



transformations

I was president of CFCA during some politically and economically challenging times during the mid-90s. It brings me great joy to see that our vision for this small but powerful organization has come to fruition through the tireless efforts of so many highly talented staff and volunteers. CFCA is a superb entity that makes a huge difference in the lives of so many people here and abroad. – Dr. Bob Dickson

In a broken world of Materialism, Power, Money and Competition, one needs to be in contact with people who have a different world view, one of Compassion and Sharing. It is those who have a circular, all inclusive view with All people and with all the created world – rather than a life of clamoring, pushing, and climbing up the ladder only to boast "I Did It!" – that bring hope into our lives. Change for Children continues to draw many gifted people and especially young people who believe in this philosophy. Through experience, lives change when we hold hands with those who do not have material THINGS and we find richness, solidarity, a celebration of TOGETHERNESS. We may not be able to FIX things, but together we can make a difference. So I continue to need Change for Children – it is with these people that I find HOPE. – Jennie Visser

Change for Children is a real inspiration to those of us that have been involved in community development. It's a model where partnerships are established and thriving, and mutual respect and understanding are evident in all that they do! Travel with Change for Children is a wonderful way to learn about people in another culture. In Brazil, we visited projects affiliated with CFC and other organizations. Meeting with people who have goals and dreams, and are determined to work towards them in a community setting is remarkable. They seek to control events in their lives, rather than be controlled by others. They are truly committed to their ideals. Travelling with NGOs such as Change for Children certainly makes for a more meaningful and memorable experience. When can I sign up for the next one? – Patsy Ho

In a recent lecture that many of us attended, Stephen Lewis, when speaking of building a culture of peace, spoke of global citizens as "engines of change", and how we are all required to work together to build a civil society. We all agreed when he spoke about the absolute necessity to build a life force of people that will think and act differently in our quest to build a more just, decent and equitable international society. We at Change for Children are this life force: people from the South and the North, who share a common purpose and passion to contribute in every way that we can towards this new society, one that takes care of the people and the planet. My family and I are proud to say we are part of the CFCA "engines of change".

Travels with CFCA

Lives are changed when we have the opportunity to participate in youth and adult tours with CFCA's aptly called *Travel for Transformation*: for transformed we are upon our return. Trips to the South educate us about people's realities and lead us home as more aware and concerned global citizens. When people from the South travel here, once again we

learn and our lives are changed through our interactions with amazing people.

What do we remember? We remember faces: of gleeful children in Edson packing bags for us to take to children in El Salvador; of Aluisio's sparkling joy when playing with children in the ALMM project in Salvador, Brazil; of the tearful faces of the youth and the grandmothers of Las Madres in Estelí turning to joyful tears as sadness turned into dance; of amazement and hope when we unpacked boxes of sewing machines and materials at the CEAPA project in northern Brazil; of haunted and sad eyes of children who have survived war and grinding poverty in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala; of laughter filled faces as we celebrated with our generous hosts in Alagoas, Brazil; of pride and creative joy on the faces of the *Painting Peace* youth as they worked together to create fabulous murals of hope.

Thank you to CFCA for enabling us to travel in meaningful, participatory and life-changing ways, thus enabling us to learn, grow and change..... and become part of a global chain of transformation. – Pat Sears



Change for Children Association

annual 2001 report

25 years of solidarity in the struggle
for sustainable development and social
justice in Latin America and Canada

a word from our president



MISSION STATEMENT

Change for Children promotes action for systemic change and sustainable development through solidarity and partnership, by nurturing community, and by maintaining an integral, vital and stable organization.

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Photo above: Exceso de Equipaje
at the Peace Week Gala Celebration

This past year has been filled with challenges, excitement, emotional intensity, and many moving anecdotes. After twenty-five years of existence, the vitality, energy, consciousness and commitment of friends, supporters, and staff of CFCA is thriving.

Throughout our work we have talked about peace, human rights and social justice. This year we embarked on a new adventure that pushed us to understand and express these themes on another level. Youth teams from Alberta, El Salvador and Nicaragua joined together to create powerful murals first in Central America and then in Canada. Over 400 youth from the three countries painted 85 canvas panels demonstrating their understanding of peace. The results are beautiful!

