

2005



Photo by: Jessica Facette

REPORT TO DONORS

CHANGE FOR CHILDREN ASSOCIATION



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE

“Memory makes us comprehend the present and projects us to the future”

– Padre Pedro Declercq, 2003

For 29 years, Change for Children has worked in solidarity to strengthen awareness of the history of different communities with our partners in the South, as well as communities in Edmonton and across Canada. What has been evident in all of these communities is that **they not only have a history but they also make history.**

Our partners in the South have been instrumental in keeping us vibrant, as they continually revive their own histories and their own identities. They have shown us time after time that if individuals are capable of reviving memory where death has ruled, memory is no longer like stagnant water. It comes alive in the faces of activists, martyrs, and visionaries who have dreamed and moved ahead. Their history makes us understand the present and challenges us with what we need to do to work toward a better future.

We have had a very dynamic year at Change for Children with a renewed focus on grassroots movements that have crossed borders gaining momentum in the North and South. This includes our Water as a Human right campaign in Nicaragua, and our own advocacy campaign to reverse the CIDA decision to suspend funding to small NGOs. 2004/05 has been a year of fighting for “the little guy” and re-articulating the vision of our partners and the critical need for the work of small NGO’s such as CFCA in Canada and all of our partners in the South. We are reminded by those who have visited our projects this year that the crisis of global inequity is threatening values of justice and with this knowledge we work harder, and use the challenges we encounter to strengthen our commitment to long-term global equality.

As we look towards our thirtieth anniversary in 2006, we also reflect on the history of CFCA and the tremendous work of Hank and Tillie Zyp who founded the organization in 1976; remembering a beginning and celebrating a milestone. Hank and Tillie Zyp were awarded the 2004 Stars of the Millennium Volunteer Award from the Wild Rose Foundation in December in recognition of their volunteer accomplishments and the lasting impact that have made in the lives of people both in Alberta and in the Global South. As we look to the future, we thank them for being catalysts through their lifelong commitment to compassion and justice.

Thank you to all our staff, our northern partners, our compañeros in the south, our board members, our donors and supporters who sustain our organization and live with perseverance, commitment and hope. As the name of one of our project partners suggests: “Caminamos Juntos”- We walk together.

Margo Nelson and Delmy Garcia-Hoyt, President and Vice-President of the CFCA board of Directors



Hank & Tillie Zyp at Change for Children’s 25th Anniversary celebration in 2001

RESULTS

HUMAN RIGHTS

In Nicaragua, CFCA works with 20 local communities to ensure access to and local control of water resources and supports a national campaign to make water a basic human right. Year round access to water for 20 communities is a key outcome of this project.

PARTNERSHIP

CFCA collaborated with Grant MacEwan Students Association Project HOPE students and several Canadian businesses to complete primary school construction in Guatemala. As a result 540 Mayan-Mam children are attending two bilingual schools.

YOUTH EDUCATION

Alberta youth organize global education and leadership training for other Alberta youth through the Rural Roots program, building leadership skills. 36 teachers and 814 students in rural communities participated in two school tours.

CAPACITY BUILDING

CFCA supports training for women and indigenous groups in areas such as health education, vocational skills, nutrition and small business development. 500 agricultural producers were trained in local production which has improved self sufficiency and strengthened the local economy in Morelos, Mexico.

HEALTH

CFCA supports HIV/AIDS education training in the poverty belt around Lima, Peru. Our project in the BOSAWAS biosphere reserve in Nicaragua, trains health promoters in isolated indigenous communities and as a result, complications arising from untreated common illnesses have decreased by 80% in 33 indigenous communities.

SOLIDARITY

A CFCA intern supports a partner organization in getting women’s empowerment high on the Eritrean national government’s priority list.

CRITICAL ACTION AND THE WORK OF OUR PARTNERS

Change for Children projects are designed and managed by our local partner organizations in the south. In order to carry out this work successfully and maintain accountability to our donors, we foster **long term partnerships** with community groups and partner organizations who are working for positive, sustainable social and economic change. On a daily basis we continue to learn from our southern 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.**



Photo by: Laura Roberts

Basic and Alternative Education

Change for Children supports the construction of primary schools and the implementation of educational and recreational activities for street kids and other youth at risk. In **Guatemala**, with the *Association of Mayan-Mam Research and Development*, we supported the construction of a primary school in Comanticillo, in conjunction with Project HOPE - a student group from Grant McEwan College in Edmonton who travelled to the area to help with the construction. In **El Salvador** we work with the *Base Christian Communities* in Usulután in the operation of the Monsenor Romero Popular Resource Center, which provides educational and cultural opportunities for children and youth. In **Nicaragua**, *INPRHU (the Institute for Human Promotion)* and *FUNARTE (Foundation ART!)* run a national campaign on the rights of a child in addition to educating for the whole child through various arts based programming. In **Sierra Leone**, we supported the construction of the *Alberta Canada Primary School* in Romano Village.

