Change for Children begins and ends with partnership.

We believe in building connections between communities, ideas and actions.

We believe in critical action in the Global South and critical analysis of the Global North.

We believe in human dignity, just society and a sustainable Earth.

Justice is our vision. Partnership is our action.

Change for Children.
Ordinary people can do extraordinary things.
Sometimes I feel like Stephen Lewis, that “we live in a world gone mad” - where poverty, war, devastation of the environment, death and disease affect the majority of the world’s people each and every day of their lives. But in my head and heart, I can also hear Mr. Lewis’ passionate plea for action because “we simply cannot stand by and let this devastation happen.” And I know why I am involved with Change for Children.

The CFCA community of hands joined together reaches around the globe - from south to north and east to west, with friends and compañeros working in solidarity and partnership, united against the madness. We continued to learn from our partners in the South this year as they worked in solidarity with us, asking to be heard and inviting us to look at our own beliefs and values. They continue to challenge us to examine our role in society, so that we can be an integral part of their liberation and the creation of a just world.

With words, letters, visits, gestures, symbols, and work, our compañeros support each other and inspire us to continue with them on their journey.

We have travelled and lived in the South this past year and experienced the true meaning of long-term partnership, meeting people who have been involved with CFCA for fifteen or twenty years, and marvelling at the sustained nature and positive impact of the work that we have done together.

In a visit to our projects, we were asked why we care about their poor people when the majority of their own countrymen don’t care at all. I stumbled to answer - how do I explain, without seeming completely self-centred, how much joy it brings me. That it means I am able to have lunch with Felicite and laugh as she describes how she changed all of those years ago, and see the incredible contributions she makes to her family and her community; to be welcomed into Myriam’s home and feel her pride as she shows us her sewing machine - and then rush after us to share figs from the tree in her yard; to have Roseo hug me, jumping with joy and screams of sheer delight when we said we would try to raise the money needed to start a revolving loan so that she and her working group can buy an industrial sewing machine; or to see the pride in Inez’s eyes as she shows us her outdoor baking oven and tells us how her life has been changed. It is a privilege to share tears and laughter and join hands in solidarity and love with people such as this. My life is enriched and changed because of the people that I have shared moments with through CFCA.

THANK YOU to all: our compañeros in the south, our staff, our northern partners, our board members, our friends and families who all continue with love and hope - together, creating another force in the world for justice and peace.

In Solidarity and Peace from past board presidents: Pat Sears and Delmy Garcia

固体arity is the new word with which we give love.

– Pedro Declerq, El Salvador

Our Projects and Education Coordinators have been working to develop comprehensive programming that more fully integrates the two critical aspects of our unique community, building upon existing programs to ensure that Change for Children remains an active and viable organization.

Over the next year, we will continue to entwine the education and project components of our work more closely together, creating holistic programming that responds to the critical needs of our project partners and challenges the structures that create those needs.

We are proud to walk in solidarity with our project partners in the South and we are working to ensure that each step we take leaves its mark – in their communities, and ours.

Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.

Martin Luther King Jr.

Looking Back, Moving Forward

This past year has been a challenging and exciting one at Change for Children: we said good-bye to some staff and welcomed others; we left our long-time home at St. Michael’s school and warmed a new one at Sacred Heart; we examined our programming and confirmed our commitment to the vision of our organization.

Moving into our new office in Sacred Heart School over the summer worked as a catalyst for reflection and renewal: much of this past year has been spent reflecting on what CFCA is as an organization, and how we can continue to build upon the vibrant legacy that we have been given.

Our Projects and Education Coordinators have been working to develop comprehensive programming that more fully integrates the two critical aspects of our unique community, building upon existing programs to ensure that Change for Children remains an active and viable organization.

Over the next year, we will continue to entwine the education and project components of our work more closely together, creating holistic programming that responds to the critical needs of our project partners and challenges the structures that create those needs.

