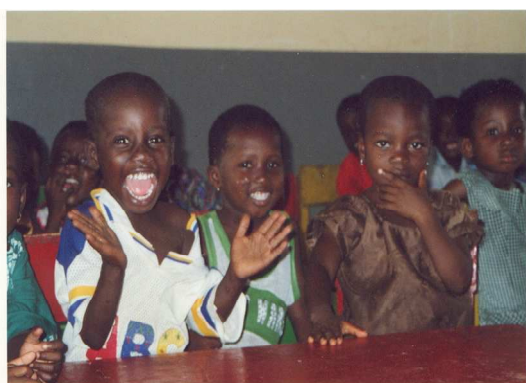




**Registered charity number:
1070646**



**NEWSLETTER
JANUARY
2008**

EDITORIAL

2008 marks the Ten Year anniversary of SSSK, during which time it has grown and developed far beyond what the founders (Ben Phillips and Johnny Glennie) expected.

SSSK seeks to raise awareness so that street children can be enabled to live to their full potential. We do this by supporting local NGOs, who are providing opportunities, so that children can have support mechanisms, and, in particular, the opportunity of education.

Since 1998:

- our annual income has increased from around £2,000 to nearer £25,000
- from two branches initially we now have seven, and are hoping that there will be more
- our website (www.sssk.org.uk) has become recognised as a valuable tool for awareness raising and information sharing
- we have been able to support ten NGOs, working for street children, including the original two to whom we have sent funds every year
- we have joined the UK Consortium for Street Children
- the group of four Trustees who managed SSSK in the early years has developed into a much larger team, who are currently Ed Bretherton, Kate Bretherton, Gordon Couch, Charlie Malston, Katy Royles, Hermione Ruck-Keene, Tom Stephens, and Kirsty Thomson together with Branch Liaison Members Victoria Newton and Chris Woodhouse.

What hasn't changed is SSSK's commitment to understanding why children are 'on the streets', and to learn about effective interventions which can help them realise their potential. While most SSSK branch members, trustees and supporters benefit from access to a good education and a secure roof over our heads, most street children have neither of those things.

One important aspect of the way we work is that either trustees or branch members have visited the NGOs we support. The work done has therefore been seen, assessed and learned from. The direct expenses involved in running the trust are paid for by the Trustees, so that our branches and supporters can be assured that all the money they donate goes to those who need it most.

Since the formation of SSSK ten years ago the social and economic circumstances which have driven children to live and work on the streets still prevail in many places. Ultimately, of course, what is needed are changes in the systems and structures of societies, including a redistribution of wealth and power, fairer trade, and political reform. We hope that people will travel and see for themselves what the needs are, and will then want to contribute to the solutions of local and individual problems, and to bring about improved structures.

Ben and Johnny are already involved in a very practical way in this process. Ben works for Oxfam in Delhi, India, and is responsibly for advocacy on these issues to six southeast Asia countries. Johnny is the Christian Aid representative in Colombia.

We hope that involvement in SSSK by a wide range of students will motivate and inspire some to get involved in social justice issues, and in long-term development work. This can be either in a range of voluntary and advocacy work in this country or abroad, or even as part of a career path.

Gordon Couch SSSK Trustee

Raising Awareness. . .

As well as fundraising, SSSK aims to raise awareness about the issues affecting street children around the world. Our website, www.sssk.org.uk, contains various information and resources but the Trustees know that everyday new reports & articles are published and films & documentaries are produced which are just as relevant.

Each year the Trustees set aside a day to reflect upon an aspect of SSSK's work. This year we will be thinking specifically about raising awareness and there will be more information about the subject in the next newsletter.

If there is anything particular you would like the Trustees to think about or discuss on this topic please get in touch: sssk@sssk.org.uk

Do you have any resources which might be useful when it comes to thinking about the issues affecting street children?

