A young girl with dark hair, wearing a light blue shirt with colorful floral embroidery and a patterned skirt, is smiling and holding an open book. The book is titled "LA PRINCESA Y EL PRINJO" and features a colorful illustration of a princess and a prince. The background is a sandy, outdoor setting with some greenery.

# Christian Children's Fund 2006 Annual Report

These children outside of a school in Ecuador proudly hold posters that promote their rights to basic education, birth registration, and freedom from abuse, among others. CCF promotes children's rights throughout its programs.



## CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S FUND BELIEFS

### We believe

- ...all children deserve an environment of hope, respect and understanding
- ...that poverty is a personal experience for every child and this insight and sensitivity guide all of our actions
- ...it takes a global perspective and collaborative effort in order to substantially impact the issues of poverty facing children today
- ...we must work together to create an environment of understanding toward all children, embracing cultural and religious differences
- ...that all of our actions must be guided by the utmost integrity and transparency
- ...that we are accountable for all funds we receive, and we will always be up-front and honest with our donors and stakeholders and use these funds in the most efficient and productive manner.



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Front Cover: Reading is encouraged as an integral part of CCF's work with education. This little Guatemalan girl shows her excitement about learning to read as she holds one of her books. (photo by Rebecca Janes)

Dear CCF Family,

This past year, as we visited children in CCF program countries, we were inspired by their resilience and courage. It was uplifting to be surrounded by so many happy children as they crowded around to greet us, and to thank us, for the assistance that your generous donations provide.

To be in the midst of the children and families we assist brings home our deep commitment to good stewardship of the funds you provide. We had the opportunity to see your donations at work, and want to affirm that efforts are being carefully monitored and evaluated and often leveraged to secure additional funds, all to ensure a positive, sustainable impact.

As you read this annual report, you will relive highlights of our work and see examples of how your funds have been used to improve the lives of children. You will also see that CCF's Belief Statement is threaded throughout the report. We share this in the hope that it provides insight into how we approach our mission to make sure children not only survive, but thrive, growing into contributing members of society.

We are grateful to those who entrust their donations to CCF and make our assistance possible. Your generosity is offering hope to children, improving their lives, and making a positive difference for generations to come.

Sincerely,



William E. Leahey, Jr.  
Acting President & Board Member



Ann C. Crouter  
Chair of the Board





Acting president Bill Leahey (top), and Ann Crouter, CCF Board Chair (bottom), visiting assisted children to review CCF program activities.

CCF staff



CCF staff

# Child Protection



To many, they often seem "invisible." They make their way in the world, with few or no societal protections against exploitation, abuse, and violence. They are abducted children, those who grow up in jungle training camps and others who are caught in the midst of conflict. They are ordinary children who have no recourse against child abuse and neglect, and harmful cultural practices. They are children separated from their parents in natural disasters or who find themselves living in refugee camps. Many have physical disabilities and are pushed aside because of a lack of resources and understanding. CCF strives to protect these children, promoting their best interests and creating positive environments in which they can grow up amid respect, hope and social justice.

## Setting up Child Centered Spaces

The creation of Child Centered Spaces is a key expression of CCF's commitment to child protection during times of armed conflict and following natural disaster, when children are particularly vulnerable. Over the years, these centers have provided many thousands of children with supervised care during frightening times. These spaces are supplemented by wider child protection efforts that support long-term development. They often result in child well-being committees, which identify, monitor, and reduce physical, social and emotional risks to children.

## Offering Education for the Future

Around the world, CCF helps women and children to access education. In Afghanistan, CCF has brought girls back to school by opening new schools and training more teachers. In Dominica, CCF provides support to children with physical and learning disabilities and has set up a special-needs playground to encourage interaction. Blind children in Sri Lanka are receiving computer training with assistance from CCF and the Sri Lanka Council for the Blind.

## Helping War-Affected Children

Over the years, CCF has assisted former child soldiers and abducted children in countries such as Liberia, Sierra Leone, and northern Uganda. Psychosocial support has enabled them to cope with the trauma of their war experiences. Additionally, family tracing and community sensitizations, such as "forgiveness festivals" in Liberia, help war-traumatized youth return to acceptance by their families and communities. Skills training and micro-enterprise development loans lead to gainful employment.

- ◀ These children are playing happily outside a school program in Ecuador. CCF encourages and supports education, thereby providing a way for children to learn skills that will help them escape poverty, abuse and exploitation.

