

annual report
2005 /2006

giving street kids everywhere a chance



street **kids** 
international

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we are also incorporated in the UK.

who we are.



Street Kids International is a non-profit agency founded in Canada that is a global leader in developing and disseminating the strategies and tools needed to give street kids around the world the choices, skills, and opportunities to make a better life for themselves. We team with youth workers to develop locally relevant, innovative workshops using award winning animations that engage kids about sexual health, drug use and youth entrepreneurship. Having reached

more than 2 million street kids in over 60 countries Street Kids International has been recognized by the United Nations as a Global Best practice leader in youth work.

we are needed.

There are over 100 million street kids world wide. They are boys and girls living in rich and poor countries. Poverty and global issues such as war, AIDS and political instability have led these youth to be orphaned, abused and forced them to the street to become primary income earners.

letter from david and robert.



At Street Kids we believe that all youth including those who are homeless and live in poverty can make a valuable contribution to society. Given an opportunity to learn practical work skills and to become aware of

the dangers of infectious diseases like HIV/AIDS, youth who live in poverty will build a healthy and productive life for themselves.

Street Kids staff and volunteers, in partnership with local organizations, are in the field providing practical training and guidance to youth around the world. This year, we will be expanding our work into several countries. We are particularly excited about our partnership with the Canadian Society for International and Health and

AfriAfya in Kenya. Also, a new 3-year project will be launched in York Region, Ontario which we anticipate will be the beginning of an elevated presence in Canada.

Street Kids International is committed to the long term. We realize there is no 'quick fix' to the problem of youth and poverty. Our ability to make a real difference in the lives of youth in developing countries as well as Canada is dependent on the investments of our supporters who share our vision of giving street kids everywhere a chance. Your contributions of time, money and expertise are our most valuable resource and are greatly appreciated.

Robert Barnard
Chair of the Board

David Pell
Executive director

what we do.

we engage and empower kids.



Our "street health" programs focus on working with local organizations and youth workers to engage street kids in making informed choices about sexual health and drug use.

Our "street work" program seeks to empower street kids to develop safe and more productive ways to earn a living working in the street.



Our innovative approach to these programs includes the production and distribution of award winning animations, the development of interactive workshops,

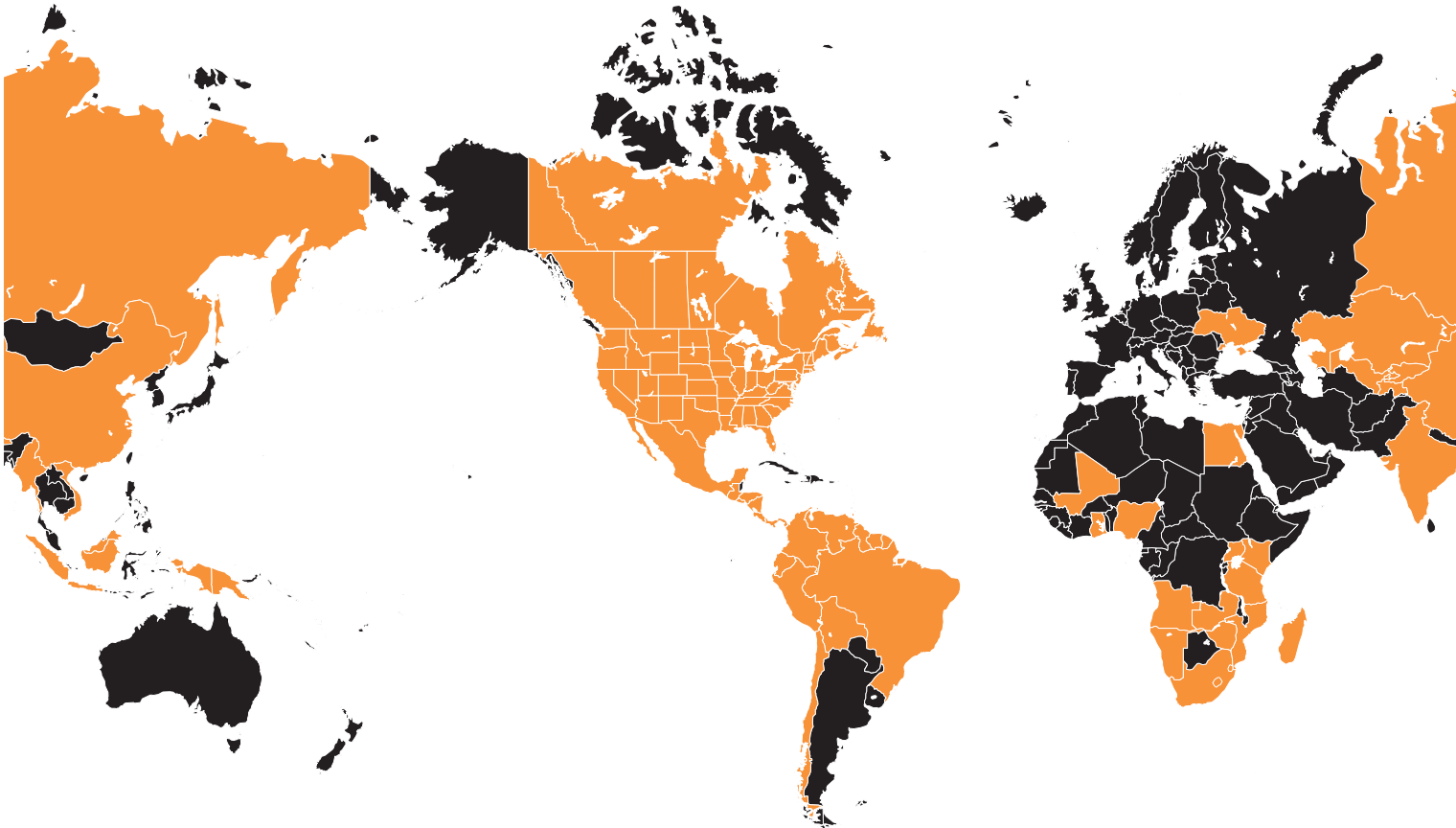
and a commitment to share what we know within communities and between governments.

