



# The Caia Connection

AN UPDATE ON THE RAY OF HOPE PROJECT

Volume 2

Issue 1 September 2007

## *A Message from the President*

By Martin McDermott

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Debra Salverda who is joining us in our new position as Fundraising Coordinator/Administrator. Debra has a wide range of experience and has many exciting new ideas which are already broadening the scope of our organization. I am personally impressed with her organizational skills, extensive knowledge, and passion for the project. Welcome to the team Debra!

A special recognition goes out to Jill Claus, the Ray of Hope's Project Administrator in Caia. It is Jill's tireless efforts, inner drive, and optimism that account for the success of The Ray of Hope project. Her personal sacrifices, dedication, and huge heart continually inspire us all. A huge thank you to Jill!

I look forward to being a part of The Caia Connection and Ray of Hope as we move forward to the next level, making a difference in more and more lives of orphaned children and women at risk in Caia.

## *Calling All Volunteers!*

You are invited to attend a volunteer planning meeting at the **Rotary Centre of the Arts** on the evening of **September 12<sup>th</sup>**. We will be meeting to touch base and do some brainstorming about possibilities for events and activities in both Kelowna and Caia.

Many exciting things have been happening with the project and we would like to take this opportunity to fill you in and ask for your ideas and feedback about how we can continue to grow and improve as an organization.

There are many different ways in which you can get involved and we are always open to suggestions and new ideas so please come and participate in this meeting. In

addition, please feel free to circulate this invitation to others you think may be interested in getting involved!

The meeting will take place at 7 pm in the Pacific Safety Products Room (boardroom) of the Rotary Centre of the Arts at 421 Cawston Avenue in Kelowna. To RSVP, or if you would like any additional information about this event or will be unable to attend but would still like to be involved with The Caia Connection, please contact Debra at 250-707-0713 or by email at [caiaconnection@gmail.com](mailto:caiaconnection@gmail.com).

## *Romeo Dallaire is coming to Kelowna!*

*An Evening with Romeo Dallaire* will take place at the Kelowna Community Theatre on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$39.00 and available through Ticket Master ([www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)). This inspirational talk has been organized by Spout Events who have offered to donate 10% of the proceeds of the evening to support Caia's Ray of Hope Project! Hope to see you all there!

Lt. Gen. The Hon. Roméo Dallaire (Ret) is a true hero and an outspoken leader for the 21st century. A decorated Lieutenant General, Dallaire served 35 years with the Canadian Armed Forces. His best-selling book, *Shake Hands With the Devil*, is a stirring account of his experience as the Force Commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission to Rwanda, which exposes the failures of the international community to stop the worst genocide in the 20th century. Dallaire's story shares the most extreme results of being given responsibility without authority. He was limited by immovable parameters, overseen by an organization that didn't fully support the mission, and put into situations that forced him to question ethics every step of the way. Dallaire's presentations discuss leadership and conflict resolution, illustrated with stories of his own experiences. He inspires listeners to address the ethical and moral issues in conflicts and insists that governments put humanity above political and economic interests.

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## ***Grandmothers in Action!***

We are looking for someone to help set up a local ***Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign***.

The Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign seeks to raise awareness and mobilize support in Canada for Africa's Grandmothers. The campaign was launched by the Stephen Lewis Foundation on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006, on the eve of International Women's Day. Since the launch, more than 150 groups of Canadian Grandmothers have taken up the call to action. These campaigns help to provide grandmothers with much needed support, such as food, housing grants, school fees for their dependant grandchildren and grief counselling. ***Interested?***

*For more information on the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign (and lots of other great information), visit the Stephen Lewis Foundations Website at <http://www.stephenlewisfoundation.org/> and to find out what you can do here in Kelowna, contact Debra Salverda at 250-707-0713 or by email at [caiaconnection@gmail.com](mailto:caiaconnection@gmail.com).*

