

Christian Children's Fund

annual report 2007



CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S FUND is a dynamic global force for children, supporting programs within an environment of protection, hope and respect. We offer the tools needed to address both the immediate and the long-term needs of children, effectively focusing on the core issues of poverty.

Since our inception in 1938, CCF has provided more than \$2.7 billion in services to families and communities. Our programs incorporate child protection, education, early childhood development, health and sanitation, family income generation, nutrition and emergencies – working together so the holistic needs of children are addressed. All initiatives are locally led to strengthen both families and communities.

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ON THE COVER:

CCF strengthens the capacities of teachers, parents, and community partners to provide meaningful learning opportunities for disadvantaged children worldwide. These Indonesian children eagerly await the start of a new school year.



Thea Schermer

Christian Children's Fund addresses children's needs to ensure proper physical and emotional development. CCF also looks to the future by incorporating long-term development components in all of our program initiatives.



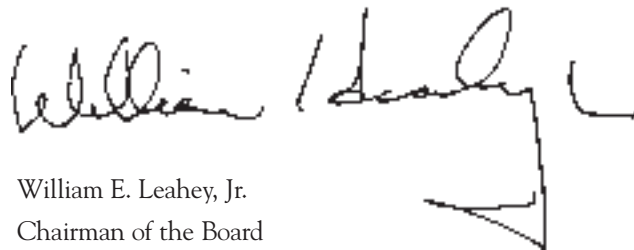
Dear Friends:

This is a year of new beginnings for Christian Children's Fund. First and foremost, we are delighted to welcome Anne Lynam Goddard as our new President and CEO. Anne's passion for helping children, as well as her extensive experience in the field of international development and fundraising, will serve us well. I am confident Anne will build upon our past success and strategically position this organization for continued successes in the years ahead.

As we begin a new fiscal year, we have much to celebrate. During the past 12 months, we assisted more than 13.2 million children and families. We added programs in two new countries – Guinea and Mozambique. And CCF sponsors assist more than a million children.

Thanks to generous donors like you, we raised \$209 million to assist children, families and communities that need our help. We are grateful for your ongoing support and the trust you place in us. We pledge to be good stewards of your money and to use it wisely to benefit the children we serve.

Best regards,



William E. Leahy, Jr.
Chairman of the Board



Christian Children's Fund was deeply saddened by the passing of our former president, Dr. John F. Schultz. John served CCF for more than 15 years during a period of unprecedented growth.

An ordained Presbyterian minister, he joined CCF in 1990 and was elected president in 1998. During his tenure, the organization grew steadily while increasing its assistance to children around the world. John was instrumental in establishing ChildFund International, a global alliance focused on addressing the needs of the most vulnerable children.

John's desire to raise children out of poverty led to a 35-year career in international family and community development. His legacy will live on in the children he served. We will miss him.

Dear CCF Family:

My decision to join Christian Children’s Fund as President and CEO was reaffirmed during my first week on the job. Sitting on a dirt floor in Ecuador, surrounded by smiling children, I saw firsthand the impact CCF is having on those young lives.

During my first 100 days at CCF, I visited our offices in Africa, Asia and the Americas to see for myself how the organization functions. On those trips, I had an opportunity to observe the programs in action, meet the staff and talk to the children we assist. I returned home encouraged by the talent and dedication of our team and excited about all we are doing to improve the lives of children and families.

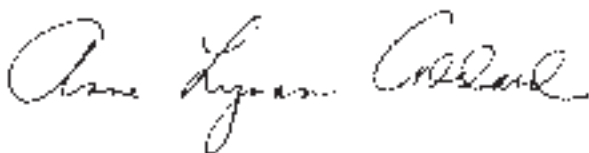
As you review this annual report, I believe you, too, will be pleased with the progress we are making. On the following pages, you will find success stories about real people who have been helped by our programs. Child protection continues to be at the forefront of our work, underscoring the importance of children’s rights and giving them a voice in their future.

Providing loans that enable parents to start small businesses, offering emergency assistance following natural disasters and armed conflict, and establishing schools with flexible schedules are among the many CCF programs that help children and communities.

As our new fiscal year gets under way, CCF will begin a period of self-reflection. We will be evaluating our structure and systems to ensure we are properly positioned for the years ahead. Additionally, we will be examining global trends as we develop a new strategic plan to guide us into the future.

Your unwavering support, and that of our other sponsors and donors, made this year’s accomplishments possible. We are gratified by your generosity. On behalf of the 13.2 million people – children and families – that CCF serves, I offer you our heartfelt thanks.

