



Annual report
May 2008 - April 2009



*"Pray for the dead,
and fight like hell
for the living"*

Dame Anita Roddick 1942-2007
Founder of Children on the Edge



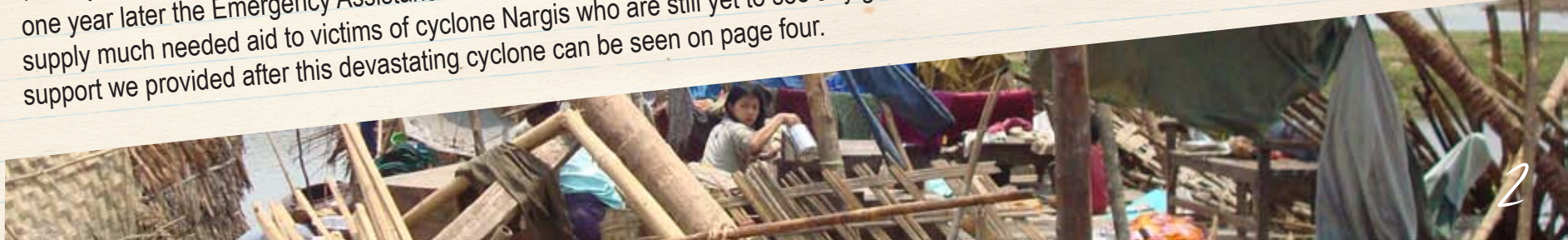
What about Burma?

Burma

The Burmese military is guilty of committing crimes against humanity towards over 100 ethnic groups within Burma including: the widespread and systematic use of rape, forced labour, forced relocation of villages, use of human minesweepers, torture and killings. Burma also has the highest number of forcibly conscripted child soldiers in the world, estimated to be 70,000. Since democratic rule ended in Burma in 1962 the military has destroyed twice as many villages as in Darfur, Sudan, forcing millions of innocent villagers to flee into the jungles of Burma as internally displaced people (IDPs) or to neighbouring countries as refugees, legal and illegal migrants. Thousands of these are children, the very children we are committed to providing with a place of safety free from war, oppression, persecution, hunger and children trafficking.

Burma 2008

The world stood up and noticed Burma when on May 3rd 2008 it was hit and devastated by cyclone Nargis. But at the same time Burma's ruling military regime turned their back on their people denying aid and aid workers into the country claiming they were in control of the situation. Yet one year later the Emergency Assistance Team – a group of grass roots organizations we supported to supply cross border aid, continue to supply much needed aid to victims of cyclone Nargis who are still yet to see any government support. More details on cyclone Nargis and the support we provided after this devastating cyclone can be seen on page four.





Our Work on the Burma-Thai border

Thailand

With the devastation of cyclone Nargis and continued persecution of the people of Burma we have seen an increase in children at all facilities including schools, nurseries and boarding houses. Numbers have increased considerably which has meant an increase in funding needs and resources.

Additional resources have also been needed at all schools due to the welcomed involvement of the Thai Ministry of Education. The intention is that the schools will be formally recognised by the ministry as learning centres. However, the journey towards this formal recognition means the schools are required to meet standards and expectations set by the ministry which include increased student resources such as multiple text books and uniform standards. Long term the hope is the learning centres will be seen as an introductory step allowing the children to eventually move into Thai education facilities.

Our work - Schools, Nurseries and boarding houses

Throughout the year we have seen an increase in the number of students and boarders at the facilities we support with some increasing by up to 100%.

In addition to the hundreds of children we support providing their basic needs such as nutritious meals (498,500 in the 2008-2009 school year), drinking water, healthcare, access to an education and the resources required, shelter and a place of safety we have also been working towards facility improvements.

Here's a few highlights of the additional support we have provided this year:

- Installed 3 water purifiers providing clean drinking water for over 350 children
- Replaced a school roof preventing water from leaking through during the rainy season while the children study
- Built a new school for 150 children
- Built new toilets for 150 children
- Provided an income for women with HIV or AIDS through our Fairtrade production of gift purses



Cyclone Nargis

Cyclone Nargis

In May 2008, tropical cyclone Nargis bore down on southern Burma, claiming at least 140,000 victims and affecting 2.4 million others.

Ignoring protests from foreign governments and aid agencies, Burma's military junta refused widespread access to the devastated Irrawaddy delta for weeks after the storm hit.