## Assisting Homeless Children

By day, homeless children in Boyolali, Indonesia, earn money by playing music and selling small goods. Until recently, many of them spent their nights in a bus terminal, leaving themselves vulnerable to violence and exploitation. CCF, with support of a CCF partner agency, CCF Kinderhilfswerk-Germany, has established two shelters for children and young adults. The shelters, which are open 24 hours a day, provide them with meals and a safe place to sleep. The youth also participate in skills training and are opening savings accounts.

## Addressing Child Labor/Abuse

Worldwide, an estimated 211 million children between the ages of 5 and 14 engage in some form of illegal, hazardous, or exploitative child labor. Some work 12 to 18 hours a day, leaving no time for school or play. In countries such as Afghanistan, Angola, Ecuador, and the Philippines, CCF works directly with families, as well as local and national governments, to raise awareness about the dangers and abuses of child labor.

CCF also connects families with job skills training and micro-enterprise loans to improve or start small businesses. These efforts enable them to increase their family incomes and rely less upon their children having to work and earn income.

At the grassroots level, CCF works with families and communities to end other harmful practices, some of which include traditions that violate girls and women. These common practices include female genital mutilation, rape, gender-based violence, and forced early marriages. Working with Sudanese refugees in Chad, CCF provides victims of sexual assault with psychosocial and medical support, increases community awareness, works to improve medical care, and partners with local agencies to establish the necessary medical and legal infrastructures.

CCF's Child Protection programs offer children a voice, giving them a say in their future. They provide the means by which children can best use their inherent natural resilience to cope and to look toward the future with optimism.

# Early Childhood

*It's a cloudy day and almost three hours after sunrise as we walk through the streets of the Bbiina community in Uganda. We are visiting families to get updates on children participating in Christian Children's Fund's early childhood care and development program. Here, a mere 10 miles east of Uganda's capital city, Kampala, families lack access to health care, sanitation and proper nutrition, meaning that children can't get a good start in life.*

*My name is Rose Jawe, and I coordinate CCF's early childhood care and development program that assists about 320 children in this community alone. Activities are aimed at stimulating children's minds through games and play, and their physical development is addressed through nutrition support and immunizations. Along with other CCF staff, I meet with parents to ensure that they understand CCF's program and services. Addressing the development of children early in life is critical to their successful future.*

## CRITICAL EARLY YEARS

From conception through the first 6 years of their lives, children grow and develop at an astonishing pace. The nutrition, stimulation, and nurturing they receive during this time profoundly impact their future. If infants and young children do not get the support they need, they are at risk of developing health problems, language delays and other impairments. CCF helps children get a good start so they have a better chance of developing to their full potential.

Of critical importance to this work is CCF's Child Development Scale. This instrument is capable of following the development of young children served by CCF, monitoring their progress from birth to age 5.

**WE BELIEVE** all children deserve an environment of hope, respect and understanding.

It provides an organized way of observing children's development and identifying children's needs and opportunities to support them. The scale includes a training manual that CCF staff, parents and community members can use to determine if the children served are reaching proper developmental milestones. Data collected will be used to inform parents and keep the children's development processes on track.

