



*The Children's International Learning Centre*

# *Annual Report*

## *2008 - 2009*

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*Founded 1970*

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Lieutenant Governor of Ontario*

*Patron*

*The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander*

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*Honorary Vice President:*

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*Financial Consultant*

*Manuela Dettori, C.A.*

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*Stephanie Lostanaw*

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*Manuela Dettori, C.A*

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*Executive Director:*

*Lana Lowe*

*Programme Manager:*

*Kyi Sint Maung*

*The Children's International Peace Choir*

*Artistic Director:*

*Pamela Marques*



## Mission Statement & History of The Children's International Learning Centre:

*“With international resources and input from community and global experts, we develop dynamic hands-on programmes which encourage attitudes of respect for all people and for our common environment.”*

*UNICEF began in 1946 as the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund to help the children of war-devastated Europe. In the early 1950's, the General Assembly shortened UNICEF'S name and enlarged the organization's mandate to address the problems of children in the developing world. In 1965, UNICEF was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, linking work for children to world peace.*

*In an issue of “UNICEF News”, 1968, there appeared a short article about the “Information Centre on Children's Cultures” which had been established by UNICEF volunteers in New York City. The Centre assembled a collection of children's books, toys, games, costumes, household articles, musical instruments and handicrafts from many lands.*

*With this idea in mind, the Centre in Hamilton was established in October 1970 by Sheila and Doug Davies to help celebrate the 25th anniversary of the United Nations. Originally, the Centre, housed in a single room and requiring untold volunteer hours to set up temporary displays in schools & libraries, dreamed of acquiring artifacts from every continent.*

*In January 1972, the group received the official approval of the Director of Education for Hamilton Public Schools for classes to visit. For many years, school classes & community groups visited The Children's International Learning Centre (CILC) in rooms at the MacNab St. YWCA. By 1990, THE CHILDREN'S INTERNATIONAL LEARNING CENTRE, a free-standing not-for-profit organization with its own Board of Directors, was working from its own suite at 100 James St. S., using artifacts from over 92 countries to produce interactive educational programming for all ages.*

*In January 2001, The Children's International Learning Centre moved to its present location. We are fortunate enough to own the building at 189 King William St., Hamilton. We even have green space!*

*With a small staff of 2 and over 80 invaluable volunteers who dedicate their time and resources, The Children's International Learning Centre continues to grow.*

*The Children's International Learning Centre is a not-for-profit organization supported by admissions, memberships, donations, grants and volunteers.*

## ☞ President's Report 2008-2009 ☞

*This year the president's report will reflect a more personal tone as I look back on my past 10 years of volunteering, part of which was my 2 year term as president. It hardly seems possible that I started volunteering at The Children's International Learning Centre (CILC) in 1999. Since then many things have changed.*

*We have moved from a basement location in downtown Hamilton to an area which is in a constant state of urban renewal. Our large "L" shaped building even has green space! A few of our neighbours include the Hamilton Central Police Station, Theatre Aquarius-Dofasco Centre for the Arts, The N-Gage programme of The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board and the Immigrant Women's Centre.*

*Our prized garden continues to develop under the loving guidance of Isabella Marchese, the green-space co-ordinator. This year, 5 Karen women who are students at the Immigrant Women's Centre were invited to plant vegetables in the garden. They along with our tenants keep the grass trimmed and help to maintain this precious space of flowers and vegetables. We also have more volunteers interested in assisting to care for the garden. During the winter months our tenants keep the parking lot, walkways and sidewalks clear of snow so our small staff can focus on programming.*

*Our dynamic programmes draw record numbers of people. We had over 5000 visitors who learned from our hands-on interactive themes. We continue to offer an outstanding programme called "Festivals of Light" which was presented from November to January 2009. Every space was filled and we have a waiting list for the upcoming year. Our new programme, "What's On the Menu?" informs our visitors about healthy eating around the world and about food sources according to different climates. Many thanks to our Programme Manager and the programming committee for their many hours of service to the Centre.*

*Although Bingo revenues are lower than last year, we appreciate our volunteers who donated their time and energy an average of two times a month to help run our sessions at Delta Bingo so that we may have a constant source of income.*

*Our present board of directors also saw changes this year. We were privileged to have younger members join who have injected new energies and ideas for the growth of the CILC. We look forward to a fall fundraising concert which will be planned by one of our newest board members.*

*Another exciting change which happened this year was the construction of our new brochure thanks to one of our new board members. Part of a generous grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation was put towards the design and creation of an eye-catching, informative pamphlet. This new P.R. tool will be mailed to schools, day cares and day camps. It will also travel to outreach activities.*

