



SPRING/SUMMER
2015
VOLUME 19 ISSUE 1

NEXUS

ANNUAL MEETING

SEPT. 26, 2015

1:30 PM

Blessed Sacrament
Church Hall

906—6 Avenue
Wainwright, AB

Dear Supporters and Friends,

Our Society registered as a charity in 1975 as St. Joseph Save the Children Club and changed its name in 2000. The board of directors wants you to celebrate it's achievements with us. To give back to you for all you have given, we are keeping the cost of your ticket to the very minimum. Please come and join us at our 40th Anniversary Dinner, meet Brenda Carpio of El Salvador, guest speaker, and enjoy our professional performers, Henri Loiselle and Martin Janovsky, in concert. Also enjoy reading about what you have supported in this NEXUS.

- George Bunz, President



Brenda Carpio is the project coordinator of the bio-intensive garden projects in El Salvador, with us for the past 7 years. Prior, she was the coordinator of a micro-finance programme for women with the Anglican Church. Brenda has a Business Studies Degree from the Central America University of El Salvador. She will be here pending acquiring her visas.

RAINBOW OF HOPE FOR CHILDREN 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

WAINWRIGHT COMMUNIPLEX
SEPTEMBER 26, 2015
DINNER AT 6:00 PM

GUEST SPEAKER:
BRENDA CARPIO OF EL SALVADOR
PROFESSIONAL MUSICAL PERFORMANCE
HENRI LOISELLE & MARTIN JANOVSKY
IN CONCERT

TICKETS ONLY \$20
THANKS TO OUR CO-SPONSORS:
ALPHONSE GERWING CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
ROTARY CLUB OF WAINWRIGHT
WAINWRIGHT MEN'S CHOIR

Tickets are available from:
Armstrong's and Toys and Treasures,
Rainbow of Hope directors or
Phone 780-842-6091
email rohfc@telus.net



The renowned pianist, Martin Janovsky, and one of Canada's great baritone singers, Henri Loiselle, have performed to standing ovations throughout Canada and in Europe. We are so grateful to them for donating their talent with us to make our 40th anniversary celebration one to remember. This picture is compliments of the Broadway Theatre in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.



MOVEMENT OF RURAL AND FISHER WOMEN WORKERS OF ALAGOAS (MMTRP-AL) BRAZIL

Strengthening the organization and production of Women and Youth in the state of Alagoas

"It's 7 A.M. I'm in the MMTR headquarters. Last night I received a call to let me know that another break-in occurred. My head seems it is going to explode. I do not cry only of sadness, but anger, frustration and indignation. We stayed awake until 2 AM and my question was why they do this to us, why do they not leave us alone? But soon I realized that it is not only the MMTRP women who are the victims, the whole society is victim. You have no idea how difficult is to write this letter... we're trying to calm down, but all is so sad, and so difficult. All the time we feel this need to cry, what should we do?"

- Zeze, MMTRP-AL

The tears of these courageous women bridging our countries epitomizes the struggle of rural women in northeast Brazil and why Rainbow of Hope and the Al Gerwing Charitable Foundation holds them dear to our hearts and supports their efforts to improve their social and economic milieu.

The rural women of Brazil's northeast began organizing in the 1980's and registered as MMTR-NE to enable a legitimate voice. Its a grassroots movement helping women to empower themselves so they can experience dignity, human rights, gender equity, equal access to social, political and economic opportunity, reduced violence, and better health, safety, and sustainable income. It is an astronomical challenge these women have. We are encouraged because they not only have the hope, but the will to succeed.

The MMTRP-AL made inroads into Alagoas in the 1990's. We first met with them in 2004. They were buoyed by Maria Jose da Silva (Zeze) and Maria Jose Viana, State Secretary of Education, whom we knew to be very strong leaders.



Rainbow of Hope projects with the MMTRP-AL began in 2004 with the funding of a headquarters in the capital, Maceio, and the establishment of over 30 affiliate MMTRP-AL community groups, thanks to a grant from the Wild Rose Foundation of Alberta.

The women tell us that the situation in Alagoas state continues to be characterized by the violation of rights. Public investment is not enough to steer youth away from drugs and crime. The index of the youth involved in drugs is very high, so many families are losing their children to organized crime.

