

Christian Children's Fund

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Youth Voices Shout the Loudest on International Poverty Day

Richmond, Va. – Oct. 16, 2008 – “Poverty does not allow us to be better – it denies us the opportunity to be better people.”

“Poverty makes you think that you are not the same as the others.”

“Children have no clothes; their food is not good; there is no adequate medicine; there are no jobs.”

These are the words straight from youth affected by poverty. While the statistics are startling – more than 2 billion people in the world living in poverty – the words from those impacted the most are what tell the story.

To commemorate this year's United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on Oct. 17, Christian Children's Fund asked children the simple question: How does poverty affect you?

Here's what a group of youth in a CCF program in Honduras had to say:

Wilmer, 15

“Poverty is a problem that has been going on for a long time. Poverty is most damaging to young people, leading them to drugs, alcohol and other vices. Poverty is something that has not been controlled in our municipality. We have seen how this situation causes damage to children and youth due to discrimination by not having a roof, food and a decent life for a human being.”

Edgardo, 13

“Poverty is a different condition that drives poor people to seek outlets in life. This continues to be the most humiliated condition by society. Poor people live in conditions in which they lack food, housing, clothes and health. By not having the opportunity to have what the rich have, poor people, and most of all young people, seek refuge in gangs and even steal to support their families.”



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Christian Children's Fund (CCF) is a global force for children, helping the world's deprived, excluded and vulnerable survive and thrive in order to reach their full potential. Serving children since 1938, CCF works in 32 countries and assists approximately 15.2 million children and family members worldwide, regardless of race, creed or origin. CCF is a member of the ChildFund Alliance.

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Idania, 14

“Poverty makes you think that you are not the same as the others. Opportunities for the poor are also fewer. In my municipality you can see that children have no clothes; their food is not good; there is no adequate medicine; there are no jobs; children sell vegetables on the street in order to make some money and not endure hunger; and children are malnourished.”

Delmy, 14

“I believe that poverty does not allow us to be better – it denies us the opportunity to be better people. It makes us live hungry, with no clothes and no medicine. That makes the non-poor see us as rare and that we don't belong to society.”

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty first began in 1987 as the World Day to End Extreme Poverty. In 1992, through a resolution of the General Assembly, Oct. 17 was recognized by the United Nations as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

Christian Children's Fund works with deprived, excluded and vulnerable children so they will have the capacity to improve their lives and the opportunity to become young adults, parents and leaders who bring lasting and positive change in their communities.

For more information on poverty day, visit www.un.org. For more information on Christian Children's Fund visit www.christianchildrensfund.org.



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