

## Bringing Street Choices to Africa's Street Kids

Africa and especially its sub-Saharan southern half continues to be ravaged by poverty, disease and war. That the situation has actually deteriorated over the past 10 years is creating renewed interest and efforts to assist the long-suffering people of this region including its vast population of street kids.

The causes of Africa's crisis are complex and varied. Two decades of International Monetary Fund prescribed structural adjustment combined with trade barriers and falling commodity prices have resulted in a decline in real income by over 25% in the sub-Saharan region. This has further deepened the already severe levels of poverty. The transition from cold war dictatorships to democratic governments has not been smooth. While 45 of 50 African countries held multi-party elections in the 1990's, wars and internal conflicts continue to afflict over a dozen countries, each adding to the already massive populations of refugees and orphans.

And HIV/AIDS continues to destroy lives and families. For every country like Uganda that finally turns a corner, others take a step back. Zambia for example continues to struggle with a 20% infection rate while life saving medicines remain out of reach due to patent laws and prohibitive costs. The outcomes not surprisingly, are devastating. The life expectancy in the sub-Saharan region has declined to 48 years, 30 years less than in the industrialized world. Poverty rates remain well above 50% and as inconceivably high as 86% in Zambia. Parents are dying at an unbelievable frequency.

The resulting family breakdown has seen the number of children being orphaned, abandoned or forced to work on the street double in some countries in the past 10 years. In fact it's estimated that 30% of Africa's adolescents live or work on the street and that over 10 million children in all are street kids. It's into this situation, that SKI is launching its latest initiative for street kids in Zambia and South Africa.

SKI has had a long and productive history in Africa. It was the birth place of

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Street girls sell vegetables in the market in Lusaka, Zambia

## Night of 1000 Dinners Set for Dec. 5th

Wars force thousands of kids onto the streets where they struggle to earn money, support their family, or find friends to replace the family they've lost. They also end up on the street to escape the landmines that hide in the schoolyards, fields, and parks. Stepping on a landmine guarantees death or disability.

This year, SKI will be teaming up with the Canadian Landmines Foundation to run "The Night of 1000 Dinners" which will help raise funds to support street kids and the elimination of landmines.

We're encouraging adults and students around the world to hold a dinner at their house, favorite restaurant, or school cafeteria on or around December 5<sup>th</sup> to raise funds and awareness in support of these issues. We hope to have more than 2000 dinners this year.

You can join us! If you or your children would like to hold a dinner on December 5th, please see our web-site for full details and ready-to-download materials...there's even a bulletin board to share ideas! You can also contact us at 1-800-387-5326 ext.31.

([www.streetkids.org](http://www.streetkids.org))

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SKI's Stephanie Sauve with youth workers in Zambia

SKI back in 1986 when Peter Dalglish first came across the street kids of Sudan during the early days of the civil war and launched the first bike couriers. Since then, SKI has worked side by side with local partner agencies across the continent pioneering youth employment and micro-credit programs aimed at street kids through initiatives such as the Kuleana Training Project in Tanzania and the Youth Skills Initiative (YSEI) in Zambia

To address the most urgent needs in Zambia and South Africa, SKI will be focusing initially on the Street Health program that will supplement existing programming for youth workers and street kids to deal with HIV/AIDS and substance abuse. The Street Work program with the Street Business Toolkit will then be brought on stream in early 2003 to increase the income earning opportunities for street kids in these impoverished countries.

SKI's David James Wilson and Meredith Lee kicked off the initiative in August with an intensive 2 weeks of introductory workshops in Lusaka, Zambia and Johannesburg, South Africa. Over 60 front line youth agencies participated enthusiastically thanks to our respective partners Children in Need (CHIN) in Zambia and Streetwise in South Africa. Follow up workshops and sessions will continue in November in collaboration with the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR), an associate of the UNHCR.

The plans for Africa don't stop here though. With HIV/AIDS and poverty at such intense levels in the sub-Saharan region, SKI is already looking ahead into 2003 at opportunities to establish a second program hub in the West around Burkina Faso and to complete the Eastern hub by re-engaging with partners in Tanzania. Using a hub model is an efficient way to cover Africa's massive expanse by building regional youth worker expertise and capacity that can disseminate the Street Health and Street Work programs to street kids quickly and skillfully.

Over the past 10 years, Africa has endured yet another period of immense turmoil and suffering that has escalated the numbers of kids forced to live and work on the street. While the solutions won't be easy or simple, SKI's Street Health and Street Work programs will give these street survivors living in the harshest social and economic environment on the planet, a greater chance to live to see the next decade.

<b>A Quick Look at:</b>		
	<b>Zambia</b>	<b>Canada</b>
Population (millions)	10	32
Infant Mortality rate per 1000 births	89	5
Life Expectancy	37	80
GDP per capita ( \$US)	\$870	\$25,000
Poverty rate	86%	20%
<b>Sources: CIA World Handbook</b>		

## SKI Interns Hit the Field

This September, a new group of interns departed for their 10-month placements in Peru and Zambia. This will be SKI's sixth year sponsoring an internship program for young Canadians.

SKI's internship program gives youth valuable work experience that contributes to their professional development. It also provides invaluable support for SKI and it's partners. The interns were selected from among many young graduates from across Canada.

Anna Haanstra and Jess Rothenburger both have backgrounds in international development and are working with our partners MANTHOC and IFEJANT in Peru to further develop economic programming with youth. For Jess, this is a return to a country where he spent a year as part of his university studies. Anna is experiencing Peru for the first time although she has lived and worked in Central America.

Jessica Tomlin is a women's studies graduate who is working in Lusaka, Zambia, with our partner Children in Need Network (CHIN). Jessica is involved in developing curriculum for training workshops delivered to the many local organizations belonging to CHIN's membership and also with CHIN in fund development.

