



substitute

families

for abandoned children

Issue 6 Summer 2006

Welcome to the sixth edition of SFAC's newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading more about our work.

A Call to Action – Making a difference to the lives of children

If asked to identify the most precious aspect of life most parents would identify their children and grandchildren. Equally, if children were asked 'who is the most important person in your life?' they would no doubt mention parents and family. For any child to be without parents or family is unthinkable, yet this is exactly what is happening throughout the world at an alarming rate. Millions of children are facing the biggest disaster of all - the loss of parents, family and friends.

- 9 million children in Africa spent Mother's Day 2006 without the love and support of their mother due to AIDS. This equates to every British child under the age of 13 being without a mother! **Save the Children**
- The **United Nations** estimates that by 2010 in Africa alone there will be 20 million orphaned children as a result of HIV/AIDS.
- Tens of millions of children are victims of exploitation, abuse and violence. Millions are trafficked and forced to work in abominable conditions, in prostitution rings and sweatshops away from their family. **UNICEF**

It is heartbreaking to hear such statistics and should initiate action. If they were our children we would do whatever it took to ensure their safety and provision. Abandoned and orphaned children throughout the world deserve to be cared for with dignity and respect experiencing the love and nurture of family life. **Article 9 & 20 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**

SFAC needs your help to take the message of foster care into developing countries. In 1997 a challenge was set before me by a member of The House of Lords in UK, herself a strong advocate for children's rights in developing countries. She suggested that I try to develop foster care in Brazil. SFAC now has similar requests from a number of child care organisations on different continents. Will you sponsor SFAC to deliver training and consultancy programmes at zero to minimal cost to these agencies so that orphaned and abandoned children can be placed into families? This can be done by regular monthly donations or annual one off gifts. Without such assistance the skills and experience we have will remain in the UK! If you know of business people you think may be interested in this work I would be happy to give them a small presentation with more detailed information. Please don't let this request pass by without a response. **Isaiah 1:17** Mick Pease (SFAC Director)

These children in Mozambique have their families and meet at this centre for food and educational purposes.

But, did you know?

- There are 91,000 children living with HIV/AIDS in Mozambique, 80% of them under the age of 5 years!
- Although HIV/AIDS is affecting the lives of millions in Africa, Malaria is the number one killer of children in Mozambique killing as many as 50,000 children each year (137 a day) as well as vulnerable pregnant women. **UNICEF**



Training in Nepal?

Prior to the political crisis in Nepal Diane & Arlene delivered training on foster care.

Our trip to Nepal in 2005 was a challenging but rewarding experience. We were privileged, as representatives of SFAC, to see the astounding development of work amongst Nepali people. The concept of foster care was well received, people were keen to learn, motivated, equipped and encouraged.

In Pokhara, we delivered training to 57 Nepalis involved in children's work, many of whom care for orphaned and abandoned children in their own homes. We discussed plans with our friend Mary to develop a foster care programme of recruitment, selection, assessment, training and support. In Kathmandu, we met members of a community development project, now seeking to obtain government agreement to implement a foster care initiative. In addition, we visited several heartening child care projects.

We witnessed evidence of enormous needs amongst children and a genuine desire by adults to help them. Clearly, the vision to place children in families, the foundation of SFAC, brings people together to work towards a common goal. They come from a variety of backgrounds, equipped with a diversity of skills and insights; all have a valuable contribution to make.

If you feel personally called to become involved in any way we urge you to respond. God truly did more than we could ask for or imagine.

Diane Bell & Arlene Edgehill

News on Casa Lar Novo Rumo

SFAC is privileged to be able to continue financially supporting the children's work at Casa Lar Novo Rumo. Slowly but surely the staff at Casa Lar are professionalising their services to abandoned children. They now have a salaried part time social worker based on the premises who is able to maintain contact between the children and their families. They also have weekly support from trainee psychologists who attend the local University and use the opportunity as placement practice. This means that certain children have regular access to psychologists to help them deal with various forms of trauma.