They experience that education and health sectors are ignored. The illiteracy index is 36.3%, highest in Brazil. In the Alagoan electorate, 78% of the voters have incomplete elementary schooling, among those 26% are illiterate. They experience little commitment to improve the quality of education. As a result many children 12 years of age can not read or write. Child labour is still high and women and children receive salaries far inferior to their male counterparts. The situation is more pronounced for black people, mainly female youths and adult women.

Today out of every 21 youth homicides in Alagoas, 20 are of African descent, and black males 13 to 26 years of age are targeted. Violence against women continues, even after the passage of Maria da Penha Law (statute # 11.340) that envisions eradication of domestic violence against Brazilian women.

The struggle of these women for improved public policies for their children is untiring. They know they can't change a patriarchal society over night, but many are sure their struggle is not in vain, and that they will overcome the machismo and the racism to construct a new societal mentality. To alleviate poverty and improve conditions, it is strategic to involve women and youth in the process, through education, organization and production so they are agents of transformation. Providing animals and techniques of production strengthens organizational groups and fortifies the struggle for better living conditions. This has been and is the focus of our MMTRP-AL projects.

Reducing Poverty by Generation of Income

Women in 30 affiliates participated in workshops to perfect saleable crafts, ethnic foods, and organic agriculture products. Market coordinators were trained and researched locations for commercial space to sell products. The MMTRP-AL established an interest free micro-credit revolving fund for groups to access up to \$1,000 for entrepreneurial initiatives.



Women now could buy small animals with the repayment being the amount of animals received initially, which then went to other participants. Some women bought land for community gardens with the payment being sharing part of the production with neighbours.

Sunflower of Knowledge Project



This fabulous project established libraries in over 30 communities and good reading habits in children, themes chosen to improve their lives. The libraries also enable some space for workshops for youth to combat drugs and crime.

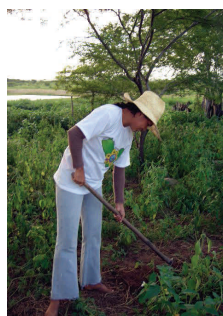


Zeze (front centre) at an adolescent workshop. These youth are the future of Alagoas .

Helping Victims of Floods in Alagoas

On June 18, 2010 the valley of Mundau and Paraiba rivers were overtaken by a flood never seen before in this region. All the communities of Santana do Mundau and União dos Plamares, were devastated. Rainbow of Hope disaster relief provided 750 kits (12,000 kg) of food, 520 cleaning and personal hygiene kits, 200 pots and pans, 3,600 units of clothing, 700 pair of footwear, 500 blankets, 250 bath towels, 180 mattresses, and even toys for the children. With some supplies delivered by helicopter, the MMTRP-AL received considerable T.V. coverage of its efforts.

Family Farming and Animal Husbandry



This program provides a regular and nourishing food supply for families, and promotes jobs and income generation for women. Production of grains, medicinal plants, and small animals, helps not only women and their families, but also the environment. A big focus is to move beyond production to feed their families to increasing production and marketing agro products to improve family income and well being.

Strengthening Women and Youth Groups of the Sertão (big desert) region of Alagoas.

In addition to working to improve production and marketing, the MMTRP-AL has formed municipal commissions to advocate for better public policies (health, education, housing, sewage, drinking water, electrical energy, roads and leisure). They already experienced reforms in 4 schools and construction of a school in Chã da Eva (Buenos Aires II), also there are improvements in access roads to communities such as Chapéu de Pena Santana do Mundau. MMTRP-AL commissions have visited the Women's Police Station and Government Palace to discuss the gravity of the problems faced by rural women.

The MMTRP-AL recently did an evaluation of the program and reported how valuable ROHFC support is. We invite you to read on page 7 the letter we received from the youth. We salute the MMTRP-AL women and youth and wish them continued success in achieving their mission to improve their society.

RAINBOW OF HOPE VOLUNTEERS HELP KINYAMBU PRIMARY SCHOOL IN KENYA

By Connie Gerwing



Asante sana, thank you in Swahili, was something we heard often during our time working on Rainbow of Hope's Kinyambu Primary School project in Kenya. Parents, teachers and students were excited to have us and grateful for the funding and personal assistance that we provided. It was a great first experience for me, taking a small group of volunteers to work on a project in East Africa.