Health and Nutrition

Many of our projects involve activities that promote good health and basic nutrition. In Cuernavaca, **Mexico**, the *Caminamos Juntos* project involves health promotion activities, special needs assessment and nutritional and educational support for children. This ambitious endeavor has received strong support and solidarity from many Canadians who have seen children's lives in this area improve substantially.

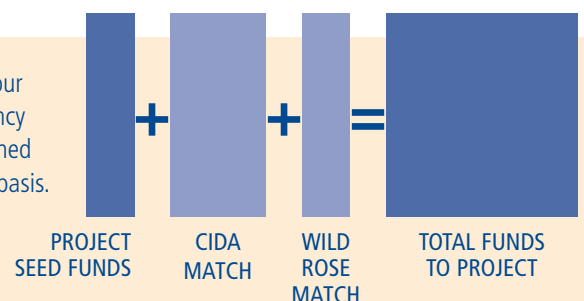


Photo by: Gordon Huff

HIV / AIDS Prevention and Treatment

CFCA supports education and training for health promoters who meet the basic health needs of their communities. Our **Peruvian** partner *CIDEPSA (Centre for Research in Health Development)* conducts health promotion outreach in poor neighborhoods around Lima where HIV transmission rates are high. In **Nicaragua**, *Centro Humboldt* (a Nicaraguan environmental and local development organization) works with indigenous communities in the Miskito and Mayagna territories on a community health and natural medicine project. In **Eritrea**, *The National Union of Eritrean Women* delivers HIV/AIDS awareness workshops to high-risk target groups in Asmara and surrounding area.

Donation Dollars Grow Projects are supported by donations from our supporters, as well as by grants from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Wild Rose Foundation of Alberta. Project seed funds are often matched by CIDA on a two-to-one basis, and by the Wild Rose Foundation on a one-to-one basis.



Agence canadienne de développement international

Canadian International Development Agency



ORDINARY PEOPLE CAN DO EXTRAOR

Basic Human Needs

Change for Children works with partners to ensure that all communities have access to and control over basic resources that are essential human needs such as water and adequate housing. In **Mexico**, *Caminamos Juntos* works with indigenous people to confront increased industrialization and pesticide use that is contaminating their water supply. The **Nicaraguan** organization *Centro Humboldt* implements a community water project that provides 22 wells for communities in Somotillo. The wells provide adequate water for household and agricultural use. *El Bloque*, using materials produced in their CFCA supported brick and tile plant, has subsidized the construction of houses for victims of Hurricane Mitch.



BOSAWAS art, photo by: Lorraine Swift



Photo by: Gordon Huff

Child Protection: Outreach, Advocacy and Support

Change for Children supports projects that minimize the impacts of inadequate social programming and inadequate education systems on youth as well as mitigate the consequences of high levels of poverty. In **El Salvador**, *The Romero Popular Resource Centre* provides youth with activities, training programs and basic education aimed at reducing gang involvement, criminal activity and violence. The **Nicaraguan** organizations, *INPRHU* and *FUNARTE* work in collaboration to provide human rights and self esteem training to children and youth working on the street. This project provides youth with leadership training so that they may successfully advocate for their human rights. In **Brazil**, *Thalita* provides street girls with psychological attention, vocational training and support workshops.

Indigenous Peoples' Cultural and Environmental Preservation

Change for Children projects promote cultural survival, territorial defence and environmental preservation of indigenous peoples and lands. In **Nicaragua**, *Centro Humboldt* works in the BOSAWAS Biosphere Reserve with the Miskito and Mayagna indigenous associations to protect a forest reserve known as "the Lungs of Central America" through education and micro-enterprise initiatives. *The Association for Mayan-Mam Research and Development* works in Comantillo, **Guatemala** on several initiatives that promote indigenous cultural preservation, including curriculum development in native languages.

Capacity Development and Income Generation for Women

"Educate a woman, educate an entire village"

CFCA currently works to increase levels of economic independence (personal autonomy) and interdependence (social organization) resulting in an improved quality of life for women and their families. *Fundacion Comunidad* and *Fundacion Santa Maria* in **Mexico** focus on the empowerment of women in the marketplace through support for small producers as well as technical and vocational training. In **Chile**, the *Centre of Professionals for Community Action* trains women in technical and business management skills and provides a revolving loan fund for them to initiate small businesses. Our CIDA intern for 2004/05 worked with the *National Union of Eritrean Women* which provides micro credit loans and vocational training for women.

