

RAINBOW OF HOPE FOR CHILDREN SOCIETY

NEXUS

40 years
of global solidarity

1975-2015

ANNUAL REPORT ps. 7 to 10



A BRIEF HISTORY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

1975 - 1999

In 1975, Tillie and Hank Zyp and teachers at St. Joseph High School in Edmonton founded our Civil Service Organization (CSO) and called it the St. Joseph's Save the Children Club. The objective was to create a forum for students to learn about the realities of the world and to involve them to act in solidarity with the marginalized, helping them to improve conditions. In its beginnings the "club" helped in Nigeria, Tanzania, and Brazil. During the Central American crisis years of 1980s, it



In 2004, Hank and Tillie Zyp received the volunteer of the year award at the Alberta Legislature.

expanded operations there and to the Philippines to help the PREDA Foundation protect children from abuse. It was a catalyst in the formation of Change for Children and nurtured a "sister" relationship.

Visiting Northeast Brazil in 1979, Al Gerwing was shocked by the poverty and marginalization of the majority of the people, and by the late 1980s he was involved in helping the people, especially the women, children and landless. He turned to St. Joseph Save the Children Club to help him fund projects, resulting in a relationship that continues with the Alphonse Gerwing Charitable Foundation.



In 1995, Al came back to Wainwright, where he had been principal at Blessed Sacrament School in the 1950s. He produced the Sound of Music with Theatre 75 to raise funds for a home for girls living the harsh life on the streets of Palmeira dos Indios, Brazil. By 1999, Al had a group of supporters from Wainwright committed, after taking them to visit projects and his "friends" in Northeast Brazil.

2000—Reaching Outward

As social justice advocates like Al Gerwing, more schools, and Wainwright came on board, the club expanded beyond St. Joseph's School proper. On December 4, 1999, reaching outward, founder, Hank Zyp, moved a motion to change the name to Rainbow of Hope for Children Society effective January 1, 2000 to reflect this broader involvement and support base. The new name was coined after the first Advent project in 1997 at Blessed Sacrament School in Wainwright. It was spearheaded by Shirley Witholt, now a ROHFC director, to raise funds for the a home for girls living on the streets in Brazil.

The Advent project continues to this day thanks to the leadership of Sharon Romanow and supportive administration, staff, student, parents and parish. Wainwright Elementary, Wainwright High school and Edgerton have been engaged in raising funds especially for helping Rotary support local and Canadian Rotary clubs to build a school for 4000 girls and boys in Afghanistan. Since 1975, 38 schools in Western Canada and 1 in Europe have been engaged with ROHFC. The society continues to affirm and strives to achieve the values of its founders, that students should learn about the root causes of poverty and that ordinary people can make an extraordinary difference in their lives and indeed the world. Hence our grassroots speakers make an effort to visit as many schools as possible.

2001 - El Salvador Earthquake

Rainbow of Hope for Children's new president, George Bunz, traveled with the Caravan of Hope spearheaded by Henry Spenrath and his sister, Sr. Miriam. George & Moe Rajotte drove a donated van, and left it with a program that helps youth overcome drugs. Supported with a Wild Rose Foundation (WRF) grant of \$25,000, ROHFC purchased sufficient stable land and built temporary homes for 23 families whose homes had crashed down the slopes. The project included several hectares for a community garden. Because the families were so poor and did not own their original plots nor shanties, they weren't eligible for government aid, nor international aid administered by their government. The poorest of the poor always are the most neglected.

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An elder said "Our ancestors were discovered in the 1600s and today we have been discovered again." It is a testimony to St. Joseph Save the Children Club/Rainbow of Hope for Children reaching out to the poorest of the poor who often are by-passed by larger International aid CSOs and government. The residents named their new community **Arcoiris de Espania** (Rainbow-Spain), after the people who came to their rescue. ROHFC also provided disaster emergency relief to thousands more in La Libertad District of El Salvador.

The community voted to put the titles of the land in the names of the women and 3 male orphans.



2002 - Fundanor - Girls' Home, Brazil

FUNDANOR was founded in 1980 by Maria de Lourdes Monteiro, a retired teacher, as a response to street children begging at her house. As the more children came, her work soon developed into a structured program offering support to street children. FUNDANOR operates on a plot of land on which St. Joseph Save the Children built a school, vocational training centre, and dormitory. When ROHFC visited in 2002, Fundanor served 240 boys and 60 girls. The majority were 5 to 18 year olds and a few infants accompanying their teenage moms. Along with the basic school curriculum, training was offered wood-working, carving, making bags, serigraphy, raising animals, gardening and agriculture, electricity and hydraulics.