Working with a coalition of Burmese grassroots organisations based on the border with Thailand, Children on the Edge was able to secure channels for aid and personnel (Burmese) to cross the border into the worst affected areas. Within days the coalition was providing food, water, cooking equipment, shelter, clothing, health services and rehabilitation to those most in need. It was provided directly to affected communities. The coalition continues to provide aid to communities in need who have yet to receive government assistance 12 months after the storm.

We were thrilled to gain the support of the Wellington Vodafone Lions in our efforts to raise much needed funds for the victims of cyclone Nargis. For more details on their support see page eight.





Meet one of the children

Meet Poe Nay Nay

This is Poe Nay Nay, she is 11 years old and lives in the Thoo Mwee Khee boarding house right on the Thai/ Burma border which is supported by Children on the Edge. She's been here for 2 years now, originally from small village in the Karen State Burma called Maw Ker Tha, she now calls Thoo Mwee Khee home.

Her parents brought her and her brother to Thoo Mwee Khee when the Burmese army starting coming to their village more and more taking food and money and anything else they wanted.

Poe Nay Nay's parents feared for their safety so travelled for 2 days by foot after hearing about the boarding house. Things had got bad at their village, the soldiers had started planting land mines around the village to restrict their ability to travel. Last year when her father was returning to the village from gathering bamboo to mend their house he stood on a landmine. He was alone so tried to crawl to the his village but never made it. He died on the edge of the road.

'There was just one school in our village but the army closed it a lot and we were not allowed to learn Karen (their native language). I like it here at Thoo Mwee Khee, we don't have to worry about the soldiers coming, we have food everyday, we have friends and I love it when the volunteers are here and do activities with us.' said Poe Nay Nay.

5 Poe Nay Nay has decided she wants to study at the local refugee and migrant clinic when she is older to become a medic. 'I want to be a medic, to go back to Burma and help people like my family – we have no doctors in our village or area. But I will have to travel to many villages as most do not have help. It will be dangerous because of the soldiers but I will do it to help my people.'



Our Heroes

Every year we continue to be amazed by the support selfless individuals give us. We obviously need to raise funds to meet the needs of the children we support, yet we would be unable to do this without a few outstanding individuals donating their time, skills and talent. This year we would like to introduce two outstanding heroes who continue to support Children on the Edge and advocate for the cause and the children we support.

Lyn Mansfield



Lyn has been volunteering for Children on the Edge since it began in 2006. Her primary role is Financial Coordinator which requires her to work one day or more a week yet Lyn doesn't stop there. In addition to the extensive time and travel she puts into working for the organization weekly she also contributes in any other way she can which over the last year has included making thank you cards and catering an event for 250 people. Lyn also took the time to travel to Thailand this year to visit the projects and the children we support. Pictured left with teachers from a school supported by Children on the Edge. Children on the Edge would like to formally acknowledge the time, effort and commitment Lyn provides to the organization. Without Lyn, we truly wouldn't be able to exist and help the thousands of children we do, which is the reason we have selected her as one of our 2009 Children on the Edge Heroes.

Cori Gonzalez-Macuer



Cori is a well known New Zealand comedian, winner of the 2005 Billy T Award, and he even starred in an award winning TV Show. He began volunteering for Children on the Edge in 2008 when his mother, a dedicated and regular supporter of Children on the Edge asked if he would lend his time and talent. Cori went one step further and recruited fellow comedians, producing sell out shows, in Wellington and Auckland in August 2008. This incredible success was quickly followed by shows as part of the New Zealand International Comedy Festival 2009, this time recruiting local and international acts. Again the shows sold out across the country and Cori proved unconditionally why we have selected him as one of our 2009 Children on the Edge Heroes.



Working Locally

Volunteers and the community

We received an extensive amount of support from the local community through business support and sponsorship along with an increased number of volunteers both locally and on the Burma/ Thai border.

Locally we have a strong team of volunteers we can call on for events and tasks and others who work on a regular basis which include a research role, financial role and public relations.

On the Burma/ Thai border we have had nine volunteers raise the funds needed to travel and work on the border area in a wide range of roles including teaching and nursing skills. This period also allowed for best practice of volunteer programs to be developed by a volunteer who travelled to the border area and identified new options and best practice for future programs.