DINARY THINGS – HANK ZYP

Sustainable Agriculture

CFCA supports projects that promote alternative and organic agricultural practices as well as provide marketing support for local farmers. In **Mexico**, *Fundacion Comunidad* and *Caminamos Juntos* provide benefits to agricultural producers through technical training, the creation of micro-enterprise initiatives and the development of government policies regarding agriculture. Our **Nicaraguan** partner *El Bloque* (a local Campesino Organization) provides technical support for the implementation of organic farming, soil conservation, reforestation and crop diversification on their own plots by local producers.



Photo by: Gordon Huff

Promoting Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance

Change for Children projects promote the protection and preservation of human rights at all levels as well as ensures local control of natural resources. In **Peru**, *CIDEPSA's* 'Rights to Health' Project is increasing public knowledge of rights to basic health services and how to access these services. *Centro Humboldt's* Community Health Project in Bosawas, **Nicaragua**, and *El Bloque / Centro Humboldt's* Water Project in Somotillo, **Nicaragua**, have mobilized Nicaraguans across the country to preserve and protect their basic human rights and ensure that their communities remain in control of the precious resources that protect their survival. In **Brazil**, *GRUCON (Unified Group for Black Awareness)* works with children and youth to organize community members to address the disproportionate poverty, racism and cultural discrimination that affect black communities.

Dental Brigades

This year we worked again with Kindness in Action and were able to send 35 dental professionals overseas to tend to over 1000 patients.



Photo by: Gordon Huff

2004/05 Internship

In 2004/2005 Laura Roberts was Change for Children's CIDA intern. Laura worked at the CFCA office for four months before travelling to Eritrea where she worked with the National Union of Eritrean Women. Laura made a short



Photo by: Tsegga Gaim

video for the project partner and worked very hard to support the activities of the organization. Thank you to CIDA for generously supporting interns.

"Working in the field with a truly grassroots woman's organization was a great professional experience. My colleagues at NUEW were 100% committed and dedicated to their mission – the social and political empowerment of women. Their commitment and dedication gave me a lot of hope for the future development and improved conditions of women throughout Eritrea. Thank you to Change for Children for such an amazing opportunity."

PARTNERS IN LEARNING FOR GLOBAL

Fostering global education and active involvement in development among Canadians was part of the CFCA founding mandate in 1976.



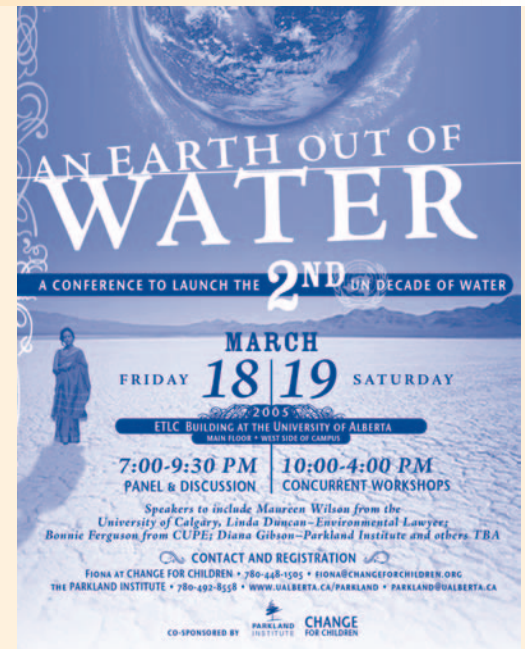
Photo by: Laura Roberts

The Education Program at Change for Children works to raise awareness, support analysis, and inspire action on issues of global justice. Working particularly with youth, newcomers' groups and schools Change for Children runs a number of innovative educational programs and supports a strong and committed community of engaged Canadians.

The Education program at CFCA works to educate directly about the issues and tell the stories that arise from our project partners in the Global South. It also makes direct links with communities and individuals in the North so that we can work collectively to address the root causes of poverty and develop a deeper understanding of how to build a strong global community.

