

YOUR International Solidarity Fund AT WORK

2011 Recipients

\$7000 to CoDevelopment Canada

\$5000 to Empowering Rural Communities through Critical
Literacy Enrichment, Colombia

\$5000 to Resource Centre for Girls, Uganda

\$5000 to Justice for Mining Affected Communities in
Guatemala and Honduras

\$4000 to the Golden Silk Sustainable Farm, Cambodia

\$3500 to Haiti Union Solidarity Fund

\$3000 to Adopt-an-Organizer in the Philippines

\$1850 to a Health Clinic in Nepal

\$1000 to American Federation of Teachers - Wisconsin

CoDevelopment Canada

Through CoDevelopment Canada, FPSE has been supporting **APSIES**, the Salvadoran Association for Integrated Health and Social Services, since 2002. APSIES works for integral development in the south-eastern region of El Salvador, including the organization of women's and health groups in dozens of rural communities, the provision of basic health care in rural areas, and increases in health indicators in the communities where they work. Also, APSIES communities are better organized to push local authorities to change policy.

FPSE has also been supporting the **Central American Women's Network in Solidarity with Maquila Workers** through CoDevelopment Canada since 2002. The Network provides a forum for regional exchanges and discussion for issues in the manufacturing industry (*maquilas*), constructing regional strategies for workers, educating workers about industry concerns on a global scale, and keeping workers' issues in the media spotlight. This work has provided information and training allowing workers to participate in a more meaningful way in pressuring employers and local governments to change policy and to share their experiences and knowledge with each other and with the Network.

Empowering Rural Communities through Critical Literacy Enrichment

This project aims at mobilising and coordinating efforts to empower disadvantaged rural communities by providing resources (e.g., books) as well as information and pedagogical support that would allow them to enrich, manage and evaluate literacy activities that involve teachers, parents, and students. The main goals of this project are: (1) to promote capacity-building in literacy enrichment in an economically and socially disadvantaged rural region of Colombia; (2) to promote the development of family literacy habits and routines that will increase the literacy levels of the community, and; (3) to promote rural networks for sharing resources and experiences. Through workshops parents, teachers, and students will see demonstrations of rich and authentic reading and writing interaction routines that they can establish at home with their children. After training, the long-term running of reading circles and the circulation of the books among members of the community will be overseen by the local "Junta de Acción Comunal" (neighbourhood association).

Resource Centre for Girls

Niteo is a grassroots not-for-profit organization that works with Ugandans to improve education and health opportunities. Niteo has linked with Sally W'Afrika, a Ugandan woman who, through her resource centre in Kampala, helps disadvantaged Ugandan girls obtain an education and a vocation. These girls have lost years of their lives after being abducted and serving as "wives" to rebel soldiers. In the fall of 2010, a school was donated to her to house a second centre, which will include a resource room with books; a room for teachers to work together and plan lessons using the books and teacher guides; a daycare that the girls can use while they attend school; a computer lab; a sewing room; a kitchen; and a counselling room to offer these girls counselling on all issues from dealing with their abduction to hygiene to career counselling. Funds will go towards stocking the centre with the supplies it will need to function successfully.

Justice for Mining-Affected Communities

Canadian Rights Action Foundation works with community-based campesino & indigenous organizations in Guatemala & Honduras that work for community-controlled development, environmental defense and human rights, and work to remedy harms and violations caused by global mining companies. We seek funding for three community development struggles:

- Mayan-Q'eqchi' Community Defense Committee, in eastern Guatemala affected by nickel mining;
- ADISMI – Association for Integral Development of San Miguel Ixtahuacan, in western Guatemala affected by gold mining;
- Siria Valley Environmental Defense Committee, in central Honduras affected by gold mining.

Focusing attention on these community development, environmental protection, and human rights struggles is important, as the environmental and health harms and violations of human and indigenous rights are extensive and continuing, and the affected populations need financial, human rights, and political support as they work to stop, and seek justice and reparations for, the harms and violations.

Golden Silk Sustainable Farm

This is a Cambodian conceived and driven project. Project outcomes raise nutrition levels, provide income generation, promote sustainable fair trade enterprise, and promote capacity building in social justice advocacy. The project proves to Cambodian people that they can accomplish these things for themselves, using local resources, and in turn role-model them to others, helping to break the cycle of dependency that has been nurtured by so many aid organizations. This project offers simple, low tech permaculture (organic sustainable agriculture) methods for growing food and rearing silk. These are easily repeatable techniques that can be shared with others informally on an ongoing basis. This project, started in October of 2010, has three distinct phases: (1) to provide sustainable agriculture training and create demonstration gardens for food and income generation; (2) to increase selected Commune Council Member's advocacy capacity; and (3) to develop an action plan to create a golden silk farm and source start-up funding for the farm.

Haiti Union Solidarity Fund (HUSF)

The Haiti Union Solidarity Fund (HUSF) has directed donations from unions and individual activists in Canada to workers' organizations in Haiti since 2008.

FPSE's donation to the HUSF is being directed as follows:

- \$1,000 to SOPUDEP, a school of 600 students that is a model for the public education service that progressive Haitians are fighting to establish. This amount is the equivalent of the annual salary for two teachers.
www.sopudep.org.
- \$1,000 for the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti (IJDH) and its partner office in Haiti, the Bureau des avocats internationaux (BAI) [**www.ijdh.org**] They are the leading human rights organization in Haiti. Their activities include advocating for victims of sexual violence and residents of earthquake camps threatened with eviction, and promoting more robust international humanitarian assistance.
- \$1,500 for a trade union project that will be selected following the visit of fund director Roger Annis to the convention of the CATH union federation in June 2011.

Adopt-an-Organizer in the Philippines

The Adopt an Organizer campaign is an international solidarity partnership led by the Vancouver District Labour Council. It provides opportunity for FPSE along with other labour organizations to support vital organizing work in the Philippines. The organizers work in broad coalitions with teacher unions and community organizations such as women's groups, youth, farmers, and the urban poor. Fidel Fababier, head of ASSERT, the national union of teachers, reports that the concrete support and encouragement from FPSE will help to continue the struggle for teachers to the right to form a union, basic employment rights, and a living wage.

The situation in the Philippines, the lack of development and levels of poverty relates directly to the growing number of Filipino temporary workers being brought to Canada to a source of cheap labour, both as live-in care workers and manual labourers. FPSE support is much needed.

Health Clinic in Nepal

This is a two day project to provide assessment, education and nutrition for children under 5 years old in a remote village in Nepal. The local organization that will be facilitating and organizing this event is 'Friends of Needy Children – Nutritional Rehabilitation Home' (FNC NRH). Third year nursing students will be participating in this FNC NRH project, in addition to a number of other projects during the 6-week practicum. Funding will cover travel costs and meals for the health care team of 10 people; Nepali health care team salaries to include a project manager, a dietician, two nurses, and two field liaison officers; and educational materials and nutritional resources for the families; and incentive costs for village volunteers.

AFT - Wisconsin

Public sector unions are under attack in Wisconsin and have been stripped of many of their rights. Union membership is at historic lows and power elites are using any excuse to strip them of their right to unionize and battle for collective agreements. As educators, we know working conditions are learning conditions and we advocate for stable appointments with security, compensation, benefits, and pensions that strengthen dignity.