Events

2008-2009 saw an increase in public fund raising events to not only raise much needed funds but to raise awareness of the issue and the children we support. These events included:

7 Cori & Co on the Edge for Burma – New Zealand Comedian Cori Gonzalez-Macuer, winner of the 2005 Billy T Award and star of the award winning TV show Jono's New Show hosted and starred in a comedy extravaganza which saw sell out shows in Wellington and Auckland. Cori recruited friends and fellow comedians to be part of the event which led to a lineup of 6 comedians in both centres and a flawless production by Cori.



Events Continued...

The Wellington Vodafone Lions - we were thrilled to receive the support of the Wellington Vodafone Lions in our efforts to raise much needed funds for the victims of cyclone Nargis. Over 50 volunteers lined the access to the Westpac Stadium prior to the 2008 quarter final game to collect donations from those attending. The Wellington Vodafone Lions took it upon themselves to provide us with prime advertising space in the Dominion Post, provide players for promotions relating to the cause and tickets for all the volunteers donating their time.

Shades of Burma – An exhibition featuring the art of Karen (Burmese ethnic group) artist, Saw Kennedy. His work was exhibited for a week at the St James Theatre then sold at an invitation only event which saw the successful sale of all 25 pieces with the highest sale being \$1,800 for the exquisite piece entitled Innocence.

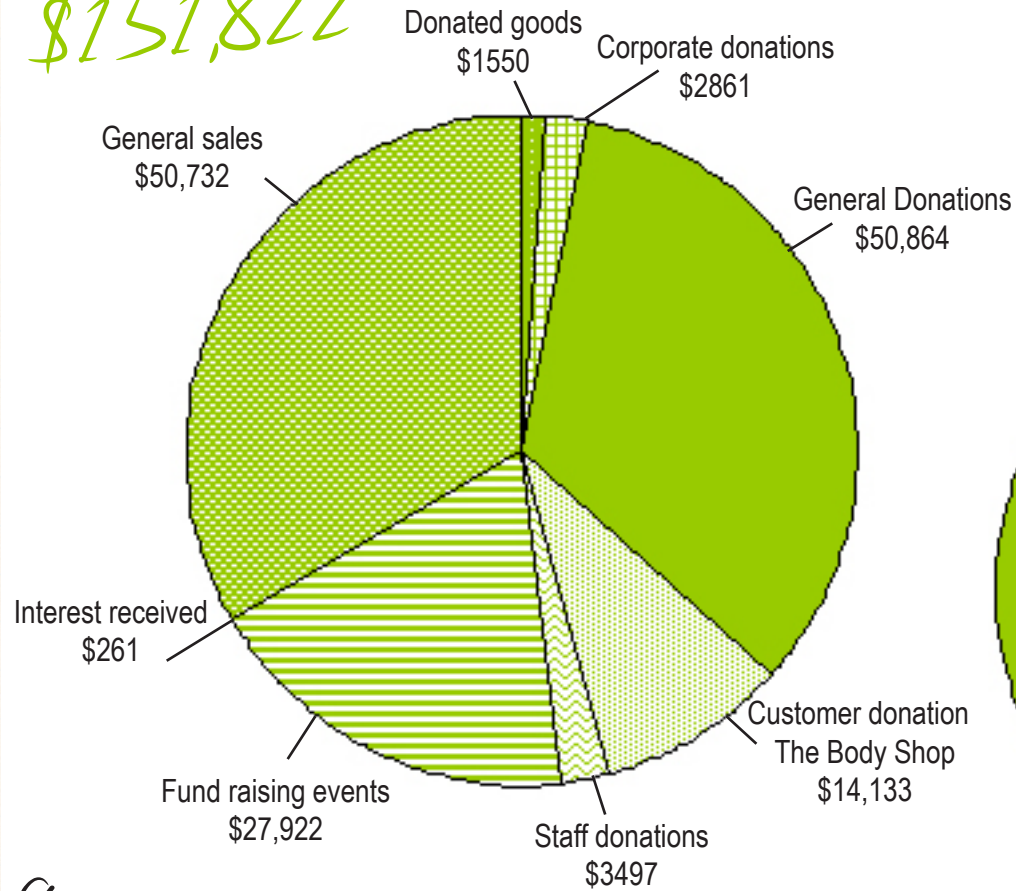
Charlie's – Children on the Edge was proud to partner with Charlie's juice. Children on the Edge constructed two 'old fashioned' style lemonade stands and attended the One Love Waitangi Day concert and the Cuba Street Carnival selling thousands of bottles of the Charlie's Old Fashioned Lemonade. The events were such a great success we have scheduled to be part of the 2009-2010 Wellington summer festivities.