For the past twenty-five years, CFCA has continued to develop partnerships so that we can learn first hand of people's lives and struggles and how we can best work collectively for the transformation and vision of a just, caring and humane world. Last summer, we had the opportunity once again to fund two internships: one in El Salvador for the first time, and another in Peru. This summer two more interns will go to Nicaragua and Brazil.

CFCA has also done our utmost to bring alive the importance of solidarity for Canadians with our neighbours in other places. We tried to do this in many ways. One successful method has been to reach beyond our boundaries to bring members from our partnerships in Central America to visit us at home. This year we had the pleasure of hearing the beautiful music of Exceso de Equipaje from El Salvador. We heard the wisdom and commitment of Father Pedro Declerq, also from El Salvador. We had the opportunity to hear from Berta Caceres about her hopes, commitment, and the work she is doing in her community in Guatemala.

The sense of support, commitment and community was well demonstrated this past January when our partners in El Salvador struggled with the devastation of several earthquakes. The public response here at home certainly reminded us that we are a big community in solidarity with one another.

Between all these exciting and challenging moments, we also held our third Board Development day. We discussed some of the challenges we will encounter over the next twenty-five years, and what we need to do to face them. Our hope at CFCA is that we can continue to recognize the gifts and talents that people and communities have. This will encourage us even more to foster an alternative, more humane vision of the world. With a clear vision of solidarity, we will continue to build bridges and support community development initiatives in the South. Our hope is to continue bringing together communities here and abroad.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff I would like to thank you for all the support that we received from you in this last year. Your support comes in different forms, but is always welcomed and appreciated.

The work doesn't end here. We are looking forward to our next twenty-five years. Let us continue to seek direct contact so that peace and solidarity can grow to overcome all the injustices that we see. As brothers and sisters we can shake hands and embrace in solidarity, and remind each other to stay strong because the work continues.

*In friendship and solidarity,
Delmy Garcia-Hoyt
President, CFCA Board of Directors*

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25 years of Solidarity

Cover illustrations: from the Peace Mural in Jiñocua, Nicaragua



Performing at this year's *Instruments of Change* were the Kit Kat Trio, Los Caminantes, Kris Demeanor, and Wajjo Drummers (pictured above). The highly successful event was hosted by CBC Radio's Peter Brown, with Mark Scholz and Steve Antle from A-Channel's *Big Breakfast*.

around the office

This year, Ricardo Acuña, Ron Berezan and Cherie Klassen continued as our full-time Projects, Education, and Administrative Co-ordinators respectively. Summer employment grants allowed us to hire Jania Teare and Gingie Welsh for the summer of 2000. Jania worked as an Education Assistant and helped us out with the planning and support of the *Youth Tour 2000* and the *Painting Peace* project. Gingie greatly assisted us by co-ordinating the *Instruments of Change* benefit concert and silent auction. We were also privileged to have Yamit More and Kyle Fulton with us as CIDA interns. Yamit worked with La Maroma Agricultural Cooperative in Usulután, El Salvador, and Kyle was placed with the children's health organization CIDEPSA in Lima, Peru. Successful grant awards allowed us to hire special contractors; Chris Peters as the *Painting Peace* Co-ordinator, Joey Lee Son as the *Youth Summit 2000* Co-ordinator, and Dinorah Garcia as the Artistic Director for the *Youth of the Americas Peace Mural* project. Our office is, as always, an extremely busy and exciting place to be.

Our Members and Volunteers

Our membership continues to grow and we currently have over 300 members! We deeply value the on-going support of our membership. We also want to extend a **GREAT BIG THANK YOU** to all Change for Children volunteers! We simply could not exist without their dedication and commitment. Our volunteers have worked tirelessly over the past year, and many have participated in educational activities, committee meetings, fundraising events and office administrative work. A special thank you to Terry Wynveen. He has been spending his Tuesdays and Thursdays in the office developing a library catalogue for us. This year over 200 volunteers assisted with *Instruments of Change*, *Painting Peace*, and other CFCA events! A large number of youth volunteers have been involved with the design and painting of the *Youth of the Americas Peace Mural* as well. We appreciate the vision of our members and volunteers and their continued contributions and efforts that help Change for Children flourish!