we advocate on their behalf.



Our "street rights" program puts front and center our key role as advocates and educators on the rights of street youth. We challenge governments, public officials and ordinary citizens alike to see the economic potential of street kids in their communities. We advocate the importance of strategic investment in youth and influence funding and program priorities on both a national and international level.

where we work.



where we work.

Through our 18 year history we have worked in over 60 countries. Most recently we have been working in:

Bolivia
Brazil
Canada
Ecuador
Georgia
Haiti
India
Kenya
Kazakhstan
Kyrgystan
Mexico
Namibia
Nepal
Peru
Russia
South Africa
Tajikistan
Tanzania
Zambia

Street Kids International program launched in Haiti.

Two years ago, Street Kids International was approached by a USAID funded organization called Education Quality Improvement Programs (Equip 3) whose primary focus is skill development for out-of-school youth. Equip 3 had started a program in Haiti which was to provide basic education and skills training to out-of-school youth. They invited Street Kids to lead our Street Health workshop to engage youth on the issues of drug use and sexual health. After going to Haiti, we determined that the focus of our work should also address the development of skills in informal education. The techniques of role playing, animation, games as learning tools applied by Street Kids were very new to the youth workers.

Since 2004, Street Kids has collaborated with Equip 3 and their local partner IDEJEN through the implementation of informal education techniques and recently launched the Street Business Toolkit in Creole. Following its success, this program is expanding to over 40 community organizations reaching over 1000 out-of-school youth in three regions of Haiti. The program will include basic education, literacy and life skills. Youth will have the choice to follow one of three paths: an apprenticeship program, learn a trade or participate in the Street Business Toolkit to learn how to start their own business. We see the integration of our program with other informal education programs as a sign of its credibility as well as a demonstration of the options available to youth in their struggle to find a way out of poverty.



Street Kids International Program Officer - H el ene trained Haitian Youth Worker Peterson to be a future trainer and mentor of Toolkit.

haiti fast facts.

- pop: 8.3 million
- % below poverty line: 80
- life expectancy: 51
- lies in middle of hurricane belt



Manoushka's story.



Since Manoushka was small she has been responsible for helping to care for her family and could not afford to go to school. One day she was invited by a friend to a youth centre in Port-au-Prince which was beginning to provide basic education programs and professional training. Here, she joined an art program and for the past year has had the opportunity to explore her talent. As she and her peers approach "graduation", she has been feeling anxious about how she can earn a living from her work.