New Zealand International Comedy Festival 2009 – hot on the heels of the success of Cori & Co on the Edge for Burma, Cori stepped up again to host and produce 'Cori & Co on the Edge' as part of the New Zealand International Comedy Festival. The show featured over 20 New Zealand and International comedians in two sell out shows seen in Wellington and Auckland.



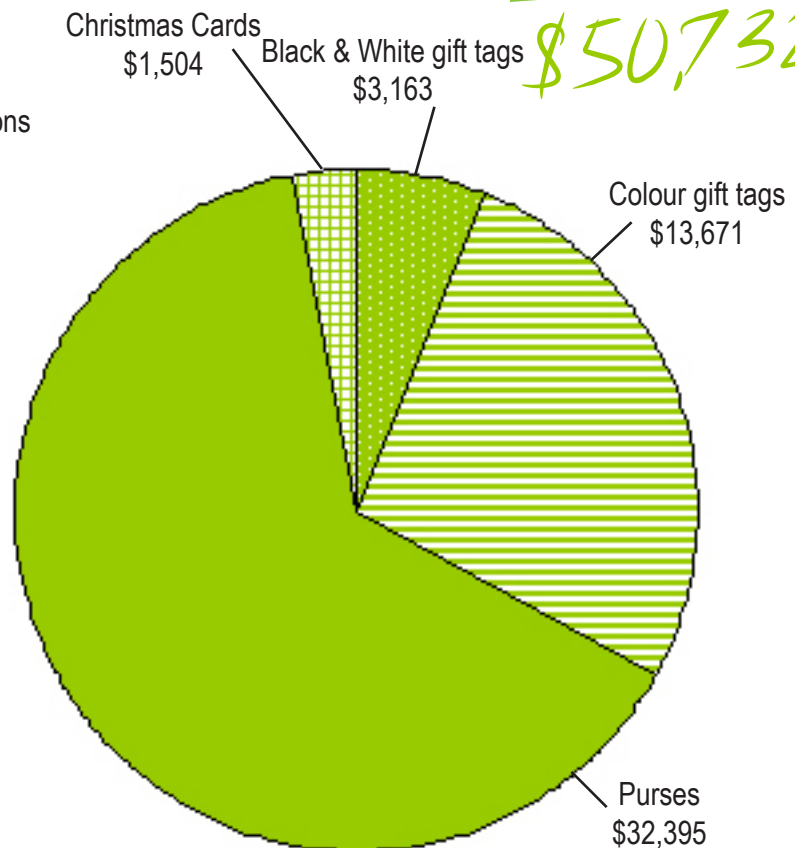
Finance - Income

\$151,822



Sales

\$50,732

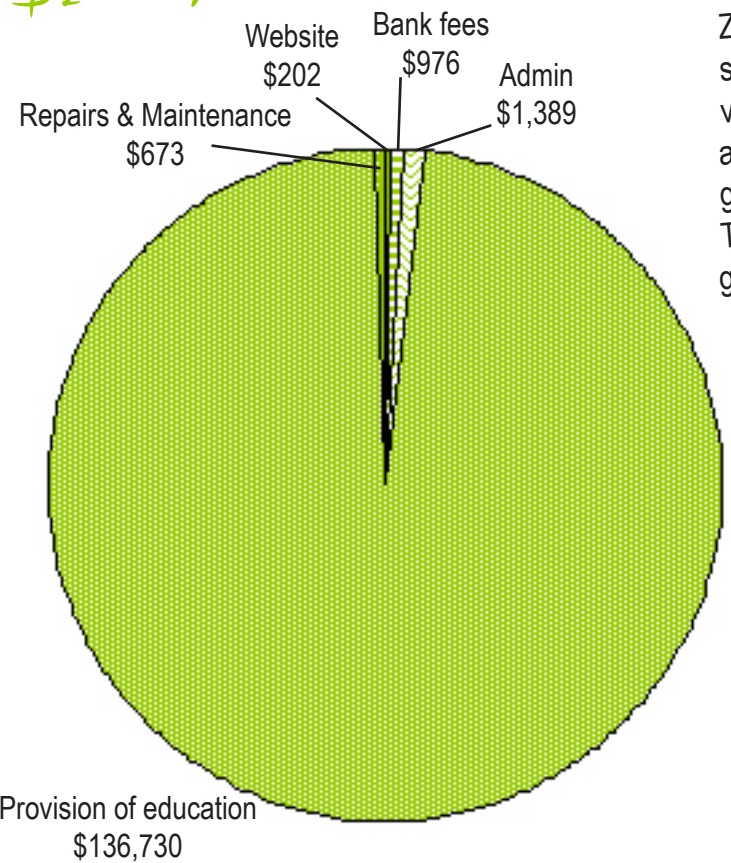




Finance - Expenses

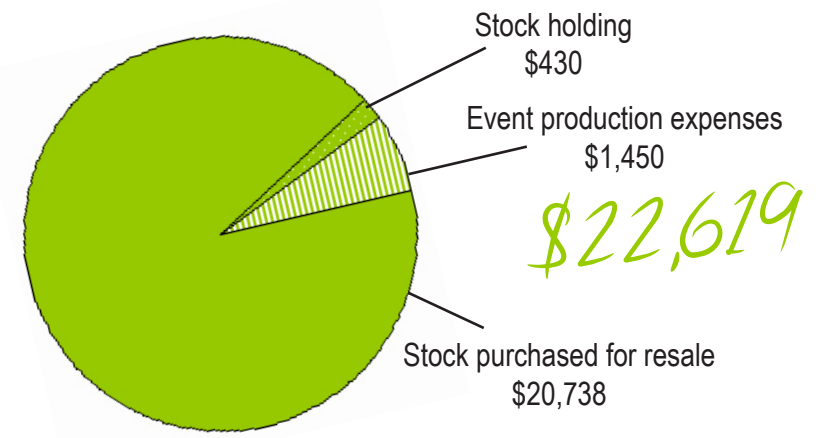
Finance Summary

\$139,973



We have seen another successful year with fantastic support from local businesses and the community. We have received outstanding support from The Body Shop New Zealand for yet another year, they provide not only our managers salary, but also have selected us as their charity of choice for their customer loyalty program and give us a vehicle to display and sell our products through their retail outlets. This ongoing support and commitment has resulted in a 45% growth in our retail sales on last year, and 17% growth in overall income. The increased income can also be credited to fund raising events which saw 154% growth as a result of increasing the number of events and market appeal.

Cost of sales





Our Supporters

Children on the Edge would like to sincerely thank the following companies for their support over the 2008-2009. Everything we have achieved we have been able to do because of you.



Some very special volunteers

11 Lyn Mansfield, Barrie Thomas, Cori Gonzalez-Macuer, Charles Vallance, Jennifer King, Peter Perry, Annie Coates, Mikey Gibson, Julia Scirkovich, Krystle Bevege, Hali Purcell, Victoria Bednarek, Ellen Williams, Sarah Mayer, Kim Gray, Paul Robinson, Pat Shepherd, Jacqui Larkin, Karl Wederell, Louise Mills, Sarah Allemann, Ruth Sam, Fiona Adams, Jo Touhy, Lynda Tan, Lil Taare, Asher Thomas, Aleksandra Glumac, Bob Alagh & The Body Shop staff.

