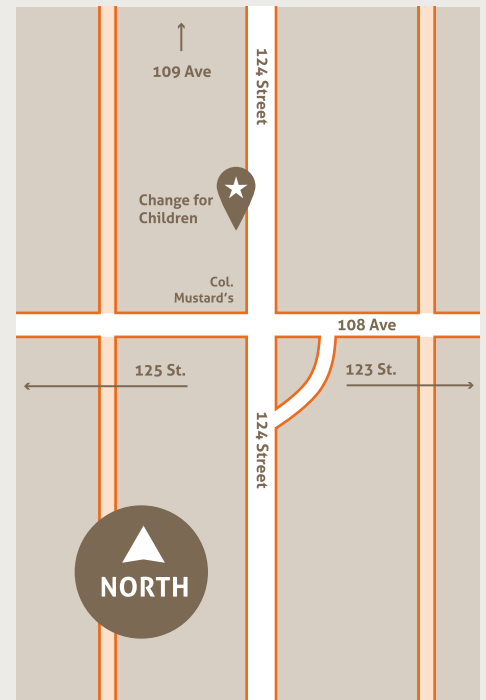
NEWSLETTER
SIGN UP NOW!



HOW YOU CAN HELP
CLICK HERE FOR MORE...



2011 ANNUAL REPORT



celebrating
35Years

Thank you to all volunteers, donors and partners who have contributed their time, energy and spirit to our 35 year vision for human dignity, healthy communities, and global justice.

CHANGE FOR CHILDREN GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF:



Agence canadienne de
développement international

Canadian International
Development Agency

Government of Alberta ■
Culture and Community Spirit