

Annual Report 2008

contribute to solutions





Our work and our world

Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life . . .

- Nelson Mandela

This past year marks thirty-three years of supporting solutions towards the creation of just and sustainable communities and achieving rights for all people.

Change for Children closed the 2007/08 year with a strong record of accomplishments thanks to the active participation of hundreds of individuals and organizations. An increase in partnerships both here in Canada and internationally yielded incredible results in the area of children's rights, water access, environmental health and gender specific initiatives.

Many children and women the world over have less mobility due to poverty which impacts their ability to participate in decision making processes that shape their lives. Change for Children works to change this through supporting communities on their own paths toward sustainable human development.

Our role in this change is to share in our collective wealth, not as charity, but as support to communities who are addressing the root causes of poverty and providing alternatives. Our approach at home is to engage as many networks as possible in this work, provide tools, opportunities and information for participation. This year the response from individuals, businesses, government and organizations has been incredible with new funding and new means to continue our projects and programs.

Change for Children's governance model has also been examined in this fiscal year and an evaluation of all aspects of the organization was a key priority. Through strategic planning the Board of Directors has shifted to a more policy focused governance model and reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening relationships and mobilizing resources.

Active volunteer committees ensure efficiency and accountability so that we can effectively use all resources and channel such vibrant collective work into powerful impacts! Thank you for your contribution to our work and furthering our vision of supporting human dignity, healthy communities and global justice.

Sharon Strong

Board President-Change for Children Association

Board of Directors 2007/08

Beth Hunter
Education/Public Engagement
Committee Chair
Daniel Eggert
Projects Committee Co-chair
Delmy Garcia-Hoyt
Vice-President
Dianne Dalley
Funds Development Committee
Chair
Eugene Ulmers
Secretary
Erick Ambtman
Treasurer

Gina Collier
Finance Committee Chair
Jania Teare
Director
Linda Nycholat
Director
Mary Jane Klein
Director
Mirey Lopez
Projects Committee Co-chair
Scott Harris
Director
Sharon Strong
President

Staff 2007/08

Full-time Coordinators
Fiona Cavanagh Public Engagement & Education
Lorraine Swift Projects
Shelaine Sparrow Funds Development

Part-Time Employees
Esperanza Ramos Office Manager
Shaun Devine Book Keeper
Trina Moyles Rural Roots Education Assistant

Special Thanks to:
Claudia Olivares Financial & Administrative Coordinator (2004-07)
Julia Paulson Interim Projects Coordinator (2007)
Patty Schultz Rural Roots Education Assistant (2007)



Working for change

Realizing Women's Rights

Change for Children's partners and projects demonstrate the power and importance of working with women for community development. By encouraging women's education, literacy, economic development and health, whole communities are transformed.

Creating Healthy Communities

Improving community health is critical to breaking the cycle of poverty. CFCA partners work with communities to develop rights based health care solutions that are accessible, affordable and long term.

Transforming Children's Realities

For children to fully participate in community development, their basic rights must be met. CFCA partners work to eradicate poverty and ensure children have access to education, healthcare and live in a secure environment.

Ensuring Access to Quality Education

CFCA projects provide diverse forms of education that build self esteem, leadership, creativity, and a voice to exercise children's rights. Education happens in classrooms, in community centers, on the streets, with paintbrushes and musical instruments, and over the airwaves. CFCA partners also ensure there are schools where there were none, or that have been lost due to conflict and natural disasters.

Achieving Environmental Health and Justice

Healthy communities are impossible without a healthy environment. CFCA partners are solving problems posed by environmental injustice and challenges such as natural disasters and lack of access to water and sanitation. Diversity, preservation and preparedness are key principles in project design.

Supporting Indigenous Rights

Change for Children's work promoting indigenous rights is premised on a respect for and belief that indigenous communities possess the capacity to lead development processes that foster, preserve and build language, culture, knowledge and the environment.

Dr. Mark Chatenay and Dr. Sandra Diaz relax after a dental health workshop with local health promoters in Bosawas, Nicaragua. CFCA worked with Alberta-based organization, Kindness in Action, to send 20 volunteer dentist professionals to provide basic dental care to communities in need. Connecting Canadians with international partners is part of our approach and vision.



Mexico: Jalisco and Morelos

Partners: Fundacion Santa Maria, Jalisco; Fundacion Comunidad, Morelos; Caminamos Juntos, Morelos.

With CFCA support, these Mexico-based organizations work with women in vocational training, health promotion and providing educational opportunities.

