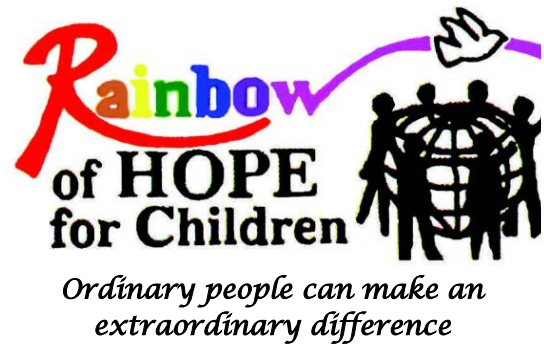


NEXUS

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FUNDAHMER – CACAOPERA, El Salvador

by Brenda Carpio – Secretary of the Board of Directors of FUNDAHMER



Making tamales at the Women's Training Center

Cacaopera, a municipality of Morazán with a strong Kakawira Indigenous culture, was one of the scenes of the Salvadoran Civil War (1980-1992) that suffered massacres, with thousands of dead, displaced families and traumatized people.



After the Peace Accords in February 1992, the official reconstruction process in the country began. It is here that FUNDAHMER was established in 2000, born as an instrument of service to the communities. It has a strong relationship of brotherhood with the people and with international organizations, and its purpose is well-being, growth and community autonomy. Fundahmer has had 24 years of project management, with the mission of improving social, environmental, economic and cultural conditions. The emphasis continues to be on the recovery of historical memory and continuing the work of the Ecclesial Base Communities. Ecclesial Base Communities or Christian Base Communities (CEB) are Latin American in origin and are focused on improving marginalized people's lives through health care, education and social justice.

Fundahmer has a number of projects that are on going which ROHFC is helping to fund. The scholarship program is funded primarily by the Sister Communities from the United States and Canada. This year, they are supporting 139 students. Of this group, 70 are university students, 72% of whom are from the rural area of Morazán. The agroecology project's main purpose is to follow up organic agriculture practices with young people. There is a theological school for adults and an art school for children. The Monseñor Romero kindergarten has an attendance of 16 local children. FUNDAHMER is a member of the organization of the Continental Ecclesial Base Communities and will participate in their general meeting that will be held in November of this year in El Salvador. As an institution, there is a policy of protection for children and adolescents, among other achievements.

Women's Project

Since 2010, groups of women, daughters and granddaughters of indigenous people who had lived and suffered atrocities and displacement in the past conflict have been organized. These groups have been motivated to promote entrepreneurship according to their resources, likes and capabilities, to provide comprehensive training that will serve them for life. It began with a total of 187 women and men, mostly young. Much work has been done to discover and express creativity and promote equitable relationships. These women have been trained under the vision of the solidarity economy of care. Among the productive activities are vegetable planting; beekeeping; baking, clothing assembly; shoemaking; making hammocks and bags; natural medicine; embroidery; making shampoo, soaps, creams, candles and artisanal sweets, typical food, amongst others. Currently, FUNDAHMER is carrying out a clothing workshop project in the Community of San Pedro, which has gotten seed capital to manufacture shirts, shorts, skirts, bags, and traditional embroidered shirts, for general sale. The Communities of El Rucio and Salamo, are receiving support with the production of jarcia products (vegetable fiber), crochet hats for children and the elderly, and the production of vitamin-enriched flours.



“María Luisa Pérez” Women's Training Center

“: In 2022, the agreement with Rainbow of Hope for Children was signed to finance 83% of the Women's Training Center in Cacaopera, Morazán. This building has a construction area of 86.56 m², which includes a large room for meetings and workshops, electricity and drinking water, kitchen, 3 bathrooms, 1 shower, 1 bedroom, 1 storage room, and a septic tank. For years, infrastructure with these conditions was needed to carry out workshops. Now, women, men, youth and children have a space to continue with training and education activities in topics related to entrepreneurship, leadership, community life,

collective work, gender equality, theological training, human rights, ecology, and commemorations of historical memory or special dates. The Training Center is named in honour of the dedication of "María Luisa Pérez" a civil war survivor, health promoter and a community leader for 25 years, who tragically was murdered in 2011 under unclear circumstances.