If you do, please tell us about them so we can share the information with other branches



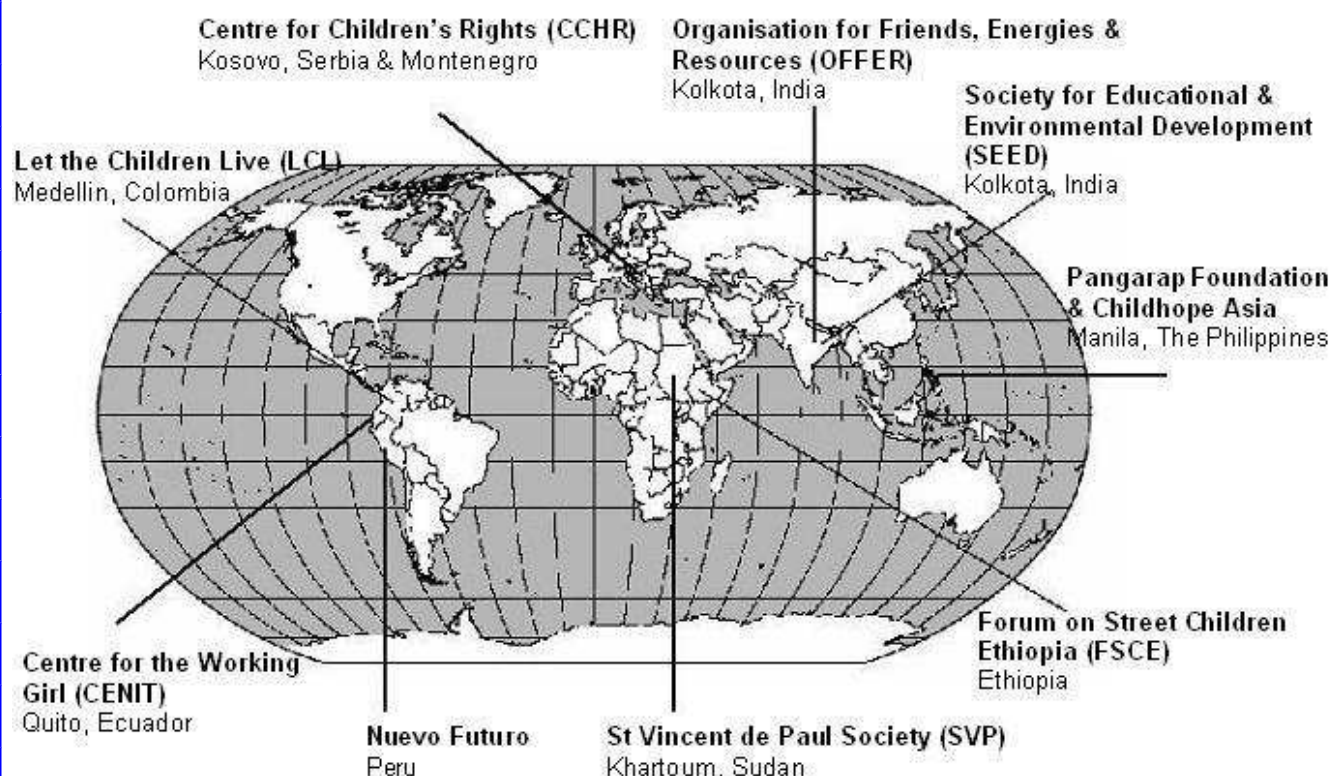
A Word of Thanks. . .

This year we say goodbye to three of our trustees: Charlie Bretherton, Kit Pomeroy and Hermione Ruck-Keene. Our thanks go to them for their commitment and contribution to SSSK over the years and we wish them well in their plans.

As one door closes, so another opens and we are pleased to welcome three new trustees to the organisation: Katy Royles, Kirsty Thomson and Ed Bretherton. They join Gordon Couch, Tom Stephens, Charlie Malston and Kate Bretherton as SSSK Trustees. There will be more information on the role of the Trustees in the next newsletter.

Grants 2007

The fundraising efforts of the branches and the support of our donors has resulted in nearly £44,000 being raised over the past year! An extraordinary donation from the Edinburgh Fashion Show (see page 9) accounts for around £20,000 of this, half of which will be sent to Nuevo Futuro in Peru over the next three years. This staggering amount of money has enabled us to support more organisations working with street kids than ever before.



It is SSSK's policy to support NGOs with which one of the Trustees or a branch member has had personal contact and we plan our contributions in such a way as to be sustainable over a three or four year period. If you have visited an organisation working with street children anywhere in the world and would like the Trust to consider it for a grant, please contact: sssk@sssk.org.uk

You can find more information about the NGOs we support on our website (www.sssk.org.uk).

