

## The First 15 Years!

2003 represents Street Kids International's 15th year in operation. To acknowledge this milestone, each issue of Street Scenes this year will focus on a different aspect of it's brief and inspiring history. This issue we start with a pictorial history of Street Kids International.



Founder Peter Dalglish in Sudan where SKI got its start.



The early board and staff. On Peter's left is current ED Rosemary McCaerney, founding chair Frank O'Dea and Program Manager David James Wilson.



A photo of Sunday Tuch, one of the original couriers in Khartoum from an early SKI postcard.



The Karate Kid, below, sets off to confront the "smiling man". The ground breaking 1989 video has now reached over 200,000 street kids in over 26 countries.



The famous Bike Couriers of Bangalore, India circa 1992.



Philippine street kids at a 1998 Karate Kids/Goldtooth workshop

Speed (right) races to the rescue in SKI's 3<sup>rd</sup> educational video, the 2001 release Speed's Choice. The video is the centerpiece of the Street Business Toolkit.



Youth workers in Ecuador celebrate an early Street Business Toolkit workshop in 2002.

## A Peruvian Experience

**SKI's student intern Jess Rothenburger provides his impressions of his time spent in Peru**

I am very lucky to be in Peru again; a first impression for the second time. For me, Peru is a paradox: it is simultaneously a very rich and poor country. Its culture, its heritage, its people, its geography continue to fascinate. Unfortunately, however, Peru is still a developing country; when it comes to overt poverty, violence, urbanization, corruption, economic crisis, social disparity, racism, pollution and environmental degradation, Peru is by no means an exception to the rule.

This time around I am an intern with Street Kids International and I have had the opportunity to work with its partners to promote the well being of street kids and young-adolescent workers. I have been sincerely impressed by the hard work, the progressive thinking, passion and dedication my counterparts exhibit on a daily basis. Many have dedicated their lives to youth and to the national movements that defend youth. Their contributions are inspiring and, unfortunately, absolutely necessary.

One is hard-pressed not to notice, at least in Lima, the great number

*Continued on page 2...*

## The First 15 Years

### Where Are They Now?

#### Founder Peter Dalglish

After his groundbreaking work with SKI, Peter went on to work with the Canadian government on youth programming. At present he is working in Nepal with the International Labour Org. on the worst forms of child labour. Peter is married with one child and lives in Holland. You'll be hearing more from Peter and SKI in the upcoming months.



---

#### *Peruvian Experience continued from page 1...*

of young people struggling to make a living and to support their families. Children can easily be seen begging on the street, shinning shoes or offering a number of other services in the informal economy.

Though I had noticed this before I suppose I hadn't given as much critical thought about child labour beyond why it exists. Our Peruvian partners have helped me challenge my own ideas about participation, solidarity, social action, citizenship, and, most importantly, how adolescent workers fit in with respect to these ideas.

I have been challenged to appreciate that youth are human beings like any other. This is to say that they have ideas, concerns and contributions that are valid and important. It wasn't so long ago that I, myself, was a child and how easily I had forgotten that youth want to be heard. I am learning to *listen* to children, appreciate and value their opinions and knowledge. We tend to see children as naïve. Ironically, it seems that the older we get, we also tend to forget and *unlearn*.

I have also come to appreciate the value of work and how it is important for many youth, not only to survive and contribute, but also because it provides them a space in a society that has otherwise marginalized them. Admittedly, at first I did not easily grasp how 'child labour' was a good thing. My northern-centric mentality automatically perceived child labour as 'child exploitation.'

Now, on the contrary, I recognize the importance of the work being done that acknowledges the reality and works to give youth the tools to protect and develop themselves. For that I am proud to be here and proud to be working with SKI's *Street Business Toolkit*.

So, what does this experience mean for a young Canadian like me? One thing is for sure, I will not take granted the wealth of Canadian society that renders child labour much less common. Regardless, Canadian youth too must be heard, even if it is in a different social space.

Finally, I can't forget the meaning of solidarity, which is something the working youth themselves have taught me. As Canadians, as global citizens, we have a responsibility to others. We must continue to do the kind of work SKI does to give youth the necessary tools to survive.

But also, and perhaps more importantly still, we must look inwardly and re-evaluate our Canadian position within the context of a global political and economic structure that perpetuates the poverty that forces children on the street in the first place.

## Students Take Charge

### School Outreach Program Strives for Global Change

Students have always had the ideas and initiative to influence global change. What's often been missing is the opportunity to bring these to a wider audience. Street Kids International's new school outreach program hopes to change that.

SKI's school outreach program will give students the opportunity to learn about the issues that are putting kids on the streets. It will then support students who want to speak out and raise awareness about these issues. The program strives to build students' leadership skills as youth advocates and to connect students to other related resources and programs.

We've already seen the potential of this student power. This past December, over 7,000 students volunteered to support the Night of 1000 Dinners fundraiser.

At the same time, media students from Unionville High School, just North of Toronto produced a variety of innovative professional-quality public service announcement (PSA's) to promote SKI's school outreach program to students around the world.

SKI will continue to give youth a voice. On our website, students from around the world are already talking to each other about what makes a good school outreach program, about how they want to get involved. Join in the dialogue.

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

## Editorial

# Our 15<sup>th</sup> Year

by Rosemary McCarney

Street Kids International's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary year is off to a fast and busy start.

This month our field teams are on 3 continents continuing the delivery of the Street Work and Street Health programs. They'll be meeting with youth workers and street youth in Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Zambia, Tanzania, South Africa, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Russia.

