

ECCO walkathon supports street kids.

by David Pell, Executive Director

Street Kids International will be partnering with ECCO Walkathons in several countries around the world. ECCO Walkathon is a popular humanitarian event where people walk to raise donations for charity. This year, participants of ECCO Walkathon will raise donations for Street Kids International's "street work" program in Kenya and Poland. With ECCO's support, Street Kids will build on the resiliency of street kids and leverage the capacity of local organizations to end poverty among youth. Through ECCO's support in Poland and Kenya, Street Kids International will expand its unique Street Business Toolkit to provide thousands of street kids with safe and practical ways to earn an income. By earning an income, these young people will have a brighter future.

The ECCO Walkathon began in 1999 and since that time ECCO has donated an average of \$1.60 per kilometre walked by participants to charity. The 2007 ECCO Walkathon will take place in Denmark, Sweden, Poland, and Germany. Two more ECCO Walkathons



are planned to take place in the Netherlands and Canada in the spring of 2008. Asked why ECCO chose Street Kids, Morten Lauge Jensen, Sponsorship and Event Manager at ECCO shoes replied, "ECCO selected Street Kids International as the recipient of the support from our ECCO Walkathon's because we want to make a difference in the lives of young people in a way that is sustainable and long term."

Street Kids International is very pleased to be associated with ECCO. The only major shoe manufacturer to own and manage the entire value chain from cow to consumer, ECCO is a global leader in city, casual and sport shoes for men, women and children. Street Kids International looks forward to sharing the success of ECCO's support of our program throughout the coming years.

Street Business Toolkit expands to Haiti.

By Natasha Cassinath, Program Manager



Natasha Cassinath, Street Kids Program Manager, front left, with youth workers and youth participants of EQUIP 3 Street Kids International program.

Street Kids International is proud to provide technical expertise to EQUIP 3 - a groundbreaking United States Agency for International Development funded project focused on developing creative

educational and school-to-work strategies, for out-of-school youth in a number of developing countries. We have begun this work in Haiti through an 18-month intensive basic education, technical and livelihood program. Street Kids International is supplying its expertise by training youth workers in both the Street Business and Street Banking Toolkits. Street Kids programs were chosen through a competitive bidding process.

In June 2006, 12 youth workers participated in the Street Business Toolkit and returned to their respective Centers to train over 120 youth. Eager to gain additional expertise in entrepreneurship training, these same youth workers attended the Street Banking Toolkit training in March, allowing them to gain skills needed to empower youth with a financial vision to facilitate business improvement.

for Wilky's story see page 2

Wilky: crochets to support himself.

Since he was 10 years old, Wilky has needed to work to support himself since his family was unable to support him. He has lived in various youth centres. At one centre, he learned how to crochet. Last



year, Wilky participated in the Street Business Toolkit training. He felt empowered by his own ability to develop a comprehensive business plan. He decided to buy new materials and manage his earnings more carefully.

He said "Before, I never thought of making money. I just thought of recovering my losses." By repricing his items from \$4 to closer to \$10 to reflect his hours of labour per item and his needs, he was able to triple his profits.

Thanks to the support of Street Kids International, Wilky has now participated in two craft expositions, and receives custom orders, such as making cell phone holders for a major cell phone service provider. He now makes enough profit to feed and clothe himself and dreams of the future when he can expand his product range so that he is able to create sets of items and further increase his profits.



Wilky, a successful Street Kids International entrepreneur in Haiti, wearing one of his crochet hats.

street jibe: linking youth poverty solutions.

by Claire de Lucovich, Program Assistant



Street Jibe participants discuss an ideal world without poverty at the 3rd meeting on March 29.

Nothing brings a group together like a lie. At the 2nd street jibe meeting in York Region, to break the ice, participants were asked to make 3 statements, one of which was a false, and the other participants had to identify it. This creative game is one of many tools that Street Kids International will be sharing as it builds a network of front line workers across York Region.

Monthly workshops are a part of Street Kids International's street jibe project being piloted in York Region with core funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and support from CIBC and KPMG Foundation. Street jibe will find innovative solutions to

addressing the growing problem of youth poverty at the grassroots level. At the workshop, a participant mentioned that many York residents are under the impression that people living on the streets have migrated from Toronto, which is a false assumption. One in 10 York Region residents live in poverty, which may surprise people living in an affluent area of one of the richest countries in the world. "More people need to be made aware of the existence of poverty within their own backyards," confirmed a teacher who has worked with youth living in poverty.

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Street Kids will be collaborating with teachers, mental health and outreach workers from more than a dozen organizations who are on the front lines. Street jibe will allow participants to share their expertise to improve their skills and increase linkages across sectors to affect positive change in the lives of youth living in poverty. "There is nothing more important to me than ensuring that youth are getting the best possible services available to them and they have the best possible people working with them," Tara Lawrie of Crosslinks Housing and Support Services mentioned when asked why she is part of the street jibe team. "Ultimately, I want youth in vulnerable situations to feel comfort, respect and to be heard - they need it! We can make it happen!"

street talk: connecting Canadians with street youth issues globally.

by Meredith Lee, Director of Programs



Laurel Rothman was interviewed for the final Street Talk session.

