



# MILLENNIUM CAMPAIGN

VOICES AGAINST POVERTY



**International - United Nations Millennium Campaign**

**Canada - Make Poverty History**  
**Calgary - Children Without Poverty**

CHILDREN WITHOUT POVERTY Monthly Newsletter: April, 2007

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[www.makepovertyhistory.ca](http://www.makepovertyhistory.ca)  
[childrenwithoutpoverty@yahoo.ca](mailto:childrenwithoutpoverty@yahoo.ca)

Please do your part.

The millennium campaign was created in 2000 by the United Nations to eradicate extreme poverty & hunger by 2015.

Please help. Please read on to help and wear a white band to show your support. White bands are available for \$1 from [www.millenniumcampaign.org](http://www.millenniumcampaign.org) or by emailing [childrenwithoutpoverty@yahoo.ca](mailto:childrenwithoutpoverty@yahoo.ca).

## Did You Know?

“In First World Countries, we consume and dispose of 32 times more “stuff” than people consume in a Third World Country (per capita).” Jared Diamond

## Solar Cooking and Solar Cooking International (SCI)

Unimaginable horrors sent 200,000 people fleeing from Darfur, Sudan, into the neighboring country of Chad. Darfur refugee women and girls now face new dangers — including assault and rape — when they leave the refugee camps to gather firewood to cook their meager rations. Conflicts with local people over scarce wood resources are growing.

Today, refugees in Iridimi camp have a simple solution — solar cookers. Refugees have already made and distributed several hundred solar cookers and plan to make thousands more, enough for all the families in the camp. Refugees in other camps have begun requesting solar cookers as well. Four humanitarian groups are partnering to make this possible: Solar Cookers International, KoZon Foundation, Jewish World Watch, Refugee Foundation Netherlands and CARE International.

Solar cookers are a win-win technology in sun-rich, fuel-scarce areas: they reduce smoke and lung diseases, pasteurize unsafe drinking water, and spare women and children the burdens and hazards of collecting ever-scarcer firewood for cooking.

Donations to SCI support these Darfur refugee programs, as well as various other programs, including ongoing micro-enterprise projects in Kenya for women to make and sell solar cookers, and an information-exchange network among grassroots solar cooker promoters worldwide. For more information see: <http://solarcookers.org/>

## The Cornerstone Youth Centre

The Cornerstone Youth Centre is nestled beside the church in the quiet community of Mayland Heights in Calgary. Serving Jr. High students (ages 11-16) in the areas of Mayland Heights, Vista Heights, Bellview and Renfrew.

A tattered basketball hoop stands lone in the cold on Friday afternoon as I find my way into the centre to introduce myself to Herb White the centres' Executive Director. The Youth centre started in 1993 and between '93 and 2002 it opened and closed a few times for financial reasons while it was operated by the Crossroads Community Church.

CHILDREN WITHOUT POVERTY is not a registered charity. Please donate to the charity of your choice. We recommend: [www.millenniumpromise.org](http://www.millenniumpromise.org) (not a registered Canadian charity), [www.tear.org](http://www.tear.org) (not a registered Canadian charity), [www.calgaryfoodbank.com](http://www.calgaryfoodbank.com).

“The biggest challenge for this type of organization is to continue to raise the operating funds in order to keep it open,” says Herb.

As I walk into the centre and up the stairs to register with the volunteer behind the kitchen counter offering ‘at cost’ snacks for the kids, I notice the teens at the playstation and a few friends laughing and joking while watching a movie on the TV. However, what I notice the most is the ‘Rules’. They jump out at me to point out this is a safe place to be and there is no tolerance of bullying.

Herb worked at the Mustard Seed for 25 years starting out in Vancouver, Edmonton and Calgary. In 2003 Herb approached the community church to take over the youth centre, believing that this is the place to start and be more preventative. The centre has been open ever since, with much effort in the last 2 years put into a sustainability plan to ensure that the centre stays open. Herb indicated, “It is so important for that stability, for the kids, to ensure the centre stays open and can be relied upon and provide consistency for the teens.”

