



CHILDREN FIRST CLUB NEWSLETTER

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UPCOMING EVENTS

These are the upcoming events for the Children First Club:

October 2012

- Welcome Back Bash
- Publication of Newsletter
- Candy Sale
- Bake Sale



November 2012

- Toy Drive
- Club Trip

December 2012

- Toy Drive Continues
- Publication of Newsletter
- Advertisement for Professor Romer's Class



VOLUME 1

October 2012

Why Join Children First Club

- ☺ Generate awareness of issues that affect youth and children.
- ☺ Great to place on a resume
- ☺ Opportunities to learn and explore careers in Children and Youth Studies.
- ☺ A great way to make new friends, have fun, and promote a good cause.

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Save a Child's Heart - "Mending Hearts...Building Bridges" By Jessica Verkhovsky

Save a Child's Heart is an organization with a mission to provide pediatric cardiac care to children from developing countries that have heart disease. The kids that they help are unable to get the adequate medical attention they require in their home countries. This organization was founded in 1995 and is based in Tel Aviv, Israel. SACH is inspired by an old Jewish tradition of "Tikkun Olam," which means "repairing the world." By repairing the hearts of sick children, SACH contributes to a better overall future. This organization is dedicated to providing the best medical treatment available, to every child in need, irrespective of their nationality, gender, color, religion, or financial situation. Regardless of where they are from, children are brought to Israel and treated at the Wolfson Medical Center in Holon, Israel. After receiving the treatments they require, children are brought to the SACH Children's home. Since 1995, SACH has treated more than 2,800 children from 42 countries all over the world. The children suffered from congenital and rheumatic heart disease and are aged from newborns to teenagers. About 50% of the children treated were from the Palestinian Authority, Jordan, Iraq, and Morocco, despite Israel's conflicts in these countries. More than 30% are from Africa and the remaining children were from Asia, Eastern Europe, and America. Save a Child's Heart also works to create pediatric cardiac centers in these countries so the children can be treated when they return home. I visited the Save a Child's Heart hospital and children's home in 2010 during my trip to Israel. I had a chance to spend some time with the kids and families living in the home. They were recovering from their surgeries but were all already so happy and full of life. They were excited to have us coming to play with them. Their families spoke about how grateful they are to have gotten the opportunity to have their child's health issues taken care of. The Children First Club is planning to hold an event to raise money for the SACH organization. At a given moment, there are thousands of children suffering from heart disease around the world. These children require medical assistance that their country would never be able to provide for them. Save a Child's Heart is able to provide it and change their lives forever. Children are our future and they deserve a chance to live a healthy life. For more information about SACH, you can visit their website at: <http://www.saveachildsheart.org/>



The Angels of War Destroyed by Chelsea Wilson

Children are precious gifts given to the world to grow in a pleasant environment with tender loving care fulfilling a certain purpose in life. This is the ideal image of what a childhood is supposed to be like. However, the issue of child soldiers in third world countries destroys this intended image of happiness for a young child. Child soldiers have been an issue of centuries and has been a recent issue in which people are tackling to produce in children's rights in these countries including Cambodia. In Cambodia, children have the right to play freely. On the other hand, with raging wars, children are denied this right and instead of playing in the playground, they are fighting war in landmines. Especially in the Khmer Rouge Era, children were the ones who controlled the battlefield alongside adults. Khmer Rouge kidnapped and separated children from their parents, brainwashed, and drugged them so they can compile with the rules of the leader. Children often had their hands or other body parts cut off or damaged. In today's society, children are often forced to kill their own family members in order to be accepted as a soldier and not killed themselves. Child soldiers in Cambodia did not want to commit these crimes against humanity, but they have no choice. Their cries are silenced through drugs and other stimulants. Through the continuous cycle of seeing violence and executing violence, children in Cambodia are no longer innocent, but angels of war who are stripped and compelled to kill. In order to combat this problem of child soldiers in Cambodia, local nonprofit organizations such as UNICEF, UNHRC, Coalition to Stop Child Soldiers, etc. are working very hard to develop programs to help former child soldiers reintegrate back into society. With these continued efforts of these organization and Cambodia government, children can be carefree individuals playing in the playground assuming the role of a child and becoming the angels of happiness instead of the angels of war.





"Children are likely to live up to what you believe of them."

Lady Bird Johnson



Children First Club represents the unity and discovery of children and their place in society.



Newsletter Designed and Edited By Chelsea Wilson