As a participant in the Street Business Toolkit training, Manoushka learned that with a lot of hard work she can indeed earn a living by working as an artist. Manoushka connected with two other youth who are also looking to sell their art and the three are planning to cooperate by sharing materials, tools and the responsibility of managing their small art business. By working together they are able to reduce their start-up and operational costs, thereby increasing their profit. Manoushka will also be taking a role as a peer mentor to other youth in her centre participating in the training. Through her experience with the Street Business Toolkit training and mentorship, Manoushka learned that she can pursue her passion as an artist and satisfy her needs through smart business planning.

toolkit adopted into Tajik schools.

Jointly, with our partner Akkord Community Development Centre in Tajikistan and with funding from Open Society Institute - Soros Foundation, Street Kids International has worked for 5 years integrating our Street Business Toolkit for use with youth living in poverty. Through shared workshops and ongoing capacity building programming, we have been very effective at increasing youth's ability to develop and apply life skills. Youth involved in Toolkit programming have often either stayed in school or found the motivation to return to school after completing the program - and the work has been imbedded in both traditional schools and government institutions such as juvenile detention centers and state orphanages.

Based on this work an extensive report, *Realizing the potential of Tajik Youth* has been written by David James-Wilson and Lena Vinogradova. The full report is available at www.streetkids.org/resources/media_pub



youth and youth workers learn Street Business Toolkit.

“ Integration of the Street Business Toolkit into the programming of pilot schools in different regions of the country, and in vocational schools in both the capital region and in mountainous rural areas, has had a significantly positive effect. It incorporates tools through which a young person can fully realize their potential, apply new knowledge and vocational skills, and, most importantly, provide improved livelihood support not only to him\herself but also to his/her family. The Street Business Toolkit has become an irreplaceable subject in our efforts to assist young people to find their place in a society. ”

Representative of the
Tajik Ministry of Labour

tajikistan fast facts.

pop.: 7.3 million

- % below poverty line: 64
- life expectancy: 68
- 93% of territory is mountainous



Jamshed's story.



My Father left for Russia 2 years ago, and started a new family there; he is not going to come back. I have four brothers and sisters and my Mom didn't know how we would live.

When I started to study the Street Business Toolkit my mother thought it would help to distract me from troubles. I told her everything we did during the session, and we filled out all the charts together.

I made a business plan for selling flatbread. The first days were very difficult. It was hard to carry heavy trays with flatbreads. Then I found an old carriage, cleaned it, and it became much easier - now I can transport bread and keep it hot. **With what I learned at the Toolkit, I increased sales threefold, and my profit is \$6 a day.**

Our neighbours hold me up as an example to their kids, my friends' fathers are proud about me; but my father had forgotten us. I receive a lot of pleasure because of my business, and now I'm confident that we will overcome all difficulties.

health issues in Zambia: Street Kids International's presence

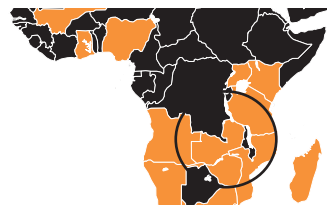
Street Kids International has worked in Zambia for over 10 years with more than 20 different organizations including both small and large nonprofit organizations and government departments. Our programming has ranged from collaborating on the development and implementation of our entrepreneurship training, to extensive training of trainers in our health program resulting in a strong pool of facilitators of both our work and for the youth serving sector as a whole.

Street Kids' health workshop, Street Health, has been particularly successful and has at its core, our two award winning animations, Karate Kids and Goldtooth. Using sexual health and drug use as content, the Street Health workshop promotes a shift away from the youth worker as "expert advisor" and street kid as "dependant client" to a relationship that respects kids' ability to realistically define their own objectives. Through identification with the animations' characters and participation in dynamic activities, youth explore the reasons for their involvement in risky behaviour and together with facilitators strategize for finding ways to lead more healthy and safe lives.

Since our first Zambian Street Health workshop in 1996 we have developed a team of youth workers well versed in the principles and activities of the Street Health program. These youth workers have reached thousands of youth through using elements of the Street Health workshop in a wide variety of settings. Implementation has included direct programming with youth in small NGOs, talking about safe sexual practices and drug use in churches and schools and the incorporation of elements of the training into the Ministry of Health's peer education training with youth. Street Kids' health programming continues to be implemented in both rural and urban communities and has been expanded for adults. Giving people the skills and understanding to talk about sensitive issues such as sexual practice and drug use, means a more healthy community and a better future for youth.

zambia fast facts.

