

Firelight Newsflash! 5 October 2009

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AFRICA: Why family is best for orphans

NAIROBI, 30 September (IRIN) - Africa's orphans will experience a richer, more wholesome childhood if they are raised within a family rather than in a childcare institution, according to speakers at a conference on family-based care for children in Nairobi.

CLICK ON LINK BELOW FOR FULL REPORT

[Http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=86363](http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=86363)

Note: Firelight Executive Director, Peter Laugharn, and four Firelight grantee-partners were in attendance at the **First International Conference in Africa on Family Based Care for Children** mentioned in the article and are listed below. Please feel free to contact them if you'd like to know more about the proceedings.

- Sammy Aaron, Director of Action Hope Support Organization in Malawi, actionhopeco@yahoo.com
- Kasirayi Hweta, Director of Loving Hand in Zimbabwe, lovinghand@zol.co.zw
- Phillip Minani, Trustee of Mara Widows Development Group in Tanzania, marawidows5@yahoo.com
- Louis Mwewa, Director of Lupwa Lwabumi Trust in Zambia, louismwewa@yahoo.co.uk

Funding Opportunities

1) Call for Applications: U.N. Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues

Proposals due: 1 November 2009

The Trust Fund for the Second Decade of the World's Indigenous People was established to promote, support and implement the objectives of the Decade.

The Fund will give priority to projects concerning the main areas of the Second Decade: culture, education, health, human rights, the environment and social and economic development.

Indigenous organizations or organizations working for indigenous peoples can apply for small grants from the Trust Fund. It is expected that the Fund will mainly be used for small grants projects with a budget for up to 10,000 US\$ covering one year's expenses. Guidelines to applicants for the Fund are available at the following website:

http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/second_trustfund.html#Call2010

2) Free the Slaves' Harriet Tubman Award

Deadline: 2 November 2009

This award will be given to a community-based organization that is demonstrating how modern slavery can be dismantled and destroyed. This organization will be working to prevent and eliminate slavery, bringing survivors to lasting freedom. The Harriet Tubman Award will go to an organization working within communities to make the most significant and transformative contribution to ending slavery. The winning organization will receive a grant of \$25,000 a year for two years, a technical assistance package worth \$15,000 a year for two years, and a tour to share experiences with relevant organizations. For more information about the award criteria, eligibility guidelines, and nomination process, see:

<http://www.freetheslaves.net/Page.aspx?pid=511>

3) Commonwealth Foundation - Civil Society Responsive Grants Programme

Next due date: 31 December 2009

The Commonwealth Foundation is an inter-governmental organisation, resourced by and reporting to Commonwealth governments, that exists to promote and strengthen civil society's role in sustainable development, democracy and intercultural learning in the Commonwealth. The Foundation's responsive grants are intended to promote co-operation and sharing of skills, knowledge and ideas on Culture, Governance and Democracy, Human Development, and Communities and Livelihoods between developing Commonwealth countries. They are therefore available primarily for activities that involve the participation of people and organisations from more than one developing Commonwealth country. The majority of the grants given by the Foundation are

under £10,000, with the average grant given being approximately £5,000. The website provides information about the Foundation's civil society responsive grants programme. It sets out what activities the Foundation can and cannot support, what the current priorities of the programme are, and how to apply for a grant. You can view their website at:

<http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com/>

Mango's Ten Top Tips for Managing in the Recession

The current economic environment in which civil society organizations operate has become unpredictable. The recession has impacted on NGOs' and CBOs' income and reserves. No-one can predict the depth or length of any reduction in income, but it will not blow over quickly. Here are ten practical ideas to help you manage in these tougher times:

1. **Review your organization's situation.** Consider how the recession is affecting, or could affect your organization. Understand the true picture, not what you'd like to believe. Carry out analysis to understand what your organization does best and why. This will help you focus on your organisation's strengths.
2. **Act decisively.** With increased uncertainty and volatility it is important to take tough decisions early. Focus on key strengths and risks across your organization. Do not underestimate the time taken to agree potentially unpopular decisions. Don't sit back and wait; be ready to take advantage of the recovery when it arrives.
3. **Remember – 'Cash is King'.** Ensure your finances and cashflow are in good order. Cash management is vital. Monitor cash receipts and payments closely to ensure you have funds available when needed. Look closely at your financing and funding arrangements and any foreign exchange risks.
4. **Focus on what really matters.** Evaluate which activities, projects and programmes really add value and meet beneficiaries' priorities. Revisit your existing programmes – what initiatives could you stop or defer?
5. **Manage your cost base.** Focus on areas where performance of expenditures could be improved. Go for targeted cuts rather than across-the-

board cuts so essential activities aren't cut. Focus on using resources more efficiently and effectively. Look at whether your way of operating needs to change.

6. **Reliable management information is key.** Now, more than ever, you need the right management information. Monitor your performance against clearly defined financial and non-financial key performance indicators. Key decisions need to be based upon up-to-date and accurate facts.
7. **Plan for different scenarios.** Be prepared to react quickly and flexibly and plan 'what if' scenarios with your board. Create a range of financial, operational and staffing scenarios that reflect the possible impact of the recession on your organization, and then plan strategies to manage the impact.
8. **Recognise the value of your people.** Regular and clear communication with employees, board members and volunteers is essential. Retaining and motivating key staff is critical to your future - develop appropriate incentives for them.
9. **Understand your stakeholders' positions.** Evaluate the likely impact of the recession on your beneficiaries, funders and other stakeholders. Make sure you understand their issues and priorities and maintain regular and open dialogue.
10. **Take advantage of the opportunities.** Don't stop innovating or investing in those areas of growth you will need for the future. Don't forget who you are or what you do. Keep your eye on the future.

Acknowledgement: *These tips are based on "10 Fundamental Priorities for Managing in a Downturn" by Ian Oakley Smith, Director, PricewaterhouseCoopers Charities Team.*

Want to learn more?

Mango's financial management training manual is available for free in English, French, Spanish (Latin American) and Russian.

See: www.mango.org.uk/guide/resources/manual.aspx

For more information about Mango and their training courses and publications, see their website <http://mango.org.uk/> or email enquiries@mango.org.uk.

Conference Announcement: The International Federation of Educative Communities, Cape Town, 2010

The International Federation of Educative Communities (FICE, www.fice-inter.org) will hold their 2010 Congress in Cape Town, South Africa from December 7th to 10th, 2010. This conference will be organised and hosted by the National Association of Child Care Workers of South Africa. The theme of the conference is 'Celebrating the Courage to Care in a Diverse World.' Further information about the 2010 FICE Congress is available from: <http://www.fice2010.org.za>

UNICEF Video on Social Protection

For the millions of children affected by AIDS worldwide, care and protection can come from many sources, including parents, communities, NGOs and government programmes. This video, available through the campaign, Unite for Children-Unite Against AIDS, shows how social protection – broadly defined as the web of public and private services that address poverty, vulnerability, and exclusion affecting all people – is one source that can help children and families affected by AIDS. To view the video and others, see:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J85LeXnPQQI>

As part of the Firelight Foundation's Monitoring, Evaluation and Technical Assistance (META) Program, Firelight provides "Newsflashes" to share relevant resources and information with our active grantee-partners via weekly emails and via post on a monthly basis. We hope that by facilitating access to information for grassroots, community-focused organizations, programming for children and families, as well as organizational development, is enhanced. Past editions of the Firelight Newsflash can be found on our website: <http://www.firelightfoundation.org/newsflash.htm>.

We welcome your comments, feedback and ideas for upcoming Newsflashes at newsletter@firelightfoundation.org.