We had spent our first day in Nairobi making sure we had some of the resources we needed to spend a couple of weeks working in a rural village far away from banks and supermarkets. Other stops along the way enabled us to buy books and school supplies to be delivered and lumber, tools and paint for our reading corner project.

Our partner in Kenya, the Kinyambu Rural Education and Community Development group, had things ready for us when we arrived on Feb. 20, 2015. KCRED chair, Simon Ngumbi, had already ordered the fencing materials that were waiting for us. Some organizing meetings with Simon, parents and staff were necessary before things got down to the physical labour.

The volunteer work had two separate components: completing the fence, half of which had been built a few years before, and the reading corner for the library. For the fence, some trees and underbrush had to be cleared, holes dug and then cement mixed to place around each post. Finally, four strands of barbed wire and chain link needed to be wired on. Our labour was useful but paled in comparison to the 150 parents who came in total over the 6 days of fence building.

Their main tools were pangas, long knives like machetes, grub hoes called jembes, and their hands. Women brought their babies and young children and did equal physical labour to the men - carrying water on their heads for cement, chopping brush with axes and pangas, mixing cement and wheeling it to the posts. The atmosphere was social and co-operative, with laughing, teasing and much interest in the wazungu, white people, who they were sure couldn't do any physical labour with those soft looking hands! Their skepticism abated as the Canadians cleared shrubs and small trees and helped mix cement.



The library was empty except for many bags of maize and beans that were to feed the students at Kinyambu and neighboring schools. There has been a severe drought and rural areas that depend on subsistence farming for their food are in trouble. The county provided the food to the schools so the children would at least get one reasonable meal each day. The bags were soon distributed and the building was ready for the painting and sawing and hammering that went on for the next week.



The Werbicki Reading Corner soon took shape with Charlie Matt in charge of the construction of two level reading benches. Donna Kurtenbach, the designer of the murals, directed the various painters and worked with a couple of students to include them in the process. One student, John, drew a huge giraffe and a child sitting and reading and both assisted with the painting. Julia Laforge, Jessica Van Eyck and I helped with whatever jobs needed doing.



Eric, one of the talented artists, encouraged by Donna, did a great job helping to paint the mural.

My specialty, as a former teacher, was controlling the many curious children who crept into the library and hung at every window as the week went on. Julia Laforge spent most afternoons after class on the playing fields teaching students to play a new sport for them, Ultimate Frisbee, a game needing few resources.

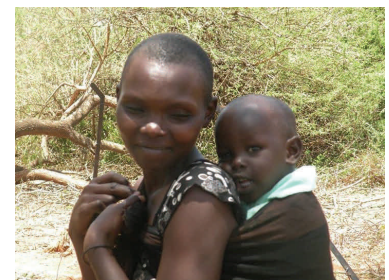
Several students and parents helped to clean the library for the official opening. The energy of the participants and the shouts of delight and excitement could be heard all over the school grounds.



Left to right, our volunteers were Julia Laforge, Dona Kurtenbach, Charlie Matt, Jessica Van Eyk, and Connie Gerwing.



We thank our volunteers who travelled at their expense half way around the world to Kenya in East Africa, bringing their resources, talents and spirit to help the Kinyambu school community to build their security fence and enhance the library built by Rainbow of Hope for Children with the funds raised by Cardinal Leger School in Saskatoon. The reading corner is named after its principal, Guy Werbicki. What you helped build in Kinyambu is not only the fence and reading corner, but relationships that bring Canadians, Kenyans, and the world closer together in peace. Asante sana!





ISMAEL CARDENAS

IN PRAISE OF A FINE GRASSROOT LEADER

Leadership is a key factor in community development. Some people are natural born leaders and others develop skills and abilities to lead. However this occurs,

Ismael Cardenas has demonstrated all the qualities to be a community leader. Back in 1965, he was a leader in his church youth group, taking after his father who was the mayor of Chinchá Baja at that time. Ismael joined the Peruvian air force as an aircraft mechanic and trained with American forces in Panama. After 10 years, he left the air force and worked for a number of years as supervisor of quality control in various industries in Venezuela and Peru. In 1996, he was instrumental in establishing a non-government organization called *Amigos de Siempre* (Friends Always) to assist in development of the small communities in the District of Chinchá Baja, Peru.

