

Horizons

FALL/WINTER 2008

NEWSLETTER

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Horizons Up for Major New Challenge



Food Security: Through a Horizons-supported project in Chiapas, Mexico, families now produce bountiful crops for themselves and for a cash income.

Horizons is currently presenting a five-year proposal to the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) that includes a two-year bridge fund for its partners in Mexico, Costa Rica and Panama. If the bridge funding is not approved, Horizons will need an extra \$120,000 to maintain its programs in these countries. Horizons' Mesoamerican program has received generous support from CIDA for many years.

CIDA's recent indication that it could phase out aid to Mexico, Costa Rica and Panama may leave four partner organizations supported by Horizons of

continued on page 2...

Horizons and Partners Participate in AIDS 2008 World Conference

While the growing HIV/AIDS pandemic in Latin America has been largely invisible, the 2008 International AIDS Conference in Mexico City this August was a chance to focus on the issues that make the pandemic there unique.

Held for the first time in Latin America, it attracted 22,000 experts, activists, clinicians, educators, policy makers and people living with HIV/AIDS.

Horizons' staff Patricia Rebolledo and Bill Fairbairn were among the delegates along with nine Central American activists engaged in the fight against AIDS. Sponsored by Horizons, the Central Americans were able

to network and exchange information with people from around the world.

At the conference, Horizons' partners shared the initial work on the regional Observatory on HIV/AIDS. The Observatory, supported by Horizons, is strengthening the capacity of citizens' groups in Central America to monitor their governments' actions to combat the pandemic.

As well, Horizons co-sponsored a satellite session with the U.S.-based Huairou Commission entitled "Grassroots Women and their Partners Building HIV-Resistant Communities in Latin America and Africa."

An estimated 2 million people in Latin America live with HIV – more than in Western Europe and the United States combined. After Brazil, Mexico is the country with the largest number of cases of HIV.



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...Challenge
cont'd

Friendship facing an uncertain future.

"The work of these partners has significantly improved conditions for the most vulnerable people in these countries through support for health, education, agriculture and human rights promotion," says Patricia Rebolledo, Executive Director of Horizons of Friendship. "We will do all we can to maintain our commitment to these marginalized communities until they themselves tell us they no longer need the help of Canadians."

CIDA, a federal government agency which distributes the bulk of Canada's aid, will be focusing on fewer countries, as part of Canada's adherence to The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. This agreement was signed in 2005 by donor countries who are members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation (OECD). The concentration of aid among fewer countries is one of OECD's prime recommendations for Canada as a way to increase the effectiveness of its aid. Countries

such as Mexico, Costa Rica and Panama, with stronger economies and higher per capita incomes are not part of the selected group.

But Horizons sees the situation differently. Central American countries have some of the most extreme cases of income inequality in the world, with wealth concentrated among their elites. Economic growth has not changed this story. Significant sectors of the populations in these three countries remain destitute.

The state of Chiapas is the poorest of all Mexican states with 75 per cent of its people living in poverty. In Panama, 40 per cent of the country live in poverty while 22 per cent of Costa Ricans live on less than \$US 2 a day. In these countries, poverty is concentrated in rural areas and disproportionately affects indigenous and afro-descendent populations.

"Horizons' programs help strengthen citizen participation in all forms of government to ensure that the basic rights of all citizens are met," says Patricia. "The most

effective way to foster sustainable development is by building proactive, grassroots leadership who make positive contributions to the lives of the poor."

Horizons' support is still needed by its Mesoamerican partners. It is making a real difference to poor families. Horizons' Executive Director and board members firmly believe that Canadians will uphold this commitment with a resoundingly positive response for continued support of Horizons' partners.

For more details on the projects, see our back page.

"Central American countries have some of the most extreme cases of income inequality in the world."

...AIDS cont'd

One of them was Mirna Ramirez, a 24-year old Nicaraguan immigrant living in Costa Rica, a panelist in the satellite session and a member of the Horizons' delegation.

Mirna spoke of the betrayal she felt after learning she had contracted the virus through her husband, and the agony of discovering their newborn baby was initially HIV positive. Happily, their infant no longer carries the virus.

She courageously described the discrimination she and her family faced as a result of their HIV positive status. Most poignant were the stories of family members bleaching anything that Mirna, her husband or their infant child would touch. Mirna and her family were forced out of the family home and lived on the street, spending their nights trying to sleep on chairs in the emergency wing of a local hospital. Eventually, they found their way to the Home of Hope, a shelter for people living with HIV and AIDS, run by Horizons' partner Humanitas.