Resource Library on Global Issues

We have continued the promotion of our Resource Library in schools and communities across Alberta. Increasing numbers of people are now taking advantage of this rich resource for research, curriculum enrichment tools and personal learning opportunities. The library continues to grow and we are constantly acquiring new videos, books and different periodicals.

guatemala solidarity committee

The human rights situation in Guatemala is growing increasingly alarming. Over the past year, the Guatemala Solidarity Committee participated in the Guatemala Canada Solidarity Network's (GCSN) national campaign to visit MPs' offices. In collaboration with other local NGOs, we brought Honduran human rights activist Berta Caceres to Canada, and hosted Guatemalan speakers in Alberta. We trained volunteer companions to go to Guatemala, distributed situation reports and Urgent Actions, and helped to establish the GCSN web page (www.gcsn.org). Our committee is extremely grateful to CFCA for their support of our activities. We welcome you all to join us.

our projects



This year Change for Children continued supporting a variety of excellent community-based projects in the South. Our various projects continue to touch the lives of thousands of people throughout Latin America. As always, all of our projects were planned and implemented entirely by the communities themselves. Projects funded this year included agricultural production, outreach activities for street children, women's micro-enterprise, and textile production. Some of these projects received funding from the Canadian International Development Agency, others from Alberta's Wild Rose Foundation. Some projects received funding from both. On a daily basis we continue to learn from our partners, some of whom we have been working with for several years and some of whom are new. Most of all we learn about perseverance and the strength and hope found in collectivity.

Capacitation of Women's Groups Morelos, Mexico

Total budget:	\$ 120,773
CIDA Contribution	\$ 64,515
WRF Contribution	\$ 12,500
CFCA Contribution	\$ 13,000
Mexico Local Cont.	\$ 24,000

This project supports ten different women's groups throughout the state of Morelos, Mexico. Working with the Mexican foundation Comunidad, the project will provide these women's groups with training in the areas of strategic planning and planning productive projects. Comunidad will also provide follow-up and accompaniment to the groups as they work to develop their strategic plans and production plans. It will continue to provide this support as the groups begin implementing those plans, and provide capital through a non-repayable seed money fund, and a revolving loan fund. The results will include increased production and income for the women's groups, improved socio-economic conditions for the women and their families, more accessible goods and services for the community at large, and an example that can be replicated by other small groups with micro-enterprise projects.

Safe House for Girls - Phase II Managua, Nicaragua

Total budget:	\$ 287,587
CIDA Contribution	\$ 138,391
CFCA Contribution	\$ 69,196
Nica. Local Cont.	\$ 80,000

This project, which takes place in the city of Managua, Nicaragua, is being carried out in conjunction with the Institute of Human Promotion (INPRHU). The project builds directly on phase I of the project, which enabled INPRHU to establish a safe house for girls in Managua to address the particular needs of young women in difficult circumstances and high risk situations. This phase expands activities in the area of preventative intervention by offering workshops on the topics of sexual abuse, incest, rape, teenage pregnancy and STDs. It also expands the geographic scope of the project by adding girls from two new INPRHU project sites. Finally, this new phase of the project includes particular attention to diversification of the funding sources for the Safe House in order to ensure long-term financial stability without breeding dependence on any one funder. This project continues to support INPRHU in their goal of promoting integral attention to young girls who find themselves in high-risk situations tied to their gender, by implementing a program of psychosocial attention able to offer accompaniment and support according to particular situations in moments of crisis. Ongoing activities include individual and group therapy, health, clothing and shelter support, cultural and recreational activities, life-skills training, and parenting skills training for young mothers. The project will also continue to support counselling and therapy activities with families.

Photo above: Women making herbal medicine, San Juan Tlacotenco, Mexico

Muralism Workshops for Children and Youth

Estelí, Nicaragua

Total Budget:	\$ 443,341
CIDA Contribution	\$ 40,710
CFCA Contribution	\$ 20,355
Other Contributions	\$ 382,076

This three-year project, located in Estelí, Nicaragua, supports the activities of Talleres de Muralismo. Talleres de Muralismo carries out muralism workshops for children and youth as a way of developing their creativity and artistic ability. In addition, the workshops promote the development of the children's self-esteem, self-awareness, leadership abilities, and knowledge and understanding of Nicaragua's culture and history. This project will facilitate the expansion of activities to include workshops for youth in federal penitentiaries, rural youth, and will add a concerted focus on the rights of children and youth. It will also provide for the ongoing artistic and pedagogical development of the educators involved with Talleres de Muralismo.

