



CONTRIBUTE TO SOLUTIONS...

Help us Change the world...One Citizen at a Time Breaking the Cycle of Poverty by Building Self Esteem and Inspiring Creativity

In Nicaragua, the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, gang violence and HIV/AIDS have increased dramatically due to the prolonged economic crisis. Youth are faced with enormous challenges and deprived of basic opportunities to develop the skills and confidence necessary to chart the direction of their future.

Edmonton's Change for Children Association works in partnership with two Nicaraguan organizations: FUNARTE (Foundation ART!) and INPRHU (the Institute for Human Promotion) to provide artistic and cultural programs to children living in poverty. Their goal is to offer alternative educational opportunities to boost young peoples' self esteem and engage them in community development. Through creative, energetic activities, this project ensures that Nicaragua's youth are aware of their human rights and involved in building a society that respects them.

Managua is Nicaragua's capital city of 1,680,000 people. Its markets are home to most of the city's street children and working children and hence are the sites of INPRHU's exciting programming. The markets are also sites of some of Nicaragua's most pressing social problems, namely the growing incidence of gang violence among young people and the alarming increase in rates of HIV infection, particularly among the poor. The children and young people who work and live in these busy and increasingly dangerous markets are at once at the center



of these problems and at the heart of their solutions.

Estelí is northern Nicaragua's largest city and, thanks to FUNARTE, is internationally recognized as the 'city of murals.' Indeed, its children are in the Guinness Book of World Records for having created the world's longest mural. Despite the many positive accomplishments of Estelí's young people, as the city grows, so too do social problems, including the expansion of youth gangs from Managua and the threat of STDs due to lack of education programs.

FUNARTE and INPRHU have been offering responsive programming to some of Nicaragua's most at-risk youth since 1989. Through muralism, leadership training, music, dance and arts-based rights education, their programs empower youth to engage their communities in recognizing and celebrating the value of youth in Nicaragua's future. While FUNARTE and INPRHU have both inspired international recognition for their groundbreaking approach to advocacy on the human rights of children in Nicaragua, funding from the local government is practically non-existent. Change for Children partners with FUNARTE and INPRHU to ensure that their programs continue to empower the impoverished youth of Nicaragua.

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Human Dignity, Healthy Communities, Global Justice

Change for Children is an Edmonton-based charitable organization with a 33 year history of supporting sustainable grassroots community development in Latin America and Africa. In Canada, CFCFA provides an award-winning Global Education program that engages the public in a process of awareness raising, analysis and action on issues of global justice.