We are proud to walk in solidarity with our project partners in the South and we are working to ensure that each step we take leaves its mark – in their communities, and ours.
Thank you for supporting our important projects in Latin America, Africa and the Philippines that are achieving amazing results improving the lives of children and strengthening communities. All of the countries in which we work face major challenges of inequity and poverty, which affect children and women most severely. Change for Children's Projects focus on community development and provide training and resources in: alternative health care, sustainable agriculture, cultural education, vocations for women, small business development and early childhood education.

**COMPLETED PROJECTS**

**MURALISM WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH — Esteli, Nicaragua**

This project works to build self-esteem in children and youth by providing instruction in mural painting, a strong aspect of Nicaragua’s cultural heritage. The project resulted in higher levels of scholastic achievement amongst students and an increased knowledge of - and pride in - Nicaragua’s history.

**COMMUNITY HEALTH FOR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES — BOSAWAS, Nicaragua**

This project was successful at training women health promoters in natural medicine and health promotion and providing medical attention to 25 isolated Miskirie and Mayangana indigenous communities in one of Central America’s most fragile eco-systems. These health promoters attended to the needs of over 2000 patients during the life of the project and continue to provide medical attention as well as natural and pharmaceutical medicine to some of Nicaragua’s most isolated and marginalized peoples.

**IMPROVEMENT OF TEXTILE PRODUCTION — Comitancillo, Guatemala**

This project supported five women’s groups (over 100 women) to expand their productive capacity in traditional Guatemalan textiles and in the marketing of these products. The project provided funds for the purchase of machinery, the construction of the production center and the training of the women.

Over one hundred women and young girls were provided with a vocational and subsequent stable income as a result of this project, which has benefited the community and surrounding area both economically and socially.

**ECOLOGY EDUCATION AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE in the Philippines**

This project supported a poor, rural agricultural community that benefited from the Philippine government’s land reform plan. It provided the community with support in organizing and developing a sustainable agricultural production base. Activities included a recycling/composting center, organic crops, animal husbandry and extensive training and capacity building for farmers in the area.

**ON-GOING PROJECTS**

**SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE FOR WOMEN — San Bernardo (Santiago), Chile**

This project involves training women in technical and business skills so that they may utilize the revolving loan fund and non-repayable seed fund to initiate micro-enterprise businesses (both collective and individual). Businesses range from flower shops to bakeries, restaurants to community gardens. The project has been successful at providing women with greater levels of economic independence (personal autonomy) and interdependence (social organization) and has facilitated an improved quality of life for women and their families in this poverty-stricken barrio.

**COMMUNITY EDUCATION ON AIDS AND STDs — Carabayllo (Lima), Peru**

This project is operated by the community based NGO El Bloque that has worked in these northern poverty-stricken communities for over 20 years. The project has been successful at educating farmers about alternative agriculture including organic production and drip irrigation. Workshops on improved nutrition and companion planting have helped local farmers to diversify their crops and avoid the use of pesticides. The project also involves the operation of a brick and tile plant, which has been successful at providing low-cost building materials to victims of Hurricane Mitch.

**MONSEÑOR ROMERO POPULAR RESOURCE CENTRE — Tierra Blanca, Usulatan, El Salvador**

This project was successful at training women health promoters that seek to shape the lives of children and youth in meaningful ways so as to reduce their involvement in criminal activity and violence.

**SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS — Somotillo, Nicaragua**

This project is operated by the community based NGO El Bloque that has worked in these northern poverty-stricken communities for over 20 years. The project has been successful at educating farmers about alternative agriculture including organic production and drip irrigation. Workshops on improved nutrition and companion planting have helped local farmers to diversify their crops and avoid the use of pesticides. The project also involves the operation of a brick and tile plant, which has been successful at providing low-cost building materials to victims of Hurricane Mitch.
Today we are confident women, strong women, women with initiative - able to follow through with and meet our goals, and carry out great projects.

DENTAL BRIGADES TO NICARAGUA AND PERU

This past winter, in conjunction with an Alberta organization called Kindness in Action, Change for Children sent over sixty Dental professionals from across Canada in three brigades to our projects in Nicaragua and Peru. They attended to over 2000 patients working tirelessly to relieve the pain and suffering of acute and chronic dental problems as well as to educate and promote dental hygiene amongst children and community members.

