

Center For Regional Development



Location: Potosi, Bolivia

Partner: Global Fund for Children

Issue Areas: Extreme Poverty, Gender Equality, Economic Sustainability

Points of Interest: Child Labor, Mining

The Organization

Founded in 1987 to combat the government's lacking efforts to address the increasing issue of poverty in and around the city of Potosi, the Center for Regional Development (CRD) promotes local community development, economic opportunities, and improved quality of life for vulnerable women and children in the mining region around Potosi, Bolivia. The CRD developed the Child Miners Project that specifically focusing on preventing and reducing child labor in the mines by providing economic and educational alternatives to working in the mines through scholarships, tutoring support, vocational training, and youth enterprises. One of CRD's most successful youth enterprises is a youth-run greenhouse. The greenhouse produces fruits and vegetables for the local market, and CRD cafeterias that provide free meals to malnourished children. The produce is also sold in the local market and all proceeds from the produce support the education and programs for CRD youth. The CRD also runs radio program to address issues of education, health, and the environment in their community.

Why the Need?

Bolivia has a population of 9 million and nearly 5.4 million, 60% of the population, live below the poverty line. The average family has 6 children and even at an early age children are expected to help earn income to provide for the family's basic needs. Employment is hard to find, and finding a job that pays decent and fair wages is even more difficult.

In the city of Potosi, mining is the main source of employment. Mining is dangerous work, performed manually with just hammers and picks and often without adequate safety equipment. Conditions are harsh, with average work days lasting 10 hours in dark, cramped space with temperatures regularly hitting over 100 degrees. These conditions and safety hazards have contributed to the lowering of the average life expectancy of miners to just 38 years. Often the children working in the mines never return to their school and it becomes much more difficult for them to find new employment due to lack of education and skills.

How Team Efforts Translate to Impact

100% of NGC funds raised will help CRD prevent and reduce child labor in the mines by providing alternative economic and educational opportunities to children and their families. Funds will specifically support the greenhouse program. In 2009 CDR served 150 children participating in the greenhouse.

The Partner

The Global Fund for Children (GFC) is a leading institution on the rights of children. GFC advances the education and dignity of young people around the world. They envision a world where children grow up to be productive, caring citizens of our global society. GFC supports over 150 small, community-based groups that improve education for children who would otherwise be left behind.

NGC's Approach to Sustainable Global Change

NGC and our Global Partners believe that people in communities all over the world are the real experts and know their community and solutions to their own problems. We want to advocate and educate others on behalf of this model of sustainable global change. Additionally, we seek to empower our grassroots Global Projects with the financial resources to create change at the grassroots level. 100% of funds your team raises are sent to Center for Regional Development.

By sending your team's funds directly, your project organization has the power to decide the best way to use the money. Since money will be spent in the community, your funds will also support the local economy.

Center for Regional Development works to bring economic and educational alternatives to children working in the mines of Potosi, Bolivia.

Additional Resources

Partner Website: <http://www.globalfundforchildren.org>

CIA World Factbook (Bolivia): <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/bl.html>

Embassy of Bolivia: <http://www.embassy.org/embassies/bo.html>

Related News: <http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/bolivia/100316/bolivia-children-mines>

Article about Child Labor in Mines of Boliva: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/7448032.stm>

2007 documentary film: *The Devil's Miner*

See your team binder for more ways to educate your team about your project.