Education brings HOPE

Poverty hits children the hardest.

Children who grow up in an environment of extreme poverty are more likely to die from a preventable disease, or to suffer from a physical or mental disability, due to the lack of adequate nutrition and sanitation. These children are more open to exploitation, human trafficking, or a life of family labour collecting water, firewood or tending the family livestock. They are less likely to have the opportunity to attend school, or learn marketable skills. They are less likely to fully develop mentally, emotionally, or physically. These children are more likely to marry young and have children young; thus repeating one more cycle of poverty.

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12 year-old Theonille lives in the northern part of Rwanda. During Rwanda’s difficult years, Theonille and her family were refugees in Tanzania but have now returned home. The family lives in a valley that was once a swamp. ADRA drained the swamps and made the land suitable for farming, provided water taps, and built a health clinic and the school where Theonille is a grade four student.

Theonille is very grateful for what ADRA has done. She says, “If it were not for ADRA, I don’t know where our family would be today. They have really helped us a lot.”
One of the primary goals of development agencies like ADRA, is to make appropriate interventions into impoverished communities to bring positive change to the lives of people and to help break cycles of poverty. One strategy ADRA uses in the communities in which it works, is to make sure that every child can attend school.

Every community needs to take responsibility for education. So while it is not the mission of ADRA to run school systems, we often partner closely with local communities, offering a supportive role to teachers and students and, in many cases, helping to build or rehabilitate classrooms, provide desks, blackboards, educational materials, water systems, or latrines.

In many schools, a hot lunch provided by ADRA helps students concentrate on their studies, and may be the only good meal they get all day.

In poor families throughout the world, difficult decisions have to be made. In households where the average income is less than $1.00 a day, parents have to decide who will go to school and who will not.

Even though elementary education may be free in many countries, the cost of uniforms, books, and supplies is too much for many parents to send all the children in the family. Usually it is the girls that must stay home and help with the family chores, or worse, be sent away to work in a nearby village or city.

This problem is addressed in a number of ways. Initially, parents and community leaders are led through guided discussions that illustrate the extreme importance of education for all of their children. They are instructed about the potential slavery, exploitation and abuse to which their children are exposed when they are sent away to work.

Next, ADRA helps the community develop services to reduce the amount of time children must spend collecting water and fuel. When clean water is only a few steps away from the home rather than two or three kilometres away, it is much easier for a child to be able to attend school.

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"Is there a recommended donation amount?"

The more financial support ADRA Canada receives, the more funds we have available to help people through our programs, so there really is no amount that is too large!

One of the good things about donating to ADRA Canada is that, regardless of the amount, you can be sure your gift will change lives and give hope to those who need it.

We understand that this goal may not be attainable for everyone and we are very grateful for every one of our donors who give whatever amount they can afford.

If you would like to increase your donation to $100.00 per year, you may find it easier to set up a monthly pre-authorized credit card donation or monthly automatic bank withdrawal.

We recommend that every donor give an annual donation of $100.00, (which works out to be only $8.33 a month) and those who already give more than that, increase their current donation by $100.00 per year.
Canadian Couple Takes on Child Sex Trade

Empassioned with the plight of up to two million children worldwide who are enslaved in the sex trade, in November, Phil Adkins and Isabelle Castella of Pixellight Productions will travel from Canada to the Mekong District of South East Asia. This region, consisting of Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia, has the dubious distinction of being a global hotspot of human trafficking.

Driven by a desire to give voice to these children, Phil and Isabelle will be filming and producing a feature-length documentary highlighting the circumstances influencing the proliferation of this industry. The film will focus on the people who work to bring proactive change through legislation, law enforcement, social aid, and victim rehabilitation. Filming will also follow Canada’s journey to address this crime both within its own borders and in the context of the international community.

Phil comments, “I can’t forget a picture of a 7 year-old girl with her younger sister on her hip in a viewing room in a locked brothel. I couldn’t sleep, thinking about the look on her face. I decided to do something about it”.

Isabelle responds, “We know this trip carries a significant element of risk, but I have started to think of these girls as I do my daughter. I want to use the power of images to effect real change”.

By exposing the highly-charged core of emotions behind this crime, Phil and Isabelle may well effect the change they are seeking.

ADRA Canada is sponsoring the production of Phil and Isabelle’s video in the hope that it will be effective in raising awareness in Canada of the sex trafficking problem. The Pixellight film will include footage of girls who have received help from the ADRA Thailand Keep Girls Safe program and related projects.