SCHOOLS:

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION IN CASA BLANCA, SOMOTILLO, NICARAGUA

In conjunction with Westwood Unitarian congregation and the Grant MacEwan College Global Education Fund, Change for Children built a school in northern Nicaragua that is now providing education to 180 kids who previously did not attend school. This collaboration was the result of the efforts of our 2002 youth tour participants who saw the desperate need for educational facilities and set about fundraising.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION IN LA VEGA, COMITANCILLO, GUATEMALA

In the community of La Vega in Guatemala’s western highlands – home to the Maya Mam indigenous people – only 3 out of every 10 school-aged children have access to formal education. The children who do have the opportunity to attend classes struggle with a curriculum that excludes their indigenous culture and language.

Donations received over the past year to Change for Children’s ‘Class Action’ program were applied to the construction of a school here, providing a much-needed opportunity for over 240 indigenous children to attend primary school. The school is the collaborative dream of a number of local organizations including the Grant MacEwan Global Education Fund, Westwood Unitarian Congregation, Peter Van Stolk of the Jones Soda Company and Project H.O.P.E. of the Grant MacEwan Students’ Association. Project H.O.P.E. (Hands Open to People Everywhere), the student delegation from Grant MacEwan College, travelled to Guatemala in May 2004 to help with the construction.

ON-GOING SUPPORT FOR SMALL PROJECTS

Change for Children continues work with project partners in Brazil, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Kenya and supports their projects with your donations. These partners are encouraged to submit larger projects for upcoming calls for proposals by CIDA and the Wild Rose Foundation.

IN NICARAGUA:

PHASE II OF THE COMMUNITY HEALTH FOR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES – BOSAWAS

This two-year project will benefit the entire population (over 10,000) of isolated indigenous communities inside the forest reserve. It builds on the successes of phase 1, but involves an increased focus on the cultivation and distribution of medicinal plants and the prevention of AIDS / STDs amongst the indigenous women here, which requires immediate attention.

COMMUNITY WATER AND CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT – SOMOTILLO

This project will provide year-round access to clean water and complementary health and hygiene programs to 8,424 people in 20 communities in Chinandega and Leon in Northern Nicaragua. The project involves the construction of wells and water systems and the involvement of project beneficiaries in the design, management and maintenance of these systems. The project also provides for institutional strengthening: administrative, technical and managerial capacity building of the Local NGO El Bloque in the delivery of community development programming.

IN MEXICO:

SYSTEMATIC CAPACITY BUILDING / INCOME GENERATION PROJECTS FOR WOMEN – Morelos

This project benefits over 500 agricultural producers in Cuernavaca, Morelos Mexico. It will expand their capacity for action through a process of technical training and the creation of micro-enterprise initiatives. Participants, their families, and the community will achieve an increased quality of life through increased economic independ-ence and social organization. Key goals of this project include the improvement of the health and diversity of the local economy by increasing the capacity of local producers via organization, training, technical and financial support; the empowerment of women in the marketplace and community; and community participation in the development of government policies regarding agriculture.

IN ERIETREA, AFRICA:

WOMEN’S COMMUNITY TRAINING CENTRE

This project establishes a training centre for over 500 women in Dekemhare, in the province of Akele Guaz, Eritrea. The Centre will provide practical technical training, job skills training, and workshops for women on HIV/AIDS, gender issues, family planning and human rights. The key goal of the project is to reduce the rate of unemployment and improve economic conditions in this poverty-stricken area. The impact of this project in the community will be significant, not only because the increased literacy and economic earning-power of the women involved will extend far beyond the individual, but because the training centre will become an established part of the community, providing public engagement presentations and workshops in key areas of health, human rights and the environment.

Looking Ahead: Upcoming Projects

Despite recent positive demo-cratic reforms in Mexico, the gap between rich and poor continues to grow. The expan-sion of large agri-industry and the construction of hydroelectric dams have threatened the livelihoods of small farmers, indigenous peoples and independent workers.

Nicaragua continues to be the third poorest country in the Americas and faces major challenges of inequity and poverty, which affect children and women most severely.