*When I started volunteering my role was that of a programme facilitator. I assisted in providing educational material along with hands-on activities to the numerous visitors. Now, I also go on out-reach activities to the community and chair meetings. As a person of the blind community I am more self-confident with my physical challenge and am more relaxed and able to share my experiences with children when they ask questions.*

*The volunteers are honoured with a gold pin for 10 years of service. My gold pin will be something to treasure since I couldn't imagine volunteering at a place for so long let alone serve as president for the past two years of such a wonderful educational organization. I would humbly like to thank our multi-talented Executive Director (who expertly juggles finances, programming and day-to-day administrative duties), our Programme Manager, volunteers, and present and past board members for their support. I look forward to the Centre's 40 anniversary in 2010!*



*Yours respectfully,*

*Keith Doyle,  
President 2007-2009*

## *↻ A Year in Programme Review 2008-2009 ↻*

*The Children's International Learning Centre (CILC) has developed interactive, hands-on programmes which follow not only our mission statement which encourages attitudes of respect for all people and our common environment but also complements the Ontario Curriculum. Our dynamic programmes are adaptable for each grade level as well as for participants from different groups such as homeschoolers, religious schools, guiding and scouting units, daycares, day camps, and even some adult classes.*

*Each year, the Children's International Learning Centre continues to develop and produce programmes to the surrounding community with the help of many volunteers at all levels of the organization. We participate in various outreach and volunteer fairs in order to attract many valuable and dedicated volunteers to our organization.*

*As of August 2008, with the help of Job Connect from Mohawk College I joined the staff as a Programme Manager after working as a volunteer since October 2007. I was hired on contract in cooperation with Job Connect until December but the contract has been extended to the present date independently by the Children's International Learning Centre.*

*As I joined the CILC, we continued to move forward and promote our unique programmes to our loyal participants as well as garnering new ones to visit us to learn more about what we have to offer. Each year we mail out flyers with information on our various programmes and their accompanying schedules to different school boards (both public and private), daycares, guiding and scouting units, and homeschoolers. This usually takes place in the middle of August (which marks the beginning of our busiest time to come when we start to set up for our highly anticipated and popular programme, "Festivals of Light") as well as in January and May.*

*Around September, we said goodbye to some of our volunteers while welcoming new volunteers to our CILC community as part of a normal volunteer transition. Some of the volunteers moved on from post-secondary school to pursue other endeavours and so we reached out to potential new ones at various volunteer fairs such as the McMaster University volunteer fair and the Mohawk College volunteer fair.*

*Throughout September and October, Lana and I, along with our volunteers spent the majority of the time at the Centre setting up the displays for "Festivals of Light". As November arrived, we revved up to welcome the first of many groups of participants. This programme ran until the end of January, 2009 with our last class taking place on Saturday the 31<sup>st</sup>.*

*As "Festivals of Lights" wrapped up, the displays began to come down in order to get ready for the next programme, cleverly titled, "What's on the menu?" This is an eco-nutrition programme examining the benefits of eating locally grown foods while appreciating and valuing the diversity in food that we've come to enjoy. The set up took place in the months of February and March and also went well in April even though the programme was intended to start in April. When being creative to set up a brand new "look" of a programme there is always trial and error as we figure out what will work best given our programme area*

restrictions, limited display resources and expertise of our volunteer display designers. Our first class was booked on June 4<sup>th</sup> and so we took the extra time to fine tune our displays as well as our information.

## **Programmes of the past year:**

### Global Harmony- Our Musical Roots (March 24 – Aug 22, 2008):

balalaika (string instrument)

*This programme encouraged our participants to understand and appreciate our musical roots and how they helped shape many of the kinds of music we enjoy and listen to today. We wanted our participants to learn that music has roots all around the world and is very much linked to all cultures.*



*Our participants examined the different aspects and themes of music including music history, music language, role models within our musical community, and the 4 families of musical instruments. As always, we incorporated different interactive and hands-on activities which include: listening to cultural music, naming a tune, singing genres of music, drawing to music, and making instruments out of recycled materials to complement our themes. Other games and activities had the participants review what they had learned in a particular section by becoming “audience members” as they answered questions on our push button electrical board, becoming “dictionaries” as they added to our music alphabet wall, and becoming “tokens” in a large board game.*

*Different musical instruments were showcased as part of our eye-catching displays and gave the participants a chance to explore instruments they may not have seen before. Once again, we are very grateful to the Joe Chithalen Memorial Musical Instrument Lending Library for loaning us some special instruments which enhanced our programme.*