By a strike of providence, in 2006, Ismael became available to administer the Rainbow of Hope for Children project in Chinchá Baja. For 9 years, he has been a loyal, responsible and dedicated leader while developing and conducting various projects in the district of Chinchá Baja. These projects include the construction of a school in Santa Rosa; reconstruction of a school in Chinchá Baja; distribution of food and



**Project Pachacutec
(Rebuilding roofs)**

clothing after the devastating earthquake in August 15, 2007; construction of temporary houses, classrooms and many community kitchens, the construction of a seniors centre and a virtual library; the construction of artisanal roof tops over bedrooms, and ecological wood-burning stoves. The most significant project was the construction and operation of the Public Education Complex, providing adult basic education, six technical programs and extension programs and more to come from the Ministry of Education.

CIDA, Alberta Community Initiatives (CIP-ID, Rotary Clubs and many Canadians funded these projects. In recognition of his excellent leadership in development of the communities of Chinchá Baja, the Rotary Club Strathcona in Edmonton presented Ismael with the Paul Harris Award, given to those who promote the educational and humanitarian objectives of Rotary International.



**Joe Gubbels presents
the Paul Harris Award**



**Meeting Premier
Hon. Ed Stelmack**

In 2008, Ismael spent two months in Canada as part of our public engagement program. He visited several schools, met with the Mayor of Edmonton, Premier of Alberta, and Rotary Clubs and participated in many fund raising activities. This visit to Canada was a real education for him, and it assisted him in understanding the efforts Canadians make in sharing with developing countries.

Being the administrator of projects for Rainbow of Hope in Chinchá Baja became a way of life for Ismael. It is not just a job for him. He gives hours and hours of volunteer time to the projects and sets an example to many individuals in the communities to volunteer their time and learn how to help themselves in development of themselves and their families. For this, we are very proud of Ismael and thank him for his dedication administering projects in Chinchá Baja.

**Ismael with the
staff at the 5th
anniversary of
the Centre for
Occupational
Education in
Chinchá Baja**



L to R) Juan Carlos Pachas (Communication); Angel Sotelo (Computers); Abigail Jiménez (Mathematics); Juan Carlos Saldaña (Primary); Joe Gubbels (Director); Fabiola Gala (Textile); Fernando Angulo (Coordinator); Narda Figueroa (Secretary); Johnson Saria (Social Sciences); Ismael Cardenas (Administrator)

FROM HERE AND THERE WE KEEP IN TOUCH

Thank you letter from the youth of the Sertão to the supporters of ROHFC

We are the rural youth from Inhapi, Mata Grande, and Canapi in the high Sertão of Alagoas in northeastern Brazil. We would like to say that we had a meeting on February 26th, 2015 to do an evaluation for MMTRP-AL of our activities that were made possible with ROHFC financial and moral support. We would like to let you know that our state has the worst Education Index and Human Development Index in Brazil. Also, we have the highest homicide rate of poor and black people, plus a very high rate of violence against women, which in most cases causes death.

Rainbow of Hope for Children support is very important to our youth and women. It enables us to participate in discussions to boost our knowledge. We are learning to be more conscientious against preconceptions and to stand strong against social injustice. Your support is recognition of our values and permits us to be more active in the struggle for better communities and society. The young chickens we received awaken our spirit of responsibility when we take care of them. This makes us realize what our mothers go through attending to small animals and taking care of the home at the same time. Also, it allows us to help contribute to the food security of our families. Thank you very much for your support because it is very important to us. We would not have this opportunity if it were not for your support.

Respectfully yours,

Roseni Silva de Oliveira, Izabel da Silva Nascimento, Alane Gomes Silva, Josefa Veronica Silva, Nayara Pereira da Silva, Raquel da Silva Nascimento, Maria Jéssica N. dos Santos, Alana Késya, Ronaldo Gonçalves de Melo, Ezaúda Silva Nascimento, Mayco Emanuel Lopes, Maria Maiane da Silva, Letícia de Melo Dôres, Verônica de S. Nascimento, Maria Josielma Santos, Bárbara da Silva Dionízio, Suely Maria da Silva, Leidiane da Silva Nascimento

"Each of us, in big and little ways, can be a rainbow of hope for a child or a community, here and now, and make the world a little better, one step at a time."