Humanitas provided Mirna and her family with a new "family" and a sense of purpose. Mirna



At the conference, Patricia with Guillermo Rishchynski, Canada's Ambassador to Mexico and former Vice President of the Americas Branch of CIDA. Patricia and Bill Fairbairn also met with Canada's Health Minister Tony Clement.

has become a most articulate spokesperson for the rights of people living with HIV and AIDS.

The generous and continued support of our donors has

enabled people like Maria to bring their stories forward, network with others and contribute in the battle against HIV/AIDS.



REPORT *from the*

Henry A.
Becker

President of the Board



Henry Becker is Emeritus Professor of Chemical Engineering at Queen's University. He has served the Board from 2000 to 2008, working first as Vice President for three years and then as President from 2005 to 2008. The following is a condensed version of his speech at the June 2008 Annual General Meeting.

Horizons' mission statement declares its commitment to eliminating the root causes of poverty and injustice through the cooperation of people from the North and the South.

The root causes of poverty and injustice are being exacerbated by Southern governments who are not only failing to do their part, but adding new layers of oppression and deprivation. Our own government hasn't been helping with its influence. Add to this the encroachments and behaviour of mostly Northern corporations intent on extracting wealth from the land and its people with scant attention to consequences.

Challenges for Our Partners

Global Warming

Global warming is proceeding at a much higher rate than predicted.

Our friends in the South can do very little to help ameliorate global warming, primarily the doing of Northern countries now joined by China and India. However, our Southern friends will suffer as much, or worse, from the consequences, amongst which will be:

- Droughts and resultant shortages in food supply, possibly at famine levels;
- Crop, animal and human deaths from excessive heat;
- A dramatic rise in hurricanes, floods, landslides and even earthquakes;
- Loss of low-lying land and resources by flooding as sea level rises;
- Great numbers of refugees.



Honduran farmers, involved with a Horizons' sponsored project, trek through an arid hillside, on their way to view a model farm where they will see how to apply new agricultural technologies. Using sweat hoses, they will eventually rehabilitate this devastated land.

Economic globalization and free trade

The effect of these has largely been to further impoverish and marginalize the poor. While average per capita income has risen in some of the countries, maldistribution has dramatically increased.

Further, some of the main, locally-produced foodstuffs have been largely displaced by nutritionally inferior but cheaper imports.

Malnutrition, starvation and degeneration

Global warming can be expected to very substantially increase the incidence of malnutrition and starvation. Overpopulation has the same result. The continuation of ruinous industrialized agricultural practices (monocultures, loss of seed diversity, chemical fertilizers, use of herbicides and pesticides, loss of topsoil by poor soil husbandry, etc.) contributes both to eventual lower yields and substantial loss in quality.

When malnourished parents have children, who in turn are malnourished, and so on, physical degeneration occurs. It takes several generations of better feeding to recover former levels of vitality.

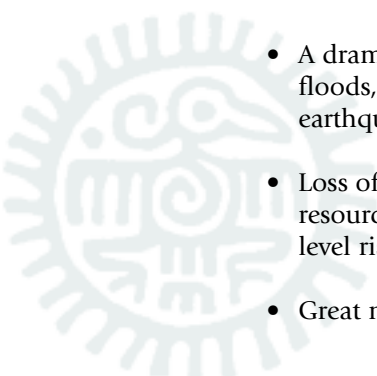
Capitalism/neoliberalism

With virtually no limit on their growth, the big transnational corporations are now dictating policy and in many ways telling governments what to do. Ever since the trend to deregulate began, there's been a dramatic increase in income disparity

Never before has humanity faced so much change, and the prospect of such drastic things to come.

We mustn't abandon hope or falter in our concern for those less fortunate. One of the world's greatest activists today, Vandana Shiva, said, "I do not allow myself to be overcome by hopelessness, no matter how tough the situation. I believe that if you just do your little bit without thinking of the bigness of the thing you stand against, if you turn to the enlargement of your capacities, just that in itself creates potential."

So, let us all do our best to correct our ways, bending our efforts toward the building of that better world. And one of the good things we can do is support Horizons so our struggling friends in the South may ultimately have their fair share in that world.



REPORT *from the* Executive Director

Patricia
Rebolledo

Learning Network

Over the past year, Horizons of Friendship has consolidated its "learning network for capacity building" in Central America and southern Mexico. A major emphasis is training, of which exchanges are a key part, ensuring that organizations acquire and share their knowledge and experiences.

