The upcoming year will see a continued emphasis on fund development and the diversification of revenue sources: our goal is to become less dependent upon CIDA. Another area of focus will be the continued development and strengthening of partnerships between Canadian individuals and groups with our Southern partners and projects. Change for Children also plans to work on the promotion of multiculturalism in Canada, while emphasizing solidarity with one’s home country, through supporting our projects there. The Salvadoran and Chilean communities in Alberta are very strong and continue to work with Change for Children on projects in their home countries.

Plans are also in the works for supporting projects here at home, particularly with children and youth in the inner city. Possible projects include a FUNARTE-style muralism/education project, an after-school program, and the Mother Theresa community park.

CFCA will also continue to increase our collaborative work with other Alberta organizations such as the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation (ACGC), Canada World Youth, the Parkland Institute, Sombrilla Refugee Support Society, Rainbow of Hope, Kindness in Action, various Canadian Unions and others.

All this work will of course be coordinated from our new home at Sacred Heart School. Our move will take place at the end of June; we should be set-up, settled, and back to normal by the end of July.

Our deepest thanks go to Ed Carson for locating the space and assisting with the arrangements on our our behalf. Many thanks as well to Gerry Hartland and the Catholic School Board for welcoming us into Sacred Heart.
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.

CHANGE FOR CHILDREN ASSOCIATION
10545 - 92 Street
Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 1V1
Address as of July 1, 2003:
9624 - 108 Avenue,
Edmonton, Alberta T5H 1A4
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Registered Charitable Organization
No. 11884 9496 RR0001

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Cover images are from the Youth of the Americas International Peace March Front: Together, United, Struggling to Reach the Sun of Liberty by Rudy Carver and Teresa Venes Martinelli. Edith, Nicaragua
Black: Cycle of Life/Circles of Friendship by Carlos Ernesto Ochoa Gaxequil, José Adolfo Rodriguez and Roberto Mario Joel, San Salvador, El Salvador

education

Despite reductions in both funding and staff time, Change for Children's education development program continued to raise awareness and motivates action across the province this past year. Our team of educators made 28 presentations to students in Grades three through twelve, three in-class presentations to college and university students, and four presentations to church and community groups. We also hosted four public educational events, including two "Scenes from the South" evenings featuring stories from members who had recently travelled to the South.

A Change for Children information booth was set up at numerous community events including the Unity Festival and the Global Visions Theatre Festival, at four teachers' conferences around the province, and at Grant MacEwan's Global College Week. Our partnership with Grant MacEwan grew in a number of other ways this year, including support for the Casa Blanca school from their Global Education Fund. The College's connection to the United Nations Association in Canada (UNAC) also led to a presentation at the UNAC Edmonton committee's Annual General Meeting, and another at the Model UN Assembly, where Canadian Senator Douglas Roche took the role of Secretary-General.

Other highlights this year included our well-attended and highly successful sessions presented

...continued on page 3

around the office

The 2003-2004 year brought many new faces to the CFCA office. A summer employment grant allowed us to hire Aidan Forth for the summer of 2002 to research potential funding sources. That search for new funding would soon prove to be more necessary than ever. In June CFCA, along with many other non-governmental organizations, found that we would not be receiving our now-familiar CIDA Public Engagement grant, funding which had previously allowed us to bring our staff to three permanent full-time positions. This loss of funding was a catalyst to review our overall staff levels, particularly in relation to recently declining donations. The Board made the difficult decision to reduce staff to one full-time and one half-time position. Administrative Coordinator Cherie Klassen took a voluntary layoff, and Education Coordinator Chris Peters offered to cut back to half-time. Lorraine Swift, who had just been hired as the new Projects Coordinator, took on the Administrative duties.

The Personnel Committee continued to be very busy into the fall: Sharon McDonald was hired on a short-term contract as a Fund Development Officer; and Frank Besai was hired part-time to take over as Project Coordinator when Lorraine went on maternity leave in January.

Throughout all of this, Board members and other volunteers jumped right in to help, for which staff are incredibly thankful. We are especially grateful to Cecily Mills, who puts in endless hours assisting with administrative work. Thanks also to our treasurer David Fath, who rose to the challenge to keep our books in order amid all the changes and the seemingly endless fundraising tasks. Special thanks also to the members of the Education Committee, who took on much of the work of our education program: Colleen Duffy, Eugene Ulmer, Charlene Zate lyn, Erin Kelly, Laura Roberts, and Nicole Smith.