El Salvador: Upper and Lower Lempa, Usulután

Partner: CEBES (Christian Base Communities of El Salvador)

For many years CFCA has supported the Monseñor Romero Popular Resource Centre, which offers exciting programming to at-risk youth in Tierra Blanca. CFCA also supports a creative health project which provides access to essential health services for poor communities.

Nicaragua: BOSAWAS Biosphere

Partners: Centro Humboldt, ADEPCIMISUJIN, MAKALANA, CIDA.

Here CFCA works with indigenous partners to promote the use of natural medicines to meet health needs in the remote, indigenous communities of the BOSAWAS biosphere reserve.

Nicaragua: Esteli and Managua

Partners: FUNARTE, INPHRU, CIDA

Working with youth-at-risk this project offers education about violence and HIV/AIDS and engages young people in developing education campaigns to combat them. FUNARTE and INPHRU employ their inspiring art education methodologies, using muralism, theatre, dance and music to get youth involved.

Nicaragua: Chinandega, Esteli and Leon

Partners: Centro Humboldt, CIDA

This project reaches 70 rural communities in north-western Nicaragua where access to potable water is a major challenge. Not only does the project build water systems it also involves the community in developing a strategy to sustainably manage them to benefit future generations.

Guatemala: Comitancillo

Partner: AMMID: The Association for Maya-Mam Research & Development

Here Change for Children supports a women's weaving co-op, the construction of primary schools - which offer bi-lingual indigenous language education, and the cultivation of medicinal plants.

Honduras: Roatan and Rio Coco

Partners: Familias Saludables, Alianza Verde, CIDA

On the island of Roatan, CFCA supports a group of women community educators that are living with AIDS and educating their peers about prevention and treatment. Along the Rio Coco, Alianza Verde works with the Miskito indigenous people on programs which empower women in community development initiatives.

Peru: Lima

Partners: Manos Libres, WRF

This project engages young women on issues of self-esteem and safe sexual practices by developing a series of radio dramas and a health promotion campaign.

Bolivia: Potosi

Partner: CEPROMIN, CIDA

Also a partner in our Children's Rights Project with CIDA and our Nicaraguan counterparts, CEPROMIN (Centre for the Promotion of Mining Alternatives) offers vocational training and scholarship opportunities to children working in the Cerro Rico silver mine.

Brazil: Maceio, Alagoas

Partner: FUNDANOR, WRF

A long-time CFCA partner, FUNDANOR offers innovative programming to support children to gain vocational and educational skills that will help them towards building new lives off of the street.

Chile: Santiago

Partners: La Caleta, WRF

The children and young people involved in this project work to protect their rights and educate other children about risks and responsibilities.

PARTNERS

Sierra Leone: Romano Village

Partners: Romano Village, Tamarineh Society Edmonton

For several years CFCA has supported the efforts of the Edmonton-based Tamarineh Society, run by a Sierra Leonean woman dedicated to making a difference in her home village, which was severely affected by Sierra Leone's decade long civil war. Current projects in the village include the construction of a well and a secondary school, as well as ongoing support for the primary school.

Moyamba

Partners: Moyamba Rehabilitation Clinic, Hands Across Africa

Working with CFCA, Hands Across Africa has been able to support this clinic, which provides much-needed rehabilitation therapy, prosthesis and counseling to people injured in the war in Sierra Leone, in an area where there are few other medical services.

Tanzania: Moshi

Partners: Amani Children's Home, Hands Across Africa

This shelter, in the town of Moshi at the base of Mount Kilimanjaro, houses nearly 60 children who otherwise would be living on the street. Here the children are provided with a safe and loving home along with education, health care and vocational training.

Uganda: Mbarara

Partners: Ainembabazi Children's Project - Uganda and Edmonton

This project offers responsive programming for the children of Mbarara who are being dramatically affected by the HIV/AIDS crisis and raising awareness in Uganda and Canada about the crisis.



Building on the success of the tireless efforts of Memuna Kamara (in photo) and her team of dedicated volunteers of the Tamaraneh society, this Change for Children partner has successfully raised over \$100,000 to support the construction of a primary school, a secondary school and a water well drilling project to help hundreds of village children who lack access to basic resources.



26 Alberta communities and 3500 youth participated in the 2007/08 Rural Roots: Communities in Action Project. In its fourth year this project has garnered recognition and reputation for supporting leadership skills, building activating participation, and building networks across the province.

