



## the year ahead

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 behalf. Many thanks as well to Gerry Hartland and the Catholic School Board for welcoming us into Sacred Heart.



**Change for Children**  
**annual report 2003**



## MISSION STATEMENT

# president's message

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

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Cover images are from the *Youth of the Americas International Peace Mural*  
Front: *Together, United, Struggling to Reach the Sun of Liberty* by Katy Centeno and Tamara Vaness Martínez, Esteli, Nicaragua  
Back: *Cycle of Life/Circles of Friendship* by Carlos Ernesto Chicas González, José Adilio Rodrigo and Roberto Mario Joel, San Salvador, El Salvador

While rain and snow were bringing needed change to our parched prairie landscape this spring, Change for Children was busy closing the books on a year that was similarly filled with drought, hope and adjustment. The Global climate has created a year like no other before in modern history, and Change for Children, like many other organizations, was affected. Sometimes, I feel that CFCA is a microcosm of what is happening in the world – certainly global issues and changes always impact us. So the challenges and solutions that will ensure the continuation of our association's amazing work has been the task of the Board of Directors, members and staff.

This has been a year of endings and new beginnings – for staff, for members, for our partners, and for the organization. Changes in funding meant that tough decisions had to be made to keep the organization alive. We implemented a new fundraising plan, and began to balance the critical work of the organization more evenly between our compliment of staff and hard-working volunteers. Thanks to the diligent efforts of many people, we pulled admirably through our period of drought and have begun to thrive once again. We begin this next year not only with a renewed hope, but also with a strong financial picture and projection to accompany it.

Some of the changes were to staffing. Cherie Klassen left us to pursue further educational goals, and Chris Peters has recently decided to follow her dreams and return to University as well. We are most appreciative to both of these women who gave tirelessly to CFCA – thank you from us all.

As we began the year, we welcomed Lorraine Swift as our Projects Coordinator. She has played a major role in helping us to regroup and persevere. Her partner, Frank Bessai, joined us to take on the organization of some special events and fund raisers - and when they added Baby Frank to their family, Big Frank took over some of Lorraine's duties as Projects Coordinator as well. They are an amazing threesome!

Through it all, our partners have provided us with the inspiration and tenacity to keep overcoming obstacles. Delmy Garcia-Hoyt, a past president of CFCA, and her husband Michael have had the opportunity this year to work with the Cuernavaca Centre for Intercultural Dialogue on Development (CCIDD) in Cuernavaca, Mexico. The CCIDD has provided meaningful experiences to visiting groups: the stories of the results of a CFCA/Comunidad project in the area, which provided non-repayable seed monies to women to start small businesses, are heartwarming. In other areas, this year has seen the completion of a number of our projects and the beginning of new ones.

Thanks to many we made it through a difficult year. It is our long-term supporters we wish to thank. In a year where many suffered as the result of drought, you more than met our needs when we made a plea for support. Many of you received the poster we mailed out to members and donors in the spring, which recognizes important people in the CFCA communities both in Canada and in the South - people who over the years have worked tirelessly for change, in peace and solidarity.

After almost twenty years at St. Michael's School, Change for Children is moving to a new home in Sacred Heart School. The site of St. Michael's will become a community park when the new Mother Theresa School opens in the fall. We think this all fitting, as whom better can we take inspiration from than Mother Theresa? We look forward to a new life in our new home, leaving behind many memories, but looking forward to more work in solidarity in both the north and the south.

Thank you to all the dedicated CFCA family,

Pat Sears, President  
CFCA Board of Directors

# 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 Bessai 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 amidst 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 Zatelyn, 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 global crafts sale, and held a raffle for three great prizes graciously donated by CFCA member Patsy Ho. After a little 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 Bessai, and Eugene Ulmer. Thanks to all involved!



A little Capoeira in a Brazil presentation

# education

Despite reductions in both funding and staff time, Change for Children's development education program continued to raise awareness and motivate 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 sto-

ries 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 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 on the role of Secretary-General.

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

...continued on page 3

# education continued

*Youth tour participants prepare corn for grinding with one of their 'brothers' in Casa Blanca*



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 Bloque 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.P. 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!



## Kindness in Action (above)

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

# southern tours

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.

# new projects

## Social & Economic Independence for Women Santiago, Chile

Total budget:	\$ X
CIDA Contribution	\$ X
CFCA Contribution	\$ X
Brazil Local Cont.	\$ X

CEPPAC, a Chilean NGO that has been working in community development for many years, will implement this project which takes place in two poor neighbourhoods on the outskirts of Santiago, 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.



## Community Education on AIDS and STDs Carabayllo, Peru

Total budget:	\$ 81,000
CIDA Contribution	\$ 38,000
CFCA Contribution	\$ 19,000
Brazil Local Cont.	\$ 24,000



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.