Recently, thanks to a grant from the Calgary Foundation, Cornerstone has been able to purchase some capital assets to assist with programs for the teens, upgrade the game room and the music room. They have an impressive music room, where they can do recordings with a professional mic, 6 guitars (3 new ones, thanks to the grant), borrowed drum set, etc. Herb would love to expand the music room, take over the garage, and turn the existing music room into the control room for recording. The kids can learn the music or the recording aspects. Another great purchase with some of the capital funds from the Calgary Foundation is new dance pads, which are arcade level quality. It is important to Herb that he provides an environment that also thinks of encouraging the teens to be more physically active.

This is a Christian organization, although they do not evangelize with the teens. It is a safe place to come after school. When school is closed until the parents come home.

“There is a lot of poverty out there,” Herb comments. “We have quite a few latch key kids, that have no where to go until their parents come home from work.”

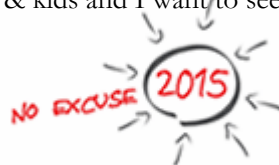
Mission: The Cornerstone Youth Centre exists to guide community youth to make the right spiritual, intellectual, social and physical choices.

In commenting about this mission Herb points out that the 4 choices are not necessarily chosen in any particular order, they are all important for the kids.

Currently they are open two days (Mondays – homework program and Friday – drop in). Fridays they are open the longest, as kids are out of school in the afternoon, so they are open from 12:30 – 8:30 p.m. In September, Herb is planning to have the centre open 5 days per week. With approximately 35 regulars, 15 of those they see every week – every time they are open, you can soon see why this is an important program not only for the kids but also for the community. They have a total of 65 registered teenagers.

Herb feels strongly with compassion about what he is doing and feels there is a need in every community for this. He would love to see the program expanded also into the Forest Lawn community and into every community in Calgary.

Why has Herb been drawn to this profession? He comments, “It’s all I’ve ever wanted to do. I was drawn to it in Victoria – kids 20 – 25 with the evangelism on the streets and getting them off the streets, feeding them etc. I fell in love with it. I have a love for community & kids and I want to see something better for them.”



At the Mustard Seed, we were encouraging kids to go back home and off the streets. However, sometimes it was safer for some of these young girls to be on the streets than they were at home. Sad really. I see this as being preventative. To assist the community before kids become homeless. It gives them a free place to go, it is safe, and keeps them off the streets or other places not safe. The kids say it is so important to them to have this place.

The biggest challenge is getting funding for the operating expenses. Currently Herb has 30 support individuals. The corporate clients are usually very good at providing one time or capital program expansion dollars. Nevertheless, it is very difficult to get operational funds.

What Herb needs most is volunteers, as he expands from 2 day to 5 days per week in September, he will definitely need more volunteers. In addition, money is needed to cover operational costs. To find out more about this organization or to offer time or dollars, please visit their website at: [www.cyccalgary.com](http://www.cyccalgary.com). Herb is truly an inspiration and role model in our communities to show how we can all enrich each other's lives.

### **Tired, just plain tired of the 'hands in your pockets' wanting your money, and the people at your door wanting your time?**

With the end of winter the winter coats change closets. They are put away, dealt with, or not dealt with. Some of them will go to the cleaners to store them away nice and clean until next winter. Others will be disposed of, the kids have grown or the style is old, or its just time to move on. Need to make some room and lighten the load?

I am currently doing a jacket/coat drive to collect coats for the coat closet at Cornerstone Youth Centre. Spring/Fall coats, raincoats or warm winter coats – I will accept them all. Extra donations to go to the Salvation Army or the Women in Need Thrift Store.

I am downtown Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in Bankers Hall. Call me to drop off: 513-8652.

To have people added or removed from the distribution list or to provide feedback, questions or requests, please respond to: [childrenwithoutpoverty@yahoo.ca](mailto:childrenwithoutpoverty@yahoo.ca).