2004/05 Programming Highlights

- Over 40 presentations to community groups, conferences, unions and churches in Edmonton and area.
- Father Pedro Declercq, a Belgian priest working in El Salvador, gave a lecture entitled "*The Struggle to Maintain Values and Cultures in an Era of Neo-liberalism*" done in partnership with Voice of the Voiceless Salvadorian Cultural Association.
- Participation in Alberta Council for Global Cooperation Traveling Photo Exhibit project.
- Martha Ojeda from the Coalition for Justice in the Maquilas presented at Change for Children on her work and the impact of globalization in Mexico; in partnership with the Canadian Union of Postal Workers.
- Change for Children completed a series of workshops on Wal-Mart and Economic Globalization that were done in partnership with the Alberta Federation of Labour and the United Nurses of Alberta.
- CFCA hosted Maria Jose Da Silva (Zeze) from Brazil in partnership with Rainbow of Hope for Children.
- Leocadio Juracan Salome, Vice President of the Campesino Committee of the Highlands (CCDA) in Guatemala, came to speak about sustainable agriculture and fair trade coffee in partnership with the Guatemala Solidarity Committee.
- Workshops developed on economic globalization, youth activism, and root causes of poverty, as well as adding a new section on Eritrea to the CFCA library.
- 2004/2005 newsletter editions focused on educating about water, shared stories of hope for sustainable communities and the rights of a child.



Poster by Rob Butz

2005/06 programming will focus on creating new education tools such as an education program brochure, an electronic newsletter for global educators, an education webpage, a guide for youth on leadership and youth social justice initiatives in Alberta, a speaker's tour from the global south and core workshop development.

RURAL ROOTS: A Youth Action Project

A key initiative in 2004/05 was the development and implementation of the Rural Roots Project.

The Rural Roots Youth Action project is a public engagement project providing youth with the opportunities to deepen their understanding of the issues and move forward into action as they examine the root causes of poverty and social injustice. Throughout the project youth came together to explore global issues and local actions for change.



Photo by: Phil Goebel

Summary of Results

- Change for Children was awarded funding from CIDA for Phase II of the Rural Roots project for 2005/2006.
- A 32 page Rural Roots Youth Action Guide was completed and 600 were given out to youth, teachers and NGOs in Alberta. The guide is also available online.
- A global education CD ROM was created for teachers.
- 9 Youth Leaders and 6 Youth Steering Committee members were trained and are active participants in the project.
- 2 Rural Roots Tours completed: 36 teachers and 800 students in rural school communities were direct beneficiaries. An additional 100 youth participated through ongoing presentations at conferences.
- 15 Albertan youth presented and 100 youth and teachers attended the Rural Roots Conference in March 2005

This project is made possible by funding from CIDA and APIRG

Impact

“Our experiences in Nicaragua and other Central American countries changed and enriched our lives. Having farmed for over 40 years, we see the same problems arising in the rural scene here as we have witnessed it in the South. I find it therefore very encouraging that you are promoting a, “Rural Roots Youth Educational Leadership Conference... for all youth 14-19.”

“Thank you sincerely for sharing your wisdom and knowledge with our students. You helped make our conference day a success as well as a truly unique experience that the school will remember for a long time.”

“I learned... so much! I never knew very much about slavery or sweatshops and this presentation made an impact on my life! I would love to share this information with other people and make as big an impact on others as you have made on me.”

“The Rural Roots project has profoundly influenced my life. It truly was an eye opener for me and for the students who had the opportunity to immerse themselves in our presentation. I had the privilege of learning several lifelong lessons and many invaluable facts and statistics.”