Testimonials from Users of The María Luisa Pérez Women's Training Center:

Juana Pérez Ramírez: "I was a little girl when I had to flee with my mother to Colomoncagua – Honduras refugee camp, during the civil war in El Salvador. To date I have received training in sewing, baking, food preparation and alternative medicine. I am self-employed and work weaving hammocks. I consider the Women's Training Center very important because it is a place to continue training, educating older adults, young people and children. I feel comfortable and confident when talking about women-specific issues .

Miriam Villeda: "I participate in the sewing workshop. For me, the Training Center is important because I feel confident when I arrive and when I am welcomed by other women. It is a space to bring together hard-working people who want to learn new things that will improve our businesses."

Idania Argueta: "I have participated in many training workshops given by FUNDAHMER staff. Now, we have a suitable place, set up in a very beautiful natural environment. It is a space that has the ideal conditions for meeting people from other communities, to carry on workshops and obtaining more learning."

On behalf of FUNDAHMER, the Cacaopera communities and all the people who are already using the Women's Training Center, we would like to express our immense gratitude to Rainbow of Hope for Children for the trust placed in us. We once again express our gratitude for opening their hearts and having contributed greatly to making this dream come true.



Participants at the Women's Training Center

Project Updates:

Tanzania: Ussongo Health Center Maternity Ward

In mid-2024 ROHFC entered in to a contract with the Daughters of Mary, a religious group that provides health care in the village of Ussongo with the support of the government of Tanzania. They have operated a health care center since 1997 and the number of young mothers has increased substantially since that time. They asked for a delivery room, a post delivery room, a theatre room and post theatre room, toilets and a bathroom with an improved water system. They also requested a nursing station, doctor's office and reception room. We are pleased to say that funds have been raised and allocated and construction has begun.



Kenya: Kinyambu Special School Classroom



Simon Ngumbi, chair of KRECD notes that this classroom will be roomy, have lots of air flow and light for the benefit of the students.

Progress on the classroom for the Kinyambu Special School is moving along quickly. The project was approved in spring but some administrative matters needed to be taken care of by our partner, the Kinyambu Rural Education and Community Development (KRECD) group. Construction began a few weeks ago and is moving along nicely. It will be the fourth classroom in the school which has only been in operation for a few years.

Tanzania: Matumaini Pre- and Primary School Classrooms

This school is being built in an area on the outskirts of Tabora, Tanzania, where the Catholic Diocese of Tabora has a home for abandoned and albino children. The government of Tanzania has mandated primary education for all children in the past few years and local schools are very over crowded. The diocese has responded by building schools to accommodate those who have difficulties in the regular system. Tanzania has the highest incidence of albinism in the world. It is a genetic condition but those with it are often the objects of discrimination and even violence. The diocese has set up a home for these children to keep them safe and educate them. Matumaini School is adding three classrooms to accommodate these children and to integrate them into the wider school population. The current classroom is the first of the three to be completed.



Inside Rainbow of Hope for Children

New Director Marlyn Phillips

Rainbow of hope for Children welcomes our new board member. Here's what Marlyn has to say about herself:

I was born in Kinistino, Sk., where my parents ran three newspapers and a gift shop between Kinistino, Birch Hills and Melfort. I grew up knowing what business was all about from working for my parents. I completed grade 12 in Kinistino, and moved to Olds, Alberta to enroll in Fashion Merchandising at Olds College. Upon the completion of one year of the two-year course, I took a position with the Royal Bank, and moved to Calgary. Calgary was my home for two years, then in 1980, I married and moved to Vermilion, Alberta where I lived for 11 years. During that time, I completed a Business Administration Certificate and started the job of raising three sons. I worked in public practice before the children were born.