The deregulation of state services in Peru has forced citizens to participate in local democratic structures in order to realize their rights to health and education.
Change for Children’s Education Program is based on three essential areas of engagement – three ‘cornerstones’ that we use to create engaging and informative programming that helps people to build connections between their lives and the lives of people living in poverty around the world.

This cornerstone programming – Community Outreach, the Schools Program, and Engagement Tools – have been the focus of our activities over the past year. Our goal has been to firmly establish the objectives of each of these programs, and to integrate them more fully with each other: to create comprehensive, holistic programming that offers Canadians a variety of resources and activities that address the complex nature of global poverty and social justice issues.

**SCHOOLS PROGRAM**

Change for Children’s Schools Program reaches hundreds of students and teachers each year. We provide curriculum-based presentations to help enrich school programming on topics involving the global economy, human rights and the environment.

With our Schools Program, we bring humanity into the classroom, sharing the names and experiences of the people and communities that we work with in the Global South. Using our projects as case studies, we are able to provide anecdotal evidence of what it means to live in poverty, helping students to build connections between what they study and how it is lived.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

Through our Community Outreach Program, we work to create spaces for people to learn more about the issues that affect the majority of the world’s population. We host speakers and events that promote awareness and dialogue, and visit community organisations interested in learning more about the work that we do and why we do it.

Community Outreach is an important part of our programming – helping us to foster partnerships with other organisations in Canada, and to build connections between groups here and groups in the Global South.

**ENGAGEMENT TOOLS**

Change for Children provides a number of resources and engagement tools for people interested in global issues. Over the past year we have worked to integrate these resources more fully into other areas of our programming, in order to provide a comprehensive education program that supports people and communities who are moving forward into action.

Children’s art:

Left - Braedon, age 7; Above: Devon, age 7.

**THE YEAR IN BRIEF**

Over the past year, Change for Children’s Education Program has reached thousands of people across Canada.

We have focused our energies on building programming that is integrated and comprehensive – creating opportunities for people to increase awareness and become involved in global poverty and social justice issues.

Some of our activities have included:

- Classroom presentations throughout Alberta
- Over 40 presentations to community groups and conferences in Edmonton and area
- World Watch – a monthly documentary and discussion night
- Upgrading our web-site to make it more accessible and user-friendly
- Changes to our newsletter that include a special section for teachers, a resource listing for further information, and centre spread “poster” page with key information specific to the issue’s theme
- Hosting in-house speakers and events to engage the public
- Partnering with other local organizations to bring speakers and presenters to the community
- Developing teaching tools and enrichment activities for teachers addressing global issues in the classroom

Change for Children’s Education Coordinator, Christine Peters, moved on this year to pursue other interests. Chris has touched many lives at CFCA with her work in the office, in the community and on our youth tours to Latin America. We are happy to say that she is still involved with CFCA, designing all of our publication materials.

We’d like to say thank-you to Chris for all that she has brought to CFCA.
Volunteers!\

Volunteers are an essential part of CFCA. They are the foundation of annual events like our fundraising dinner and silent auction at L’Azia restaurant in Edmonton’s downtown core, the Just Christmas sale, Chorus of Hope, One World Beat, and our casinos.

Volunteers are our community presence, working at our display table at events like the Global Visions Film Festival; the International Weeks at Grant MacEwan College and the University of Alberta; conferences and special events.

Volunteers are our mainstay, coming into the office to work in our library, update addresses in our database, write thank-you letters, make posters, review videos, translate documents, and prepare for open house socials like our annual Christmas party. Volunteers make phone calls, send e-mails, handle correspondence, give presentations in schools and churches, and help out at our Annual General Meeting. This year they also helped us move our offices from St. Michael’s to Sacred Heart School!