One World Beat

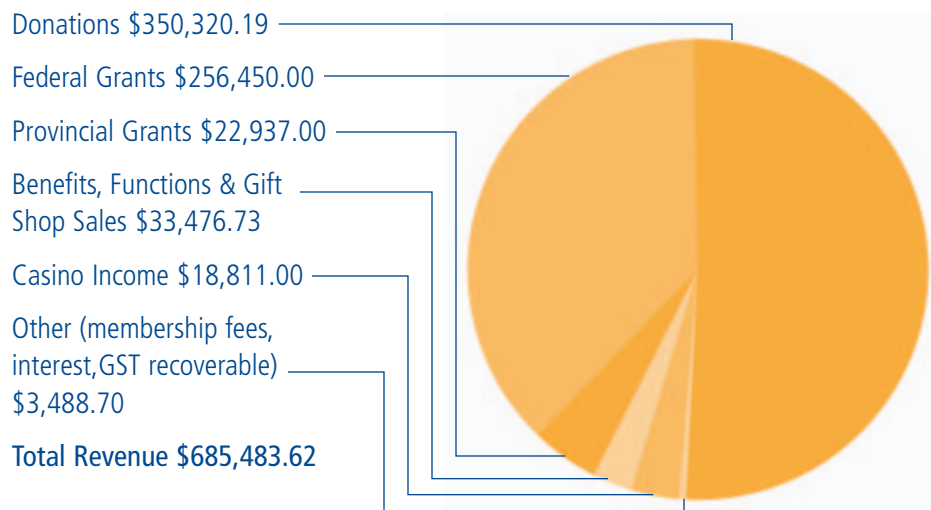


The theme of this year's One World Beat was "Give A Child A Chance." One World Beat is an annual international music festival that unites musicians and charities for social change. Change for Children held its second annual One World Beat festival with a concert held in the Sacred Heart School Gym on March 19, 2005. We are grateful for the incredible support we received from the Edmonton community of musicians. Special thanks to Bill Bourne, Terry Morrison, Arturo Avila & Musica Sur Americana, Jaime Calderon & N-Samble and the Global Voices Multicultural Choir. Thanks also to Don Snider and the Edmonton Folk Music Festival; Bill Hallam at Flavour Budzzz Catering; Long and McQuade Music; Vincent Henry Audio Visual; Roger Garcia; Project HOPE and all the NGOs that participated. Very special thanks to the many volunteers that made this event possible. Proceeds from One World Beat 2005 supported CFCA's Educational Projects in Guatemala, El Salvador, Zimbabwe and Sierra Leone.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

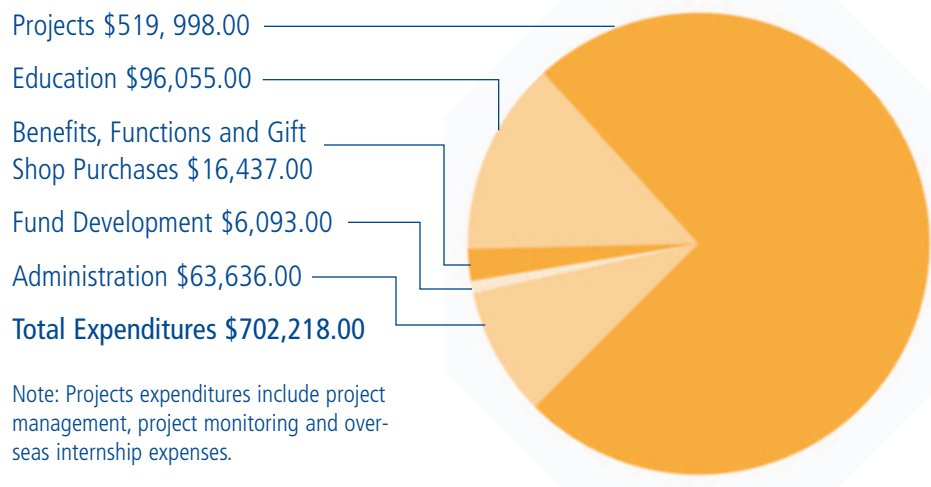
For the period of April 1, 2004 through March 31, 2005. The information on this page was taken from unaudited financial statements. Complete financial statements can be obtained from the Change for Children office.

REVENUE (Does not include value of donated services.)



Note: CFCA opened the year with \$167,664 in Projects Funds and \$16,282 in the General Fund.

EXPENDITURES (Does not include value of donated services.)



Note: Projects expenditures include project management, project monitoring and overseas internship expenses.

It is the policy of Change for Children to begin each year with sufficient funds to ensure continuation of multi-year projects with our partners.

Volunteers

The contribution of volunteers is imperative in the work that Change for Children does. As a small Non Governmental Organization, Change for Children could not exist without volunteer support.

Volunteers participate in key decision making through their commitment to our board, education, project, financial and newsletter committees where crucial governance occurs. Volunteers also participate in coordinating annual fundraisers, office maintenance, and global education presentations in schools and community groups. Our volunteers have a rich diversity of age, experience and background and form the basis of a sustainable organization.

Thank you for the commitment, time and knowledge that you have generously given to our organization

CFCA Staff and Board

Administrative and Financial Coordinator:

Claudia Olivares

Projects Coordinator: Lorraine Swift

Education Coordinator: Fiona Cavanagh

Rural Roots Education Assistant (half time):
Gilbert Gatali

President: Margo Nelson

Vice-President: Delmy Hoyt-Garcia

Treasurer: Michael Hoyt

Secretary: Patsy Ho

Directors: Jennifer Easaw, David Fath, Bette Illich, Carmen Plante, Sheryl Trompeter

Canadian Partners

Alberta Public Interest Research Group
Alberta Federation of Labour
Canadian International Development Agency
CKUA
Don and Donna Savard
Eritrean Women's Association of Edmonton
Earth's General Store
Guatemala Solidarity Committee
High Level Diner
Kindness in Action
Parkland Institute
Peter Van Stolk of Jones Soda
Project HOPE of the Grant MacEwan College
Students' Association
Upper Crust Cafe
Voice of the Voiceless Salvadoran Cultural Association
Westwood Unitarian Congregation
Wild Rose Foundation



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