Sincerely,



Anne Lynam Goddard
President & CEO



“Every 30 seconds, an African child dies of malaria. To prevent the spread of this easily treatable disease that affects more than 2 billion people worldwide, we are working with a coalition of international organizations to educate communities about malaria and provide treated bed nets to protect them from the mosquitoes that carry it.”

– Anne Lynam Goddard

child protection



Every day, every hour, every minute, children face crisis situations. They are exploited, abused, abducted, forced to carry weapons and cruelly cast aside as unimportant. While their families try to protect them, they are often powerless. Children are abducted from their homes by rebels, malnourished from lack of food or overlooked by parents who are just trying to survive.

To counter these dire situations, CCF strives to offer children a greater sense of security by protecting them from harmful cultural practices, reuniting former child soldiers with their families and promoting education for girls, rather than early marriage. For those orphaned by HIV/AIDS, CCF helps children assert their rights. By educating community leaders, the organization is helping bring an end to abusive practices.

As one of the key agencies working to achieve the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals, CCF brings a child-focused perspective to the fight against poverty.



Involving Children in Decisions

More than half of the world's poor are children – children whose views have not been factored into previous child poverty studies. But CCF is giving children a voice. Its “Children and Poverty Study” provides in-depth research based on interviews and focus group discussions with children around the world.

As children recounted their experiences with poverty, isolation from peers weighed heavily on their minds. Additionally, they placed education as their number one priority, ahead of access to food and other basic needs. Findings from the three-part study are helping CCF to address the deprivation, exclusion and vulnerability experienced by children.

Promoting Child Agency

One of CCF's growing priorities is “child agency” – recognizing that children and youth are capable of contributing to their own future. For young people to participate meaningfully in the process, they need a place to come together and talk. CCF is providing that opportunity by setting up child and youth federations – such as those already established in the Philippines, Uganda and Zambia. Through these federations, young people work together to express their concerns and suggest solutions.



Youth Federations

CCF held its second Youth Regional Meeting of CACUSA (Central America, Caribbean, and United States) in the summer of 2006. Young adults from Dominica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and the U.S. joined representatives from CCF and local organizations to discuss the issues, needs and interests of the region's youth. The young people conducted hundreds of interviews with their peers and then came to this meeting to share their findings. That information is helping shape CCF programming. At the same time, it is building young leaders who may well become catalysts for societal change.



Raising Awareness of Abuse

CCF's work to raise awareness of abuse issues is deeply rooted in our program strategies, addressing drug and alcohol dependency, harmful cultural practices such as early marriage of young girls, child trafficking and child labor. Efforts to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse have been under way in post-conflict communities in Uganda, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Chad. In Liberia, the sexual abuse and exploitation of children is a widespread problem in schools. In six Liberian counties, CCF recently trained teachers and influential community members to help identify and prevent this abuse.



Establishing Safe Havens

During times of natural disaster and armed conflict, children are susceptible to a multitude of threats, such as disease, starvation and trafficking. Child Centered Spaces provide safe places for children to go during times of displacement and chaos. The centers also serve as a forum for peace-building. For instance, local villagers in Chad had felt increasing resentment toward the Sudanese refugees encamped nearby. To ease tensions, CCF brought Chadian and Sudanese mothers together for child protection workshops. At the request of Chadian officials, CCF is now offering art and basic education classes to impoverished Chadian children at its Child Centered Spaces near the refugee camps at Toullum and Iridimi.

With Child Protection as a major thread woven through each of these efforts, the most vulnerable, the most excluded and the most deprived children of the world are given hope through CCF programs.

early childhood development

Empowering even the youngest children – helping them contribute to their own future – means giving them powerful tools early in life. In Guatemala, Diego and his family are learning what this means. Although they live in a simple, two-room adobe house in the central highlands of Guatemala, the world and all of its possibilities are open to them through a weekly radio broadcast, “Educating for Life.” Created by Christian Children’s Fund, the program is designed to address the developmental needs of young children.

CCF’s Early Childhood Development programs focus on the needs of the total child during the first eight years of life. Because children like Diego need a good start in life, we encourage their parents as their first teachers. CCF works closely with many families like Diego’s to expand their knowledge and skills. Good health and nutrition, education, protection and a loving, nurturing home environment are all essential to a child’s development.

One facet of CCF’s home-based programs is our **Guide Mothers Program**. Focusing primarily on children from birth to age 3, CCF is able to help children during the most critical years of brain development. These Guide Mothers – community members who receive extensive training in child development – encourage parents to stimulate all aspects of their children’s development while they are very young. In many countries CCF trains Guide Mothers to identify signs of malnutrition and works in partnership with the World Health Organization and UNICEF for health interventions and nutrition supplementation.

