



# **WATER CHAMPION**

## **FUNDRAISING GUIDE FOR SCHOOLS**



**Fundraising Activities, Tips, Tools Included!**

# Change for Children Water Champions

## Why Champion Water?

**Nearly 800 million people around the world still lack access to clean water and 2.5 billion to sanitation. It's not right!**

Change for Children (CFC) stands up for the Right to Water in Nicaragua — where the water crisis is real, now. Change for Children's long-standing relationship with communities and reliable organizations in Nicaragua has resulted in access to safe water for over 100,000 people!

The Nicaragua Water Project is a game-changer! AND, it can only happen with support from Water Champions like you!

## Learning and Leadership Development

Throughout the organization's 40-year history, Change for Children has maintained that a vital part of the solution to global poverty and inequity is education. Change for Children offers the opportunity for students to learn about global issues and international relations with a connection to real communities – this isn't just textbook stuff! Change for Children project involvement can:

**Increase knowledge** → understanding and awareness of international social and political issues

**Develop skills** → critical thinking and problem-solving, evaluate different points of view, dialogue and cooperation

**Foster attitudes of active global citizenry** → a concern for injustice, respect for human rights, responsible citizenship, an appreciation of the urgency and importance of individual awareness and action

## Learning and Teaching Support

CFC has a number of resources available on its website to help your students learn about water such as The Story of Water online story (K-3), Water Vocabulary, Global Water Facts & the Water Survival Game. Of course there are also lots of photos and videos to supplement your lessons and activities as well! [www.changeforchildren.org](http://www.changeforchildren.org)

# Water Champion Fundraising

## How to set your Fundraising Goal?

Every little bit counts. Really. Have you heard of the ripple effect? Our actions, like ripples created by a stone dropped in a pond, create ripples that travel outward. Even a small 'stone' has an impact!

Here is some inspiration for setting a goal.:

Water Well - \$10,000

Water Committee Training - \$500-\$1000

Water system rehabilitation - \$2500-\$5000

Eco Stove - \$100

## How to organize your Water Champion fundraising activities

Whatever fundraising activities students decide to take part in, the support will make a huge difference to the Nicaraguan communities involved in Change for Children's Nicaragua Water Project.

It is the Ripple Effect.

**This guide includes fundraising suggestions and tips for organizing fundraisers. These activities can involve the whole school or just a class - whatever works for you. Some schools do one activity or make it a whole week of activities.**

*Of course, you and your school may have other great fundraising ideas – that is awesome!*

*Creating a  
Ripple...* 

## Fundraising Activity 1:

# WALK-IN-THEIR-SHOES WATER WALK

**Hold a sponsored Water Walk to raise funds and consolidate learning.**

In some countries, women (and often children, too) walk an average of 6 km to get water. Older students could try walking the same distance, while younger students could plan a shorter route. Students could carry buckets or bottles of water along the route.

Suggestion: Carry water in 4L milk jugs with lids. Students can then use the water as drinking water in the classroom, take them home to use the water, or if weather permits, use the water to water plants and trees in the schoolyard.

**1. Choose your distance:** Your students can decide how far to walk. You could vary the distance according to year group, or different groups could work together to achieve an overall goal.

**2. Plan your route:** This could be around the playground, field or a local park. Think about how to mark the route and track your students' progress.

**Along the way...** Add extra excitement to your Water Walk by setting up stations along the way. Students could take part in learning, write their messages/learnings about water and participate in other fundraising activities along the walk.

**3. Spread the word:** People might like to sponsor students, or volunteer to help on the day. These events are a great opportunity to get the whole school community involved. Invite friends of the school, parents and the wider community. Inviting your local media is a great way to raise the profile of your event.

**4. Get Pledges:** Set a goal and use the Pledge Form provided to collect pledges.

**5. On the day:** Brief any helpers and give them a map of the route, use banners and stickers to encourage students along the way.

**6. Send in your money:** Send your money in to Change for Children using the form provided and it will go towards supporting the Nicaragua Water Project. We also love your stories and your feedback.