The life of girls living on the street is prone to misery and sexual abuse. The Fundanor Girls' Home provides security, life skills, crafts, sports, and counselling to try to reintegrate the girls back with their families.



ROHFC Directors, Joan Rajotte and Shirley Witholt enjoyed engaging Fundanor children in play and songs like heads and toes - they in English and children in Portuguese.



This beautiful home has a dorm connecting 2 classrooms, kitchen, and living area. Dona Lourdes is sitting with 2 of the girls in the courtyard.

The \$298,000 project was funded with a \$25,000 WRF grant and 2/1 matching grant from Canadian International Development (CIDA). Arguably, social programs have improved. Today, the municipality runs 5 preschool classes and has 40 boy residents at Fundanor. The Girls' home still operates fully as a home for girls.

PREDA Youth Theatre Tour, Philippines

The PREDA Foundation in the Philippines helps abused children. With a \$25,000 WRF grant, ROHFC professionally trained and brought to Canada 9 Filipino Thespians, ages 19 to 24, with PREDA founder, Fr. Shay Cullen. Partnering with theatre groups like Theatre 75, they performed in 27 communities to 2,500 people in Western Canada, sharing stories of exploitation in musical drama. They visited numerous schools and conducted 5 workshops for Canadian youth.

Outdoor street performance in Calgary



1999-1995 - Organization for Small Land Holders of Alagoas) (CEAPA), Brazil

Alagoas is a small state, the poorest, in northeastern Brazil. Its coastal region was once laden with forest groves, as was most of the interior. During the past two centuries, native trees were clear-cut to make way for exportable cash crops of sugar cane, coconut and bananas. Rampant burning had depleted the once rich soil and damaged the eco-system, so much so that much of Alagoas, suffered long periods of severe drought. Along with the massive plantations owned by a few ruling families, came a need for cheap labour.

Thus the early history of the state has been one of conquest, slavery, and in more recently impoverished landless peasants eking a living through seasonal employment on the plantations. CEAPA was founded 1992 to unify the struggle of small farmers whose livelihood is agriculture, and to achieve viability in commercialization, rural infrastructure and agriculturist credit. ROHFC saw potential to help these people to improve conditions, and it developed a relationship with CEAPA and supported 2 projects to help the rural women and the environment.

1999 to Present - Capacitation of Rural Women in Northeast Brazil

ROHFC's support of women started in 1999 with a grant of \$66,000 from CIDA and \$25,000 from WRF. In 2002 it was extended with another \$120,000 CIDA grant. From 2004 to the present, ROHFC has supported the MMTRP-AL (Movement of rural workers and fisherwomen of Alagoas). The purpose is to awaken in women a sense of self-worth and confidence to help them transform discriminatory attitudes and to empower them with an equal voice in decisions affecting their lives. Programs included income generation through agriculture, crafts, and entrepreneurship, and also counselling, dealing with domestic violence, literacy, libraries, women's rights, health, conflict resolution, public speaking and legal support.

ROHFC has helped 8000 women, not registered when babies, to receive status as persons and entitlement to citizenship.

In 2005, CEAPA womens' project leader, Maria Jose da Silva (Zeze) became coordinator of the MMTRP-AL (Movement of Rural Women Workers and Fisherwomen of Alagoas). That same year, she was guest speaker at ROHFC's 30 Anniversary in Wainwright.

Zeze at a woman's group in a small rural community.



With a \$25,000 WRF matching grant, ROHFC built this headquarters in 2005 in Maceio for the MMTRP women.

2002 - CEAPA Community Environment Project

The environment project supported by a CIDA grant of \$95,875 and \$25,000 from WRF provided training and development of 100 organic gardens, 2 tree nurseries, and reintroduced 200,000 native trees to the Alagoan landscape. The yeast of the project stimulated a statewide seminar March 2004 and the creation of a booklet "Our Earth, Our Mother" funded by the Bank of Brazil, which still serves as a manual for farmers and gardeners to grow crops according to ecologically sound methods. In addition, CONAB (the national Supply Agency) gave 500 small holders \$1,500 each to get them started with organic production. Thus, 600 families in the state of Alagoas are now directly involved with organic farming practices, the remarkable result of the Community Environment Project. The beauty of these gardens and native trees, especially in Branquinha Municipality, is stunning.



