

## ■ Share in the Story of Justice

### VOICES FROM THE SOUTH

Miskito leaders from BOSAWAS, Nicaragua visit Alberta to share how the *Food in the Forest* project is meeting community health and nutrition challenges through sustainable agriculture. School & community presentation bookings available for *Sept/Oct 2012*; contact [Lorena@changeforchildren.org](mailto:Lorena@changeforchildren.org).

### NICARAGUA TRAVEL TOUR

Travel to Nicaragua for a two week life changing experience *January 4-19, 2013*. See website for details.

### ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT DINNER FUNDRAISER

*Friday, September 28, 2012* • Supporting Solutions - Community to Community. Hosted by Mark Scholz. Tickets on sale *June 15*.

### DEVELOPMENT CAFÉ

Join us on the third Tuesday of the month (*May, Sept, Oct, Nov*).  
6:00pm - 8:00pm for dinner and presentation. Guests say the Development Café is “welcoming and inspiring”. Visit website for details.

### CHANGE FOR CHILDREN'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (CAFÉ STYLE)

*Wednesday, June 20, 2011* • 6:00pm - Dinner 6:30pm - Presentations & Elections. CFCA Office 2nd Floor, 10808-124 St.  
Proposed Bylaw changes posted on website by *May 31*.

### CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR CFCA'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Deadline for applications: *June 4, 2012*. See website for info.



## Hank Zyp

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 life-long 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's

# field report

Human Dignity, Healthy Communities, Global Justice

Spring/Summer 2012



## Water Project a Home- Run for Women in Nicaragua

Candelaria Escalante

“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 potable 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,

in resource management, leadership and water advocacy. She traveled to Managua to represent women from rural Nicaragua and lobby the government for increased access to clean drinking water. And she didn't stop there – with increased time for recreation (a direct result of no longer having to walk long distances to collect water and firewood), Candida organized the region's first all-female baseball league.

“We don't want to just stay at home,” Candida emphasized, “We want to play... and be recognized as champions.” Recently, Candida was recognized as just that – a champion advocate for water justice in the Chinandega region. She was selected by Centro Humboldt to travel to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 2012 to accept an award from the **United Nation's Equator Prize** for the success of the Community Water Project in Chinandega, Nicaragua, which has provided over 75,000 people to clean drinking water.

Candida's story is unique, but certainly not an isolated one – rather, it is a powerful example of the potential change that takes place when women are empowered to participate in decision making and community development.

## ■ The Solar Women of Totogalpa

*The Nicaragua Water Project indirectly supports a group of women from the northern community of Totogalpa who have recognized the potential of solar cookers as environmentally sound alternatives to wood stoves. With the support of Nicaragua's Engineering University's Grupo Felix, the Solar Women developed their own social enterprise to sell solar stoves to the local population. The majority of the Solar Women are single mothers with little time or money, but they are steadfast in their mission to make life better for future generations.*

*CFCA's Nicaragua Water Project purchases solar stoves and distributes them to beneficiary households in the Chinandega region. Solar stoves reduce the amount of time women spend gathering firewood, and reduce deforestation in this environmentally fragile region.*



## Change for Children Association (CFCA)

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.

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Contribute to solutions.  
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### PLEASE SHARE THIS PUBLICATION

CFCA's Enewsletter provides monthly updates on projects and activities – subscribe online.



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# 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.

Your support is an important part of these solutions!

Donate online today

## ■ Bolivia



### Women entrepreneurs support school nutrition

In the municipalities of Palos Blancos and Alto Beni, Bolivia, 63% 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 Mosenen 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*

## ■ Honduras & Nicaragua

### 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 Vía 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*



## ■ Uganda



### 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*