- Hank Zyp in Rainbow of Hope brochure

The above quote became our focus during Lent, as we discussed almsgiving. It is such a fitting quote for all our students, as we constantly refer to the little ways of St. Theresa in our school prayer. So as students journeyed through lent, they donated their "spare change" to our Rainbow can, in the hopes that our little collection could help make a difference to other children through the Rainbow of Hope for Children Society. Wishing God's blessings on you and your society.

- The Students & Staff of
Theresetta School, Castor, AB

I had a birthday party, and instead of gifts, I asked for donations. Here is some money to help girls at Grota da Alegria in Brazil.

- Anissa Nielsen 11, Frankford, ON

Thank you for the newsletter. I enjoyed reading it. When you donate to a charity and find out where your donation is going and how much you are helping makes you feel like your money is indeed helping people. Thank you.

- Jean Mansfield, Wainwright, AB

I am astonished and rejoice in the Holy Spirit at what your little charity has accomplished.

- Dorothy Braidek, Saskatoon, SK

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE SUPPORT OF:



Foreign Affairs, Trade and
Development Canada

Affaires étrangères, Commerce
et Développement Canada

Government of Alberta Community
Initiatives International Development
Program (CIP-ID)

All our donors, Rotary Clubs and Knights of Columbus, Edmonton Community Foundation, and Al Gerwing Charitable Foundation. Special thanks to Miss Sharon Romanow and her leadership students at Blessed Sacrament School in Wainwright for helping with the NEXUS mail out.

Recently, Rainbow of Hope has received a few donations from supporters offering their securities. We are very grateful. If you own stocks, bonds or mutual funds, you may wish to consider donating these to Rainbow of Hope as they offer considerable tax advantages over the donation of cash. The table on the right is presented as information only. If you wish to consider the donation of securities, we recommend consulting your financial advisor or an accountant familiar with this subject.

In 2006, the federal government removed the capital gains tax on listed securities including stocks, bonds and mutual funds donated to charities. This is now the most tax effective way to donate to charities. The table on the right illustrates the tax advantage of donating securities as compared to selling the securities and donating cash. In this example, the net effect is that the donor saves the tax on the capital gains. In the case shown, this amounts to \$920.

TAX ADVANTAGES OF DONATION OF SECURITIES

	<i>Sell Securities and Donate Cash</i>	<i>Donate Securities to Rainbow of Hope</i>
Current Market Value	\$5,000	\$5,000
Adjusted Cost Base	\$1,000	\$1,000
Capital Gain	\$4,000	\$4,000
Taxable capital gain @ 50 %	\$2,000	\$0
Tax on Capital Gain (assuming 46% marginal tax rate)	\$920	\$0
Tax Credit on Donation (assuming 46% marginal tax rate)	\$2,300	\$2,300
Net tax savings	\$1,380	\$2,300

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

We invite you to offer a gift, and we will acknowledge it with an income tax deductible receipt.

Kindly send your donation to:



RAINBOW OF HOPE
PO BOX 2883
Wainwright, AB T9W 1S7

Registered Charity
No: 889160172RR0001
www.rainbowofhopeforchildren.ca

NEXUS: Produced at Rainbow of Hope for Children's Head Office in Wainwright, Alberta, Canada. The views of the authors expressed are not necessarily the views of the Civil Service Society (CSO).

PLEASE CONSIDER ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. Reducing avoidable blindness, Bali
2. MMTRP-AL Brazil
3. School of family agriculture, Brazil
4. Building citizenship, Grota da Alegria, Brazil
5. PREDA protecting children, Philippines
6. El Sauce school organic agriculture,
7. El Salvador
7. COMUS sustainable coffee project, El Salvador
8. High School & University Scholarships, El Salvador
9. Disaster reconstruction & education, Peru
10. Kinyambu Primary School, Kenya
11. School for early childhood and disadvantaged high school aged girls, Ussongo, Tanzania
12. Bilingual Bicultural College, Cunen, Guatemala
13. Future water infrastructure, East Africa
14. PAMBE mother tongue bilingual School, Ghana
15. Disaster relief fund
16. Undesignated: where most needed