Horizons has linked with sister organizations in Canada, Europe and the United States to enhance our partners' work with new ideas, new possibilities, solidarity and financial resources.

Much of the consortium work is linked to our regional programs on HIV/AIDS and a regional campaign to combat Femicide, the rampant violence towards women in the region. Sister organizations have been generous in supporting these two initiatives.

We have taken advantage of every opportunity to allow partners to become engaged with other organizations, not only in Central America but throughout Latin America.

Partners are getting ready to present position papers at the next HIV/AIDS International Conference in Mexico this August. They can send a clear message to the governments in the region: more resources are needed to stop the pandemic.

Community Outreach

Community Outreach is part of Horizons' learning network. Humanitas from Costa Rica and Passos from El Salvador came to Canada this year, attending conferences in Ontario and Quebec, and making presentations to CIDA officials and Foreign Affairs.

We are working with Jamaica Self Help, a sister organization in Peterborough, to engage youth on international development issues.

Horizons is active in three coalitions in Ontario, Canada and the United States. In this way, we can stay abreast of issues, share information and analysis and network.

Food Crisis

The global food crisis is having a significant effect on the region, an irony given its historical agricultural past. Local

governments are not supporting their farmers. Free trade agreements have made it cheap to import food, undercutting local production. There is a need for strategies to increase food security in the region.

Farmers are the poorest of the poor. We have seen Central American peasants abandon their lands and emigrate to the North in search of a new life - a life that is often an illusion even for those who are successful in reaching their desired destination. Many never make it and, in fact, are maimed or even killed en route while numerous others are deported to their countries of origin. Horizons' projects aim to bring hope and meaningful work so that families can stay together.

To this end, six partners focus on small-scale, sustainable farming, preserving natural resources, replanting forests, diversifying crops and pushing their governments for stronger environmental policies. No matter the size, every effort to care for our environment counts.

The Big Picture

During the past fiscal year, Horizons has provided funding to 21 partners for a total of 28 community development projects in seven countries in Central America and Mexico. We support projects in Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. We have engaged six new partners in Guatemala and El

Salvador - small, grassroots organizations working on health, education and agriculture.

We have supported four major programs at the regional level: research and good practices in HIV/AIDS care and treatment; training in application of gender equity methodology; research on and campaigns to stop violence against women; institutional strengthening through training in strategic planning, results based management, finance and administration.

Horizons' programs had a total value of \$936,324 including funds to our overseas partners and monies for our domestic Community Outreach program.

Closing the gap between North and South, analyzing differences and commonalities between our reality and that of our brothers and sisters is a key issue for us. Our annual Exposure Tour provides us with the means to accomplish this.

Our relationship with CIDA has been positive. Horizons has been invited to present a five-year proposal for the period 2009 to 2014. We will ask for a 15% increase in the budget.

In closing, Horizons has made a significant contribution to the reduction of poverty and injustice in a region where our partners struggle to bring about lasting justice.

Thanks to all of you for your support!



In El Salvador, a grandmother and her grandchildren, people who benefit from Horizons' support for its partners in this country.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The accompanying condensed financial statements have been prepared from the balance sheet of Horizons of Friendship at March 31, 2008, and the statements of changes in net assets, revenue and expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended. We have examined those

financial statements and reported thereon as of May 8, 2008. In our opinion, the financial statements are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements from which the information has been derived.

**BDO Dunwoody
LLP
Cobourg, Ontario
May 8, 2008**

BALANCE SHEET AT MARCH 31, 2008

	2008	2007
ASSETS		
Cash	60,798	61,528
Accounts Receivable and accrued interest	2,193	7,148
Prepaid Expenses	10,230	11,106
Sub-Total	73,221	79,782
Investments	1,172,821	1,147,526
Capital Assets (Net)	89,285	94,359
Total	1,335,327	1,321,667
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	37,022	22,362
Deferred Revenue	959,074	953,190
Sub-Total	996,096	975,552
Net Assets		
Invested in Capital Assets	89,285	94,359
Internally restricted for stabilization	212,002	212,002
Unrestricted	37,944	39,754
Sub-Total	339,231	346,115
Total	1,335,327	1,321,667

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008

	2008	2007
REVENUE		
Donations	496,183	590,759
Government and Other Grants	758,193	734,910
Thrift Shops and Special Events	225,004	218,997
Other Income	48,302	34,420
Total Revenue	1,527,682	1,509,086
EXPENSES		
Programmes (Mesoamerican & Canadian)	1,085,547	1,065,558
Operations	315,826	256,955
Administration	174,238	176,484
Total	1,575,611	1,498,997
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses before gains or (losses)	(47,929)	11,838
Realized gains (losses) on investments	54,792	(1,749)
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	6,863	10,089