Environment Project Extended to El Salvador

CIDA provided \$18,377 to extend the project to a destitute community, El Coaba, in El Salvador to dig a well and to install a solar pump. The reaction on the first taste of water was, "This is the best tasting water in El Salvador." It is!



The solar panels and pump provide water to this day to the whole community at very little cost of maintenance.

2003 - Pastoral da Crianca (Outreach to the Child) Alagoas, Brazil

Poverty brings hunger, babies and children suffering the most. Long droughts in the northeast and weak social programs resulted in rampant malnutrition. Dr. Zilda Arns Neumann created a food supplement called mutimistura. It's a roasted and blended "flour" made of the simplest of ingredients, things normally discarded: bran of wheat, bran of rice, dried macaxeira leaves, eggshells, and the seeds of sunflower, melon, sesame or flax. Skeletal babies fed a spoon or two of this multi-mixture daily become bundles of energy and health in a few short months. The program involved making and distributing the supplement, weekly recording of weight, health care professional treatment, workshops counselling and early childhood education for children.



With matching grants of \$132,748 from CIDA and \$25,000 from the Wild



Rose Foundation, ROHFC built a Pastoral Centre in Marechal Deodoro. It was fully operational in 2003. Today, it is the base for charity work of St. Vincent de Paul and continues to serve the needs of the poor.



The centre, a blessing for mothers.

2004 - Building Citizenship in Grota da Alegria, near Maceio, Brazil

On the outskirts of Maceio, Alagoas, Brazil was a community of 12,000 people living in squalor. The media called it "Valley of Skeletons" because of reporting murder victims dumped down the steep slopes. It was the 3rd most violent community in Brazil. A few leaders refused to let their community die and asked ROHFC to help. The projects ran from 2004 - 2015, with a break 2010 to 2012 because it was not safe.

The project was an effort to rescue and restore human and cultural values. It provided youth and adults with education, sports, life skills, crafts, music and drama, engaging police and military leaders. The programs received 2 TV documentaries featuring its tin can band, and reporters began calling it the Valley of Joy. Our program ended this year, but the majority still struggle with problems.

ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Friends,

Forty years ago, our organization was born. It was the optimistic creation of a small group of teachers at St. Joseph High School in Edmon-ton, who were passionate about global justice, peace and making the world a more caring place. Forty years later, the passion lives on in our volunteers and supporters, a few who have shared the journey since our birth. What is even more significant as the 40 years is the numerous op-portunities each of you has had to help thousands in need. These are the outer values we observe, measure and build upon to improve. However, we can not forget the incalculable inner values which are deep in the con-sciousness of being alive; what we do to help others often has life chang-ing consequences; what we do builds life bridges that bring people across nations closer together. If you do not yet believe that you really do make a difference, just read the letters from our programs and scholarship stu-dents in this Annual Report section of the NEXUS. Thank you all for your support.

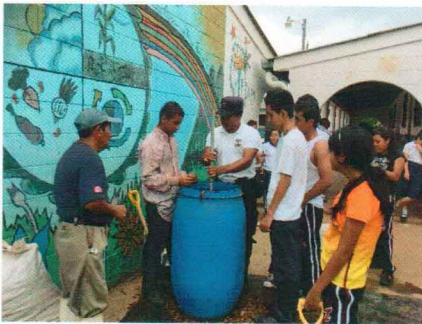
-George Bunz, President



Measured results
as high as an ele-
phant's ear.

-Drawing by
Hank Zyp,
Founder

2ND WORKSHOP MINI-FARM EL SAUCE SCHOOL, EL SALVADOR



The School Garden project just continues to yield tangi-ble results. With the farmers, we started organizing weekend workshops for high school students and kids who had graduated from El Sauce. They expressed a strong interest in continuing to come to the garden. This group of kids were from a high school at Sonzacate! Some had studied at El Sauce Secondary. Jamie directed the workshop about reproducing Micro Organisms. A teacher from the Institute of Sonzacate and two local Police Officers organized the workshop. The headmas-ter at El Sauce, Mr. Armando, has been a great support and donated the lunch for the kids. This is a great example, where teachers, police, headmasters, students, and organizations, can impact education of children to reduce the vulnerability of children that in other ways tend to look for the gang culture. All the best to you and the Rainbow of Hope team.