Street Children Outreach - Phase II Maceio, Brazil

Total budget:	\$ 142,815
CIDA Contribution	\$ 74,676
CFCA Contribution	\$ 37,339
Brazil Local Cont.	\$ 30,800

This two-year project takes place in the community of Bebedouro in the city of Maceio, Alagoas, Brazil. It seeks to strengthen and solidify the activities and programming of the Centro Comunitario Nossa Senhora da Conceicao - a centre offering vocational training, literacy, and cultural and recreation programming to poor children in the community. The centre also offers outreach activities in the form of educational workshops to the community at large. The project will facilitate the repair and renovation of the existing building, the establishment of new courses and activities, and the public promotion of the centre and its goods and services to promote self-sufficiency. The overall goal of the project is to promote integral improvement in the lives of children in difficult circumstances through the development of self-esteem, pride, cultural awareness, and income-generating potential. It will result in a reduction in the number of children from the target communities turning to life on the streets, improved health in the community, and long-term sustainability of the centre and its programs.



Sesame Processing and Marketing Ometepe Island, Nicaragua

Total budget:	\$ 162,672
CIDA Contribution	\$ 93,948
CFCA Contribution	\$ 46,973
Nica. Local Cont.	\$ 21,750

This project, which takes place on the island of Ometepe, Nicaragua, will be carried out in conjunction with the Union of Agricultural Cooperatives (UCA). The project will enable the UCA, a coalition of small-scale sesame producers on the island, to purchase a cleaner and classifier for their sesame, and build a structure to house the machines. The UCA will then be able to pay small producers on the island a fair price for their sesame, process it and classify it, and obtain a better price on the open market by selling it collectively. The overall goal of the project is to improve the quality of life of small sesame producers by providing them improved income from their crop, and greater stability in their marketing prospects. This project will also form the foundation for the future implementation of the UCA's long term strategic development plan for the processing and marketing of sesame.

Photo above, right: Typing class, Bebedouro, Maceio, Alagoas, Brazil

our projects

Improvement of Textile Production Comitancillo, Guatemala

Total budget:	\$ 41,750
CIDA Contribution	\$ 25,300
WRF Contribution	\$ 5,000
CFCA Contribution	\$ 7,650
Guat. Local Cont.	\$ 16,450

This project, which takes place in the municipality of Comitancillo in San Marcos, Guatemala, will be implemented by AMMID (the Maya-Mam Association for Research and Development). The project supports five AMMID Women's Groups as they seek to expand their productive capacity in traditional Guatemalan textiles. It will also provide support for the women's marketing of their products. This will be done through the purchase of new machinery, the training of the women on the use of the machinery, the construction of a production centre, and the renting and staffing of a market stall for the women's products. Ongoing training will be provided to the women in the areas of business administration, production and marketing plans, and strategic planning. The project will result in increased income levels for the Women's Groups and their members, a greater selection of quality textiles available at a lower price for the community at large, increased self-esteem, respect and community involvement for the women, and a greater understanding by the community at large of the cultural importance and meaning of local textiles.

Institutional Strengthening Project Chinandega, Nicaragua

Total budget:	\$ 20,000
WRF Contribution	\$ 7,500
CFCA Contribution	\$ 7,500
Nica. Local Cont	\$ 5,000

This project supports El Bloque Intercomunitario Pro-bienestar Cristiano (El Bloque), as it seeks to expand its administrative capacity and ability to fund and implement future projects. The project will provide funding for administrative and technical salaries, and other administrative expenses, in order for El Bloque to retain their full staff complement as they embark on the implementation of their new five-year strategic plan. This institutional support will enable El Bloque to begin addressing the issue of institutional strength, and begin seeking out alternative sources of income and funding for ongoing core administrative expenses. The project will result in a stronger, more sustainable organization with increased financial stability. It will also result in El Bloque being able to elaborate and implement a formula for accurately calculating their administrative expenses for inclusion into all future funding agreements – be they with Nicaraguan government agencies and NGOs or with international agencies.