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008

	2008	2007
CAPITAL ASSETS		
Balance beginning of year	94,359	94,788
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(9,563)	(9,949)
Investment in capital assets	4,489	9,520
Balance end of year	89,285	94,359

As of April 1, 2007, in accordance with the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants' requirements for accounting for Financial Instruments – Recognition and Measurement and Disclosure and Presentation, Horizons of Friendship and its auditors implemented the necessary changes to its financial statements. Investments classified as available-for sale (term deposits, money market funds, bonds, etc) are recorded at fair value and changes in fair value are recognized in net assets until the investments are disposed of. Unrealized holding gains and losses are excluded from excess of revenue over expenses until such gains or losses are realized.

In Fiscal 2007/2008 Horizons of Friendship had a realized gain on the sale of shares of \$54,792.

The financial statements shown here are condensed versions of the audited financial statements produced by our auditors BDO Dunwoody LLP. Copies of the full statement are available upon request.

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of the following:

Joint Program Support provided by the following sister organizations:	Rod White – Royal LePage Broker	Rev. David Fitzpatrick Donna Flotron Kathleen Fraser Denis Garand & Sandra Brandt Paul & Evelyn Gervan Patricia Green Martha Hauck Donald Haworth John S. Herron Higginson Charitable Trust Paul Hunter Mary Johnson Teresa Johnson Kenneth Jones Audrey Kenny L.J. Klump & Family Mr. & Mrs. G.W. Kors Paul Kromer Kromer Radio Ltd. Martin Landmann Patricia Law Doug Latham Kenneth & Mary Lefebvre W. Paul Loofs John Low Madeline Lunney Margrit Malone Mr. & Mrs. Joseph MacCool & Family William MacDonald Robert MacKenzie Mike & Carol Major Robert Malcolmson Rosaria Manno Loyola McCabe Daniel McCarthy Allan McCracken Kenneth McPherson Rachel McRae Luise Metcalfe Mr. & Mrs. John Mitchell Dr. William & Shirley Moebus Peter & Frances Money J.A. Moore David Morrison Valentine Mueller Susan Murdock Dan & Jean Murphy Bruce Lazerte & Gertrud Nurnberg Fran O'Hara Leslie Pawsey A.R. Pulla Charles Rose Moser Maureen Rutherford Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Schlupp Bart W. J. Scheres Linda Seppanen Loretta Bagnall Helen Shurson Linda & Alan Slavin Christine Stewart Mary Stienburg James Tait Mrs. W. E. Tierney Anna Tomiak Pietrina Trasolini Maurice & Gloria Walsh Gordon & Mary Jo Watt Gerald Watkins Steven Weaver Peter Webb Kevin & Nancy Whaley Peter & Maureen Wilcox Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Woods Janet Wong Mark & Anne Wright-Gedcke Ronald Wright Ed Wynands Penny & Murray Young (Plus our many individual supporters)
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HORIZONS' MANDATE

Horizons of Friendship is a Canadian non-profit, international development agency committed to addressing the root causes of poverty and injustice through the cooperation of people from the South and the North.

Horizons of Friendship supports Central American and Mexican partner organizations that undertake local initiatives which further this goal.

In Canada we raise awareness on global issues and work with Canadian organizations at the local and national levels to bring about positive and lasting change.



Women's agricultural collective in Honduras



Salvadoran children meet Exposure Tour visitors

Elizabeth Hays, winner of 2007 Giller Prize at Horizons Writers & Friends Port Hope Event



Horizons of Friendship works to further sustainable development by promoting alternative socio-economic structures that permit poor and marginalized people to build decent lives and achieve positive societal change. In 2007/2008, Horizons partnered with 21 organizations throughout Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama.



HORIZONS
of friendship • d'amitié • de amistad

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Horizons adheres to the CCIC (Canadian Council of International Cooperation) Code of Ethics.

Special thanks to the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for their support of our work



HORIZONS @ HOME

Analucy Bengochea: "We realize that disaster can also bring development"

A guest of Horizons, Analucy Bengochea, Coordinator of the Garifuna Emergency Committee of Honduras (CEGAH), will embark on a Canadian speaking tour in November. Analucy will share her experiences working with local women who are building resilient communities through sustainable economic development in disaster-hit areas of Honduras.