While reducing expenditures through staff cuts was necessary for CFCA's long-term health, so too was increasing our revenue. A series of fantastic fundraisers throughout the year accomplished a great deal toward that end.

The fall was particularly busy with a gourmet dinner and silent auction at L'Azia Restaurant followed by a Latin Dance Party. We broke records at the Just Christmas R & R, the work continued with an amazing choir concert in March.

The success of these events was made possible through the efforts of many volunteers, but especially through the hard work of Nicole Smith, Lorraine Swift, Lucy & Mario Acuña, Frank Besai, and Eugene Ulmer.

Thanks to all involved!
Youth tour participants prepare corn for grinding

at the Global, Environmental and Outdoor Educators’ Conference (GEOEC), the Social Studies Teachers’ Conference, and the University of Alberta’s International week.

Change for Children Library

Our library catalogue is now on our website, thanks to several volunteers who spent many hours inputting the information.

Tour to Central America

For five weeks in the summer of 2002, six young Alberta women lived with and learned from our partners in Central America. They visited El Brote members’ organic farms high in the mountains of northwest Nicaragua and INPRHU project houses in Managua. They helped build a community park in Esteli and participated in a forum about the potential effects of trade agreements with delegates from across Central America. They even gave an impromptu song performance at a youth conference in El Salvador! Since their return, these amazing young women have continued to share what they learned with their peers, families, friends and communities. They’re active in social justice work and are outstanding volunteers for CFCA.

Casa Blanca School

When several members of the Youth Tour spent a week in the community of Casa Blanca in rural Nicaragua, the foundation was built for a new partnership - and a new school. Children there were receiving their education in a local house, because it was just too difficult for them to reach the primary school far away. Having seen the success of the CFCA-supported high school nearby, a community leader asked if we could assist them in building a primary school in Casa Blanca. Within a few months, the Westwood Unitarian Congregation in Edmonton and Grant MacEwan College’s Global Education Fund had donated most of the money needed. Additional money for this and other projects was raised by students at W.F. Wagner school through a 24-hour fast. Westwood continues to raise funds for the school; and some of their members have even visited Casa Blanca!

Youth Tour participants prepare corn for grinding with one of their ‘brothers’ in Casa Blanca.

Kindness in Action

Change for Children’s partnership with Kindness in Action this past January facilitated the visit of two delegations of dentists to our INPRHU projects in Managua, Nicaragua, and one delegation to our Muralism project with FUNARTE in Esteli, Nicaragua. Dentists and support staff worked tirelessly for three weeks to relieve the pain and suffering of acute and chronic dental problems as well as to educate and promote dental hygiene amongst the children and community members attended to by the projects. A total of 60 Dental professionals from across Canada visited our projects in Nicaragua this year. Change for Children has developed a close familial relationship with Kindness in Action and we are currently planning the delegations for next year, one of which will be a trip to the tropical forests of BOSAWAS to tend to the needs of the indigenous people from the communities involved in our Medicine Chest Project.

Labour Task Force to Mexico

In February of 2003, Change for Children, in conjunction with the Alberta Federation of Labour (AFL) and the Frente Autentico del Trabajo (Authentic Workers’ Front) in Mexico, organized the Alberta Trade Union Task Force to Mexico. This delegation involved representatives from several major Canadian unions as well as representatives from the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) and the AFL. The tour was a great success as delegates visited CFCA projects in Mexico and shared experiences under NAFTA with Mexican workers. The delegation served as a fact-finding mission about the predicted effects of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and its side agreements such as Plan Puebla Panama. Through this alliance with the Labour Movement, Change for Children will be able to work in partnership with individual Canadian unions to build alliances and fund projects in Mexico and beyond.

Social & Economic Independence for Women

Santiago, Chile

Total budget: $ X
ODA Contribution $ X
CFCA Contribution $ X
Brazil Local Cont. $ X

Community Education on AIDS and STDs

Carabayllo, Peru

Total budget: $ 81,000
ODA Contribution $ 36,000
CFCA Contribution $ 19,000
Brazil Local Cont. $ 24,000

Monsenor Romero Popular Resource Centre

Tierra Blanca, El Salvador

Total budget: $ 34,000
ODA Contribution $ 20,000
CFCA Contribution $ 10,000
Brazil Local Cont. $ 4,000

CEPPAC, a Chilean NGO that has been working in community development for many years, will implement this project which takes place in two poor neighborhoods: Tierra Blanca, the capital city of Chile. The 60 women who participate will expand their capacity for action through technical training for work and the creation of micro-enterprise initiatives (collective and individual). This will help them to achieve greater levels of economic independence and social organization, and as such contribute to the betterment of their quality of life and that of their families, and improve conditions for the community at large.

