

News Letter IICD

IICD Michigan is a private non-profit organization founded in 1997 incorporated in the state of Michigan.

2010 June/July

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ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE, UNOCI FOR M

The US Social Forum 2010 in Detroit (MI) took place from the 22nd to the 26th of June, with the goal to gather people and discuss about the subject: "Another world is possible. Another US is necessary". People from different places from the USA and the world gathered to participate. It was really interesting to see a presentation made by an African, with a volunteer from California, and a citizen from Michigan. "Diversity" and "Interaction" were the key words during the event, which should be called a "process of transformation".

There were NGOs to show their ideas and beliefs in different ways like art, documentaries, media, etc. We could see many activities during the Forum, like workshops and discussions connected with the idea that another world is possible, there were shows

with dance and music with a good message, speeches and peaceful manifestations.

The Forum was an opportunity for us to talk about our projects and ideas and also to hear what others people are doing. We interacted with people not only through conversations but meetings. Using our skills and "breaking the ice", the IICD volunteers played soccer with the forum participants and also played musical instruments during a Capoeira presentation in Cobo Hall. It's important to realize that we can talk the same language in different ways and meet people even through a simple game, or music.

The US Social Forum was a unique opportunity to talk and to plan about actions that can change the world situation. It was a moment that we could socialize and meet people with different ideas but, at the same time,



with the same hope and beliefs that we can make a change. It was also a chance to see that we are not alone in the fight against poverty. Those were days that we could speak the same language and know more about the struggles of people living in different places and conditions. It is a "process" that is continuous and is necessary for us to reach our goal: Another World is possible, Another US is necessary.

Francisco Mendes



March in the street of Detroit



Capoeira Dance



Workshop with African

June/July, 2010

June/July 2010

- March team finishes their first period and leaves for investigation
- We have Summer Festival at Georgia street in Detroit
- May BB team has 2 weeks alcohol education and they prepare a alcohol workshop
- 1st of July is 40th Anniversary of Teachers Group and DRH Movement. We celebrates it together with sports, presentation and nice food.
- Every Saturday we have a GAIA action which works for the garden. We have a great garden with variety of vegetables; eggplant, zucchini, lettuce, spinach, mustard, beet, radish, tomato, corn and so on.
- DAs go to homeless shelter for volunteering every other Wed.
- We are going to have new color on the school after July building weekend.
- Feb Team and May Team have people exam to see how much they have improved.
- We enjoy summer! We are going to the beach and Chicago on Sundays!
- Anna, a body painting artist comes to teach us how to do it.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Tue	Fri	Sat
		6/1	2 Farewell party for March Team	3	4	5
6	7 March Team leaves to Belize for investigation	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 May Team work with community in Detroit	18	19
20	21 Feb Team finishes fund-raising	22	23 GAIA Classic Concert Chicago	24	25 Social Forum in Detroit	26 Social Forum in Detroit
27 Summer Festival in Detroit	28	29 Alcohol Workshop by May Team	30	7/1 DRH Movement 40year anniversary	7/2	7/3 May Team People Exam

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 Beach Trip with AA	5	6	7 DAs go to homeless shelter	8	9 Building Weekend May BB leaves for outreach/	10 Building Weekend
11 Chicago Trip	12 Feb Team People Exam	13	14 DAs go to homeless shelter	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Event with GAIA in Chicago
25	26	27	28 Face painting Workshop/Special Evening -Amy	29 Feb Team HIV/AIDS course	30 Feb Team HIV/AIDS course	31

Detroit Summer Fair- All together

I'm Jin from Korea. I just arrived at IICD a week ago. However, I've gotten a lot of valuable experience so far.

Especially, the day we went to Detroit is unforgettable. I could see many deserted houses while I was there with IICD participants. I asked myself "Is this city really in the States?" because I thought USA is the richest country in the world. To visit Detroit itself has given to me a lot of questions and thinking.

We went to Detroit to help to prepare Georgia Street Community fair. Fortunately there are some people who want their community to be better and healthier. It calls GSCC(Georgia Street Community Collective) in Georgia St, Detroit, headed by Mark Covington. It's held several events: Movie Night in the Garden, Reading Night in the Garden, an Angel's Night Harvest Festival a Holiday Crafts Event, our First Annual Holiday Dinner and so on since it

was formed in October 2008.

This time, they wanted to have a big event for community, and we were there to help them. This unforgettable day was 27th of June. Some of IICD participants, including me, went there 2 days early so that we could prepare well. Then, what did we do?

First, we prepared food



Vitor and Jin



Enjoy face painting
Jua with kids



Enjoy face painting
Sunny with kids



Hit the face with balloon!!
Jacob and kids



Talita, Miki and Noah

from our different cultures: Brazilian chocolate ball, Japanese rice ball, and Korean BBQ chicken and veggies on the stick.

Second, we prepared games and activities: To hit the face with water balloon, fishing, face painting, drawing, magic show and music.

It wasn't that easy to prepare all of this; we went to bed 2am the day before the event day and woke up 7am that day. The day came and all IICD participants gathered but suddenly rain started pouring. Our faces were wet with sweat and

rain. I said to myself again 'You can do it! If my hair wet by rain, I can just dry my hair. Don't worry' When the fair started, rain stopped. Then people gathered to participate for the fair. Many people came and enjoyed with us.

