CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR CFCA’S BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Deadline for applications: June 4, 2012. See website for info.

ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT DINNER FUNDRAISER
Join us on the third Tuesday of the month (May, Sept, Oct, Nov).
6:00pm - Dinner 6:30pm - Presentations & Elections. CFCA Office 2nd Floor, 10808-124 St.

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Change for Children's
field report
Spring/Summer 2012

Water Project a Home-Run for Women in Nicaragua

“Soy una líder de mi comunidad. I am a leader of my community.” There’s no questioning the strong words belonging to Candelaria Escalante, a 36 year woman, and mother of two, from the rural village of Santa Teresa, Chinandega, Nicaragua. People in Santa Teresa call her by “Candida” – a name she has stitched proudly onto the back of her bright red baseball jersey. They know her as a woman capable of hitting home-runs both on and off the field. Candida’s roles include mother, preschool teacher, Water Committee leader, organizer of the region’s first Women’s Baseball League, and inspiring role-model.

Several years ago, Candida felt that, as a woman, she had little opportunity to participate in community decision making. When Santa Teresa received a water well as part of Change for Children’s Community Water Project, it wasn’t just access to drinking water that was achieved; access for women’s participation in community decision making increased dramatically, as well.

When Candida joined the Water & Sanitation Committee in 2008, her world began to change. She received training from CFCA’s local partners, Centro Humboldt, to operate and maintain the Water Project. As a result, several other women in Santa Teresa have joined the Water Project. The Water Project, in turn, has recognized the potential of the Water Project to benefit women. In turn, the Water Project has become a powerful example of the potential change that can take place when women are empowered to participate in decision making and community development.

Change for Children acknowledges the incredible contribution Hank Zyp has made to our mission over the years.

Hank Zyp – an extraordinary man who co-founded Change for Children in 1976 with his wife Tilly, passed away in April, 2012. Change for Children acknowledges his amazing lifetime commitment to social justice and the incredible contribution his work has made to helping people living in poverty worldwide. Hank will be missed, but his legacy lives on through our community development projects. To donate to one of our projects in Hank’s honor, please visit our website.

Change for Children Association
Change for Children Association • 2nd Flr, 10808 - 124 Street Edmonton, AB T5M 0H3
Phone: 780 448 1505 • Web: www.changeforchildren.org

In memory of co-founder Hank Zyp

Change for Children provides monthly updates on projects and activities – subscribe online.
Ordinary women are making an extraordinary difference

Women around the world are working tirelessly as mothers, elders, healers, educators, farmers and community leaders to care for the world’s population of children – so that they may have sustainable access to clean water, food and agriculture, peace and security, health, cultural identity, localized education and territorial rights. Yet, according to UN Women gender inequalities remain deeply entrenched in every society – with women lacking access to safe, decent work and land for agriculture. The voices of women are all too often ignored in local and international decision-making. Girls and women lack access to education, healthcare, and the benefits of community development. And to this day, women in all parts of the world continue to suffer violence and discrimination.

Change for Children Association (CFCA) partners with grassroots community organizations in Latin America and Africa that empower women to play a central role in participating in and benefiting from holistic education, potable water, community health, food security and agriculture, and micro-credit initiatives. CFCA celebrates the grassroots efforts of ordinary women in Latin America and Africa who are making an extraordinary difference in the lives of children everywhere.

Women entrepreneurs support school nutrition

In the municipalities of Palos Blancos and Alto Bení, Bolivia, 65% of households cannot provide the minimum caloric intake for family members. Bolivian women have responded in a creative, organized effort to address food insecurity, malnutrition and the risk of stunted growth amongst their children. Working closely with Moseten Indigenous Women’s Groups, CFCA’s Better Nutrition for Better Learning project supports income generation programs that involve sustainable agriculture, fruit harvesting and local food processing for the school-feeding program. Nutritious food products (including banana bread, dried fruits, and yogurt) are processed and sold by the women’s federations to the school breakfast program. The result is improved nutrition and health of local children and income for the women! The women have forged a cost-sharing partnership with the local municipal government on this initiative making it sustainable for years to come. From planting in their own gardens to processing to marketing at the local level to integrating into the school-feeding program, this project is increasing the participation of women every step of the way.

Donations to this project are matched 3:1 by CIDA

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Women work the land to feed their families

Worldwide, half of all food production is done by women, but in the Global South between 60-80% is performed by women. Women are the primary producers of basic grains such as rice, wheat, and corn, which feed the most impoverished populations in the South (La Via Campesina 2012). CFCA’s “Food in the Forest” project in the protected rainforest regions of Honduras and Nicaragua works with indigenous women’s associations, female agricultural promoters, and female headed-households to increase access to decision making, agricultural training, and seeds, chickens and tools.

Josefa, 52 years old, lives in the community of Shiminka, BOSAWAS, Nicaragua, where she has been a community midwife and women’s leader for many years. Josefa is currently serving on the Executive Board for WIMPA – the Miskito Indigenous Women’s Association. She is responsible for advocating for the realities and needs of Miskito women, many who are raising large families and struggling to plant and harvest crops for their family’s survival.

Donations to the project are matched 3:1 by CIDA

Women innovate for income and health

Women and girls continue to face gender-based vulnerabilities that require urgent attention - especially in sub-Saharan Africa where 80% of all women living with HIV are located (World Health Organization). In the Kigezi region of south-western Uganda, women are caring not only for their own children, but for many other children who have been orphaned by HIV/AIDS. CFCA’s “Healthy Mothers, Healthy Communities” project offers many single mothers and grandmothers caring for large households access to a revolving microcredit loan system, which enables them to purchase seeds, small livestock, tools and equipment necessary for small-scale entrepreneurial efforts. Maternal health care is improving in the region with the hard work of health promoters and nurses and a newly established emergency response system for isolated rural communities.

The average microloan costs only $220

Your support is an important part of these solutions!

Donate online today

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