Connecting for justice

Your work enables our student leaders from across Alberta the opportunity to participate in Rural Roots which will definitely change their "Lens" and "Re-Shape" not only their own, but our collective present day and futures. Please know your work makes the world a better place.

- Grand Centre Composite High School Staff and Students 2008

2007/08 has been a year of achieving incredible results through sustained and creative programming. Change for Children Education and Public Engagement Program involved more than thirty communities across Alberta and provided innovative and diverse means for involvement.

The challenge sent out to communities in Alberta this year was to Raise Your Voice, Change Your Lens and Shape Your World. Simple yet powerful concepts that called for active participation in the realization of global justice and creation of healthy communities.

Rural Roots: Communities in Action, a key program at Change for Children, strengthens and supports the development of rural networks between communities working towards global justice. Communities sharing resources and ideas for global justice are actively working to put their "community on the map", a 2007/08 campaign developed to showcase the contribution of Albertans to solutions.

This year also saw the granting of the inaugural Global Education Graduate Scholarship to Margarete Daugela and the beginning of a five year partnership with the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta.

These results are possible because Change for Children creates the tools and means for long term involvement of Canadians. If there were not clear and sustained opportunities then the 5000 individuals that became connected to justice this year alone, would not have done so because the programs that supported their active engagement, knowledge development, connection to international partners and leadership would not have existed.

Schools and educators who raised awareness and funds would not have done so if campaigns such as the Change for Children Class Action program, which actively works with schools to improve global access to education, did not exist.

We need to continue to invest in learning and mobilizing the resources that allow for on-going programming. Thank you for your support and active participation in the work that happens in Canada. It is transforming lives, and creating much possibility.

Tania Osejo Carillo (left), from CFCA partner Centro Humboldt, visited Edmonton in February 2008 as a keynote speaker at the conference, Global Voices-Sharing Our Vision. She shared her insight on the Millennium Development Goals and progress that is being achieved in Americas as well as the impact of Centro Humboldt's work.





Investing in solutions

The close of Change for Children's 2007 fiscal year budget revealed over \$1 million invested in community-based solutions to poverty and social injustice. This investment represents the lively and exciting work of many individuals and communities who worked in partnership with Change for Children over the past year.

Valued individual donors maintained their support and many new donors came on board in response to the steady results and continued need demonstrated by our southern partners. Many supporters moved from making an individual contribution to mobilizing resources within their own networks with events like the 1st annual Joffrey Lupul Charity Golf tournament and NoSweat '07. Schools and classes found creative ways to fundraise, businesses found ways to raise contributions from their operations, and our Canadian-based project partners extended their fundraising throughout the country. The result is much more than an increase in financial resources; it is the expansion of a vibrant and active community sharing a positive vision.

New partnerships with funding agencies developed including The Body Shop Foundation, The Cloverleaf Foundation, and Christmas Future Foundation in addition to the continued support of CIDA and the Wildrose Foundation. Our relationships with granting partners have been animated with active discussions about development practices, experience and impacts which has added knowledge equity to the value of each partner's investment.

Internally, CFCA continued to invest in our fund management capacity with an accounting system overhaul guided by the counsel of a skilled Finance Committee. This in-depth organizational work will allow us to efficiently maintain the transparent flow of resources that allow us - funders, fundraisers, donors, educators, and southern community partners - to confidently work together towards achieving solutions to poverty and injustice.

The collaborative community investment model that has developed over the past 33 years of CFCA's history is a rich, lively and organic system generating not only resources to support initiatives in the south, but stronger and more informed and connected communities in the north. This is our solution to achieving human dignity, healthy communities and global justice.