[THE AGM]

SSSK's AGM took place at the Christian Aid office in Waterloo on 3rd January this year. Although not every branch was represented, those who were able to attend were warmly thanked for their efforts of the past 12 months and privileged to hear an outstanding address from our guest speaker Amy Hatton, the director of Street Child Africa.

Street Child Africa is a pan-African organization which so far operates in 7 countries. Much like ourselves, they are a UK-based charity who work in partnership with local NGOs abroad. Their vision is realistic: they are not attempting to get all children off the street, which would be a completely impractical mission. Instead it is their aim that street kids in Africa should be recognized, respected, supported and secure.

One key aspect of their work is the relationship that their outreach workers develop with the children. This personal contact offers love, support, guidance, friendship, practical help and hopefully the means to choose their own path in life. In the words of Nelson Mandela: "A person is a person through another person".

Amy's final observation was to commend to us the virtues of seeing the positives in the lives of the children. While it may appeal more easily to potential donors to show them a picture of a child crying, she urged us instead to highlight the enormous potential that each and every child possesses. We hope that this philosophy is expressed through our photo exhibition which was also on display at the AGM, and available to any branch to borrow for an awareness raising event.

Amy's contribution was extremely valuable and we hope in the future to be able to benefit further from the experience of other charities who work in related areas to ourselves. Amy also praised the intelligent and sensitive understanding of street children issues from the branch members with whom she spoke.

Those present also heard reports from Kate and Tom, two of the trustees who have recently visited charities we support, namely St Vincent de Paul in Sudan (Kate), and Let the Children Live in Colombia (Tom). We hope that this offered a better insight into the exact nature of some of the charities we are able to support as a result of all your hard work, and of the day to day realities that exist in the children's lives.

On a more practical note, we would like to take this opportunity to say a massive 'thank you' to everyone who wasn't there to hear it in person for all your hard work. This year has been SSSK's best ever! Please keep up the good work raising both funds and awareness, and remember: one of the most important things you can do is ensure that your branch is in a strong position to carry on and grow once you have left.

If you were not able to attend the AGM but have any questions/queries you would like resolved please don't hesitate to contact us. We would also be delighted to see you at the AGM 2009 (almost certainly Thursday 2nd January).

A more detailed report from the AGM is available to download from the website: www.sssk.org.uk



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF FSCE

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. Below are some of our recent achievements that we have been made possible by the work we carry out with the support of our sponsors:

- 1) The child resource development program has enabled to improve the capacity of different professional staffs of GOs, NGOs and CBOs working for the respect of children's rights by availing information access at the resource center.
- 2) The child resource development program has conducted different researches on the major thematic issues of the organization pertaining to vulnerable children that has also enabled in planning, making right based decision, identifying new and improved intervention activities, promoting information sharing, influencing policy and increased the availability and accessibility of child focused information resources.
- 3) In collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and other stakeholders, the preventive and support program against sexual abuse and exploitation has played a vital role in the development of the National Plan of action against sexual abuse and exploitation of children in Ethiopia
- 4) The preventive and support program against sexual abuse and exploitation, which is the first of its kind, and thus it served as an eye opener in turning the attention of GOs, NGOs and the community towards an area that was neglected. FSCE is the leading organization, which is called upon to share its experience to all other NGOs interested in making interventions towards the protection of sexually abused and exploited children.
- 5) Intervention in the area of saving and credit has brought a lot of impacts on the target poor mothers in the four project operational areas of the region. Access to micro finance services was created for large number of poor mothers and youths. Basic business skill training has also been organized and delivered for these targets. As a result, significant numbers of poor female-headed households engaged in diversified family based livelihoods and showed significant family income improvement. FSC-E will redouble its effort in livelihood promotion and entrepreneurship development with the view to empower target groups.
- 6) Access to Basic education: The proportion of out of school children with in our project operational areas was very large in number. Currently, due to the introduction of alternative basic child education program (ACCESS program) opportunities have been created for 3,200 of school aged out of school children.
- 7) Due to sustained advocacy and awareness raising activities of FSC-E and the Addis Ababa Police Commission the preventive and support program for trafficked children has been established at the premises of Merkato bus terminal and has been functionally responding for the respect of trafficked children's rights.
- 8) The incorporation of the child protection program in the formal structure of the police commissions of Addis Ababa and other FSC-E operational areas has paved the way for sustainable protection, promotion and respects of children's rights.
- 9) In collaboration with both governmental and non governmental stakeholders, the Addis Ababa Child Protection Program has played a pivotal role in the establishment of juvenile bench which deals with the legal cases of children in conflict with the law in Addis Ababa.