Anna, Jess and Jessica will be actively involved in the programs that SKI has launched in Peru and Africa this year. We'll update you on their experiences in upcoming issues.

Editorial

## There's Much More To Be Done For Street Kids

by Rosemary McCarney

As I finish my first 6 months reconnected to Street Kids International, I am more profoundly committed to this organization and its mission than I've ever been.

Why?

The SKI team of volunteers and staff continue to be consummate, dedicated professionals who bring both practicality and passion to their work every day in some of the toughest travel and working environments on the planet. Their commitment is inspiring.

The Board of Directors is about the most active group of volunteers I have experienced on a not-for-profit Board. They lend their professional services, their time and give generously in their financial support of SKI and its work. And, I am continually moved by the individual donors and sponsors who write, call or contribute daily to this uniquely Canadian success story called SKI.

As we enter our 15<sup>th</sup> year, we remain optimistic about the chances for the street involved children we work with. We see daily how they continue to lead us and teach us about individual strength, resilience and determination. We are also reminded of the stereotypes created by our own media and often the fundraising community who rely on desperate images to move us to give.

That's the real difference with SKI. We don't treat the children we work with as victims. We choose not to reinforce stereotypes and roles that perpetuate their status. We work with the openings and opportunities their street skills provide to move beyond survival on issues of health and livelihood.

The last 6 months have been one of high impact as we have been increasingly included in international consultations, meetings and policy setting forums that influence the direction and size of programming for street based youth by international donors. Our on the ground programming leveraged through deep and long term partnerships continues to expand at an accelerated rate.

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And as we start our 15<sup>th</sup> year, everyone who has been and continues to be a part of the SKI network globally can take pride in the many successes that they have contributed to, and we hope they recommit to us in the next 15 years. By 2030, it is estimated that over 60% of the world's population will live in cities and that 60% of this urban population will be under 18 years of age.

The numbers tell us it is too soon for SKI to plan its retirement.

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## Egypt Summit Explores Youth Employment Options

How will the world's growing population of young people, especially youth facing poverty, achieve sustainable livelihoods or employment in their transition to adulthood? That was the central issue addressed at the Youth Employment Summit held in Alexandria, Egypt in September.

Co-chaired by Suzanne Mubarak, first lady of Egypt and former U.S. President Bill Clinton, the Summit brought together approximately 1600 delegates from 140 countries representing NGO's, government ministries, youth agencies, and youth themselves. Together, these groups initiated discussions on innovations, best-practices and government policies related to youth employment.

SKI had a very active role in the 5-day Summit. Executive Director Rosemary McCarney, spoke on a panel discussing micro-credit (i.e. small loans). Rosemary shared SKI's experiences with micro-credit programs in Zambia and Bolivia designed for street involved youth. Program Manager, Veronica Torres, ran three workshops that introduced over 60 enthusiastic participants to the Street Business Toolkit. The highly interactive sessions provided for a lively exchange of ideas and experiences from around the world.

The goal of the Youth Employment Summit was to launch the "Decade Campaign of Action" to promote youth employment and to ensure that an additional 500 million young adults will have productive and sustainable livelihoods by the year 2012.

[www.youthemploymentsummit.org](http://www.youthemploymentsummit.org)

## CHUM Launches Street Kids Public Service Announcement

SKI is very pleased to announce the release of its new Public Service Announcement (PSA) that hit the airwaves in October. Created by Reilly Saso and produced as part of CHUM-TV's community outreach program, the 30-second PSA focuses on three street kids and their challenges.

The PSA is initially running on CHUM-TV's family of stations including Muchmusic and Bravo and will introduce the issues facing street kids to viewers across the country. Special thanks to CHUM's Reilly Saso, Christine McKenna, Scott Gregg, Sarah Crawford, and SKI board member Robert Barnard of D-Code.

([www.chumtv.com](http://www.chumtv.com))

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### Donor's Corner:

## Give a Gift Donation this Holiday Season or Anytime!

Wondering what to get your loved ones this holiday season?  
Tired of the same old socks, soaps, and sweaters?

This year your gifts can really make a difference during the holiday season or at any time of the year. A donation to Street Kids International on behalf of your family or friends makes a meaningful gift and helps us reach even more street kids around the world. And its easy. Simply send us the:

Name(s) of the recipient  
Their full mailing address  
Your name as you'd like it on the card  
Your phone number  
Donation amount and method of payment (cheque or credit card)

And you have three convenient options to contact us:

- 1/ phone @ 1-800-387-5326 or 416-504-8994 ext.26
- 2/ email @ [dpeters@streetkids.org](mailto:dpeters@streetkids.org)
- 3/ regular mail @ 201-38 Camden St, Toronto M5V 1V1

Monthly donors on our automatic bank deposit plan can pay via a one-time charge to your bank account.

This year and all year, make your gifts keep on giving!

## Teeing Off in Support of Street Kids

The first ever Friends of Street Kids Golf Tournament was held in September raising over \$30,000 in support of SKI.

Organized by board member Tim Rooney, the event attracted 80 players to the Lionhead Golf & Country Club in Brampton, Ontario. A good time was had by all as golfers drove, putted, and duffed for a good cause!

A hearty thanks goes out to all who attended. Special thanks to our sponsors Pepsi, CIBC, KPMG and Universal Music and our volunteers, especially Sang Won Kim and Emma Rooney.

Plans are already underway for the next Golf day in the spring of 2003. Stay tuned for more details or give us a call at 1-800-387-5326 ext. 26 to get on our mailing list for next year's event.

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*Season's Greetings*

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*Best Wishes for a*

*Happy New Year*

*from everyone at*

*Street Kids*

*International!*