CEGAH was established in 1996 after Hurricane Mitch devastated crops, cattle and homes in 16 Garifuna communities in Honduras. Speaking at the UN's Commission on the Status of Women, Analucy said, "We realize that disaster can also bring development".

Referring to the community development work of CEGAH, Analucy stated, "Women and communities had to organize themselves in order to demand their rights and rebuild healthy communities".

The organization now focuses on disaster prevention by mapping the vulnerabilities and strengths of disaster-prone communities, with a long-term vision of environmental and cultural



sustainability. Please visit www.horizons.ca in October for tour dates.

Local Youth Organize International Conference in Peterborough

Youth in the Northumberland region will take part in a first of its kind youth-led conference in the Peterborough area next spring. Spearheaded by Jamaica Self-Help in Peterborough in conjunction with Horizons of Friendship, the project builds bridges of solidarity among Canada, Jamaica and Nicaragua.

Forty teenagers – equal numbers from the South and North – will discuss the political and economic realities of each country and how South and North can work together to

promote human rights and development. The conference's theme is food security and its direct links to poverty, relevant to all three countries. Through the lens of the food crisis, youth will look at international cooperation and advocacy.

Students from the Peterborough and Cobourg areas traveled to Nicaragua to plan the conference with a tri-country youth steering committee in August.



Corey Fortier of Cobourg, Allison Bunting of Ennismore and Melina Found of Peterborough in Nicaragua.

Writers & Friends

Horizons of Friendship 14th Annual

**Sunday, November 9, 2008 at LeVan Hall
Trinity College School, Port Hope**

A literary evening with host Ian Brown
and award-winning writers:

Charlotte Gray – *Nellie McClung*

Richard Gwyn – *Sir John A, The Man Who Made Us*

Helen Humphreys – *Coventry*

Dr. James Orbinski – *Humanitarian Action
in the 21st Century*

and special guest, Farley Mowat.

Please call Horizons at 905-372-5483
or e-mail info@horizons.ca

Exposure Tour 2009 Honduras February 18–27



**For more info contact
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www.horizons.ca**

An Uncertain Future in Mexico, Costa Rica and Panama.

(continued from page 2... Challenges)

Mexico: Chiapas
 Horizons supports local organization DESMI to improve the lives of indigenous, subsistence families through training and the provision of seeds and materials. Nine highland villages now produce corn, beans, coffee and vegetables for themselves and as cash crops. (photo front page)

Fighting against discrimination in Costa Rica



Costa Rica Humanitas Association:
 Humanitas professional staff and volunteers provide a caring environment with integral psychological, medical, legal and spiritual support to over 200 people living with HIV, AIDS and drug dependencies.



Training for leaders from Latin America and the Caribbean.

Since 2003, Horizons has been the prime support of the **Caribbean People's Association (APC)**. Recognized internationally, APC is a proponent of the economic, social, cultural and political rights of this discriminated minority. It continues to influence the Costa Rican state to adopt and enforce public policy against racism.

Panama
 Horizons has been a long time supporter of the **Latin American Grassroots Education Program of the Interamerican Cooperative Institute (ICI)**. It trains leaders from Latin America and the Caribbean to guide social development processes in their countries. Horizons has kept tuition at accessible levels, enabling over 170 women and men to attend the workshops.



THINK OF HORIZONS OF FRIENDSHIP FOR SPECIAL GIFTS TO FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Please make a donation to celebrate weddings, birthdays, retirements, Christmas and other celebrations. A special card will be sent on your behalf to mark the occasion. **Give the gift that helps marginalized communities work together against poverty and injustice.**

Contact us today at info@horizons.ca 1-888-729-9928 x 10

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Photos: Horizons and partner staff
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 Editor: Pauline Janitch

We welcome your comments, please write!

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Horizons program is supported by:






And numerous foundations, faith-based groups, community organizations, unions and individuals.

 **Join HORIZONS OF FRIENDSHIP and help to bring about social justice in Mesoamerica**
Together we can build strong communities. Please join us today!!

I want to support Community Development by joining Horizons' Sustaining Donor Plan. I authorize Horizons to receive monthly tax-creditable donations from my specified account in the amount of:

\$15 (50 cents a day) \$25 \$40 \$75 \$100 \$_____ (other)

Beginning in the month of _____ (Please enclose a cheque for your first donation)

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- I would like more information about Horizons
- I cannot become a sustaining donor at this time, but enclosed is my donation
- Please send me more information about *Planned Giving*

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