We would also like to take the opportunity to sincerely thank our very special Trustees, Barrie Thomas & Bridget Dunn.



How can you help?

Donations can be made in a few different ways, and it doesn't take much at all to make a real difference.

1. Visit www.childrenontheedge.org.nz and donate online

2. Send us a Cheque to:
Children on the Edge
9-13 Kaiwharawhara Road,
Wellington 6035
(remember to include your details so we can send you a receipt)

3. Set up an automatic payment: Just email hookmeup@childrenontheedge.org.nz and we'll send you all the details you need to get started.

Ask your employer to automatically deduct a donation from your wages: Just email hookmeup@childrenontheedge.org.nz and we'll send you all the details to pass onto your employer.

Note: All donations to Children on the Edge are 100% Tax deductible up to the level of your annual income.

How much? It's up to you, \$7 will provide drinking water for 100 kids for a week, \$5 buys a mosquito net, \$6.50 will provide one child's stationery for a year, \$5 for nutritious meals for one child for a month, \$11 dollars an entire school uniform for one child including shoes and \$35 will cover a local teacher's salary for a week....



Our details

Snail Mail

9-13 Kaiwharawhara Road
Wellington 6035

Inter-web

www.childrenontheedge.org.nz

email

info@childrenontheedge.org.nz

Who to call?

National Manager
Shelly Mansfield
DDI 04 460 7455

Charity

CC10551

Account

National Bank
Children on the Edge (NZ)
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