Through ADRA’s Community Development Program, young girls who are vulnerable to the sex trade are identified, provided with an education, and, in high-risk situations, referred to a shelter. This leads them away from exploitative situations and into safer, better livelihoods.

For $125 you can provide a vulnerable girl with the education she needs to live a life free from exploitation.
Community Development in Thailand

The young people of Baan Nong Waan Village in Southern Thailand, are very grateful for the improvements in their lives made possible through donations to the ADRA Community Development Program (CDP).

The CDP emphasizes, among other things, training children and youth in life skills so that they can protect themselves against abuse, commercial sexual exploitation of children, and violence of all types. Vulnerable and at-risk girls are provided scholarships by the program so they can attend school.

In addition to regular classroom subjects, the students are taught how to grow organic vegetables, and environmental protection and conservation of natural resources. Some of the children participate in the ADRA River Spy Camp where they learn how to collect water samples and perform simple tests to determine the quality of the water. They learn how to protect the water from pollution and how to share this knowledge with their friends.

These children and others like them throughout Thailand are receiving the gift of a better life and hope for the future because of ADRA supporters.

Please accept my gift of:

$__________ for School Supplies

$__________ for the CDP in Thailand

$__________ for Emergency Management

$__________ for whatever needed most

OR

Donate online: www.adra.ca

Name: ________________________________

Address: ________________________________

City:__________________________ Prov: ______ Postal Code: ____________

Phone: ( ) _______________ E-mail: __________________________

Method of Payment: ☐ Cheque ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ AMEX

Credit Card #: ___________________________ Expiry: ____________

Carcholder Name: ____________________________

Carcholder Signature: ____________________________

Make cheques payable to ADRA Canada.
Another approach that has been found to be very successful is to help improve family income. Classes that teach parents marketable skills, literacy, numeracy, and basic small business accounting can have a dramatic effect on household income. Small loans at affordable interest rates provide parents with the capital to get their new enterprise off the ground. Suddenly, they now have the money they need to send all of their children to school.

In homes where these measures still don’t bring in enough income, ADRA workers in many countries seek to find assistance to supply children with the necessities to attend school. In some communities where ADRA is working, summer school programs help students catch up to their peers.

Through education, ADRA is changing the lives of children like Pasangjargal, Barsha and Theonille. Through knowledge comes the opportunity for a better life.

These life-saving initiatives are only possible through partnership with Canadians. Your support helps fuel programs that bring promise and hope. Thank You!

“Hi, my name is Pasangjargal. I am 12 years old and I live here in this ger with my family. We raise yaks as well as sheep and goats. Our family has to move around a lot in order to find good pasture for our animals. It has not always been possible for my brother and me to go to school. The ADRA summer school program has helped us a lot! The teachers are very kind and understanding. They are helping us catch up to the other kids our age. It is my goal to finish my education, and one day become a stewardess so that I can travel and see the world!”
Canadian Foodgrains Bank

A Christian Response to Hunger

Fast For Change 2009
Friday, October 16

Join with Christians across Canada who are united by the belief that hunger in a world of such abundance is a matter of injustice.

Climate changes and unfair trade policies affect the more than 850 million people who are chronically malnourished. The coexistence of abundance and abject poverty implies some changes are necessary to our daily life.

Friday, October 16 is World Food Day, a day set aside to heighten public awareness of the world food problem and strengthen solidarity in the struggle against hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

On October 16, “Fast for Change” by fasting from food however you can, in ways that fit with your personal health. Pray and reflect on how small changes in your daily life can have an impact on hungry people around the world; a way to live more simply so that others can simply live.

Whether you are one person or part of a group, a resource kit is available to help you plan opportunities for meaningful participation. To order from CFGB a print version of the resource kit, or to access the online version go to:

http://www.fastforchange.ca/fast_for_change.aspx

The new, redesigned, larger size 2011 ADRA Canada Calendar is NOW AVAILABLE!
Email karen@adra.ca to order your free calendar/s today!

If you have a Facebook profile, you can use the “Birthday Wish” feature to raise funds for ADRA Canada.

Use the following address in your web browser,
http://apps.facebook.com/causes/birthdays/new?cause_id=ADRA
Canada

then follow the instructions to set up your Birthday Wish Campaign!

Be an ADRA Canada movie STAR!

If you’re planning an event to raise money for ADRA Canada, you could STAR in an ADRA Canada dvd!

We want to know what you’re doing to support ADRA Canada. Tell us about your plans and we may come film your event for an upcoming dvd.

phone local: 905-433-8004 ext 134,
toll-free: 1-888-274-2372 ext 134 or
email: liz.horniachek@adra.ca