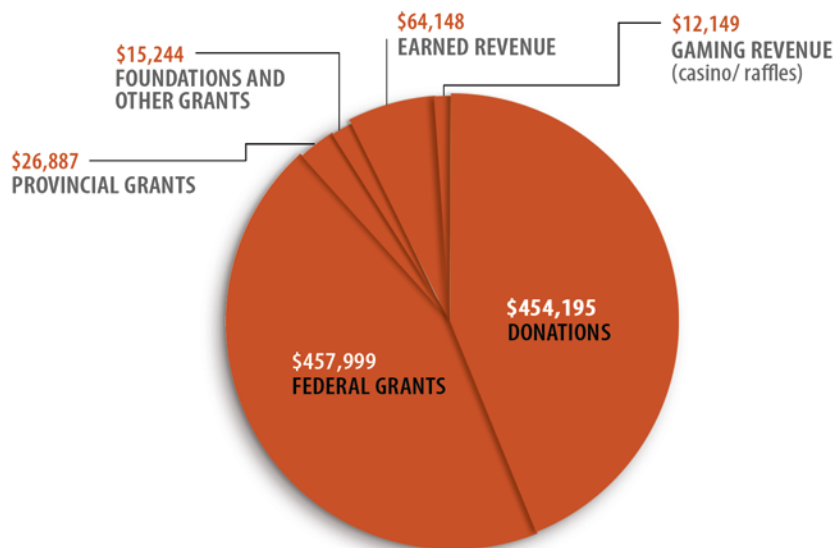
Volunteers from Grant MacEwan College's Project HOPE Team raised an impressive \$50,000 before traveling to Nicaragua to support the building of a primary school in Esteli in partnership with CFCA.



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Financial information is for the period of April 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008. Information on this page was taken from unaudited financial statements. Copies of audited financial statements are available by request from Change for Children.

\$1,030,622 TOTAL REVENUES

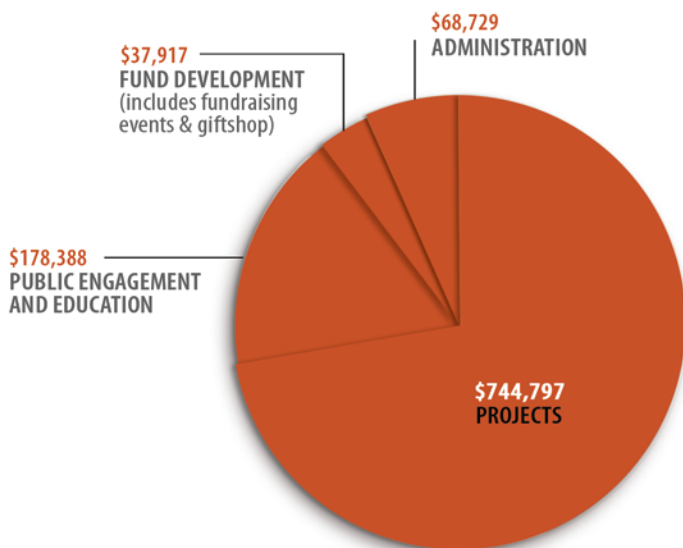


Total volunteer Hours for 2007/ 2008 fiscal year: 3166

CFCA opened the year with \$201,379 in Projects Fund and \$38,091 in the General Fund.

It is the policy of Change for Children to begin each year with sufficient funds to ensure continuation of multi-year programming with our partners.

\$1,029,830 TOTAL EXPENDITURES



Change for Children Association
2nd Floor, 10808 - 124 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5M 0H3
Tel: 780.448.1505 Fax: 780.448.1507 www.changeforchildren.org
Registered Charitable Organization No. 11884 9496 RR0001



Contribute to Solutions

In addition to the generous support of hundreds of individuals, families, schools, congregations and small businesses, the work of Change for Children was assisted by contributions from:

CFCA Contributors

Federal Government

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
Partnership Branch
NGO Project Facility
Stand Alone Public Engagement Fund
International Youth Internship Program

Provincial Government

Employment, Immigration and Industry-S.T.E.P Program
Wild Rose Foundation of Alberta (WRF)
International Development Program

Non-Government

Bishop Croteau Charitable Foundation
Body Shop Foundation
Christmas Future Foundation
Cloverleaf Foundation
Flaman Foundation
Joffrey Lupul Charity Golf Team
NoSweat 07
Polycom
Queen Elizabeth High School
Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation
University of Alberta Lee Global Education Fund
Telus Community Engagement

Canadian Project Partner Organizations

Ainembabazi
CEBES-El Salvador Society of Edmonton
Chilean Canadian Community
Grant MacEwan's Project Hope
Guatemala Solidarity Committee
Hands Across Africa
Kindness in Action
Tamarineh Society

Volunteers

Thank you for your partnership, Change for Children could not exist without the time, knowledge and skills you have given to the organization.

HUMAN DIGNITY, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES, GLOBAL JUSTICE

Change for Children is an Edmonton based organization that works in Latin America and Africa to achieve sustainable community development. Our global projects are defined and implemented by our partners and are committed to gender equality, environmental justice and supporting indigenous perspectives. In Canada our education program involves Canadians with the projects and issues of most pressing concern for our international partners.