### Global Playroom (available January – September):

Global Play homes

*This programme encourages our youngest participants to explore different types of traditional homes around the world that people may live in. We convey to them how the types of homes people choose to live in depend on numerous factors such as climate, the surrounding environment, season, and availability of resources. Through play acting, the children visit 4 different homes requiring different sets of criteria for living. While the children explore how people’s homes can be different in different places, they also learn that everyone requires the same basic needs: love, food, water, and of course, a home to live in. Using “vegetables” which they have planted they get an opportunity to visit the market person from whom they can barter for blankets, pots, pans, fruits, fish, sheep and wood.*



Orbit the Earth (available January – September):

*This is an engaging programme which explores parts of our solar system including the moon, the stars, and the planets. This programme relies on scientific facts to further our participants' knowledge about space and the universe. Using visually stimulating glow-in-the-dark stars, the children learn to identify some of the different constellations that they can observe. The children visit the moon as "astronauts" and discover the qualities of the moon. When learning about the planets, which includes Pluto even though it is no longer considered one, we use huggable planets made out of fabric and stuffing that are then scaled down to size. The programme also emphasizes on an important message which teaches our young participants about Earth and its significance to all living things. There is no other planet like Earth that is better suited for our needs and we must all do our part to help protect it.*

Huggable Planets



Festivals of Light (November 4- January 31, 2009):

*Once again, like every year, Festivals of Light was a fun and exciting time. It was also a very busy one as we were booked everyday for classes sometimes well into the night with evening classes, in the months of November and December. We resumed classes after the school winter break until the very last day in January. Many teachers had booked in advance for this highly popular programme as it is complementary to the Grade 2 curriculum on celebrations and the schedule was quickly filled up by October so that we had again, a waiting list. Our schedule day to day was very hectic (lunch would sometimes have to wait until 3:00 when the afternoon participants left) and at times, we struggled to get enough programme facilitators to teach the classes. Most of the time, we were able to be innovative and adapt the breakdown of the classes to accommodate only a few programme facilitators. For example, in the discovery room, we would have two facilitators and three celebrations. We managed to rotate the groups successfully but it was important that our programme facilitators knew how to teach at least two celebrations.*

*We talked about seven global celebrations in this programme which are celebrated both locally and around the world. This year we learned about Diwali, Lunar New Year, Kwanzaa, Christmas, Hajj/Eid-ul-Adha, Hanukkah, and Iroquois Midwinter Ceremony. We taught the children that all of these celebrations are celebrated here in Canada but had originated from somewhere else with the exception of the Midwinter ceremony.*

## **The Discovery Room:**

*Diwali, Lunar New Year, and Kwanzaa were set up in our Discovery Room and each had the look of walking into or viewing someone's home.*



*For Diwali, we had the students sit down in a circle in what looked like a courtyard surrounded by homes lighted by twinkly fairy lights and deepa/diya lights.*



*Kwanzaa was set up to look like a dinner table with different fruits and vegetables as well as artifacts from our extensive collection. The children experienced the feeling of sitting down together for a Kwanzaa feast and learning about how it had started not too long ago in the United States.*



*Lunar New Year experienced a name change. For many years it was entitled Chinese New Year and Tet, the Vietnamese New Year. As students entered this area it gave you the feel of walking into a family's apartment which had a balcony view of a city at night with fireworks displays.*

### ***The Gallery Room:***

*In the larger, open concept Gallery Room, we talked about Iroquois Midwinter Ceremony, Hajj/Eid-ul-Adha, Hanukkah, and Christmas.*



*For the Iroquois Mid-winter Ceremony we had a great big mural of a long house set up along one of the large walls to create the effect of almost walking into a long house to showcase how the six nations families lived in this traditional type of house a long time ago. A “fire” was set up in the middle of our Midwinter display to illustrate its importance to this ceremony.*



*Hajj/Eid-ul-Adha was a new addition to this programme. Previously, we had taught Ramandan and Eid-ul-Fitr. This past year, however, we realized that Ramadan was taking place earlier in the year, specifically at the beginning of September. The celebrations we choose for “Festivals of Light” usually take place in the months of October to February. At this time of the year many teachers discuss this unit with their students*

*since the cultural observances occur within this time frame. So, we took on a new and exciting challenge to bring in a different celebration which is an integral part of Islam. A wonderful new mural of the Kabbah in Mecca was painted during the months of September and October (designated time for display set-up) by Bert Wreford who has done numerous other murals for us to use in our other programmes.*



*For Hanukkah (Chanukkah, Hanukah –there is no correct translation to English), we put up a scene of a family enjoying dinner as they relived the story of Judah and the Maccabees. The participants had the feeling of joining the family in the story telling*



