



World Forgotten Children's Foundation

NEWSLETTER

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Help Us Spread the Word

Please forward a copy of this newsletter to your friends and colleagues and make them aware of the WFCF mission.

To be removed from the WFCF mailing list, please send a message to
help@world-forgotten-children.org

On Making A Difference

As I write this on this first Sunday in August, it is difficult to ignore the newspaper headlines. Our country is fighting two wars and there are ominous talks of entering a third. Our economy has entered a recession and foreclosure filings continue at record pace. Our city, Detroit, long venerated as the automobile capital of the world, has lost that title to Japan and the prognosis is dire. It is almost too easy to lose hope.

Farther from home, wars continue to take their toll on children. In some countries, armed conflict has raged for so long that children have grown into adults without ever knowing peace. And now, the children of Iraq, Afghanistan, and Gaza, join the millions of children from Africa who were beyond the "luxury" of childhood and became adults prematurely. It is almost too easy to lose hope.

Children bring home the impact of war more than anyone. In a poignant poem entitled *Les Enfants de la Guerre*, Charles Aznavour reminds us that these *Children of War* are like you and me living with hope - hoping that *change* is possible.

*Ces enfants sans enfance
Sans jeunesse et sans joie
Qui tremblaient sans défense
De peine et de froid
Qui défiaient la souffrance
Et taisaient leurs émois
Mais vivaient d'espérance
Sont comme toi et moi*

These children without childhood
Without youth and without joy
Who shaking defenseless
From pain and cold
Who defied suffering
And their silent commotion
But living with hope
Are like you and me

But is *change* possible? What can *one* person do?

Confucius says: "To put the world right in order, we must first put the nation in order; to put the nation in order, we must first put the family in order; to put the family in order, we must first cultivate our personal life; we must first set our hearts right."

It is one thing to say we care about children. It's another thing to put those feelings into action. Let us set our hearts right. Let us make a difference. In his wonderful essay in the previous edition of this newsletter, Gary James concluded: "It is the individual who makes the greatest difference in the lives of others, the ones who commit to the small effort, to 'lay *one* brick at a time, take *one* step at a time.' Will you join WFCF by making your contribution to a small effort that we hope in earnest will change the world?"

Never underestimate the power of *one*.

Mohammad Dadashzadeh
WFCF Advisory Board Member

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Providing Helping Hands to Less Fortunate Children of the World

Plight of Handicapped Children

In a world where many children are dealing with poverty and despair, handicapped orphaned children in third world countries are among those who are facing the most difficult and cruel realities of life. According to the United Nations, the average life span of handicapped orphaned children in most poor countries is approximately 13 years. In most poor and underdeveloped countries, children are viewed as an economic asset to their family's survival, and most parents hope for having boys to contribute to the potential income of the family. Girls are often viewed as liabilities. For many of these families, handicapped children are viewed as even greater liabilities. The situation is compounded and most desperate when a female handicapped child is born into a poor family in a third world country.

Adoption does not provide a viable solution as there is an extremely low percentage of adoptions in most poor countries due to the social stigma attached to the notion of adoption and the relative economic inability of most families who may have interest in adoption. Notably, when considering handicapped children, the percentage of adoptions by local families is very low. In a recent article in the Korean Times (May 15, 2008), only 40 handicapped children were adopted domestically last year, just 2.9 percent of all domestic adoptions. The situation sees little improvement even when considering parents from abroad interested in adopting handicapped children from poor countries.

Regrettably, most handicapped children born in poor countries end up in orphanages. These facilities are not adequate to care for healthy children not to mention children with special needs. There are many of these facilities in third world countries in desperate need of assistance. Organizations such as WFCF aim to provide whatever help it can in order to make the lives of these less fortunate children more comfortable. Please assist WFCF in identifying qualified orphanages for handicapped children in poor countries where funding is needed.

Mehdi Khosrow-Pour
WFCF Executive Director

Handicapes en Avant Project (Part III)

Recently, World Forgotten Children's Foundation (WFCF) has provided funding in the amount of US\$5,300.00 to Handicapes en Avant School in Burkina Faso, West Africa for the purpose of purchasing (i) drawing boards for making relief drawings, (ii) Braille writing tablets, and (iii) and other educational materials, all to be acquired from "Association Valentin Haüy in France to be used at the Handicapes en Avant School in Burkina Faso in support of blind orphaned children at this orphanage facility.

A few ways that you can help WFCF:

- Let your friends and associates know about WFCF
- Forward a copy of the WFCF Newsletter to friends and associates
- Encourage friends and associates to inform WFCF about appropriate projects to fund
- Consider including WFCF as a beneficiary in personal wills

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