This project takes place in the district of Carabayllo, located in the “poverty belt” of shantytowns surrounding Lima, the capital of Peru. Under the direction of our partner CIDEPSA (Centre for Development and Research on Health Issues) the project will enhance the capability of local healthcare organizations to provide training to health promoters in the areas of STD and AIDS detection, treatment, and education; and outreach to women, youth and the larger community. The project will empower women and youth to become involved in protecting their rights to health and preventing the spread of AIDS and other STDs.

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CFCA Contribution

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new projects

Social & Economic Independence for Women

Santiago, Chile

Total budget: $ X
ODA Contribution $ X
CFCA Contribution $ X
Brazil Local Cont. $ X

Community Education on AIDS and STDs

Carabayllo, Peru

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on-going projects

Community Health for Indigenous Communities
Bosawas Reserve, Nicaragua

This project enables indigenous women of the Bosawas Reserve in northern Nicaragua to set up 25 health posts in their communities, train 25 health promoters (who will in turn train the other women of their villages), stock the health posts with medicines, and provide health manuals in the Miskito and Mayangna indigenous languages. The health promoters will also conserve and pass on the traditional healing practices of the region, and make traditional medicine from the botanical resources of the forest.

Self-sufficiency and Environmental Awareness
Northwestern Nicaragua

This project directly addresses the environmental degradation of the area resulting from both natural and man-made destruction, as well as the exclusive reliance on traditional crops for nourishment. The project promotes crop diversification, better nutrition and soil re-generation; as well as micro-irrigation to mitigate the effects of frequent droughts. Local farmers will be provided with hands-on training in these technologies and farming alternatives. An organic farm will demonstrate to the local people that environmentally-friendly alternatives are feasible and efficient.

Muralism Workshops for Children and Youth
Estelí, Nicaragua

This project supports the activities of Talleres de Muralismo. Talleres 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 and rural youth.

Improvement of Textile Production
Comitancillo, Guatemala

This project supports five AMMID (the Maya-Mam Association for Research and Development) Women’s Groups in expanding their productive capacity in traditional Guatemalan textiles and marketing of their products. This will be done through the purchase of new machinery, training 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.

Ecology Education and Sustainable Agriculture
Bicol, Philippines

The MAGFAR Living and Learning: Ecology and Organic Farming Organization works with a community of 37 families who have benefited from the Philippine government’s land reform plan, in the Magsaysay region outside of Manila. This project supports the community in organizing and developing a sustainable agricultural production base. Activities include a recycling/composting centre, organic crops, animal raising, and extensive training and capacity building for farmers in the community.

financial information

For the period of April 1, 2002 through March 31, 2003. The information on this page was taken from unaudit-ed financial statements. Complete financial statements can be obtained from the Change for Children office.

receipts

- Provincial Grants $26,559.25 (4%)
- Federal Grants $253,479.51 (39%)
- Benefits, Functions and Sales $11,703.71 (1.5%)
- Other Sources $11,819.87 (1.5%)

disbursements

- Projects $410,060.54 (63%)
- Administration $85,171.47 (13%)
- Benefits, Functions & Gift Shop Purchases $7,687.70 (1%)
- Travel Tour Program $106,916.85 (16%)
- Educational Programming in Canada $45,191.53 (7%)

statement of financial position

As at March 31, 2003

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>LIABILITIES and Member’s Equity</th>
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<td>Cash and Term Deposits 86,879.13</td>
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<td>Accounts Receivable – CIDA &amp; Other Endowment Fund 61,199.65</td>
<td>Project Receipts to be disbursed (219,000)</td>
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<td>Total Current Liabilities 1,799.00</td>
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<td>Members’ Equity Retained Earnings 40,866.30</td>
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<td>Admin/Dev Ed Surplus (deficit) 101,801.76</td>
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<td>Total Members’ Equity 145,097.58</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Liabilities and Members’ Equity 149,878.58</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Projects

- Vocational Training Cooperative - Salvador, Brazil
- Street Children Outreach - Bebedouro, Maceio, Brazil
- Thalita Project Hope - Maceio, Brazil
- Capacitation of Women’s Groups - Morelos, Mexico
- Sesame Processing and Marketing - Ometepe, Nicaragua
- Safe House for Girls - Managua, Nicaragua

Completed

This Year