- Brenda Carpio

LETTERS FROM OUR SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS IN EL SALVADOR

I am Carlos Eduardo Medrano Hernandez. I am a 20 year old guy. I have a brother and two grandmas, who are everything to me. Thanks to God and them, I have overcome great obstacles in spite of the poor economic situation that we live. My grandmas are strong women that never gave up. I live with one of my grandmas. She is a housewife and three of us live with her. To support me, she sells bread. Now thanks to CIS and Rainbow of Hope that are supporting me, I can go on with my studies. That is a good opportunity that has come to my life. Thanks to the scholarship, I am overcoming in my life. I live on La Isla El Espiritu Santo, and I make a lot of sacrifices to attend my classes. Sometimes I don't go to bed until midnight, as I am doing homework. I get up at 4:00am to be ready to get to the boat that leaves at 6:15am to Puerto El Triunfo, where I attend classes.

Sometimes we are at risk during the stormy rainy season during the trip to get to the school or return to my house. Another risk is the gangs in Puerto El Triunfo. The place where we study is dangerous because nearby gang members are fighting between gangs which is dangerous because we can get caught in the crossfire, and we are scared of that. Also I want to talk about my mom. She is a strong woman too. She puts all of her effort to be able to give me \$3 a day when she is able. All the risks and the difficult situations do not stop me, and thanks to God, CIS, Rainbow of Hope and my family, I will continue my studies.



Through the present humble letter, I express my thanks for the support you give to the scholarship students. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Without you, we could not achieve our dreams, because we are people with scarce economic resources. My name is Ingrid Margoth Samayoa, I am studying in my first year of high school. I live in La Isla El Espiritu Santo with my grandparents, Marta and Juan, and younger sister, Xiclaly. My grandpa is a laborer and earns \$4 daily and my grandma is a housewife. The economic resources are not enough for my higher education. Thanks to you, I am studying. I go to the bed at 9:00 pm after my homework; I get up at 5:00 am to attend classes; the boat leaves at 6:15am to Puerto El Triunfo. My mother gives me \$3 a day to have breakfast and lunch when she can, but if she can't that does not stop me. In the rainy season when there are storms or strong winds, we are afraid because the boat could sink,

and also because of the threat of gangs in Puerto El Triunfo. My dream is to be a professional. I would like to study Pediatric Medicine, and I know with God and your support, I will achieve my goals. I wish you many blessings. Thanks!



Leslie Schuld, CEO of CIS, (right) is proud of our scholarship students who face daily challenges to go to high school and university. We are proud of them too!

My name is Maricela Catalina Cortez Coreas. I am a member of the scholarship committee and a scholarship recipient. I would like to share a little bit about my story and the risks and fears



of each of one of the scholarship students face on the way to get our school. We are 4 in my family - my father, mother, my brother, and me.

My mother is a good housewife. My father is a laborer, and with the money he earns my mother buys the food lasting 15 days. My brother is a laborer too, and with his income, he supports my family to buy food too. I am studying at the Instituto Nacional de Puerto El Triunfo in my of last year of High School. In my free time, I help my mother clean house, go to church, visit my friends and sometimes I like to listen to music.

I put a major effort in my studies to get good grades because I recognize all the effort that my parents and the scholarship program are making for me. We face risks and fears everyday because there are some people who don't know us and ask us for money. The little money that our parents give us to buy food or something else at school sometimes we give to them so as not to have to risk our lives.

Our fears are that sometimes gang members are fighting the other gangs. Because our school is in the line between the territory of one gang and the other, it is possible that we could get hurt in the crossfire.

I want to thank you a lot. In my case I did not have the money to continue with the high school studies and because of your support this year I will graduate from High School. I trust God that he will bless you a lot in your life for all the support and work that you do to help us to have a better future in our life. Thank you!!!

Update Public Education Complex "Tony Gubbels" Chincha Baja, Peru



Program development at our Public Education Complex is progressing slowly but surely. We entered an agreement with a local Technical School, that lacked a

permanent facility and sufficient students, to have their teachers use our Complex. This is working very well and during the first semester, we registered 211 technical students. With the 88 registered basic education students, we are nearing an enrolment of 300 students. Through a regional academic competition, five of our basic education students have been awarded national scholarships toward further technical or university education.

To enable mothers with children to attend classes, a place was needed to care for their children. We converted a COMPLEX classroom and an adjoining shelter into a and furnished it with play and educational equipment. A *Ludoteca* is a place where children gather to learn and develop physically and socially. We are hiring a qualified preschool teacher to teach the children while their mothers are in class. Presently, 15 children are registered and many more on a wait list.