## Monseñor Romero Popular Resource Centre Tierra Blanca, El Salvador

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

Constructed and operated by the Christian Based Communities of El Salvador (CEBES), the Monseñor Romero Centre will attend to the needs of 100 children, 200 youth, 150 adults and many community members. Its activities will include: literacy, vocational and life skills training; an early childhood development program; cultural, sports and recreation programs; and health promotion. The Centre will also have a special treatment room for visiting health care professionals, a library, and a small store where school supplies will be sold at subsidized rates. The Centre will enable young people to become involved in healthy activities which will improve their lifestyle, give them hope, and reduce the risk that they may become involved in criminal activity.





# 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.

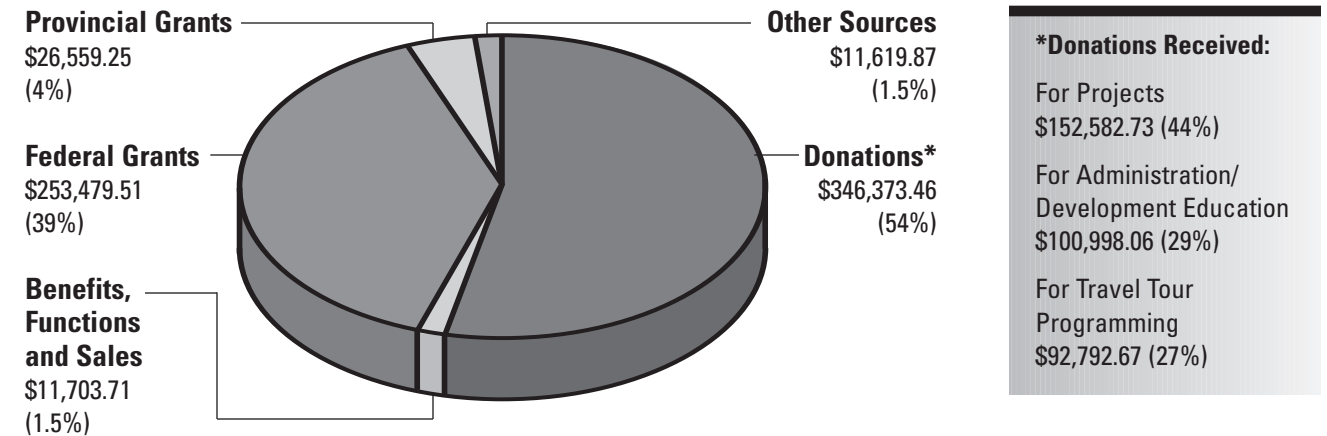
## Projects Completed This Year

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

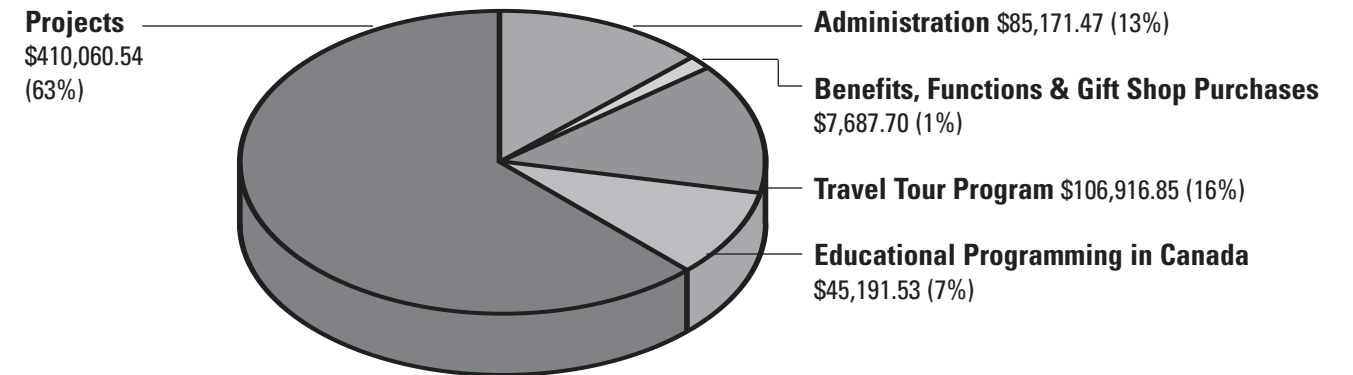
# financial information

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

## receipts



## disbursements



## statement of financial position

As at March 31, 2003

### ASSETS

Cash and Term Deposits	86,879.13
Accounts Receivable - CIDA & Other	61,199.65
Endowment Fund	1,799.80
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>149,878.58</b>

### LIABILITIES and Member's Equity

Accounts Payable	5,000.00
Project Receipts to be disbursed	(219.00)
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>4,781.00</b>
Members' Equity	
Retained Earnings	40,866.30
Project Surplus (deficit)	101,801.76
Admin/Dev Ed Surplus (deficit)	2,409.52
<b>Total Members' Equity</b>	<b>145,097.58</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Members' Equity</b>	<b>149,878.58</b>