



Get in the Swing

Finally spring has arrived and it is time to pull out the clubs and start buffing your driver. The Street Kids International golf tournament will be held on June 1st 2004 again at King's Riding Golf Club in North Toronto. More information about our golf tournament can be found at www.streetkids.org.

On Board!

Gerrard Schmid joined the Board of Directors of Street Kids International in the summer of 2003 and in no time rolled up his sleeves to assist us with corporate sponsorship. Gerrard is the Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer of Retail Markets for CIBC. The Globe & Mail recently named him one of the "Top 40 Under 40". He was born in South Africa and came to Canada in 1990 to attend school and earn his master's degree in aerospace engineering at the University of Toronto. He was an aerospace engineer and designer for three years before shifting to finance. In 2001, Gerrard took an executive position with CIBC's merchant bank and went on to tackle the challenge of revitalizing CIBC's retail operations - 18,000 employees spread over 1,143 branches.

Fun at the Bluffs

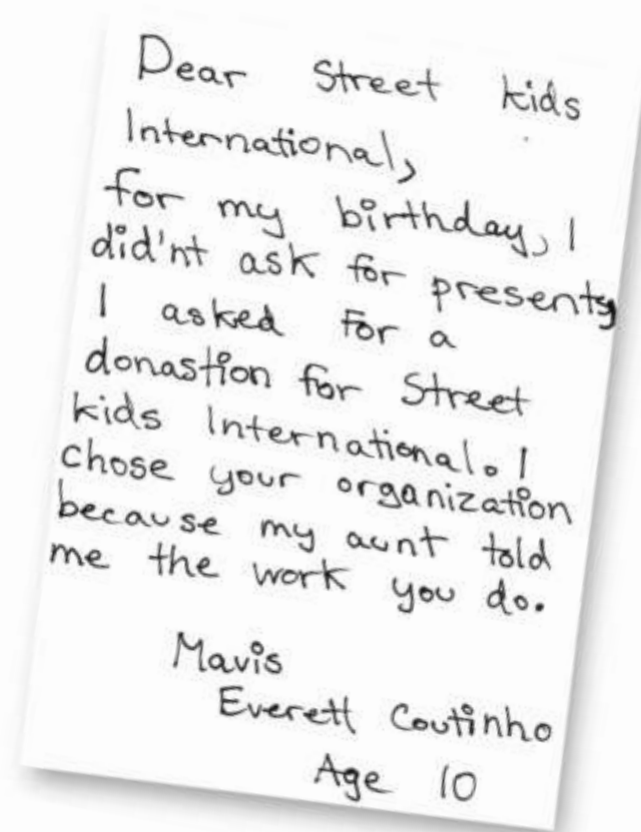


On February 11th 2004 a group of 175 guests took to the slopes for Street Kids International. There was something for everyone; snowboarding, skiing, snowshoeing, and hot cocoa by the cozy fireplace for those less keen on the cold outdoors. Osler Bluffs in Collingwood was the backdrop to this beautiful day. We want to thank Kroll Worldwide for being our lead sponsor of Ski for Ski Day.



Ways Children Support Street Kids International

Whether it is foregoing birthday gifts, Christmas gifts, Bar Mitzvah gifts or raising money through school based activities many of our most generous supporters are under 12. Thanks to all of them. Here is a recent note from Mavis.



New Corporate Supporter

A special thanks to our friends at IBM Canada who provided much valued computer equipment to support our Canadian base of operations.

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street scenes

Spring 2004

AIDS and Street Kids



Greetings,

We decided to have this newsletter focus on the work of Street Kids International and HIV/AIDS and to share the 16 years of our work with the most vulnerable population in the world affected by this pandemic - children and youth.

It is only twenty years ago that HIV/AIDS came to the world's attention. Since then it has crossed all political and geographic boundaries. Street Kids International was there in the beginning when few had heard of AIDS and fewer still were committed to addressing what some early pioneers were already identifying as a looming global crisis.

Through our "Street Health" work which first began in Africa we address the risk of HIV/AIDS in a direct, non judgmental way in terms youth can understand. We break down stigmas and false information about the nature of the virus. We know that prevention is less about more information on the disease than it is about equipping youth to make strong, healthy decisions.

Our "Street Health" training program is widely used and sought after by teachers, governments and youth workers all over the world and it has been translated into over 30 languages. Our network of global partners continue to see "Street Health" as a core part of their own programming.

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Taking the Lead

Chipo Chiya planned to be a professional soccer player and was trained by Zambia's most recognized player and coach, Kalusha Bwalya. When an injury forced Chipo to find another vocation he studied to be an accountant and began to work for Fountain of Hope, an organization supporting street children in the capital city Lusaka.

This did not stop Chipo from starting a soccer team for kids at Fountain of Hope. Chipo was asked to represent the organization at Street Kids International's Street Health workshop in 2002. Chipo's enthusiasm for facilitating groups made him an exceptional participant in the Street Health Training of Trainers and he has since become a lead trainer for Street Kids International's programming across Zambia.

Further to participating in the African launch of the Street Business Toolkit, Chipo has begun his own business of running camps for street kids using many of Street Kids International's methodologies and techniques.

People like Chipo are connecting with youth using Street Kids International tools to equip them to make healthy choices.

What have we learned from 16 years of work in an AIDS affected world?