Peter Gubbels sponsored the *Ludoteca* in memory of his wife, Ludmilla (Milla), who passed away in January 2009.

-Joe Gubbels

NOTES

1. Volunteers donated \$5,678 back to administration costs.
2. Volunteers donated \$4,369 back to monitoring costs.
3. Volunteers donated \$14,090 back to public participation.

AUDIT REPORT

Our external auditors once again have given our Society an unqualified audit report which is always positive news to receive. If you wish a copy of the full audit report, please contact our Treasurer, Richard Forer 250-832-5454 or email Richard at forer711@shaw.ca.

Rainbow of Hope for Children Society

Statement of Operations and Net Assets

For the Year Ended March 31, 2015

Charity No: 889160172-RR0001

	2015		2014
	Unrestricted	Projects	Total
Revenue			
Donations (Note 3)	\$ -	\$ 323,370	\$ 323,370
Interest and other income	-	4,845	4,845
Federal government grants	-	186,622	186,622
Provincial government grants	-	18,000	18,000
	-	532,837	532,837
	-		364,484
Program expenditures and allocations			
Bali	-	11,154	11,154
Brazil	-	19,238	19,238
El Salvador	-	294,057	294,057
Ghana	-	6,255	6,255
Guatemala	-	138	138
India	-	(583)	(583)
Jamaica	-	1,509	1,509
Kenya	-	18,258	18,258
Nicaragua	-	(2,643)	(2,643)
Peru	-	42,639	42,639
Philippines	-	19	19
Tanzania	-	42,836	42,836
Unrestricted	-	52,270	52,270
Project administration	-	23,003	23,003
Project monitoring	-	7,483	7,483
Public participation	-	17,204	17,204
	-	532,837	532,837
	-		364,484
Expenditures over revenues for the year	-	-	-
Net assets, beginning of year	4,583	-	4,583
Net assets, end of year	4,583	-	4,583

THANKS VOLUNTEERS

Thank you, directors and volunteers, for donating your time and often your expenses. Your generosity enables more donor funds to go to those who need a hand up. You are a gift of hope and inspiration for them.



We invite you to offer a donation, and we will acknowledge it with an income tax receipt. Kindly send your gift to:

Rainbow of Hope
Box 2883
Wainwright, AB T9W 1S7



L to R, Women in computer class; first graduate receiving certificate in Computer technology; the tin can band - a TV favourite; Grotta youth chorus; Youth drama depicting a mother teaching daughters about sexual exploitation ("Be careful, she warns!"); Capoeira - martial arts dance originating with African slaves brought to Brazil (double that of the United States) to revive pride in cultural values.

2005 - Our Lady of Grace Preschool, Salvador, Bahia, Brazil

In Salvador, capital of Bahia, northeast Brazil is an area called Saramandia. People try to find menial jobs to eke a living, and with many families broken, mothers worry about feeding the children. They live in poorly built shanties in congested neighborhoods and are faced with poverty and lack of security. Spearheaded by Francis Stang, who had worked 30 years in Brazil, ROHFC bought and renovated a 3 story building for \$60,000 and converted it to a preschool. To this day, it is a beehive of activity, helping children and freeing parents to earn income.



Headteacher, Analice, with children in one of the 6 classrooms.

Murray and Rita Frank, Humboldt, SK, enjoying the children eating a hearty lunch.



2006 - Early childhood/Adult Education Centre, Ouricuri, Brazil



Buoyed with \$25,000 WRF grant, ROHFC built 4 classrooms, kitchen, refectory, small gym, laundry and bathrooms, and medical dispensary for the local “More Life Society” at Ouricuri in the northeast state of Pernambuco. It included a security fence around its 14,000 m² donated property. On a visit in 2006, ROHFC observed several professional teachers and assistants

engaging 3 to 7 years olds in play and learning. The kitchen was buzzing with volunteers preparing the nourishing meals for the children and adults using the centre. Teachers were teaching youth and adult literacy. A local musician was teaching youth to play keyboard and other musical instruments and choral singing. Also, volunteers were operating a *Pastoral da Crianca* program for malnourished children. The centre still serves the community well today.



Al Gerwing giving special glasses to a boy who was nearly blind.