*Christmas showcased the story of the Three Wise Men or the Three Kings traveling from far away places to the town of Bethlehem to visit the baby Jesus. Part of this display showcases our priceless crèches from around the globe. We have crèches from Jordan, the West Bank, Argentina, Mexico, El Salvador, Togo, and one from a member of the Turtle Clan from the Six Nations just to name a few.*

*In the programming area for all the celebrations, various types of lights were used to capture the essence of the programme. Our participants learned that all these celebrations use light to illustrate joy, happiness, comfort, hope, and warmth. Our displays made use of different kinds of lights including twinkle lights (a more inclusive terminology, rather than Christmas lights), lanterns, pretend fire, deepa or diya lamps (Diwali), menorahs (Hanukkah), kinaras (Kwanzaa), and fireworks to highlight and illuminate all the celebrations. As always, we incorporated many different hands-on activities and crafts to enhance our programme.*

*This year we saw over 3000 students plus adult classroom volunteers and teachers. Returning teachers from previous years kept telling us how our displays “keep getting better and better each year.” This programme is a huge undertaking and a lot of hard work and dedication went into creating these visually stimulating displays for all our visitors to enjoy. We are thankful to the many new creative and artistic volunteers whose touch added to the eye-catching 3D displays. We hope that we continue to improve not only our displays but also the information that we present to our visitors. Thus, participants will have a better understanding of the shared celebrations in the local community and around the world. This knowledge will hopefully create a heightened awareness of the similarities we share and will therefore create a more harmonious respect for all. We are very pleased and proud to have had another successful run of this popular programme.*

## **Current Programme:**

### What’s on the menu? (April to August 2009)

*Our current theme on display focuses on eco-nutrition. It examines the benefits of eating locally grown foods in order to minimize our carbon footprint while supporting a healthy diet. Of equal importance is acknowledging the diversity of foods that we have come to value. The importance of food for cultural identity is also highlighted. This programme encourages us to think about how we can balance this dichotomy in a time when we must be conscious of how we contribute to the health of our bodies and of our common environment.*

*The programme examines various themes: our carbon footprint, climatic regions where foods can grow, shopping for food in a modern supermarket and at a local or traditional market, food for special occasions, the concept of we are what we eat, understanding the differences in food preparation and elements of what it takes to make meals in a traditional kitchen versus a modern one, and nutrition and the four food groups. These themes all serve as sections for our participants to examine and learn about.*

*During the planning stages of this programme we were partnered with several community organizations including Green Venture and Let’s Talk Science. We continue to consult with Green Venture for this programme as well as plan for future endeavours. Let’s Talk Science, McMaster chapter was initially going to assist with the set-up and teaching of the “we are what we eat” section. Unfortunately, our contact informed us that they would be unable to*

*garner enough volunteers to assist us in this way. Our creative volunteers rose to the challenge of getting this section ready. While Let's Talk Science could not be physically present for the programme, they continued to advise us with data and suggested ideas for hands-on activities. We want to extend our gratitude to all our programme partners, committee members and volunteers who have contributed with ideas, resources, expertise, time and creativeness in order to bring factual information to a level of understand or all ages.*

### Volunteers:

*The volunteers of The Children's International Learning Centre are an integral part of the organization. Our "Festivals of Light" pot-luck dinner is a wonderful way to celebrate the calendar year end. This is a chance for us to relax among the people who are more than just volunteers. They are members of the CILC family who we also consider as friends.*

*Volunteers assist with: day-to-day operations; develop, produce and implement programmes; fundraise; assist in grant writing; market and publicize the CILC; maintain the building, surrounding area and green space as well as participate as members of the board.*

*In recognition of all their hard work we honour them at appreciation gatherings and at our Annual General Meeting. A certificate is handed out to those who have contributed greatly but have not yet been volunteering for a year. A bronze pin is awarded for one year of service. The silver pin is for those who have been around for five years. The seasoned volunteers who have been with us for ten years and have given so much of themselves for so long deservedly receive a gold pin.*

### Events:

*Again, this year we participated in many community events:*

- Outreach display at MacNeil Church (April)*
- Mundialization AGM (May)*
- Peace Tree Day (May)*
- St. Joseph's Immigrant Women's Centre community outreach (July)*
- Citizenship Court (August)*
- McMaster volunteer fair (September)*
- McMaster Mac Serve (September)*
- Mohawk volunteer fair (September)*
- Gandhi Peace Festival (October)*
- Hamilton-Wentworth Occasional Teacher's Workshop (October)*
- Burlington Mundalization event (October)*
- St. Joseph's Immigrant Women's Centre Marketplace (November)*
- Global Village – Unicef (November)*