On this continent, we have more Night of 1000 Dinners events still taking place and other fundraising activities are taking off.

In January, RBC Financial hosted a dinner celebrating the work of Street Kids International over 15 years and gave us an opportunity to thank many of our individual and institutional supporters and partners from over the years.

*Street Scenes* would also like to celebrate many of the people who have come through the doors of Street Kids International over these 15 years providing leadership and building the organization's international reputation.

This issue begins most appropriately with the founder and first Executive Director of Street Kids International, Peter Dalglish.

Over the year, we will bring you up to date with some of the other extraordinary people who are part of the history and fabric of a true Canadian success story, Street Kids International.

With so much on the go and so much more that needs to be done, our 15<sup>th</sup> year looks to become one of our busiest and best yet.

## Program Updates:

### Peru:

*Nieves Tapahuasco Huamani is one of SKI's collaborators in Peru who works for the organization CODEH in the city of Ica. She recently participated in the Street Business Toolkit Workshops in Ica and provides this profile of two of the participants. Out thanks to Nieves.*

Luis is 12 years old and lives with his mother, stepfather, two brothers and two small nephews in a small dwelling made from mats made from sugar cane. This dwelling doesn't have water and has 'borrowed' electricity. Luis previously sold lemon and 'chinchu' flavoured candies from a small basket. He has always been a gentleman and with the Toolkit training now has an even better ability to sell and has varied his selection of products.



In the morning, Luis now sells matches, cotton, swabs, brushes, combs, fly swatters and, of course his candies but with more flavours. In the afternoon he sells candies as well as cigarettes and gum in order to earn money over the holidays. On Sundays he plays and doesn't work because, according to him, it is his "day of rest that I have a right to". Luis' goal is to move past the poverty that he didn't choose by studying. He has excellent grades and is loved by his teachers.

Karla is 13. Before she sold corn in an unorganized manner and didn't have very good customer relations. Now she cleans and orders the space where she sells and has improved her manner with her customers. She always asks for more training with respect to this so that she can improve on her income and contribute to the family income. She likes to work and her goal is to have her own work station in the market while continuing her studies and to become a professional.

### Africa:

Collaborating with local partners in South Africa and Zambia, SKI has been able to move forward quickly and strategically in the past six months. SKI has now delivered four Street Health workshops in both Johannesburg and Lusaka.

One of the unique aspects of SKI's work is facilitating the exchange of best practices in youth work from diverse regions. Few other Zambian workshops, for example, will highlight innovative activities from Russia and Ecuador.

During the month of February SKI's Meredith Lee and David James Wilson will continue with the roll out of the Street Health program and develop plans for delivery of the Street Business Toolkit.

In particular, two Street Health Training of Trainers workshops will take place that will develop the abilities of local youth workers as trainers. Meredith will also visit partners in Tanzania to discuss future delivery plans in that country.

# Street Happenings

## Calgary:

### **A Rocky Mountain Reception**

SKI paid tribute to the generous contributions of the Calgary community at its Calgary Donor Appreciation Reception in December. Hosted by SKI's personable Alberta Representative, Edmund Oliverio and board member Bill Richardson at the Calgary offices of McCarthy Tetrault, the evening gave SKI a chance to say a special thanks to donors. We also made many new friends from among the guests from the Alberta business, charitable and governmental sectors. SKI would like to thank Edmund for putting together such a great event and to McCarthy Tetrault, a long time SKI supporter, for the facilities and refreshments.

---

## Toronto:

### **Young Professionals in Action**

What do you think today's busy young professional's do with their limited spare time? Well if you said "raise money for charity" you'd be right!

Over 150 of Toronto's youngest and brightest lights got together in December to raise over \$8,000 in support of SKI. The event, "An International Beer Tasting Evening" was held at John Labatt Hall and gave guests a chance to taste the beers of the world while raising money for SKI's projects around the globe.

SKI would like to thank Labatt's for generously donating their beautiful hall and the great organizing committee made up of Chathan Lakshman, Kathy Murphy, Steve Yuzpe, Iain Klugman, Dean MacNeil and SKI board member Robert Barnard.

---

## Montreal:

### **Winemaker's Dinner**

Montreal was the scene of "A Winemaker's Dinner" this past December 6. The dinner and auction held at the quaint Café Java-U in old Montreal raised over \$9,000 in support of SKI. Guests got a chance to learn about the history of winemaking and about the new generation of California wine regions.

Special thanks go to the Robert Mondavi Winery, Gino Berrata and Gloria Turchetto for their support and to SKI board member Jeff Baikowitz for organizing this memorable evening.

## **A Special Start to 2003**

RBC Financial helped SKI start off its 15<sup>th</sup> year on the right note with a dinner and reception at the RBC Boardroom in Toronto on January 30.

Hosted by Charlie Coffey, RBC Financial's Executive Vice-President, the evening gave SKI an opportunity to acknowledge some of our many special donors, friends and partners who have made such a major contribution to our first 15 years. The more than 60 guests heard from current Executive Director, Rosemary McCarney, Communications Manager Stephanie Sauve, volunteer Emma Rooney and others comment on SKI's past accomplishments and future goals.

A special thanks goes to RBC Financial for a special evening.

---

## **Just Announced!**

**SKI's second annual  
Golf Day is set for  
May 27, 2003 at the  
King's Riding Golf  
Club in King City  
Ontario.**

**Call 1-800-387-5326  
for more information  
or to book now.**