2007 - Mayan Bi-Cultural College, Cunén, Guatemala

Over 30,000 people live in Cunén district, Guatemala. They confront malnutrition, infantile deaths, illiteracy, poverty and few agriculture, drinkable water, or electricity services. With no government support for high school, few families can afford to go to high school in the capital. This lack of education destines people to remain marginalized, denying them access to the political, economic and social life of their country. With a \$25,000 WRF grant and volunteer work, ROHFC built a 15 classroom college at a cost of \$200,000.



The teachers still donate much of their time. Remarkably successful, enrolment has doubled to over 500 today. They are adding a third story this year.



2007 to Present - Chincha Baja Projects, Peru

August 5, 2007, a severe earthquake hit Peru, 8.1 at Chincha Baja. Homes and schools were devastated. Joe Gubbels called ROHFC to help. Accessing a WRF \$25,000 grant and Amigos de Siempre, a local CSO Joe formed 30 years ago, ROHFC assisted 25 communities in the District of Chincha building 24 temporary classrooms, 75 temporary family shelters and 43 "Soup Kitchens" equipped with cooking utensils, stoves and food. Rotary Chincha and Amigos de Siempre distributed clothing and relief supplies to 2,500 families. To this day, Joe has been working on site in Peru on several ROHFC and Rotary projects. They include nutrition & health, reconstruction of a senior citizens centre, installing good roofs for families, eco-stoves and bio-latrines. Buoyed by \$25,000 from WRF and the support of Alberta Rotary clubs, ROHFC renovated 2 schools with electrical, water, sanitation, playgrounds and building upgrades, and built 4 classrooms in Chincha Baja and 6 classrooms in Santa Rosa.

ROHFC built a beautiful Centre for Occupational Education, opened in 2011. The cost was \$618,000 including \$499,909 from CIDA. It provides basic and technical education programs to adults: literacy, primary and secondary completion, foods, tailoring, textile, artistry, aesthetics, electricity & electronics, computers, and extension programs. There also is a child care centre, gymnasium, medical, dental, counselling and women's centre. Women leaders are committed to maintain and promote adult further education in their communities.



2008 to Present - School's on in La Loma (high hill) El Salvador

The war of the 1980s took its toll on this community high up on a plateau overlooking the Pacific ocean, accessed only by a steep climb by foot or horseback. Their school was destroyed and the children had no access to a school. The Advent project and a WRF grant of \$25,000 almost solely raised the funds to build a most delightful one room school and office. ROHFC has since built a second classroom, and with a \$11,550 WRF grant a kitchen, warehouse and installed solar power and computers. They still need a playground.



Today, over 60 children love to read and write and will have a chance for a bright future.

2009 - Building Citizenship Through Music, Managua, Nicaragua



ROHFC purchased instruments and paid salaries for instructors in Reparto Schick. It was a project in memory of Ed Carsen, an Edmonton inner city teacher who died of cancer and supported by family and friends. Ed often worked with disadvantaged youth in Nicaragua. ROHFC visited the project and was treated to a superb concert of current and past students, some majoring in music at University. The project ended in 2014, but the school continues.

2010 to Present - School of Family Agriculture, Bahia, Brazil

The heart of northeast is the Sertão, where vast distances of arid land are frequented by droughts and torrid floods. Families eke a living from agriculture - mainly vegetables; little is left to market. Some have a few animals - a team of oxen, a horse, a few cattle, goats, chickens, and a seasonal wage job. Without prospects for a future on the land, youth tend to migrate to overcrowded city areas. The School of Family Agriculture offers education to help youth make a decent living as small producers to meet demands of modern markets. It started in 2004 on 80 municipal hectares.

It has 6 teachers, an agronomist, and support staff. In 2 week live-in cycles, students study core curriculum, gardening, pigs, poultry, goats, and beekeeping in a lifestyle as close to that of their small home farm.

ROHFC, with \$15,000 from Communities Initiatives Program (CIP), dug 2 dugouts, built 3 cisterns, 2 dams, a pump and pipes to the cisterns, purchased poultry, incubators, fencing, a goat herd, pigs and troughs, drains, and stalls. On a ROHFC visit, the long drought scorched the land was so bad the dugouts were dry. ROHFC drilled a water well to fill them and pump water to the school cisterns.