In 1991, our family moved to Prince Albert, Sk. My children have since grown up and have their own children. During my years in Prince Albert, I completed the Certified General Accountant Program in 2000, which eventually became the Chartered Professional Accountants Program (CPA) in 2004. Since moving to Prince Albert, I have held several positions, many of which were training for the next one. I began working in the field of public practice, then moved to different levels of Government. In the year 2000, I moved into the position of Deputy Director of Administration at the Prince Albert Correctional Centre. In 2009, I remarried and moved to Estevan, Sk. where I returned to public practice. In 2013 my husband and I returned to Prince Albert, to start our own public practice firm by the name of Grayling Business Consulting. The firm was very successful, and in 2019 we sold it to Grant Thornton LLP. I remained working for Grant Thornton until my retirement in 2023.

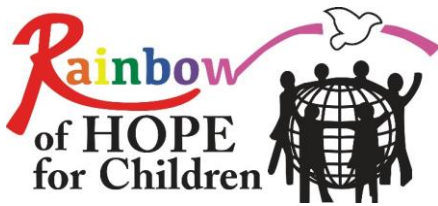
During my years I have been involved with several Boards listed below:

- Good Shepard Villa Resident Council
- Prince Albert Community Foundation
- CPA bylaws and discipline committee, and CPA various monitoring committees
- Prince Albert Community Service Centre

It has been a dream of mine since the age of about 20, to work in Africa help the people there in whichever way I could.

2025 is the 50th anniversary of Rainbow of Hope for Children. We are planning to celebrate so stay tuned.

President's Message, Annual General Meeting, 2024



RAINBOW OF HOPE FOR CHILDREN SOCIETY

Greetings Everyone!

I wish to welcome you to the 49th Annual General Meeting of the Rainbow of Hope for Children Society (ROHFC). It certainly feels like an exciting time as we take on many new projects. We are moving forward with renewed efforts to engage with old and new partners in a variety of projects in 11 countries.

The projects we engage in range from water harvesting, irrigation and conservation, construction of much needed health care facilities in remote locations, providing modern equipment for technical schools, and encouraging and supporting students with their ambitions to attend schools or colleges to make a better life for themselves, and on and on.

The Rainbow of Hope for Children Society is not a large corporate style charity and does not, or more realistically, cannot create the huge multi-million-dollar projects we often see on television. We are a small, but dedicated group of volunteers who, as individuals, give freely their time and effort to each focus on a small part of the world and engage with the local folks there to identify problems which they need a little bit of help with.

A recent project in the Philippines where an isolated area of tribal communities needed some help to replant fruit trees that had been lost and to install an irrigation system to supply water to the land that had lost its fruit trees. The loss of fruit trees also meant the loss of income that the local people would normally have had in the past. A simple project, small enough that we were easily able to support it and beneficial enough that the indigenous communities of the area gained an income back by having meaningful work and fruit products to sell in the markets.

We have many "Good News" projects like this, and it is amazing how openly and warmly we are greeted and welcomed to their villages when we review the projects. It makes you proud when ROHFC has helped a community in need with a good project that they have determined the need for and did not have the resources to make it happen.

I must reiterate that Health, Education, and Family Security are very important objectives for ROHFC when a project is considered for support and funding. We follow the ROHFC objectives along with the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals as part of the criteria when the project is being developed. These provide benchmark measurements for ROHFC to determine the value and benefit of a project to the people we serve and to guide us in the use of the donations we receive to carry out these projects.

Thank you for continuing to believe in the ROHFC and supporting our goals. Your support is valued and appreciated. If you wish to learn more about our projects, please contact me. We love to talk about our projects.