Pedrinho and Neomi's commitment to the children and the future of their work remains as strong as ever. We sometimes wonder where they get their strength from with all the financial struggles they have to endure. They care for approximately 20 children, from babies to 18 years old and yet they receive little financial assistance from the government. SFAC would love to complete the purchase of a house for them in Sao Paulo so they don't have the problems of monthly rent. We are still looking for around £30,000 investment to complete that project. If you would like to make a donation to this cause please contact Mick or Brenda Pease.

Below is a photograph Mick took of some of the children in May 06 the day after a fun evening watching a DVD together where one by one the youngest children were lifted to bed as they fell asleep!



Our thanks

Our appreciation goes to the following for their fundraising events for SFAC:

- 1) Elaine Young from Team Fostering North East Region doing a sponsored parachute jump. If you would like to sponsor Elaine please visit <http://www.teamfostering.co.uk/news2.html>
- 2) Gordon Brownhill & FCA, Yorks & Lincs Region for holding a sale on 13th May.
- 3) Pat Maingot for donating this quilt for auction.



A beautiful hand pieced quilt size 44ins x 55ins by Halland & Uckfield Ouse Valley Quilters. For a bigger photo and more information visit <http://www.sfac.org.uk/news.php> Offers over £200 please contact Mick & Brenda Pease mickpease@aol.com

- 4) To all regular SFAC supporters who faithfully give to our work with abandoned children. Together we are making a difference.

Did you know that?

Moses was fostered after he was found by the Egyptian Princess? A local woman was asked to look after the baby for her. The Princess did not know she was Moses' mother. Some years later the mother returned Moses to the Princess who adopted him. Moses had Hebrew and Egyptian heritage and at times struggled with his identity. **Read Exodus ch:2**

Famous quote

"We make a living by what we get: we make a life by what we give."
Sir Winston Churchill

SFAC Information

Registered charity no: 1095091

31 Gotts Park Avenue, Armley, Leeds LS12 2RW

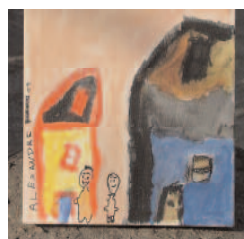
Account name: Substitute Families for Abandoned Children

Bank: HSBC **Sort code:** 40-27-10 **Account number:** 81246216

On line donations can be made at: www.sfac.org.uk

As a registered charity we benefit from Gift Aid on donations from UK taxpayers. Please contact mickpease@sfac.org.uk for further information or inform us of changes to your details.

SFAC News



This picture was done by an 8 year old boy who lived for a number of years at an ABBA children's home in Sao Paulo - Brazil. At school he was asked to draw a picture of his family. To the right he drew the children's home. To the left he drew his family home with his mother smiling from a bright house (this is not actually how it was). Then the boy located himself in middle!

SFAC recently participated in a conference in Costa Rica about the future development of foster care. In attendance were representatives of Colombian and Brazilian organisations who already have small foster care initiatives and are committed to working together to develop the work. One Colombian Pastor told us there are 2000 Indian orphans in the North of Colombia as a result of guerrillas forcing their parents to fight Government forces. He sees foster care as a viable option for some of those orphaned children.

- SFAC has received invitations to give foster care training in Tajikistan (Central Asia) and Colombia this year and in Uganda early 2007. Other organisations in African countries have also been mentioned but we await confirmation.
- SFAC has a list of prominent people who are happy to be associated on the board of reference. The list includes Politicians, Pastors and heads of organisations. Each one has responded with positive comments about the value of SFAC's work. Our local MP explained, "You are in the right place at the right time!"
- SFAC has recently updated its foster care training manual to include sections from 'Skills to Foster'. Thank you to Fostering Network who gave permission to make changes to their material.
- Mick recently returned from Sao Paulo where he was invited to give a presentation at Ibirapuera University to 90 Psychology students on the purpose and value of foster care. He also was involved in training workers and foster carers with ABBA which is developing fostering.

Can foster care affect society?

One child living on the streets from the age of 4 until 18 committing just 1 crime (any crime) a day over 14 years totals 5,110 crimes. Multiply that figure by hundreds of thousands of street children! Imagine the financial savings to local governments if those crimes were limited or even better ceased. Placing children into families rather than leaving them on the streets could make a difference!