



# MILLENNIUM CAMPAIGN

VOICES AGAINST POVERTY



**International - United Nations Millennium Campaign**

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

CHILDREN WITHOUT POVERTY Monthly Newsletter: July 2006

**[www.millenniumcampaign.org](http://www.millenniumcampaign.org)  
[www.millenniumpromise.org](http://www.millenniumpromise.org)  
[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).

**“If a path to the better there be, it begins with a full look at the worst.” Thomas Hardy 1887**

**Do you know about the Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank?** Do you donate \$s direct to the Food Bank, or do you donate food items to the bins at the grocery stores? Thank you, you are truly helping the children.

- They need donations and food year round, not just at Christmas.
- They are neither a government nor a United Way agency.
- Their mandate is to assist those in an emergency situation.
- There are Food Bank donation bins at all grocery stores in Calgary & Airdrie.
- **42% of those they feed are CHILDREN**
- The Food Bank also runs a milk program for all eligible and referred children under 18 years of age.
- Most of their clients are the working poor. They are people with homes and families struggling to make ends meet, who occasionally find they are unable to do so.
- 35% of their operating budget comes from corporate donations. The remaining 65% is comprised of contributions made by individual citizens, community groups and supportive foundations, frequently in \$10 and \$20 denominations. It is the kind of grass roots community commitment that provides the nourishment those hungry mouths in Calgary would otherwise go without.
- The Co-op grocery stores allow you to purchase their Food Bank bundles without having to pick them up in your groceries. Just request it at the till and they count them all at the end of the day and package it up to the Food Bank.
- If you donate your money, the Food Bank has 10 times the buying power over individual buying power.
- Admin and fundraising costs are kept below 7%.
- Qualified clients may receive up to six hampers per year, although 83% of the people we assist require just three or fewer hampers before getting themselves back on solid ground.
- All clients go through a careful screening process in order to ensure those in greatest need receive their help. Each client receives a hamper of nutritionally balanced food designed to healthfully feed a family of designated size for up to seven days. They are eligible for this one time per month for a period of no more than 6 months in the last year.

CHILDREN WITHOUT POVERTY is not a registered charity and this is not a solicitation for funds. We believe that education and awareness may lead you to 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). There are also many Christian organizations that allow you to adopt a child.

- 135,000 Calgarians (14% of our population) experiencing some form of financial crisis turned to the Food Bank for help last year, 2005. 55,000 hampers were distributed because of your donations totaling over \$3 million in cash and \$12 million equivalent in food. Additionally, the BP Food Link program distributed over 1.5 million pounds of food to 100 Calgary not-for-profit agencies that provide meals to people in crisis. They distribute on average 165 hampers per day.
- Every day over 80 people volunteer their time.
- They require over 500 cases of baby formula each month for distribution in our baby hampers.
- A thank you note to the Calgary Food Bank "Last year I was diagnosed with breast cancer. As the sole breadwinner in my family, I was at wits end. My illness forced me to take a year's leave of absence from my job, leaving me with little income and a husband (legally blind) and three children to support. I could not have coped without the help of the Food Bank. They provided me with a hamper containing items necessary for a 'cancer patient'. Knowing I could turn to the Food Bank for help reduced my stress and really helped me to heal. I am now in remission and back at work. I can safely say the Food Bank is there for anyone in need." JaneDoe
- In previous newsletters: It's been noted that you can skip bottle return lines in some bottle depots and go straight to the till to donate your bottle money to the Calgary Food Bank. The Food Bank also takes your used plastic shopping bags and used egg cartons, and reuses them – just drop them into the Food Bins at your local grocery store. If you do not give them, then they have to purchase them. This all helps.

**Tired, just plain tired of the 'hands in your pockets' wanting your money, and the people at your door wanting your time?** Did you know that another way to look at donating your money without it interrupting your lifestyle is to leave a legacy? Consider establishing a trust or fund, or even just including your favorite charity into your estate planning. Just another way you can contribute to something you believe in, without it meaning time and money now.

#### **Story from a reader:**

I have been doing some consulting for PetroChina in Indonesia and seeing your initiative brings to mind the poverty that I see almost daily. It is amazing to see what few resources people can survive on. I don't get much opportunity to associate directly with these people but do get a bird's eye view of their situations.

From the little that these people have it's pretty amazing to see that most are genuinely happier than their counterparts in the "civilized" western - industrialized, commercialized world. In a world concerned with recycling these people would put us to shame. Nothing goes to waste.

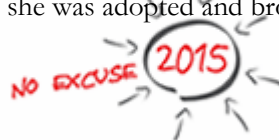
It's great to see that you have an honorable initiative going here. Keep up the positive attitude.  
-Derrick Jones

#### **Forgotten Children - What has happened to the Children in the Ukraine?**

Updated Sat. Nov. 12 2005 6:51 PM ET  
CTV.ca News Staff

Olena Wresnewski-Cottrell had a tough start to life. Abandoned by her birth parents, she spent her first nine months alongside dozens of other babies and toddlers in an orphanage in the Ukrainian city of Lviv.