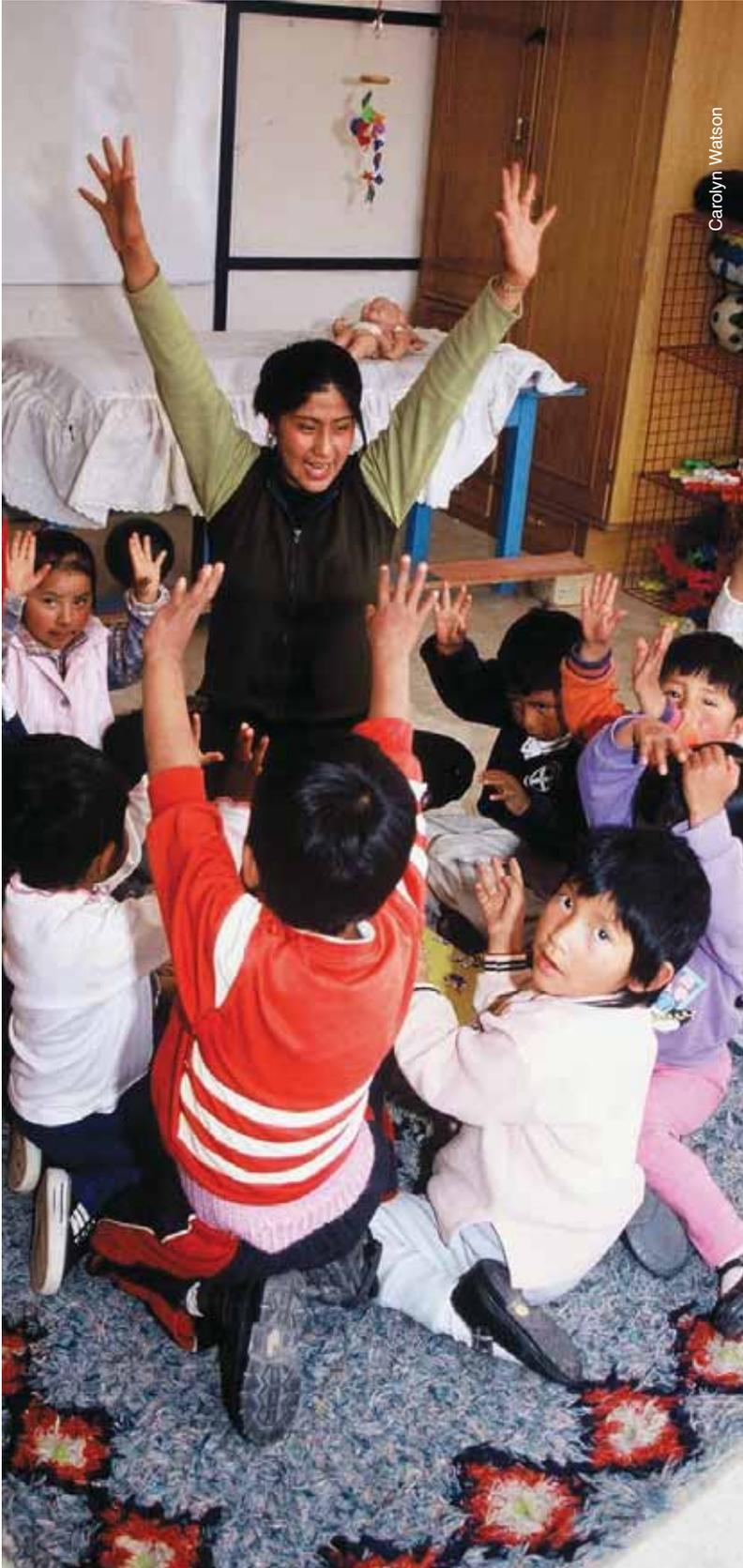
Another key achievement was CCF-Zambia's recognition by the Zambian Ministry of Education for its work with early childhood development. CCF-Zambia staff were recognized for their strong support of early childhood centers and for sensitizing communities about the importance of early childhood development. CCF also advocates for young children, working closely with the Zambian government to establish early childhood development policies at a national level.

On the Caribbean islands of Dominica and St. Vincent, "Roving Caregivers" visit families in the poorest parishes. Many of these families are headed by young, single mothers who know little about parenting. These caregivers encourage parents to talk, sing, and play with their children to stimulate their development and strengthen the parental bond. They also identify situations that require further intervention and referral, such as child neglect, domestic violence or substance abuse.

Birth to age 3 is considered one of the windows of development for introducing music. CCF-Ecuador targets this age group with a special program that uses games, songs, rhymes and lullabies to encourage movement as well as cognitive, emotional and social development. As infants and toddlers mature (ages 4 to 6) they need to play with their peers to gain social skills. CCF's Early Childhood Development centers help this age group gain the cognitive, emotional, motor and commu-



# d Development



Carolyn Watson

nication/language skills necessary to make the leap to primary school.

In Sri Lanka, preschools in Seruwila work to ease the tensions between Tamil, Sinhalese and Muslim families. Although the area is in a ceasefire, there is continued violence. Beginning in 2003, with support from AusAID and CCF, CCF-Sri Lanka established 18 early childhood care and development centers in the area. The centers improve access to basic education while socially integrating children of various ethnic backgrounds.

As children prepare to leave preschool, CCF continues to offer support. A pilot program in Honduras, “Building Bridges for Successful Transitions,” helps children achieve success as they move from the child-friendly environment of preschool to the more structured setting of primary school. Many communities do not offer kindergarten, and children often find the transition stressful. CCF is working with teachers and school district authorities in Honduras to help ease the way.

◀ CCF places tremendous importance on seeing that children get a good start in life, meeting developmental milestones. These Bolivian children are in CCF's Early Childhood Development program where they are getting a jump start on school. Children can make greater progress in life when their physical, social and emotional needs are addressed during the formative years.

It was a routine Saturday morning for Mary. With her homeland of Kenya in the grips of a drought, the young girl planned to search for water. But something caught her attention as she left the house. Huddled under a barren tree, four men talked with her uncle in hushed tones. Upon seeing Mary, they lowered their voices to whispers. Her mother was standing nearby and ushered her daughter away. It was then she learned of the deal struck beneath the tree.