Photo above right: José Andrés Aguilera, with seedlings, Chinandega, Nicaragua

El Salvador Earthquake Relief

Change for Children responded quickly to the news of the earthquakes in El Salvador. We established an emergency relief fund, and were able to raise over \$12,000. One hundred percent of funds raised were sent to our Salvadorean partners, the Pastoral Committee of the Coastal Zone of Usulután. Funds were used for the purchase of water and emergency medical supplies, the construction of temporary shelter, and to begin the process of re-constructing permanent shelter in the affected communities. CFCA will continue to work with our partners as they continue the long-term process of reconstruction.

our education program

“ [Our panel's] theme “Just Choose It” was derived after much discussion on the Culture of Peace. Research was critical to our problem-solving, as was discussing our own attitudes and prejudices about how we see ourselves in relationship to the world... We know that our attitudes are powerful shapers of change, and we can choose positive over negative thoughts and actions. We can choose and make a better world and a better life for all.”

– *Painting Peace Participants, Strathcona-Tweedsmuir School, Okotoks, Alberta*



Photo above: Youth from Alberta and Nicaragua painting at Youth Summit 2000

Painting Peace

Educational activities this year centred around the amazing *Painting Peace* project. A collaborative effort with Talleres de Muralismo of Estelí, Nicaragua, the project invited young people to explore the themes of Peace outlined in UNESCO's *Manifesto 2000*: respect all life; listen to understand; reject violence; share with others; preserve the planet; and rediscover solidarity. Over 400 youth from Alberta, Nicaragua and El Salvador participated in expressing those themes in 85 paintings that collectively form the *Youth of the Americas Peace Mural*.

In the summer of 2000, nine young Albertans took the Canadian panels with them on a five-week tour of Central America. There, the Alberta group joined with Nicaraguan and Salvadorean youth to paint the 10' x 20' central panel for the *Youth of the Americas Mural*. The extended team visited with Southern youth groups to discuss issues of concern, and exhibited the growing mural throughout Nicaragua and El Salvador. In October and November, 2000, six members of the Central American team in turn visited Alberta for five weeks, sharing the stories of their lives and their work in presentations, workshops and meetings attended by almost 4,000 people. The tour culminated with *Peace Week*, a celebration of social justice through art, music and film presentations.

In addition to the travelling mural, the international youth team led the painting of two permanent public murals in the rural communities of Jiñocúao, Nicaragua, and La Noria, El Salvador. The Edmonton Peace Mural will be unveiled in June 2001, completing the trio. All three works encompass both the local and global concerns of youth as well as their hopes for a truly peaceful world.

The *Youth of the Americas Mural* was highly inspiring to the almost 15,000 people - 9,000 in Alberta and 5,700 in Central America - who have now viewed it. The spirit of the project carries on in a series of posters reflecting the six themes; and in a music video for *Pintando La Paz (Painting Peace)*, a song written by Fredy Martínez and Frank Bessai, two of the Central American tour leaders.

Youth Summit 2000

In mid-November, CFCA, The Learning Network, Edmonton YMCA and other local organizations presented *Youth Summit 2000*. The four day event was attended by 134 junior high students from 25 schools and 86 senior high students from 16 schools across the province. Through a variety of workshops, the students explored the theme *Creating a Culture of Peace: In My School, My Community, and Globally*. Their ideas were transformed into drama, dance, painting, poetry, sculpture, video, and songs, which were then shared with the whole group. The week wrapped up with *Peace Jam*, a party featuring original, peace-themed songs and poetry by young Alberta artists.

Class Action

Six schools are currently participating in Class Action, connecting Alberta students with their counterparts in rural northwest Nicaragua. Funds raised through this project have assisted the construction of the new Enmanuel Mongalo School in Nombre de Jesús, Nicaragua, which serves 120 secondary students from five communities. In March, youth from two St. Albert high schools visited the area and spent time with the E.M. students. We will continue to support the next phase of the project, building additional classroom space.