Street talk is a series of audio conferences aimed at discussing topics which affect youth living in poverty around the world with field experts who know the issues best. Most recently, Laurel Rothman, the Director of Social Reform at the Family Service Association of

Toronto and National Coordinator of Campaign 2000 discussed youth living in poverty in Canada.

In comparison to the other countries highlighted in the street talk series (Zambia, Kazakhstan, and Bolivia) some people may be surprised that Canada was profiled. However, as evidenced by the discussion and corroborating statistics, Canada is woefully behind many industrialized countries in ending poverty. When asked about Canada's poverty rate, Laurel replied, "Unfortunately, we have not made great progress in reducing the actual rate of

children and youth in poverty in Canada. It's still a miserable one in six of every children."

Laurel, along with her colleague, Jason Lem, Campaign 2000's Youth Engagement Coordinator, spoke with interviewer and Street Kids' board member, Bindu Dhaliwal, about the importance of policy changes to end poverty. Laurel and Jason provided some suggestions including increasing minimum wage to \$10, improving access to childcare, and the role of young people in positively impacting the lives of youth and children confronting poverty.

Missed out? You can access street talk sessions simply by clicking on the links on our website, www.streetkids.org. Street Kids International would like to thank Canadian International Development Agency's Public Engagement program in supporting street talk.

postcard from the field: Bolivia

by Meredith Lee, Director of Programs



Meredith Lee with Dalia Hilalgo and a denim jacket that she produced with her mother.

A week long visit to Bolivia provided a fabulous opportunity to further our work with our lead partner, CDEA (Centre for the Development of Alternative Education) and to meet youth who

are part of the entrepreneurship training programs. We attended the closing ceremony of a four month training program where youth learned about business and saving skills, and how to form goals and achieve them.

As part of the ceremony, about 15 youth showcased the products that they are selling. There was a wide range, some working as carpenters, others sewing clothing, and still others making stuffed animals or household

trinkets. I spoke with several youth, who all impressed me, especially Dalia Hilalgo.

At 13, Dalia is the oldest in a family of three children. Her father is a police officer, a profession which pays barely the base salary of 500 Bolivianos per month (about \$65US). Dalia now helps her mother to produce denim clothing.

Dalia's business skills have helped the family. "Before we didn't have anything", she says. "Now we have more and we are not suffering for lack of food." These skills have not only had an economic impact on Dalia's life, but also on the family environment. "At home we are happier now, before we couldn't tell each other jokes because no one felt like laughing."

I asked Dalia what else would be important for me to know: "Kids can do their own business and help their parents. We can make our own clothing and be independent. We kids can be successful and can contribute." I know that Dalia does.

Air Canada Kids' Horizons supports tourism revenue for young women.



Kids' Horizons

AIR CANADA 

Esmeraldas, Ecuador, a poor town with beautiful beaches on the Pacific coast has recently become a tourist destination. However, early pregnancies, single parenthood and risky forms of income generation have left young women vulnerable to a jeopardized future.

Thanks to funding support from Air Canada Kids' Horizons, Street Kids International is funding a project that will provide an alternative for a better life. Walker Vizcarra, a long time partner of Street Kids International, will be holding small business training with a group of young women. Using Street Kids International's Street Business and Street Banking programs, Walker will be connecting these young girls with handicraft businesses to tap into the tourist market. Training begins in April - we wish them the best in their endeavours.



Lisset, a teenaged single mother, is taking part in the program to ensure a better life for herself and her 8-month-old son.

leave a lasting legacy.

Street Kids International has been successfully helping the over 100 million street kids world wide for almost 20 years. Recognized by the United Nations, our unique program provides a lasting response to the abject poverty these kids experience. By including Street Kids International in your will, your legacy can be helping us provide more kids with the opportunity to live a safe and healthy life.

Street Kids International would be honored to be named as a beneficiary in your will. Your gift to Street Kids International can include a dollar amount, gift of securities or a percentage of your assets and should specify that the legal name is Street Kids Survivors Inc. If you would like to discuss other options, or would like assistance in this matter, please contact Heather Nelson at 416-504-8994 ext 26, nelson@streetkids.org.

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program update

in support of:

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Thanks to the support of Mumbai hold'em attendees Street Kids International's program staff was able to co-develop a project that will now be launched with our partner Railway Children (India). Together with our partner and a Street Kids International intern, we will expand outreach to street kids at railway stations, drop-in centres, and transit homes through the deployment of street educators and social workers. Railway Children, like Street Kids International, are members of the Consortium for Street Children, a UK based international network dedicated to bettering the lives street children around the world. We look forward to working closely with Railway Children to have a positive impact on the lives of street kids in India.

amazing markham race.

High school students from the Markham region will be joining the Markham Mayor's Youth Task force to raise money for Street Kids International. Through support from their family and friends they hope to raise \$15,000 to help homeless and vulnerable youth throughout York Region and the world. We know they will have a great day on May 26th when the culmination of their fundraising efforts will be celebrated with a day long "race" through services and landmarks of York Region. Thanks to the Task Force for all their hard work - Street Kids International knows that you believe in giving street kids everywhere a chance!

upcoming events.

Canadian Charity Poker Championships - June 13th in Montreal - see www.charitypokerchampionship.com.

Toronto Poker Tournament - June 26, 2007
www.streetkids.org

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