Many thanks, Amakelew Cherkosie



SVP in Sudan Supporting Street Children



I currently work for the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP): a registered charity here in England & Wales. The SVP is twinned with the Society in Sudan and supports work with some of the most disadvantaged people and communities.

In February 2007 I visited the SVP in Sudan where I saw first hand the projects it operates which work specifically with and for street children. The SVP's education programme for street children is the Society's longest running project and provides far more than schooling.

The SVP runs four 'foster homes' for girls and three for boys. The civil war and continuing internal hostilities have caused the break up of hundreds of thousands of families in Sudan. As families are forced away from their homes children are often separated from their parents or, in some cases, abandoned because parents cannot afford to look after them.

Many of these children end up on the streets of Khartoum where they have no protection or shelter. Street children often seek solace in glue sniffing or substance abuse to block out their fears. Separated from their family unit, survival on the streets is centred on the philosophy of "every child for himself". The foster homes run by the Society aim to give these young children the opportunity to enjoy the childhood which circumstance has tried to rob from them.

Yormok boys' home, for example, can support 25 boys at any one time. The home is run by a foster father, Benjamin, and his wife Lucia. The couple have children of their own who are brought up alongside the boys who have come to them from the street. The boys are raised with the same love and discipline as the couple's own children and in return respect for their foster family is plain to see.

At the homes the children receive shelter, food, clothing, education, special equipment if they have a disability and medical care. It is easy to put a price on these elements of the programme but it is impossible to put a value on the family environment into which they are immersed. It is difficult to imagine what these children have been through: the pain of losing their parents, abuse on the streets, hunger and illness. It was incredibly moving talking to

the boys, many of whom had no idea if their parents were still alive or even who their parents were because they had lived on the streets for so long. Some thought they might have brothers and sisters but could not tell us their names or where they were.

Several of the boys at the home had physical scars on their faces, arms and legs. These may have been from the war or signs of life on the street. As Benjamin explained his role it became clear that all the boys were hiding psychological scars. Bedwetting, nightmares, and fear of the dark are common problems. As well as support from the foster family the children in the SVP's foster homes have access to counselling as well as regular visits from a doctor.

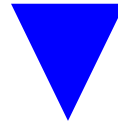
One of the most positive achievements of the homes is the support the children offer to one another. There are approximately 50 ethnic groups in Sudan with over 500 different tribes and there has been much internal conflict between these groups. At Yormok seven different tribes were represented but this did not cause any problems. As Vincensio – the educational programme manager – pointed out, "the homes are communities where many do not even recognise the meaning of the word tribe". On the streets the boys may have had to look after themselves but at Yormok the philosophy has clearly changed from "each man for himself" to "one for all and all for one".

Through this programme the SVP is able to offer immediate help to the children they find struggling to survive on the city streets. The support these kids receive is not restricted to this programme, however, but through it they are able to access a whole infrastructure designed to help those effected by the war to rebuild their lives. Once they turn sixteen the 'street kids' are encouraged to move on to the vocational training programmes run by the SVP where they can develop practical skills and secure sustainable futures for themselves and their families.

On behalf of the SVP I would like to thank SSSK for its support. It really does make a difference.

Kate Bretherton

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MARATHON 2008

We are delighted that Gabriel Lambert is going to run the marathon for SSSK this year.

Anyone wishing to support Gabriel by making a donation to SSSK should visit our website for more information:
www.sssk.org.uk

If you wish to contact Gabriel directly to offer your support please email him on:
gabrieljohnlambert@hotmail.com

THE EDINBURGH FASHION SHOW

The Edinburgh Charity Fashion Show 2007 has raised over £35,000 in support of two charities, Macmillan Cancer Support and Students Supporting Street Kids.