**7. Celebrate!** Change for Children will report back when (and where) your funds have helped

## Fundraising Activity 2:

# WATER RACES

Add a water theme to your school sports/special event day, raising money for Change for Children's Nicaragua Water project at the same time. This would be a good opportunity to invite distinguished guests, your MP or local newspaper.

Students could take part in various events and be sponsored (pledges) for the number of laps they complete or how long they take to complete a race. Students could also present information about water vulnerability, the water crisis in Nicaragua, and/or campaigning activities as part of an opening or closing ceremony.

### Races could include...

- Relay race to fill a bucket using cups or watering cans – winning team collects the most water in a given time.
- Relay race to empty a water barrel to water garden plants – first team to empty the barrel with their bucket wins.
- Obstacle race using watering equipment and tarps.
- Slow race to carry empty buckets on heads without dropping them.

*\*Remember not to waste water! Use collected water to water plants around the school garden or field.*

## WORLD WATER DAY - MARCH 22

The United Nations designated World Water Day is March 22. Use this as an opportunity to raise awareness, motivate, communicate!

For example: Organize a "World Water Day" Assembly on March 22! This could be a kick-off to your Water Champion Campaign or a celebration of your efforts or a mid point to motivate towards the goal. A great time to share photos, student presentations - have some fun!



### Fundraising Activity 3:

## SPELL-A-THON FUNDRAISER

Some of our school champions have had amazing success with a fundraising Spell-A-Thon. Of course, you would include water related vocabulary (see download on CFC website) to tie in the theme. Can you spell N-i-c-a-r-a-g-u-a?

Basically, each grade level is given a grade-level appropriate list of words and a pledge sheet. Sponsors can offer a per-correct-word donation or a flat donation. Set your date and your word list. Send home Pledge forms with a letter and the word list. Come up with prizes for students.

*There are many variations to this idea so decide what works for your school - a dance-a-thon, read-a-thon...*



# How to Collect the Money

*\*Making a visible collection spot can motivate extra support and excitement!*

## **Water Well Collection**

Near the entrance of the school, build a mock Water Well to collect donations and promote your campaign. A central bulletin board can be used to display water facts, activities, your fundraising goal. Be sure to make it easy to accept donations from school visitors with instructions and donation forms/envelopes!

## **Fill the Bucket!**

Modeled after a pump-well similar to what is used by many of the communities in the Nicaragua Water Project, you could create a mock-pump with a bucket for donation collection. Be creative and use recycled material (maybe even make its construction a class project to more deeply understand simple water systems).

'Water Changes Everything! Please give change for change!'

***\*Ensure that any collection 'box' is secure, locked in place and that someone is responsible for emptying donations each day and locking them up.***

**\*Send Pledge Forms home** with your students. Include a letter and an envelope.

**\*Donation Forms** with envelopes – Change for Children can provide these. People may contribute beyond the pledge activity. We can issue donors a tax receipt for donations of \$20 or more and we can also keep track of your campaign total.

**\*Online Fundraising** – Your school can set up an online campaign which makes it easy to share and give - ask us, we can help.

Cash: collect and pay online or send one cheque for the total amount, payable to 'Change for Children'. *Please do not send cash through the mail.*

Cheques: should be payable to 'Change for Children'. Collect together and send to us ensuring we know about your campaign.

# Student-Led Fundraising Activities

We've seen so many great student-led fundraising activities. Student leaders are creating a ripple by improving water access for communities in Nicaragua and inspiring others to do the same.

Here are just a few ideas:

## 1. Lunchtime Food Sale

Everyone likes a treat at lunch or recess and having a sale is a great way to raise funds. You might consider a Bake Sale, Pizza by the slice, or something neat like Tootenies for Tacos. You might add a beverage too (hot chocolate/lemonade).

Think about how you will advertise (make a poster or a sign) and make a list of what you need (will you need to make change or ask students to bring exact change?) and decide if this is something you will do once (or is it something you could repeat – like every week on a certain day?)

## 2. Art/Craft Sale

Maybe there is something that your class/club or school is already making that you could sell. Art is a great thing to sell or if you want to get fancy, maybe something like birdhouses, or a seasonal/holiday item.