- pop.: 11.5 million
- % below poverty line: 75
- life expectancy: 41
- 72 different ethnic groups each with their own language
- one of the world's poorest countries
- as high as 30% of population have HIV/AIDS



Tobias's story.



Tobias was 10 years old when he lost both his parents. He began living on the streets and using drugs which he believed would help him forget about the death of his parents. Eventually, Tobias had a run in with the police. The Red Cross of Zambia, one of Street Kids' partners, retrieved him from custody and put him into their rehabilitation program. Part of the rehabilitation process was to find out what the child wanted to do, regardless of their age, choosing from the different programs available at the center - informal education, carpentry and tailoring.

Tobias' life took a positive turn in 1996, after Red Cross youth workers attended a Street Health workshop. The information and videos were shared with the children at the Red Cross. Tobias was one of the first children at the center who identified himself with the characters in the videos. He explained to everyone why he thought children spent time on the streets and why they abused drugs and alcohol. From this time onwards, Tobias shared his story about his life after he lost his parents and the experiences he had had on the streets. His sharing the message that drugs do not help you solve problems has had an impact on the other kids who have learned from his experience and avoided drug use. Tobias, now in his early 20s has been able to take control of his life and has been a national table tennis star, a 'rapper', and has recently qualified to go to the University of Zambia.

youth speak out on hidden homelessness.

Since November 2005, 46 young people from 7 York Region communities have come together under Street Kids International's leadership as researchers and educators on the issues of poverty and homelessness facing their peers. Through a community mapping process, the youth explored the themes of adult-youth relations and health and recreation as they impact local youth poverty and homelessness.



The youth conducted surveys with 200 peers in their community, led youth focus groups and recorded podcasts to capture the voices of their peers. Their research allowed them to hear the stories of youth in their community and then create a personal map that profiled youth in the community and described what they are experiencing. The map gave the youth a framework to share with others about what young people want their community to look like and how the communities of York Region are, or can be, linked together.

For two weeks in May of this year, the youth showcased their work throughout York Region in 15 different locations, to close to 500 people. Using poetry, drama and storytelling, the youth engaged student and adult audiences with their message that youth poverty and homelessness exist in York Region and that young people can be part of the solution. In live blogging sessions, the audiences provided their input on the issues. One student commented, "I've seen poverty at my school. Students wearing the same clothes weeks on end, saying they are hungry, staying after school to get extra help because they don't want to go home! Poverty is everywhere and we all need to

put our differences aside and help each other." An adult told us, "There was an "aha" moment when one of the skits pointed out that all young people are at inherit risk of experiencing poverty and homelessness and we can have a part in helping them succeed."

Street Kids International continues to be committed to listening to youth as a part of solving the issues of poverty and homeless that they face. We know it is a collective effort, and for this project we appreciate the sponsorship support of Laidlaw Foundation, National Crime Prevention Strategy (Government of Canada) and York Region District School Board, and our program partnerships with Community Resource & Learning Room (crlr.civiblog.org), Markham Mayor's Youth Task Force and Pathways Home Base Drop-In Centre.

This year, with support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, we are launching our next phase of work built on the strong partnerships and knowledge that we have developed both in York Region and globally. This next phase of work will focus on training over 500 youth and youth workers on our tools and methodology developed both internationally and in Canada.

york region fast facts.

pop.: 0.9 million

- 1 in 10 York Residents lives in poverty
- 23% are children, 16% are youth
- 1 out of every 6 Canadian children lives in poverty - that's 1.2 million children.
- 443,000 children in Ontario are living in poverty and the child poverty rate is stalled at 16%, despite strong economic growth.

a youth's story.

Let me tell you my story... I work every day at Tim Hortons, full time from 12 - 5 but they don't pay well. I'm also in a program where I go to school from 9-11 once a week. I'm currently looking for a better job, but it's been difficult. When I go to interviews, I feel like people are looking at me and thinking "what are you doing here?" because I've only been working in fast food. It's hard to be confident when you don't have that much work experience.

Recently, my dad and I haven't been getting along so I've been looking for my own place to live. I don't have a lot of time to look, or a lot of money, so it's been hard to find a decent place in York Region. I've lived in a shelter before - a week at one place and 2 months at Yellow Brick House. I hated it. I'll never go back. This is my story.

thank you.

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Upper Canada College
Wallenstein Feed Charitable Foundation
Warner Brothers Entertainment
York Region District School Board
Youth Challenge International
Zuka Interactive Services

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