

# REACHING £100,000

January 2010

SSSK was founded in 1998, with two aims:

- to raise awareness about the potential of the millions of children all over the world who have to live and work on the streets, struggling to survive, extremely vulnerable, and missing out on happy and safe childhoods;
- to raise funds for charities working with street children internationally that SSSK has committed to support financially, projects chosen because members of SSSK have worked directly with them.

Regd. Charity: 1070646



## SSSK AGM 7 January 2010

A focus of the AGM this year was celebrating that after 10 years SSSK has reached a fundraising total of £100,000. And such an achievement meant that even snow didn't stop at least one member from most of our branches attending. If you missed it, here's a rundown:

Our keynote speaker was David Woolcombe, President of Peace Child International. He spoke about the remarkable impact that youth-led development can have and how it is much more cost-effective than many more traditional approaches. An investment in children now will lead to their empowerment as entrepreneurs and taxpayers, which can only save money in the long-run.

He also challenged us to think about the question: "How old will you be in 2050?". Whatever issue we work on, Climate

Change will be a problem for us all. Finally, he gave us some great advice about running events and having a greater impact. Make sure you keep your messages short and to the point and, whatever event you are running, your audience will be thinking about the issues for weeks afterwards. And remember: "If it ain't fun, it ain't fundraising".

We then had a break-out discussion about what has and hasn't worked well with groups and how to improve sustainability. The write-up of ideas is on the next page.

We heard a little about the Street Child World Cup, coming up in April which SSSK is supporting. [www.streetchildworldcup.org](http://www.streetchildworldcup.org)

Finally, we heard from Will Stephens, one of SSSK's original members about what SSSK was

like in the past. He gave us 3 tips:

- **Make change where you can.** Don't worry that you can't be on the other side of the world working with street children directly, do all you can to make a difference where you are now.
- **Remember the urgency.** Never lose sight of how important the work of SSSK is. And get a grip on the issues if you start forgetting - re-watch that film that first inspired you, get out your photos from travelling, whatever it maybe that first got you involved.
- **Small gestures can go a long way.** Our £100,000 will have made a huge difference to thousands of street children and will continue to make a difference for the rest of their lives.

Thanks to Clifford Chance for the venue, food and drinks. Until next year and another £100,000!

# AGM Discussion

## Improving our groups

### What are your top tips for sustainability?

- Most importantly, think about handing over your responsibilities early.
- Never giving up, whatever the set back! If you believe in the cause, others will too.
- Get people from different year-groups onto your committee.
- Giving new committee members responsibility early on.
- Concentrate loads of efforts on first years as they'll be running the show before you know it.
- Getting teacher or staff support.
- Collaborating with other groups to increase the impact of events.
- Cutting the crap in meetings.
- Do a 'quick win' event early on in the year to ensure that new members get the SSSK bug early on. Otherwise it can feel like you are spending your whole time planning.
- Similarly, doing lots of small events to keep everybody enthused.
- Piggy-backing off already well-established groups.
- Doing the same, good events every year to build momentum and reputation.

### "By failing to plan you are planning to fail"

Benjamin Franklin

### What have been your best events?

- Selling Xmas Cards
- Annual Bikeathon
- Speaker events with great topics for raising the brand.
- A Bollywood dinner
- A Rowathon in terms of both money and awareness raising
- At Edinburgh - getting included as one of the nominated charities for a huge charity fashion show
- Termly champagne breakfast
- Running a 'Freaky Friday' Dress-up day.
- Rendezvous - it's not 'in your face' and allows people to engage in a light-hearted way

### What has been your least successful event?

- A cake sale with hardly any cakes...

**"Thank you very much for your generous and regular donations over the years, and for the work you have done in raising the profile of street children and the role that non-governmental organisations can fulfil in working with them. As well as helping street children, we are now able to provide medical, social and educational assistance to other children and families in dire poverty, thus relieving the extreme deprivation that would drive children out on to the streets in desperation. Our work would not be possible without the support of groups like yours. Please convey our thanks to all those students who have given up their time to help."**

**Father Peter Walters, Director, Let the Children Live, Colombia**



## Street Children

### Some facts

(Reprinted from *New Internationalist Magazine*)

#### Who are these children?

The usual image is of young homeless people who live and work on the streets. But it is better to think of street children in terms of their relationship to the street. Some come from street families. Others live mainly on the street but may go back to the family home in the evenings or make sporadic visits. Yet others sleep in night shelters. A proportion endure periods in jail or institutions or spend their days working in open air markets. Most are working children. All are individuals first with their own unique, complex lives.

#### How many are there?

Nobody knows for sure. Estimates differ widely – anywhere from 30 to 170 million. Their mobility and the fact that they move in and out of street living make them difficult to count. They are not included in surveys and censuses. There are no global statistics and the most reliable national ones come from agencies on the ground.

Particular circumstances such as warfare, deteriorating economies and natural disasters can increase their numbers. Thus, prior to the 1991 Gulf War there were no reported street children in Iraq; with the ongoing conflict, UNICEF is alarmed by the growing numbers of orphans on the streets.

#### Family ties

Only a minority have no contact with their family. In Brazil about 90% have either a home life or occasional contact with their family.

Poverty and social vulnerability put pressure on families and drive children on to the streets. In Kingston, Jamaica, over 90% of street children come from single mother families.

Family dysfunction, often fuelled by poverty, also pushes children out. In the United States poverty is not the main factor – a majority of the estimated 750,000 to 1 million street



"Thank you so much for your continued support of our organization. I would like to express our sincere thanks to all the students whose efforts are helping to support the work we are carrying out.. FSCE continues to run programs locally in Ethiopia and around other parts of East Africa. Many children are still forced to join street-life for various reasons, where they are in danger of exploitation. Our work helps in the fight against commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of children."

Amakelew Cherkosie,  
Chairman, FSCE

children have fled physical or sexual abuse.

#### A matter of gender

While there are far fewer girls than boys, the estimates (that girls make up between 3% and 30 % of the street child population) are so wide as to be almost meaningless. Girls are more vulnerable to violence (including sexual attacks) on the street, although this is a problem for boys, too. Many get lured into brothels.

Countries where the reported sexual exploitation of girls is at its highest are India, the US, Thailand, Taiwan, Brazil and the Philippines. Post-communist Eastern Europe has also seen an explosion in child sexual exploitation.

UNICEF estimates that over 2 million children, mainly girls, are exploited through prostitution and pornography. 1.2 million girls and boys are trafficked each year – many to join the sex trade.

#### Violence

Law and order officials and self-styled vigilantes both attempt to 'clean the street' of these children in many parts of the world. In Latin America the problem is particularly acute with the worst offenders being Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala and Honduras. An average of three

street children are killed every day in the state of Rio de Janeiro. In Cairo, street children are routinely rounded up and beaten by the police, their heads are shaven and then they are transferred to crowded detention centres.

Higher rates of drug use and involvement in petty crime make them vulnerable to violence from others like them. The main reason for gang membership is protection.

#### Health

Much more prone to diseases associated with risky sexual activity and/or drug use. In Toronto 50% of street children surveyed had chlamydia. In Cambodia, 40% of all new HIV infections are in street working children. In Guatemala 53% had sexually transmitted diseases.

The Guatemalan study also found 92% of the children had lice and 88% had contracted upper respiratory infections due to exposure. Skin infections were also common.

Studies conducted in Nepal and Guatemala showed that urban street children were in better health than children in stable homes in farming villages: an indicator of the depths of rural poverty in these countries rather than a recommendation for life on the street.