Volunteers are our champions, raising thousands of dollars for specific projects - like Marianne Watchel who wrote and directed a stage production to support the muralism project in Esteli, Nicaragua; Jennifer Easaw who devoted several weeks to organize the annual sale of poinsettias; Mary Jane Klein who hosted a Mexican fiesta for the Santa Maria girls’ orphanage in Mexico; the Westwood Unitarian Congregation, who raised thousands of dollars to build schools in Casa Blanca, Nicaragua and Cominancillo, Guatemala; the Latin community that organised a lively dance for our project in Chile; and Eugene Ulmer who organizes our participation in the Great Human Race every year.

Volunteers are our ambassadors, like the group of dentists and dental hygienists that visit our projects every year to provide essential dental care to adults and children who would not receive it otherwise.

Volunteers are our visionaries, leading our committee and comprising our Board of Directors – people who actively shape our vision and take care of the details involved in administering our organization.

Volunteers make us possible. Volunteers are a constant source new life and energy at Change for Children Association. We couldn’t manage without them.

Thank you to all of you.

Rural Roots: A Youth Action Project

In addition to a sustained focus on our cornerstone programming, we are launching a new project in 2004. The Rural Roots Youth Action Project is a public engagement project providing youth with opportunities to deepen their understanding of the issues and move forward into action as they examine the root causes of poverty and social injustice.

YOUTH TOUR

Working with community activists in the summer of 2004, youth volunteers will create a presentation and student resource package based on the root causes of poverty and social injustice. In the fall, participating youth will travel through rural Alberta, giving their presentation to a variety of school communities.

With their presentation, youth volunteers will encourage their peers to increase their awareness and challenge them to initiate a social justice action in their school community.

YOUTH SUMMIT

In March 2005, Change for Children will host a youth summit, bringing together youth from across Alberta to discuss the issues with each other, and to build action plans for social justice clubs and actions in their schools.

The Rural Roots project is a youth empowering youth project with an emphasis on understanding more than just a pre-requisite to action – our goal is to increase student interest in global issues, and to sustain awareness over the long-term.

The Rural Roots Youth Action Project is made possible by funding from the Canadian International Development Agency.

CFCA Goes Digital

Change for Children has embarked upon an exciting new initiative - going digital with the production of some powerful video resource materials. This project began last year when a former board member, Laura Roberts, travelled to Brazil to research the new Lula government. While in Brazil she was able to film Change for Children’s projects in the north-east of Brazil. Back in Edmonton, Laura worked with volunteer Shana Chondo, and Sheryle Carlson of Rainbow Bridge Communications to edit the footage. Together these women produced a great educational video that has since reached hundreds of people, revealing the realities faced by our project partners in Brazil, and illustrating the important work CFCA does there.

The success of this project led to the production of similar videos depicting other project partners: our Community Health project in the Bosawas Biosphere Reserve, and the dental brigade to Nicaragua have both been captured on film.

This year we are working to produce videos depicting our projects in Peru, Chile, and Guatemala. Watch for them soon on our web-site!
The meaning of solidarity and partnership at CFCA gets renewed every year by the inspirations gained from our partners in the South. While in Peru in March, we were inspired by the work of our partner organisation, CIDEPSA – by Felix Rodriguez Cardenas, Dr. Katia Lapoint Montes and the women of Carabayllo, Peru. We visited our Community Education on STDs and AIDs project, a project that comes out of an earlier CFCA project called Vaso de Leche (Glass of Milk – 1993) and the sheer determination of a group of health promoters who saw a need to educate their community about health rights. We met Felicite, who ever since the Vaso de Leche project continues to volunteer as a community health promoter, now alongside her daughters and granddaughter. Felicite has worked for over seven years in health education, and says that CFCA “projects have changed my life, my families lives, and my community… I am a valuable woman now and I learned everything here in the project.”

In the Chilean community of El Bosque, a past CFCA bakery project led to independence for women participants, as they went on to sell baking from their homes or to join with others in starting their own bakery. We visited the sight of the bakery that has now become a technical training centre, teaching not only baking, but hairdressing, computer skills and sewing. The tuition money from the training programs is now the major financial support for a nursing home for 19 seniors who would otherwise have no where to live. It is a wonderful home, run by volunteers providing a warm and loving place for the elderly of the community – Mario and Lucy Acuña were delighted to meet past bakery project staff and participants who are now volunteering in the home. CEPPEC, our partner organisation in Santiago, Chile, continues its work with CFCA’s latest project, providing training and support for women learning baking and sewing – with thanks to people like Angelica Galate and these friends that remain committed to solidarity and justice.