## 3. Jelly Bean Count

An ever-popular yet simple fundraiser with children and adults alike.

Find an attractive glass jar, vase or see-through container and fill it with something that can easily be counted: jelly beans for example (get a donation from a candy supply store).

Charge each player an amount to guess how many jelly beans are in the jar.

At the end of the event, the person whose guess is closest is the winner and takes home the jar (if it's a tie - have a draw between the winners). Of course, there are limitless variations such as, at Easter time, fill the container with mini chocolate eggs.



# Students' Checklist

## for organizing their Water Champion fundraising activities

### Before the event...

- Check with your teacher - Make sure your teacher is aware of and agrees to your plans, including the date, time and location of activities.
- Think about what could go wrong and how you might deal with it - share this (risk assessment) with your teacher and ask if you have missed anything.
- Make a wet weather plan if your activity is outdoors.
- Write and send a letter to parents to explain what you are planning to do.
- Distribute Pledge Forms.
- Invite special guests if you have a big event planned: your local MP, media, parents and friends of the school.
- Set a fundraising target.

### On the day...

- Brief helpers on the role they will play.
- Set out the activities, refreshments and first aid kits (if needed).
- Take photographs, making sure that participants under 18 years old have permission for their photographs to be shared with others.

### After the event...

- Thank everyone who took part.
- Collect pledge money (if collected).
- Tell your local/school newspaper about your results.
- Ask your teacher to send the money you've raised to Change for Children (you can send a cheque with the attached form).

# Keep it Safe & Legal

Change for Children cannot accept responsibility for accidents before, during or after your activities.

You are responsible for ensuring that any Water Champion activities you or your students organize comply with the law. Change for Children cannot and does not accept liability for activities run in aid of Change for Children – and this includes any financial costs incurred in putting on your Water Champion activities.

- Check with any authorities for necessary permissions, including licensing, and health and safety issues (raffles require a gaming license - see <http://aglc.ca/raffle/guidelines.asp>)
- Contact your local police if you're planning an event in a public place (for example, a sponsored walk through the public space).

## **Mandatory text for publicity and fundraising materials.**

You must make it clear that you are fundraising in aid of Change for Children so please include the following text on flyers, posters, etc.:

***“This is a school/student-run fundraising activity on behalf of Change for Children - registered charity #11884 9496 RR0001 located in Edmonton, AB. [www.changeforchildren.org](http://www.changeforchildren.org)***

# Change for Children WATER CHAMPIONS PLEDGE FORM



All proceeds support Change for Children's Nicaragua Water Project

School name \_\_\_\_\_ Participant Name \_\_\_\_\_

Fundraiser Event/Activity Name \_\_\_\_\_

Donor Name	Complete Mailing Address	Phone #	Amount Pledged	Rec'd (✓)
Pledge forms and donations to be handed in by (Date):			<b>TOTAL</b>	



Donations over \$20 can be issued a tax receipt by Change for Children IF full mailing address is provided. Please make cheques payable to 'Change for Children'. Tax receipts will only be issued to the name / address on the cheque unless instructed otherwise. Charitable Registration Number: 11884 9496 RR0001 Thank you for your commitment and support. Your donation is handled with care - we do not share or trade donor names. [www.changeforchildren.org](http://www.changeforchildren.org)

# Fund Submission Form

## Water Champion Fundraising

**Send this form together with your cheque to:**

Change for Children, 2nd flr, 10808 124 St Edmonton, AB T5M 0H3.

Please do not send cash through the mail. If you have questions, don't hesitate to call 780-448-1505

### PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS

Title \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_ Last name \_\_\_\_\_

Job title \_\_\_\_\_

School name \_\_\_\_\_

School address \_\_\_\_\_

Post code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check here to receive news of Change for Children`s projects and activities by email.