Most of the babies there were destined for a bleak existence moving from one overcrowded orphanage to the next. But luckily for Olena, that wasn't her fate; she was adopted and brought to Canada.



Now at age 13, she still remembers the babies that were left behind. "I think about how they don't have a really good life and I was fortunate to get one," says Olena. It was November 1992 when Ruslana Wrzesnewski and her husband, Andy Cottrell, brought Olena home to Toronto. They were thrilled to have the baby as a new addition to their family, but their joy was tempered by the deplorable conditions they saw in the orphanages where children lacked clothes, toys and medicine.

"When we came back on the airplane, Ruslana turned to me and said 'This girl has just won the lottery'," remembers Andy. "We should do something for the other children. And without thinking of what this project would become, I said yes."

What the project became is Help Us Help the Children, a Canadian charity that raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in food, toys and clothes in its first two years. The project was an unqualified success, but Ruslana and Andy wanted to do even more for the more than 100,000 children in Ukraine's orphanages. So they started an annual summer camp in the tiny town of Vorokhta.

### **Summer camp for orphans**

That was 10 years ago. The Help Us Help the Children summer camp has grown every year since. This year's budget of more than \$350,000 is made up mostly of charitable donations from Canada. That money goes toward feeding, clothing, housing, teaching and entertaining 450 orphans from all across Ukraine.

### **When the orphans grow up**

Tragically, many of these kids don't make it. Ruslana estimates that six out of 10 kids end up in prison or on the streets. When they turn 18, they are turned away from the orphanages, often with little training or resources to properly take care of themselves on the streets of Ukraine's cities.

Major Vasiley Sophos is the chief warden at a medium security prison in Ukraine that houses 1,600 male prisoners. He has worked in the penal system for more than 20 years. During that time, he has seen countless graduates of orphanages end up behind bars.

"When they finish at the orphanages, they are not fully prepared for life. They are without parents and they are also without government support," says Sophos.

Girls from orphanages often end up in prison too, but others fall prey to an even worse fate. They are trafficked into prostitution, forced to work the streets and brothels in cities across Europe including Amsterdam, Budapest, and Florence and along the notorious E-55 highway on the German-Czech border.

### **Hope for the future**

But there is some cause for optimism. Ukrainian president Viktor Yuschenko is a long-time supporter of Ruslana's camp and has pledged to improve the lot of Ukraine's orphans. In a rare one-on-one interview, President Yuschenko spoke with W-FIVE about his government's plans.

"For many years, the state paid little attention to this problem and thanks to a program such as Help Us Help the Children, which Ruslana has run here, it created a great example for others," says Yuschenko. "I think that within two to three years we'll see a solution to this problem. In other words, after 18, this child should have an education, housing and a job."



Yuschenko concedes that these ambitious plans will take a few years to put in place and there are thousands of kids at risk right now. All Ruslana can do is try to make the kids at her camp aware of the dangers and hope that they make the right decisions.

Instead of preachy lectures, Ruslana has brought in a Ukrainian theatre troupe to do a series of performances about the dangers of drugs, violence and being trafficked into prostitution. The performers, all young people in their teens and early 20s, captivate the audience of orphans, giving Ruslana cause for hope that the message is sinking in.

"They have to know the truth. They have to know what's waiting for them," she says.

At the end of the two weeks of camp, it's time for the children to say goodbye and head back to the orphanages. It's a huge undertaking to get more than 400 children and all their belongings on board the train. The whole process takes nearly an hour, leaving plenty of time for hugs, kisses and last minute goodbyes. It's an emotional time for everyone, including Ruslana.

"On every corner, kids are exchanging addresses, they're crying, they're hugging each other. And then once they get on the train then it's very sad. There are a lot of tears and there's counselors holding kids who don't want to let go." While saying goodbye is difficult, the children who were lucky enough to take part in the camp are grateful for the opportunity and they know whom to thank.

"When I look at Ruslana, I see a really good person," says one orphan-camper, 15-year-old Lila. "I love her smile. She has a wonderful smile. I think she's a wonderful person."

**Want to help and do not know how?** Ask Richelle. As a trained Personal/Executive Coach she can help you **uncover what you are passionate about and how you can help the cause.** My Coaching business is setup in such a way to honor 'CHILDREN WITHOUT POVERTY'. Call me to discuss how you might want to help. In exchange, help me pay my path (in other words, support the cause). Call the office: (403) 240-1266. Richelle can also assist with your research / assist you with planned giving or legacy donation decisions.

**Carla Mohler-Specht** is working with teachers in Calgary schools to integrate the grade 3 curriculum, where children in Alberta are already discussing geopolitics around Poverty, with the United Nations Millennium Campaign. If you know a teacher interested, get them in touch with Carla: [childrenwithoutpoverty@yahoo.ca](mailto:childrenwithoutpoverty@yahoo.ca).

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).