### ***Some of the Past Year's Fundraisers & Donations . . .***

Caia's Connection World AIDS Day Documentary Showing - December	\$2,000
Fundraising by the Letz Sing Choir of Campbell River for the Breakfast Program	\$610
Sale of Hand-Sewn Crafts by Women in Laos - Calgary Volunteer Group - Spring	\$556
Fundraising efforts of Peter Greer Elementary – Mrs. Rosco's Grade 6 class Movie and concession - March	\$1,132
Fundraising efforts of Our Lady of Victories School, Edmonton, Jennifer Korchinski's Class – raffle - Spring	\$3,500
The Caia Association – Amherst, MA, USA - donation	\$8,300
Sunvalley Window Cleaners – donation	\$4,000

***Many thanks to all those who have worked to raise these funds as well as to all of our generous donors!***

## ***Kelowna Africa Networking Forum***

On Monday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, between 5:30-7:00 pm, The Caia Connection and The Kelowna Zambia Twinning Project will be co-hosting the first of what we hope to be a quarterly networking forum in Kelowna, BC. It is our hope that this Forum will give Okanagan residents working on African and other development issues an opportunity to meet and discuss opportunities, strategies, issues and collaborate on ways we can help each other in our work towards reaching the Millennium Development Goals. This will also be an opportunity to discuss joint fundraising initiatives, look at ways we can utilize each other's strengths and resources and advertise upcoming events and learning opportunities.

CUSO will be sponsoring our guest speaker, Hillary Nicholson. Hillary is a CUSO Southern Partner Representative and the Training Coordinator for Women's Media Watch (<http://womensmediawatch.org/>). Hillary will be presenting a participatory workshop to the group on Gender and Development Issues with a focus on Domestic Violence.

This event will take place on Monday September 24<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30-7:00 pm. It will be held at the Rotary Centre of the Arts in the Boardroom and is open to anyone working with developing countries on achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Refreshments will be provided. For more information on this event, or to RSVP, please contact Debra Salverda at 250-707-0713 or by email at [caiaconnection@gmail.com](mailto:caiaconnection@gmail.com)

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## ***Computer needed!***

The Caia Connection will be hosting two Canada World Youth Participants who will be coming to Kelowna mid September. We are looking for a computer for them to use during their stay in Kelowna. If you have a computer that you are no longer using, that is still internet capable, please contact Debra Salverda as soon as possible. A charitable tax receipt for the value of your computer can be issued to you for this donation. Upon completion of the Canada World Youth Program, the computer will be used by other interns coming to work with The Caia Connection.

# THE RAY OF HOPE UPDATE

By Jill Claus

## In Loving Memory...



It is with great sadness we share with you that tiny Elia Joao passed away at the age of one. Elia was part of our Sponsor an Orphan Program. He is survived by his grandparents and his older brothers Dinho and Vasco.

Elia died suddenly after a short illness of just two days. Both of his parents were known to be HIV positive before they passed away, but due to medical restrictions we were unable to ascertain if he was afflicted. May his tiny spirit rest in peace.

## The Mozambique Flood



There was a major flood in Mozambique this year along the Zambezi River. This was caused by heavy rains both locally and upriver in neighbouring countries. The area

also experienced heavy rains and high winds when Cyclone Favio moved inland.

The town of Caia, which is where the Ray of Hope Project is located, was in the middle of the flood area. However, the town itself is on higher ground, so all of the search and rescue operations were staged from there. It is estimated that approximately 331,000 people were directly affected by the flood (INGC, March 2007) and over 74,000 people were evacuated from the surrounding flood affected areas and relocated to temporary camps nearby.

Understandably, everybody was focused on flood relief efforts between December and March 2007 and this temporarily shifted the project priorities and delayed some programs. Logistically, it was difficult to get supplies and arrange for transportation of any kind. For example, the construction of the project offices and storage, which had already begun, was put on hold. The Orphan Life Skills and Agriculture Programs were also delayed and plans to kick off these new programs will resume in September when Jill Claus returns to Mozambique.