A CIDEPSA educational game, Carabayllo, Lima, Peru

Walking Together

my life has been touched by yours before you came they were only open couldn’t really see from “Broken Buds” Cecil Rajendra, Malaysia

A knowledge of the path cannot be substituted for putting one foot in front of the other.

M.C. Richards
Financial Information

For the period of April 1, 2003 through March 31, 2004. The information on this page was taken from unaudited financial statements. Complete financial statements can be obtained from the Change for Children office.

REVENUE (Does not include value of donated services.)

- Travel Tour Program ($84,041) 17%
- Casino Income ($56,511) 11%
- Benefits, Functions and Sales ($16,809) 3%
- Federal Grants ($143,204) 28%

EXPENDITURES (Does not include value of donated services.)

- Travel Tour Program ($84,237) 17%
- Educational Programming in Canada ($30,784) 7%
- Financial Information ($15,500) 3%
- Other (membership, fees, interest) ($1,191) <1%
- Provincial Grants ($26,565) 5%
- Donations ($179,094) 36%

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION As at March 31, 2004

ASSETS:
- Cash: 136,582.78
- Accounts Receivable – CIDA and other: 66,802.99
- GICs: 30,000
- Total Current Assets: 233,385.77

Liabilities and Equity:
- Current Liabilities: 8,669.53
- Accounts Payable: 177,499.69
- Projects: 8,669.53
- Casino Funds (education): 18,811.25
- Equity: 18,405.30
- Emergency Equity Fund: 10,000.00
- Member's Equity: 18,405.30
- Total Liabilities and Equity: 233,385.77

A Gift of Solidarity

Change for Children relies on the generous support of members and friends to persist with our important work – your donation makes it possible for us to build a better world and touch the lives of thousands of people living with the effects of poverty and social injustice.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT LEAVING A LEGACY to help us continue to struggle for global justice?

Leaving a Legacy to Change for Children is a great way to honour your lifetime values, and make a difference in the world while reducing your tax burden now and into the future.

HOW CAN I HELP? There are many planned giving options, including:

1. Give a little every year by purchasing a life insurance policy and naming Change for Children as the Beneficiary. You will receive a tax receipt for the premiums you pay to the insurance company.
2. Give a larger amount right now by purchasing a prescribed annuity or setting up a charitable remainder trust (you receive a comfortable annual income now, and Change for Children will receive the remaining funds when you pass away).
3. Give something from your estate by making a bequest to Change for Children. You can arrange for a specific dollar amount or for a percentage of the assets in your will. You can also donate the proceeds of a life insurance policy. Change for Children can also be named as the beneficiary of your RRSP, RRIF or pension plan. You can also leave Change for Children real estate, stocks and bonds or other assets.
4. Remember loved ones with memorial donations to Change for Children on the anniversary date of their birthday.
5. Encourage family and friends to support Change for Children through a planned giving program.
6. Talk to your financial advisor about your options to Leave a Legacy to Change for Children.

MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM

Your monthly gift provides Change for Children with steady, predictable support for our projects and programs throughout the year. Using our pre-authorized monthly giving plan is a simple, risk-free way to make a significant contribution toward the struggle against poverty and social injustice.

Like any donation to Change For Children, your monthly gift can be designated to the project, project country, or program of your choice.

The monthly giving program helps us reduce costs – putting more of your money to work where it is needed most.

Your monthly gift can be changed or cancelled at any time.

Monthly giving is an easy way to maximize your charitable donations tax credit.

The Charitable Donations Tax Credit allows you to claim charitable donations as a credit against taxes that would otherwise be payable.

**REMEMBER!**

Change for Children is a United Way Donor Choice

Your United Way donations can be directed to Change for Children. In the past three years over $10,000 has been donated to our organization via donor choice contributions to the United Way. We appreciate any donations through Donor Choice by you or your employer.