CCF works with the Bolivian government’s Zero Malnutrition Program, which is designed to prevent malnutrition in children from birth to age 5. CCF-Bolivia has also created a mother’s guide, based on CCF’s **universal development scale**. This pictorial guide establishes key development milestones to help parents detect problems. The close monitoring allows CCF to address developmental delays as early as possible.

In countries such as Ecuador, Guatemala, The Gambia, Honduras and Zambia, CCF is a leader in raising **community awareness** about the importance of preschool education. We also work closely with governments to establish early childhood development policies at a national level. Extensive research on girls and boys in both developed and developing countries has shown that children who participate in high quality preschool programs demonstrate higher social, verbal and cognitive development than their peers. CCF improves existing schools and constructs new ones. This year, CCF constructed Early Childhood Development Centers in various countries such as Zambia and Timor-Leste.

Worldwide, CCF’s efforts focus on deprived, excluded and vulnerable children. As part of CCF-Kenya’s **Weaving the Safety Net Program**, CCF supports 35 preschools and reaches more than 1,700 children living in difficult circumstances. Many of these children are affected by HIV/AIDS; some are orphans. In other countries, CCF works to include vulnerable populations, such as children with disabilities and those from stigmatized ethnic minorities. By bringing girls and boys together from a variety of backgrounds, CCF is helping reduce community stigmatization and making excluded children feel accepted.



CCF Staff

CCF is an advocate for the establishment of early childhood development programs that address children's needs from the very beginning. These programs get children off to a healthy start – giving them the tools for a lifetime of learning.

Child Protection Focus:

Many young children live in families overwhelmed by the challenges of daily living – finding adequate food, maintaining safe shelter, creating a steady income. Parents have little time to respond to children's needs for interaction, communication and stimulation. CCF's early childhood development programs offer support and information for parents about the importance of their relationship and incorporating play with their children into their daily activities. This increases child survival, enhances their development, and allows them to fulfill their potential.



Rebecca Janes



Thea Shermer

CCF knows that improving literacy for children plays a major role in their overall success in life. It gives children the hope of a better future by improving their ability to support themselves as adults.

Child Protection Focus:

One of a child’s fundamental prerogatives, brought to the forefront by CCF, is the right to express his or her opinion freely. Youth in the Mumbwa area of Zambia felt that they had something to say on issues affecting their education. In response, CCF enabled 14 area schools to form children’s committees, made up of elected class representatives.

These representatives honed their leadership skills by meeting with fellow students, asking them to help identify problems at school and offering potential solutions. Among the issues were overcrowded classrooms, along with social problems that included vandalism and early pregnancies. One proposed solution: reaching out to young mothers so that they would feel welcome in returning to school. Another was taking a more active role in preventing vandalism, instead of simply viewing it as the responsibility of the teachers.

education

With seemingly endless blue skies and temperatures that often soar above 100°F, families in Borchota, Ethiopia, are up early every day to work in the fields. In this agriculturally dependent community, everyone, except for the very young, has a job to do that contributes to the survival of the community. Meseret's family is no exception. Children must work alongside their parents to produce enough food for survival. Sadly, the struggle for survival takes precedence over everything else – leaving little time for school – especially where girls are concerned.

Despite this, CCF is helping Meseret realize her dreams of becoming a nurse or an environmentalist. Girls are often excluded from the educational system and pushed into early marriages to ease their family's financial burden. But parents are learning why education is vital to their daughters' future. Through a new CCF-supported **Flexible-Hour Community School**, Meseret can meet her family responsibilities while also getting an education. These schools are bringing more children back into the educational system, and many parents, including Meseret's, now support a girl's right to an education.

Through these schools, CCF is increasing educational access to vulnerable and formerly excluded populations. Families actively participate in starting the schools and tailor the hours and school calendar around agricultural planting and harvesting seasons. Working in partnership with UNICEF, CCF began this program in Sierra Leone in 1996. Since then, CCF has expanded the program into nine other countries.

In the Philippines, another successful educational initiative is under way – **Child Friendly Schools**. Established in cooperation with the government, CCF and UNICEF, the program deals effectively with quality educational issues, upholds children's rights and promotes child participation. This program is being used by CCF in the Philippines to allow for child-to-child learning interaction. It trains upper primary school students and teachers to facilitate 45-minute classroom sessions on subjects such as children's rights, environmental studies and health and life skills. In some cases, it has led to improving school facilities as well as the teacher-to-child ratio. The basic model for Child Friendly Schools is being replicated in four other countries where CCF works. Efforts are currently under way in Ecuador, Ethiopia, Honduras and Zambia.