## HIV/AIDS Education Program



The AIDS Education Program has been extremely successful this year. A youth group of 12 male and female youth was formed and grew to 22 members by May 2007. The group meets twice a week for rehearsals and presents a minimum of two AIDS education events each month. The events take place at various locations throughout the community and consist of plays, music, debates, and question/answer sessions.

The local Ministry of Health has recognized the Ray of Hope Project's AIDS Education Program as the only program in the district regularly doing effective AIDS Education. Presentations have been attended by local government officials, a Presidential delegation visiting Caia during the flood, representatives from the Steven Lewis Foundation, representatives from the Mozambique National AIDS Council, and local chiefs. Congratulations to the Youth Group for a job well done!

## ***Orphan Meal Program***

The number of orphans participating in The Orphan Meal Program has increased to 43 children and it now runs 7 days a week, 365 days a year. The program is operated in a traditional structure called a "matchesa" located on the project land. The matchesa measures 10 meters by 15 meters, has a grass roof, bamboo half-height walls, and a cement floor.

When the children arrive each morning, they bathe with anti-bacterial soap. There are two bathing huts, one for girls and one for boys and the older children help the younger children. After bathing, each child washes their own towel and hangs it up to dry for the next day before going into the matchesa for breakfast.

The children are then fed porridge with ground peanuts, milk, and moringa powder added to it. Moringa powder is made from the leaves of the local moringa tree. This powder has seven times the vitamin C in oranges, four times the calcium in milk, four times the vitamin A in carrots, two times the protein in milk, and three times the potassium in bananas.

After eating breakfast, the children play at the matchesa until it is time to go to school or head home, if it is the weekend. There are skipping ropes and balls for the children to play with. It would be wonderful to eventually build a simple playground for the children!

## ***Orphan Sponsorship Program***

The Orphan Sponsorship Program began in January with 24 orphans from 12 households. The children were selected with the assistance of the local Ministry of Social Services and the local chiefs. The orphans, caregivers, and their families receive assistance from the project each month. The priorities for this program are to improve the quality of life of the participants, increase their food production capabilities, and increase their level of self-sufficiency.

All of the orphans and the vulnerable children in each household have received clothing, underclothes, shoes, school supplies, and school uniforms. Items distributed to the families during the first 5 months of the program included blankets, food storage buckets with lids, pails, basins, cooking pots, mosquito nets, towels, soap dishes, and farming tools!

## ***Basic Medical Care Provided***



An Orphan Program Coordinator was hired to handle the daily tasks of the Meal Program and Sponsorship Program, and the Life Skills Program when it begins. Attendance is taken each morning. If a child does not attend the Meal Program for two consecutive days, then the Orphan Program Coordinator follows up by visiting the child's home to determine if there is a problem. Sometimes the child may be sick and, if this is the case, then she takes the child to the hospital for treatment. The project pays for the hospital visit and any necessary medicine. There were 30 hospital visits between January and May 2007.

With the help of the Kapasseni Society, the project arranged for an eye doctor to visit the site in April 2007. Dr. Pechisso examined the orphans, as well as their caregivers and foster families. Several of the grandmothers were diagnosed with cataracts and the Kapasseni Society is trying to arrange for them to get cataract surgery in Beira. The local Ministry of Health may help with this too!

## ***Agriculture Program***

The government warned the project a month in advance that a flood was expected this past year, so plans for the Agriculture Program were put on hold. Most of the families in Caia have farms in lower laying areas outside of town and when the predicted flood occurred, it affected most of the farm land in the area. All of the project foster families lost their crops and none of them had any food storage from the previous year's harvest. This program is now critical to the well-being of the project families because they do not have enough food to last them until the next rainy season.

It is important to note that these farms are our foster families' main source of income and food for the year and in many cases, it is their only source. It is currently not

possible for them to grow food in-between rainy seasons because they have no alternative irrigation methods.

This year, the families will be taught how to tend a small vegetable garden located beside their huts using a method of gardening called the Square Foot Gardening Method. This gardening method requires less space, fewer seeds, less water, and less work and it has been successfully implemented in other African countries. The Agriculture Program will also investigate inexpensive, feasible irrigation systems to implement on the family farms so that they can grow crops outside of the rainy season and will not be so dependant on the weather.