The event, sponsored by Artemis, took place on Friday 9 and Saturday 10 March, was organised entirely by students, with models selected from the student population at the University of Edinburgh.



900 students attended the show on Friday night, with 200 VIPs enjoying a champagne reception and three-course meal on Saturday. Both Macmillan Cancer Support and SSSK had representatives speaking to the audience each evening. Tom Stephens, a Trustee of Students Supporting Street Kids spoke on each evening about the need to mobilise the student population to action.

As well as a raffle, which took place on both nights, the VIPs also bid for a selection of auction items including dinner with Harry Enfield, the jacket worn by Ewan McGregor on his motorcycle trip round the world, and a meal for two at the Michelin starred restaurant The Fat Duck.

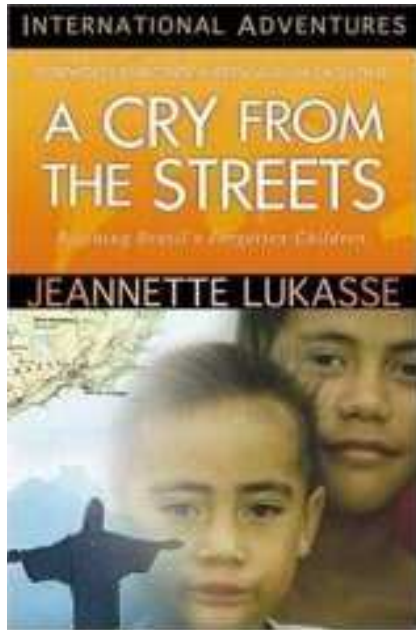
The clothes modelled on the catwalk ranged from high-profile designers such as Nicole Farhi to designs from students at the Edinburgh College of Art.

Our thanks go to the Edinburgh Charity Fashion Show Committee for their dedication to the cause. The Show was a huge success and highlights the great events that can be staged by dedicated students. Leo Lonsdale and Will Newton (the Presidents of the Show) decided to support SSSK on the back of their involvement with street children and being touched by the work of the Edinburgh SSSK branch.

We are delighted to be sponsoring the work of Nuevo Futuro in Peru as a direct result of the money raised through the Show.

Nuevo Futuro was established in the mid 1990s and has supported nearly 300 Peruvian children through its four residential homes in Lima. Their key aim is to provide children with a secure environment whilst an adoption process is completed. There will be more information about the charity in a future newsletter.

RECOMMENDED READ...



A Cry from the Streets **Jeannette Lukasse** **YWAM Publishing, US, 2002**

This book tells the story of a young Dutch couple, Jeannette and Johan Lukasse, who are inspired by their faith to set up a number of safe houses for street children in Brazil.

Whether or not the reader shares the author's Christian faith, this is worth reading not only for the human emotion it brings to the 'statistics' but also for the insight into the struggles faced by those working to support street children.

Although the book focuses on Brazil, there are 'disposable children' across the world who face the same dangers and live with the same fears. Lukasse writes in a colloquial style which makes the book easy to read, if a little inaccessible for those who are not so spiritually motivated. Her personal commentary is both pertinent and poignant making this a worthwhile read.

RECOMMENDED WEBSITE...

<http://www.telecom.net.et/~fsce/>

The Forum on Street Children—Ethiopia is one of the NGO's which SSSK supports. We first came across FSCE in 2003 when two trustees met their director, Amakelew Cherkosie, in Addis Ababa. After touring the different projects and meeting with the various people that worked for FSCE we were hugely impressed with the vision and scope of their work. FSCE was originally established in response to the increase in the number of orphaned and abandoned children in Addis Ababa caused by the drought and famine of 1984/85. Since then it has grown dramatically.

Their Vision: To see the rights of urban disadvantaged groups respected by society.

They are now a child-oriented and rights based organization, working for the respect of the rights of street children, sexually abused and exploited children, physically abused children, and children in conflict with the law. To do this they work in a variety of ways, such as advocacy, awareness raising, information sharing and networking, research and training on child rights, and of course their various projects and homes around Ethiopia. Whilst dealing with street children directly, they also aim to deal with the many roots of the problems causing and faced by street children

Their website has recently been updated, and is well worth a look.