Charlie Matt
President

RAINBOW OF HOPE FOR CHILDREN SOCIETY
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
Year Ended March 31, 2024

	2024	2023
Revenue		
Donations	\$ 228,126	\$ 170,888
Recovery of administration expenditures	20,378	12,190
Interest	9,192	5,482
Project monitoring	-	47,843
	257,696	236,403
Transfers from (to) deferred contributions	(57,990)	39,618
Income after deferred contribution transfers	199,706	276,021
Expenses		
Project		
Brazil	53,877	45,278
Jamaica	45,192	14,221
El Salvador	31,044	30,073
Ghana	25,085	21,270
Tanzania	17,615	55,777
Indonesia	15,607	22,516
Kenya	5,185	10,838
Philippines	1,278	9,087
Project monitoring	991	47,843
Nicaragua	750	-
Peru (recovery)	(36)	41
Nepal (recovery)	(4,893)	4,697
	191,695	261,641
General administration		
Supplies	7,353	5,036
Professional fees	4,000	2,860
Public engagement and advertising	3,469	4,694
Insurance	2,868	2,771
Interest and bank charges	1,179	889
	18,869	16,250
	210,564	277,891
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures for the year	\$ (10,858)	\$ (1,870)

The Rainbow of Hope for Children Society (ROHFC) attempts to maintain operational costs as low as possible. All ROHFC Board members are unpaid volunteers who donate their time and expertise towards these projects. There is no paid staff.



Rainbow of Hope for Children Society Current Projects

Your support is requested and appreciated for the following projects

Program Description	Funding Goals 2025	Program Description	Funding Goals 2025
Nwodua Library, Ghana	\$20,000	PAMBE Health, Nutrition, and Sanitation, Ghana	\$8,000
Tabora School for the Deaf & Mute, Computers for Classrooms	\$40,000	Kinyambu & Area- Future Projects Kenya	\$15,000
Matumaini Classrooms for Albino Children Safety, Tanzania	\$20,000	Aeta Indigenous Communities Agriculture and Economic Assistance, Philippines	\$10,000
Bongbini Kindergarten Classrooms	\$30,000	Ussongo Maternity Ward, Tanzania	\$25,000
Grota da Alegria Education, Brazil	\$12,000	CIS Scholarships, El Salvador	\$10,000
Ambrosina Young Women's Education, Brazil	\$12,000	Paso Puente Dignified Housing, El Salvador	\$8,000
Eye Health Care, Reducing Avoidable Blindness, Indonesia	\$15,000	Mandeville Housing and School of Technology, Jamaica	\$10,000
Emergency & Disaster Relief Fund	\$15,000		

How to Donate

We thank you for offering a gift to any one of these projects and we are pleased to acknowledge your donation with an income tax deductible receipt. If you wish to donate to a specific project please include the information on the cheque memo and the e-transfer message box. If you are paying by credit card you will need to email us with the project you wish to support.

- **By cheque:** Please make cheques payable to the full name of the organization: Rainbow of Hope for Children Society.
Mail to: Rainbow of Hope for Children Society
P.O. Box 2883
Wainwright, AB T9W 1S7
- **By credit card:** be sure to include the 3-digit security code on the back of your card. That number is required by the credit card companies
- **By e-transfer:** We use auto deposit, no password required. Make your E-transfer to ROHFC Accounting – rohfc2018@outlook.com. Be sure to include the specific project you wish to support in the message box so we can direct your donations. ****Please include your name and mailing and/or email address in the message box so that we can send you a donation receipt**
- **By Canada Helps:** Go to <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/rainbow-of-hope-for-children-society/> and select the specific project you wish to support
- **Donations of securities:** have a significant tax advantage. To donate shares please contact your broker to discuss
- **Donation of insurance policies:** You can donate insurance policies that you will not need in future. This has significant benefits. Contact your Financial Planner to discuss

Questions? —Contact Cheryl, 780-968-3952

ROHFC GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF ALL OUR DONORS, and

- The Rotary Club of Wainwright, the Knights of Columbus, the Edmonton Community Foundation, the Holy Family Columbus Club, and the Al Gerwing Charitable Foundation.
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NEXUS: Produced and edited by Connie Gerwing and Leah Solheim in Saskatchewan and Rainbow of Hope's Head Office in Wainwright, Alberta, Canada. The expressed views of the authors are not necessarily the views of the NGO.