You can unsubscribe at any time.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Notes regarding funds:

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# Water Champion Feedback Form

## Your feedback:

1. How many young people took part in your Water activities? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How did they take part? (TICK ALL THAT APPLY)

☐ Water Walk      ☐ Learning activities      ☐ Other fundraising activities

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. Please rate the Water Champion resources out of 10:

(10 = EXCELLENT, 1 = POOR)    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    10

4. Comments:

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**Share your Water Champion stories.** Email photographs and details of your Water Champion activities to [info@changeformchildren.org](mailto:info@changeformchildren.org) and your school could feature on the Change for Children website. Please confirm parent's permission has been provided for us to use images of under-18s.

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*Thank you for your support!*



**YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT THE  
NICARAGUA WATER PROJECT**  
WITH A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION!

**SINGLE GIFT:**

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$500

☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**MONTHLY GIFT:**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ a month, to be processed on the  
☐ 1st or ☐ 15th day starting  
in \_\_\_\_\_ (month)

*I authorize the withdrawal of the above amount from  
my bank account (include VOID cheque) or credit  
card (# below). Monthly donations are received  
annually.*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT METHOD:**

☐ Cheque (payable to Change for Children)  
☐ Credit Card

# \_\_\_\_\_

Exp date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Charitable registration # (BN): 11884 9496 RR0001



**UNITED NATIONS EQUATOR PRIZE  
AWARD WINNER!**

The United Nations Equator Prize recognizes  
outstanding local initiatives that are working to  
advance sustainable development solutions for  
people, nature and resilient communities.

In March of 2012, Change for Children's Nicaraguan  
partner Centro Humboldt was announced as one of  
the 25 winners, selected from 800 nominations, for  
its work with the Nicaragua Water Project.

UN Equator Prize website: <http://equatorinitiative.org>



Change for Children's Mission is to build civil society capacity  
in the global south and in Canada to promote health, human  
rights and create solutions to poverty through sustainable  
development.

Change for Children  
10808-124 Street, 2nd Floor, Edmonton, AB, T5M 0H3  
Ph: 780.448.1505 / Fax: 780.448.1507  
[www.changeforchildren.org](http://www.changeforchildren.org)

**CONGRATULATIONS  
FOR BECOMING A  
WATER  
CHAMPION**



**SUPPORTING CHANGE FOR CHILDREN'S  
COMMUNITY WATER PROJECT  
IN NICARAGUA**





## COMMUNITY WATER PROJECT, NICARAGUA

### SAFE & SUSTAINABLE WATER SYSTEMS FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

Anywhere you travel in northern Nicaragua, you will find communities with limited or no access to safe drinking water. In this drought stricken area of cash-crop agricultural production, people rely on rivers that frequently slow to a trickle or dry out entirely or on old and contaminated wells that are regularly dry.

Lack of access to potable water is not only extremely detrimental to health - especially that of children - it also impedes economic and social development. Women and children spend a considerable portion of each day seeking water. This takes time away from other important activities such as school, work and time with family.

Since 2004, working with Centro Humboldt in Nicaragua, and with the support of generous donors, **Change for Children has provided potable water systems for 100 communities** in the country's drought stricken north. This project has accomplished far more than the awesome task of providing clean water to 100,000 people, it is a project with a holistic vision of environmental protection and preservation as well as a project that promotes access to water as a human right.

Today, Change for Children is working to introduce sustainable potable water systems into **an additional 25 communities** in rural northwestern Nicaragua. As construction begins in each community, residents come together to participate in digging, drilling and building water systems. Centro Humboldt engineers and social workers facilitate the process, which concludes in the formation of Community Water Management Committees. These Committees, made up of the women and men who will provide for the sustainable

management of the water systems, ensure that they are well maintained.

Solar cookers and eco stoves (low wood consumption, low smoke) will be distributed to the most needy to slow deforestation and improve health. Safe drinking water, taken for granted by so many, can truly transform the reality of an entire community; especially when that community is involved in its provision and its management. ***Please support this important project.***

- The United Nations estimates that an average human needs 30 litres of water a day to survive.
- In Canada, the average person uses about 340 litres of water per day (the equivalent of 3 bathtubs).
- In Africa and Latin America, the average person uses only 3-5 litres a day (the equivalent of a puddle of water at the bottom of a bathtub).