Ten-year-old Mary was to be married off to an older man so her uncle could collect a dowry of cattle to replenish his herd lost to the drought. Not only would her uncle rebuild his livestock, he would have one less child to feed.

In developing countries, educational opportunities are scarce or out of reach. Some children live too far from school, some have parents who can't afford nominal school fees or basic school supplies, and others have to work to support the family and must forgo an education. Yet, children are keenly aware that education offers a future.

Informal education is an important component of CCF's programs. Community Education Centers, created by CCF in Belarus, offer a friendly environment in which children, parents, teachers and social workers can share materials and receive training. Specific activities include life-skills education, and some children design and implement their own programs to help institutionalized, hospi-

# Education

Shy and fearful at first, Mary shared her story with CCF staff. By doing so, she found a way out of her predicament. CCF runs a school for girls, with the goal of saving them from early marriages – the Kokwa Island Boarding School for Girls. Because Mary spoke up, CCF convinced the uncle to allow her to enroll by explaining that Mary could be “booked” for marriage after she completed her education.

Hundreds of girls are served at this school. It offers an education and a safe learning environment. CCF provides equally innovative educational opportunities elsewhere, meeting with the parents and community leaders to get their input. This unique approach is key to enabling children to reach their full potential.

CCF has always sought programming guidance from parents, but input from youth is particularly valuable. We involve youth in programming decisions and youth conferences, encouraging their involvement in future planning. Youth interviewed in a study CCF conducted on poverty were asked what they wanted most. Their message came through loud and clear: educational opportunities.

talized or disabled children. Teen educators learn to teach their peers about avoiding substance abuse, nonviolent conflict resolution, proper communication skills and children's rights. Considerable attention is placed on encouraging parents to inspire their children to continue studying. This has resulted in schools becoming the centers of community life.

Small libraries are bringing dramatic improvements to Ecuador. Though Ecuador is close to achieving universal access to education, the government only provides the infrastructure and pays the teachers. Other necessities are lacking. Over the years, CCF has helped fill the gap by providing school lunches, training for teachers, and improved school buildings and sanitation facilities. Today, CCF fosters imaginations and dreams with the creation of small libraries, called Dream Corners. Designed to further support education, different activity stations allow children to read, write, listen to music and create art.

In the Baghlan Province of Afghanistan, 89 percent of the women are illiterate. Working as ChildFund Afghanistan, CCF addresses this problem by providing

**WE BELIEVE** that poverty is a personal experience for every child, and this insight and sensitivity guide all of our actions.



literacy programs for girls and boys. These programs are created in close cooperation with the Afghan Ministry of Education, helping children and youth where formal schooling does not exist. An accelerated learning program helps youth enter the formal school system. In this nine-month course, students are able to complete the first three years of school.

In the Philippines, CCF combats child labor by offering education through the ABK Initiative, Filipino for “Education of Children for the Future.” Statistics show that in the Philippines there are more than 4 million child laborers, with 2.4 million engaged in hazardous forms of work. The initiative targets children working in the particularly exploitative industries of mining and quarrying,

sugarcane farming, pyrotechnics, deep-sea fishing, domestic work and commercial sex. CCF is one of four agencies participating in this initiative, which is supported by a \$5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor.

Children in developing countries face hardships we can’t imagine. Life is difficult for them each and every day, and we are committed to using funds wisely for their betterment. Working with local governments and parents, as well as helping children gain a voice in their future, CCF lessens these hardships and offers hope.

▼ Mobile library programs, like this one in Indonesia, offer books to children in poor, remote communities. The books open a new world of opportunities for them while improving literacy.



CCF Staff

A family barely escapes from its home before the 6.3 Richter Scale earthquake rips it apart like matchsticks. Adi Rejo, his wife Duyidah, and their daughter Rani, look back to find the roof of their tiny home sitting on the foundation, with not even so much as a hint of the crushed walls in sight. Then, they look around to find widespread destruction, only later to learn of its massive toll on lives in their entire community.

In a matter of minutes, the May 2006 Indonesian earthquake destroyed homes of nearly 131,000 families, and thousands more homes were damaged beyond use. Adi Rejo and his wife had built their small brick-walled and tile-roofed home themselves nearly 13 years ago. Its destruction was shocking.

As a leading child protection agency, Christian Children's Fund has strategies to help children and families get through the worst of times. Emergency programs meet initial needs, but are designed to also have a lasting, long-term impact.