- that there are successes despite the overall dismal statistics. For example, HIV prevalence peaked in Uganda in the late 1980's at around 14% and has since declined to an estimated 5% as a result of a national commitment to awareness raising and early education particularly among young people. *Programmes like Street Health work.*
- that strengthening the capacity of children and young people to meet their own basic needs through training for productive livelihood activities and life skills reduces their vulnerability and the worst impacts of family loss. *Programmes like the Street Business Toolkit work.*
- that addressing young people's health risks and their economic options together is essential and livelihood programming is an effective platform for providing information on HIV/AIDS and other health and life style risks they face. *Programmes like Street Choices work.*

But this program is still needed. By 2001 AIDS had left 13.4 million children under the age of 15 orphaned. This number continues to grow by the millions. We know that the death of one parent from AIDS will generally be closely followed by the second parent due to the nature of the disease and household patterns of transmission. We are living in an age of "double" orphans - children with no living parent. By 2010 the number of children orphaned once or twice over will grow to over 20 million children under the age of 15, nearly twice the number orphaned in this age group in 2001.

The enormous impact on the family begins long before being orphaned - sick parents cannot work, cannot care for younger children, cannot support children to go to school and often leave the family to go away to die. Siblings get divided up and brothers and sisters no longer see one another. Young children are thrown into the worst forms of child labour to help support the household.

Because of HIV/AIDS the population of street kids continues to swell - the UN estimates for some countries suggests that half of all street kids are HIV/AIDS orphans who have lost biological parents and parental substitutes.

And, while many people associate Africa as being the worst affected area in the world, another region of focus for Street Kids International - the Former Soviet Union - has the fastest growing rate of HIV infection in the world today.

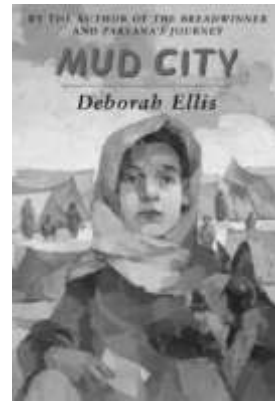
Street Kids International has been at the forefront for nearly two decades in raising the issues that need to be addressed about the world's vulnerable street youth. It also continues to lead in the thinking and solutions that need to be deployed for solving these issues. We hope you enjoy getting caught up with our work as our field team shares in this newsletter how they put our thinking into action.

Rosemary McCarney
Executive Director

2nd Annual International Beer Tasting Event

On November 26th, 2003, our good friends at Labatt's and the Young Professionals Committee of Street Kids International hosted a wonderful evening of beer tasting, good food, great company and groovy ambience at Labatt's Hall on the Waterfront. The Young Professionals Committee is planning it's next cool event, so stay tuned for details!

A Gift for Street Kids International



Toronto based children's author, Deborah Ellis launched a new book, *Mud City*, in the fall of 2003. It is a sequel to her highly acclaimed international bestseller, *The Breadwinner* and Governor General's Award nominee, *Parvana's Journey*. The inspiration for this trilogy came from Deborah's travels to Afghanistan and Pakistan where she witnessed children's enormous capacity for acts of courage and creative survival when the adult world conspires to stifle their future.

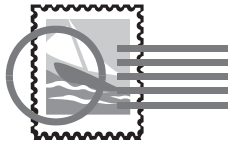
This book features the story of fourteen-year old Shauzia who fled from Kabul and ends up in a refugee camp in Pakistan where she vows to escape the poor and dismal conditions of her camp life. Shauzia disguises herself as a boy and combs the streets for jobs. She is determined to earn money to buy her passage out of the country.

Deborah Ellis has donated the royalties of *Mud City* to Street Kids International to help us continue our work with street kids like Shauzia. *Mud City* is available in local bookstores and more information about Deborah Ellis and her award winning books for adolescents can be found at www.groundwoodbooks.com.

Drumming for a Cause

Friends Without Borders invited Street Kids International to participate in Earthbeat 2003 last fall. This event drew approximately 1,000 drummers to Ottawa on a beautiful Sunday afternoon with the goal of setting a new Guinness World Record for the largest assembly of drummers coming together to raise funds to support war-affected children. While a new Guinness World Record was not set, the event went a long way in raising awareness and funds for organizations working with children such as Street Kids International.

POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE



Reflections of a Young Canadian

By Anna Haanstra, Street Kids International Intern

A young boy sitting cross-legged on a sidewalk in the midst of a downpour, sings outloud as he strums his guitar hoping for some small change from the countless strangers who pass him by; a seemingly mentally unstable middle-aged man wipes the windows of cars and buses with a dirty rag at a busy intersection; an elderly woman wakes at 3am to begin her 15 hour day as she heads to the central market to purchase fruits and vegetables to be sold at the local market for minimal returns. These are some of the images that remain vivid in my memory from my time in Peru, and a few of the examples of the harsh daily realities encountered by a significant proportion of the population in the developing world. I find myself frustrated with the complex and entrenched realities of today's global environment.

Conversely, I find profound inspiration from the energy, strength and resilience of Peruvians with whom I became close friends, who believe more in the courage of their fellow humankind than the socio-economic and political systems which govern and supposedly provide for them.

I have taken many new insights from my year in Lima, however it also reinforced a constant belief I maintain. I firmly believe that we live in a global village, which is interconnected beyond common comprehension, and this being true we must each personally commit to acting as global citizens. We must find a passion, either global or local in focus, which connects us to issues which engage and inspire us, and commit us to fostering and modeling a just and humane world.

UTS Students in the Knitting Spirit

A group of grade 9 students at University of Toronto School (UTS) put a creative idea into action. They organized a Knit-a-Thon to help benefit street youth in their local community and internationally.

"We decided on a Knit-a-Thon because we all love to knit, and we thought it would be a skill and hobby that our peers would be interested in learning - it appears we assumed correctly" said one of the key organizers Allison Friedman. The group held learn-to-knit sessions over the lunch break and got together after school to knit and watch movies.

The UTS students collected pledges for their knitting from family and friends and are donating the proceeds to Street Kids International. The 47 scarves they have knit are being donated to Covenant House.



UTS students display their scarves which they donated to a local Toronto agency, Covenant House.