*Finally, I would like to extend my warmest gratitude to all our volunteers without whom our organization would not continue to exist. We develop and produce such wonderful*

*programmes for our community and it is with their help that we are able to do so successfully. Our volunteers have always been generous with their time, energy, knowledge, donations, and resources to keep our organization going for many years and we will continue to be grateful for all your kind contributions.*



*Regards,*

*Kyi Sint Maung,  
Programme Manager 2008-2009*

## ❧ **Financial Report** ❧

*This past year has been another financially difficult year for The Children's International Learning Centre (CILC). Gas prices, utility costs, increasing property taxes and insurance premiums have yet again added to the overall cost of running the Centre.*

*Following is a break down of our income during this last financial year of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008-March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009.*

<i>Ontario Trillium Grant</i>	23%	
<i>Donations</i>	21%	
<i>Admissions (Festivals of Light)</i>	13%	
<i>Bingo Revenue</i>	11%	
<i>Grant from the City of Hamilton</i>	11%	<a href="#">Hamilton</a>
<i>Award from Price Waterhouse Coopers</i>	5%	
<i>Rental income</i>	5%	
<i>Other fundraising</i>	4%	
<i>Other admissions</i>	3%	
<i>Nevada Proceeds</i>	2%	
<i>Membership</i>	1%	
<i>Wage subsidy</i>	1%	

*We have continued to benefit from the one year grant received from The Ontario Trillium Foundation which was awarded in August 2007.*

*We are very grateful to our supporters who have donated so generously. Thanks to Price Waterhouse Coopers for the award of \$5,000.00. Donations from MacNeil Baptist Church and Westdale United Church were much appreciated. The City of Hamilton also continues to grant the Centre with money from the Community Partnership Program. We also received \$500.00 from Go Girl Television Productions for the shooting of a movie in front of our building.*

*Proceeds from Bingo events have continued to enable the Centre to pay most of our monthly mortgage. We are still at Delta Bingo in downtown Hamilton every other Tuesday from 2:30 pm to 7pm. Our new location on the mountain where Nevada tickets are sold is very promising and we are looking forward to increased revenues.*

*Thank you to all the volunteers who assisted with our fundraising through bake sales, jewelry, cheese and fair trade coffee, tea and hot chocolate sales. These items are on display for sale in our office.*

*We are very appreciative to the individuals who continue to support us with their membership, donations and priceless volunteer time. We would not be able to provide programmes without these donations, whether they are gifts of time and energy or financial.*

*No amount is too small as some of our members and students give what they can afford. An amount of \$10.00 or more entitles you to a tax receipt.*

*It is our belief in the Centre's mission ".....to encourage attitudes of respect for all people and for our common environment" which makes us look ahead to the years to come.*

*We applaud the efforts of our staff, members, programme interpreters, committee volunteers and Board of Directors for The Children's International Learning Centre.*

*The Finance Committee*

*Children's International Peace Choir Report 2008-2009*



*Another year has passed and the choir consisting of a small membership had an enjoyable year. This year saw a few changes in how we do performances.*

*We started our season with the annual Gandhi Peace Festival. The choir was well accepted in our traditional dress especially as we sing and use sign language for one of the crowd favourites, "Go Now in Peace". We are looking forward to this fall again.*

*Unfortunately, one of our favourite events being our regular Locke St. Christmas caroling was cancelled this year due to lack of appropriate funds in the Locke St. Business Improvement Area(BIA). We hope it will be able to return this coming year. (Slightly unrelated to the whole choir, two choir members joined me and a friend for a professional performance at Christmas time and received a fee for their talents).*

*The first of 2009 brought us to the Black History Celebration. The last weekend in February the choir performed "Colours of the Wind" from the animated movie, Pocahontas. One exciting new development in the choir for this performance was that all the children played an instrument as well as singing in harmony.*

*As everyone knows I have always invited parents to join us in performance. This year we had three adults join us.*

*My idea for more membership in the choir is to advertise in all elementary schools as well as high schools. We encourage performers from the ages of five and up. We will also advertise that only a certain amount of positions are open. We would like to have the group be about 12-15 choristers in size. The music choices selected for the coming year that the choir will sing will be very broad ranging in styles.*

*I would also like to propose that the choirs' name could be slightly altered. Some choices are "International Peace Ensemble (Group)", "International Youth Peace Choir" and my preference "International Peace Chamber Choir."*

*We look forward to another year of performing in the community where we get to share our love of music and pass on the work of The Children's International Learning Centre.*

*Thank you*

*Pamela Marques  
Artistic Director  
The Children's International Peace Choir*