On October 16 and 17, join millions of people from around the world to Stand Up and Speak Out against poverty and inequality.

In 2000, world leaders from 189 countries signed up to the [Millennium Development Goals](#) (MDGs) -- a global commitment to halve extreme poverty by 2015.

Last year, more than [23 million people in 87 countries](#) stood up and took action to remind them of this promise. It was the largest single coordinated mobilization in the history of the Guinness World Records.

In 2007, we are at half time – but the world is falling behind.

This year, you can join this growing movement of people calling on our leaders to take action now. On October 17, 2007 Stand Up and Speak Out! For more information about the StandUp Campaign and how you can get involved here in Kelowna, email Debra at [caiaconnection@gmail.com](mailto:caiaconnection@gmail.com)

For more information on the Millennium Development Goals, visit <http://www.millenniumcampaign.org/>

## An Unexpected Turn of Events



There was a specialized orphanage approximately 1 hour outside of the town of Caia that cared for babies until they were 3 years old, at which point the toddlers were integrated back into the community. Unfortunately, this orphanage closed during the first quarter of the year. This means that the care and/or interim care for babies that may be orphaned in the area could fall upon our project until alternative care can be found. At the very least, these babies will need formula, bottles, and diapers.

## Many Thanks!!!

A huge thank you goes out to Henri McKinnon of Insight Counselling and his workshop attendees for all of their continued support – both financially and emotionally.

*Would you like to fundraise or make a donation for a special item or project?  
Here are some ideas!*

Mosquito Nets	\$25.00
Garden Tools	\$30.00
Seeds	\$50.00
Bicycle	\$75.00
1 Goat	\$80.00
Farm Tools	\$200.00
Sponsor an Orphan (per year)	\$420.00
Animal Husbandry Program Start-up	\$1,200.00
Agriculture Program Start-up	\$2,400.00
Playground	\$2,400.00
Project Vehicle	\$12,000.00
Community Center	\$21,000.00

## The Millenium Development Goals

- 1 [Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger](#)
- 2 [Achieve universal primary education](#)
- 3 [Promote gender equality and empower women](#)
- 4 [Reduce child mortality](#)
- 5 [Improve maternal health](#)
- 6 [Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases](#)
- 7 [Ensure environmental sustainability](#)
- 8 [Develop a global partnership for development](#)

### A Special Thank You...

by Martin McDermott

I would like to give a special thank you to Mrs. Rosco's Grade 6 class at Peter Greer Elementary. This spring, as part of their studies on Global Citizenship, they spent some time learning about our organization and what we do. They raised awareness in their school by making presentations and raised funds by showing a "by-donation" movie and running a concession for two days. Their enthusiasm to help make a difference in other parts of the world was amazing. They raised a whopping \$1,132.68. Great Job! I look forward to working with the new Grade 6 class this year. **Thank you so much!!!**

#### For More Info on The Caia Connection:

Please visit our website at [www.thecaiconnection.com](http://www.thecaiconnection.com)

Or contact us:

**Debra Salverda**

**Fundraising Coordinator/Administrator**

250-707-0713

[caiaconnection@gmail.com](mailto:caiaconnection@gmail.com)



### How You Can Donate

Tax receipts are available! Please make cheques payable to "The Caia Connection" and send to:

The Caia Connection  
P.O. Box 21082  
Orchard Park Postal Outlet  
Kelowna, B.C.  
V1Y 9N8

You Can Sponsor  
an Orphan for  
\$35.00 per month  
or \$420.00 per  
year!

If you require a tax receipt, please fill in the following information and return with your donation:

Name:	
Address 1:	
Address 2:	
City:	
Province:	
Postal Code:	
Phone:	
Email:	
Donation:	
Would you like your donation to go towards a specific program?	

If you are from the United States and would like to donate and receive a tax receipt, please visit our website at [www.thecaiconnection.com](http://www.thecaiconnection.com) and click on the link "U.S. Donors" and follow the instructions. Thank you.