The creation of Child Centered Spaces has been a highly successful emergency tool and is a key expression of the organization's commitment. CCF has established hundreds of Child Centered Spaces in countries affected by disaster and armed conflict. Thousands of children and young people have participated in community-based activities in these centers, which help restore their sense of safety and hope for the future.

Thousands of Sudanese women and children have fled to Chad to escape brutal ethnic cleansing. More than 1.5 million people have been displaced. By establishing its Child Centered Spaces, CCF offers more than 29,000 children a safe place to begin the long recovery process.

Following a survey of 1,580 youth in one Chad refugee camp, the children's voices helped improve programs, raise awareness about specific needs and stimulate greater action from the international humanitarian community. A massive program was launched through a radio station that broadcasts throughout eastern Chad and through a Chadian theater troupe. The messages address topics such as child protection, the needs of the disabled and children separated from their biological parents.

In Kenya, CCF meets children's needs as millions were

threatened with famine. First drought, then floods and now drought again—families have little hope of a harvest any time soon. Until the cycle of planting and harvesting returns, CCF uses its Early Childhood Development centers to feed and monitor the health of children, mothers and the elderly in 60 communities in the Eastern and Rift Valley Provinces. For many families, the only food sustaining their children is through school feeding programs and these centers.

As farmers struggled to rebuild their herds, conflict erupted. CCF conducts conflict

resolution in the Samburu area, where cattle restocking has been particularly contentious. Staff also works to prevent the forced early marriage of young girls by families trying to cope with the food crisis – marrying them off so they have fewer children to feed.

In October 2005, flash floods from Hurricane Stan destroyed or damaged the homes of thousands of families in Guatemala. CCF-Guatemala responded immediately,

## Tsunami Recovery

Christian Children's Fund continues to work in the tsunami-ravaged countries of Indonesia, India and Sri Lanka. To date, CCF has spent \$13.1 million of the \$18.2 million in contributions and grants for tsunami recovery, (including rebuilding infrastructure such as schools, wells, water/sanitation facilities, community libraries, local markets and dams), providing micro-enterprise development/income-generating activities, and child protection activities. CCF plans to continue reconstruction activities in tsunami-affected areas for another year and a half, as part of a three-year recovery program.

# Emergencies

Many families like this one in the Trincomalee area of Sri Lanka are displaced due to conflict. CCF set up Child Centered Spaces where families can access basic relief items, including nutrition packs with high energy foods, mosquito nets to ward off dengue fever and other mosquito-borne illnesses, and even footwear to avoid worm infestations that occur from walking around barefoot. This Sri Lankan program assists 4,000 children ages 2-18. ►

providing food, clean water, medicines, construction materials and other necessities to 3,331 families in 20 communities. In addition, a program is underway to provide seeds and gardening tools to more than 1,175 families.

Following Hurricane Katrina, CCF helped more than 2,400 families in Mississippi after conducting child protection assessments. CCF responded to their urgent needs, restocking food pantries, repairing a flooded technical center and even setting up small laundromats. Staff distributed school supply and recreation kits for 10,000 children and expanded after-school programs.

In Uganda, for years rebels have abducted children, forcing them to serve as soldiers. For those who manage to escape and return home, CCF helps in the transition. Returning home seems like a cause for celebration, but it's not easy. As some communities begin to rebuild, children still have to recover from violent and dehumanizing treatment by rebels, and some families are not sure how to receive them. CCF recognizes this difficulty—offering psychosocial help and family and community interventions. When disaster strikes, CCF has developed definitive strategies to start the long road to recovery.



Marc Nosbach

WE BELIEVE it takes a global perspective in order to substantially impact the is



respective and collaborative effort  
sues of poverty facing children today.

## Eastern Europe

nia	\$ 741,074
rus	538,588
aine	1,853,938
AL	\$ 3,133,600

## Africa

t	\$ 2,798,643
	1,266,096
ia	7,202,294
ambia	3,450,060
a	670,302
	12,859,964
	4,226,612
nbique	468,802
al	5,393,391
Leone	2,686,162
	269,928
a	9,233,093
a	5,882,478
.	\$ 56,407,825

## Asia

Afghanistan	\$ 8,470,286
India	12,401,655
Indonesia	7,747,003
Philippines	8,002,285
Sri Lanka	7,125,763
Thailand	6,925,471
Timor-Leste	1,640,586
Vietnam	514,420
TOTAL	\$ 52,827,469

Christian Children's Fund works in 33 countries, assisting more than 10.5 million children and families regardless of race, creed or gender. CCF addresses children's health, nutritional and educational needs, including water and sanitation development and emergency relief.