PREDA Foundation Home for Boys inaugurated 2010, the Philippines

Through the legal system, Fr. Shay Cullen and PREDA work to free children as young 8, who have been imprisoned alongside adults. Most have minor offences like stealing a chocolate bar or a loaf of bread. These children need counseling, not the harsh life in cramped cells alongside adult criminals, some pedophiles. In the boys' home, they are given a safe environment and professional counseling to overcome their trauma. ROHFC provided \$30,000 to help build a home. Shay came to Wainwright to speak to students and receive the funds.



2011 to Present - El Sauce School Organic Gardens, El Salvador

El Sauce School is a government state school in Sonsonate with 1600 pupils divided in 2 daily shifts, kindergarten, starting at age 4 to ninth grade, age 16. With support from ROHFC and a math teacher, Professor Castor, the students have transformed a once derelict school grounds into a lush organic garden. The organic garden is nearly 800m² and used for compost area, vegetable beds, mandala, a water system, a green house, vermiculture, and native plants seed bank.



Students are fully engaged in prep, development and maintenance of the garden. The garden is an educational model for other institutions, as seen by the number of important visitors it has received, including the Ministry of Education and class visits by the University of El Salvador Department of Agronomy. For a more detailed description of this fascinating program integrated into the curriculum, please read about it in our 2012 Spring/Summer Nexus that you can access on line at www.rainbowofhope.ca or email rohfc@telus.net and ask for a hard copy.

2012 to Present - COMUS Sustainable Coffee Project, El Salvador

COMUS is a coffee cooperative. It owns and operates a small ecological coffee processing plant, an initiative to alleviate poverty. The objective is to improve the long term economic and environmental viability of the local, community owned coffee processing plant and to increase the capacity of the local community organization (COMUS) to effectively and sustainably implement its rural development programs to improve the food security of vulnerable rural families in Usulután region.



Agronomist, Jamie Coutts, explains seedling process to ROHFC's Treasurer, Richard Forer, on a visit in 2011.



Spearheaded by environmental soil scientist, Clara Qualizzas and geo-technical engineer, Dr. Don Sheeran, ROHFC started working with COMUS in 2009. In 2012, it started a 5 year upgrade and sustainability program with a CIDA grant of \$816,652 and budget of \$1,088,870. CIDA and then DFATD is now called Global Affairs Canada (GAC). Also, the Rotary Club of Wainwright has supported the project. The on-site coordinator of this project and of our bio-intensive agriculture projects, Brenda Carpio, was guest speaker at our 40th Anniversary held in Wainwright.

2013 to Present - African Projects in Ghana, Kenya and Tanzania

ROHFC funded projects in Africa over the years, like school feeding programs and \$30,000 to support the Mennonite Central Committee helping HIV/AIDS victims in South Africa. ROHFC heard the call to come back.

Weak early childhood development places children at a serious disadvantage. Only a minority in several countries get into high school resulting in the cycle of poverty to continue. Education is key to change.

ROHFC is helping the PAMBE primary school in Ghana with operations and building a technology centre. It was equipped with solar power and computers by Rotary Wainwright,

Rotary Watford Ontario, Rotary Tamale Ghana and their Rotary districts. Connie Gerwing, niece of Al, is spearheading projects in Kenya. A library at Kinyambu School was funded entirely by Cardinal Leger School in Saskatoon, and a security fence was built around the school yard. In Ussongo, Tanzania spearheaded by Norman Duerr and George Bunz, ROHFC built 2 primary classrooms and a staff room. ROHFC observed that enrolment in Grade 1 room was 72 and 55 students in the grade 2 room.



2014 - 15 - Reducing Avoidable Blindness, Bali, Indonesia

The John Fawcett Foundation and the Yayasan Kemanusiaan Foundation in Bali provide free professional eye care services to the poor. ROHFC funded eye screening of 3767 adults and 987 children and 81 cataract surgeries in the sub-district of Bebandem. It provided 2448 eyeglasses and 2381 medicines, thanks to a \$15,000 CIP grant, Rotary Wainwright and Vermilion, Blessed Sacrament and Theresetta Catholic schools and many others.



The project included teaching resources and training of teachers to educate students about healthy eye care. ROHFC produced an 18 minute movie of the project filmed on site during our monitoring visit, available by contacting rohfc@telus.net.

2015 - School for Preschoolers and Disadvantaged Girls, Tanzania



This project with a CIP grant of \$9,000 is currently funding the construction of a classroom for orphans who lost their parents from disease. A second classroom will offer instruction in literacy, life skills, and training in computer technology and sewing for girls not able to afford private high school or boarding school. The Daughters of Mary will provide the teachers.