The **Reading Skill Improvement Program** in India helps strengthen children's academic performance. The pilot program began in Andhra Pradesh with 1,200 children in grades 3 to 5. Struggling readers, identified through an assessment test, meet every day after school. Specially trained teachers lead children through a progressive, 14-week course. At the program's conclusion, a follow-up assessment confirmed that scores had improved dramatically, jumping from 29.9% to 83.8% (out of 100%). CCF has learned that, without intervention, children with poor reading skills are more likely to drop out during the primary years.

With sensitivity to local cultures and languages, CCF weaves its **Living Values Program** into educational programs in Ukraine and other countries. To help children succeed in school and beyond, the program teaches children 12 universal principles – Love, Peace, Respect, Responsibility, Honesty, Happiness, Tolerance, Humility, Simplicity, Freedom, Cooperation and Unity.



Thea Shermer

emergencies

As Typhoon Xangsane began to bear down on their coastal village in the Philippines in September 2006, Julieta and her husband gathered their children and rushed inland. Their thatched home offered no protection against the storm's torrential winds and rains, so they sought refuge inside a small shelter at a nearby cemetery. Clinging together, the frightened family watched as water began pouring into their open-sided shelter.

Fortunately, Julieta's family survived the storm's flash flooding. But they soon discovered they had lost their home, most of their possessions, and their means of livelihood – their fishing boat. Xangsane caused significant damage to the local fishing industry, and it wreaked havoc upon nearby rice fields and coconut farms.

In communities torn apart by natural disaster or war, Christian Children's Fund provides immediate relief with an eye toward long-term development. CCF helps stabilize communities with activities that empower emergency-affected people to achieve lasting solutions to their problems. Following Xangsane, CCF organized medical clinics, set up four **Child Centered Spaces** (safe places where children can go for services and organized activities) and worked with UNICEF to distribute basic emergency supplies. But perhaps most important, CCF launched housing and livelihood programs that have enabled families, like Julieta's, to rebuild their lives.

Emergencies change lives in the blink of an eye. A devastating earthquake in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, in May 2006, followed by severe flooding in Jakarta this past February, shook a country still recovering from the deadly tsunami of December 2004. In the aftermath, CCF began operating a number of Child Centered Spaces. Many of them were designed to look like "jambos," raised wooden shelters that serve as traditional gathering places in Indonesian villages. The familiar structures help restore a sense of normalcy. They also serve as a base for organizing the community around children's needs.

Violence has disrupted life in conflict areas of eastern Sri Lanka. There, thousands of families fled their homes to escape the fighting between government forces and Tamil rebels. CCF set up Child Centered Spaces in IDP (Internally Displaced People) camps in Trincomalee, as well as in Batticaloa. Many of the young children living there face malnutrition and receive nutritional support through CCF. Community discussions are led by CCF to help everyone learn more about local needs and concerns. As families are starting to return home, cash-for-work programs and **livelihood restoration** efforts are helping them resume life as they knew it.

In post-conflict Liberia, activities to strengthen the infrastructure create a basis by which families can improve their lives. CCF has enhanced agricultural activities and undertaken entrepreneurship training for parents. The USAID-funded Revitalization of War Affected Communities (RWAC) program has helped CCF complete other efforts including constructing public schools, family latrines, and setting up community markets and a health clinic. CCF programs are helping **reintegrate former child soldiers**, and women associated with the fighting forces, into society.

Community-based support programs include psychosocial assistance, family mediation activities to restore children's acceptance, livelihood support, gender-based violence prevention and community revitalization. With USAID's support, CCF has helped 3,000 war-affected Liberian women and children find acceptance.



CCF staff



Francis Zulu

When families in CCF programs are torn apart by war or natural disaster, CCF steps in to meet immediate needs. But as a development agency, CCF implements activities that will have a long-term, more permanent impact on their lives and communities. After this major flood, standing water became a breeding ground for mosquitoes, and CCF distributed bed nets to help prevent the spread of malaria.

Child Protection Focus:

Child protection plays a central role in CCF emergency response, not only meeting emergency needs, but continuing the organizational focus on long-term development. In Chad, where CCF works with Sudanese refugees, CCF established a long-term program by training 2,760 volunteers to conduct a birth registration campaign. Birth registration provides an official record, which will safeguard the child from infanticide, enable school enrollment and, in later years, help protect against forced early marriage. The focus on child protection is woven into the fabric of CCF's emergency response. Whether organizing relief or livelihood programs, CCF works in a manner designed to support children who are among the most vulnerable in the world.