Ashley from May Brazil team said that it was really great time and she was very happy that she could do something for the community. She hopes the Detroit Community flourishes with ordinary people gathering together.

I was sticking where food

was sold, so I couldn't see the entire event which we prepared, but I was really happy with my work. I always smiled and also I saw the eyes of the others full of delight.

I think it was achieved by all of us together. It was a great time for both the community people and us. I want to visit the Georgia Street to help make up community and also to see their change. May I go to Detroit again...?

Jin



Magician Samyr



A little Piece from Belize

2010 June/July

I am Yuri working in Belize right now as a poverty fighter.

On the second week, we went to Sunday Wood for interviews. Some of them has been throwing their trash around their house and living in bad condition house. Also, there were children who don't go to school, women who have no husband and people who can't read and write. We were sorry for their situation, so we asked only some important questions like an age, the number of children, food and hygiene and so on. Not the amount expended like this. At first, I thought Sunday Wood situation is better than Crique Sarco because Sunday Wood is closer from

Punta Gorda. So we realized why we have to be here in Sunday Wood. Every time we go to Sunday Wood, we had visited a primary school to arrange their library and to teach children by helping teachers.

And we helped a son-in-law of Marcos planting and learned how to plant onions from him, when we were at home.

School fair was held in Crique Sarco on 30th. There were soccer matches, games and a market for food. We went to the school in the morning to be in charge of a game called punch board for children. It wasn't big money just 25 cents

a lot.

The next day finally we had interviews with last families. We went to Lucky Strike to have interviews and also we gave them a poster about good hygiene and explained importance of it.

We came back to Crique Sarco and we went to pre-school to

be with children. When we were there, a teacher asked for the soap bubbles class. So we're going to have one more class next week.

Also we visited 9 families to talk about seedbed with them. We made a seedbed with a family. We couldn't make seedbed for rest 9 families because we didn't have enough seed

a chance. But we could get over \$100 for 7 hours.

And second week, we went to Sunday Wood again to plant orange trees that Pantaleon gave us and made a seedbed for 10 families. We dig holes, planted 4 orange trees and then made first seedbed. Fortunately, we could find black soil nearby. Marcos was a good teacher of us who didn't know how to do it. That day we also went to the school and had a math class. First, a teacher split the children into 3 groups and each of us taught 6 students. Even though we just taught 6 children, it wasn't easy to make them understand their currency as how to make \$2 with

25cent coins. And we are having an art class about good nutrition next Wednesday. So we already drew some pictures for the class.

After we finished the math class, we came back to Crique Sarco by bus. We planted 4 orange trees again. It was easier work. Because not only 3 of us, but also 3 teachers planting together.

Next day we made soap bubbles and explained theory of it and how to blow and play together. After the class, a principle wanted us to have one more time at another class. So we did it one more. All children really liked and enjoyed it

and boxes. We have a plan to make 9 seedbeds more next week.

And two graduation parties were held in our village yesterday night. We went there to celebrate with them and saw almost all our neighbors. They enjoyed the parties until late night. It looks really nice to share in each other's joy. Be-

cause this kind of parties were never held in Korea, when we were graduated from school.

We hadn't got up before 7am in Korea, but these days we could spend long days doing many things from 4am. What a good life!!!!

Yuri

Yuri and Haemin in the garden



Yuri and Haemin with children

Yuri doing interview with people



Why some has more while the others have not

2010 June/July

Hello everybody. I'm Rodrigo Policarpo from Brazil. I was a Poverty Fighter from November 2008 CCTG Ecuador team.

I'm visiting IICD in Michigan to share my experience with other volunteers.

I have watched a documentary called "Guns, Germs and Steel" with May 2010 team and I am writing this article to try to explain how volunteers can take advantage of watching it and how to use it in the communities that they are going to work with.

The documentary is divided in two parts: the first one tells why some parts of the world developed more than other parts; and the second one explains how Europeans came to conquer the New World.

Watching the documentary, we understand that Eurasian

hegemony is not related to the Eurasian intellectual, moral or inherent genetic superiority. The documentary points to huge environmental advantages on Eurasia, especially related to the best quality of crops and a larger number of domesticable animals compared to the rest of the world.

In the earliest societies, humans used to live with hunting and gathering. The next step to develop civilization was the move from hunter-gatherer to agriculture and farming with domesticated animals. As long as Eurasian countries had the best environmental conditions, they could develop faster.

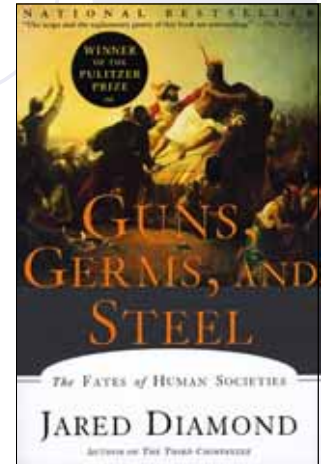
My intention with this article is not to summarize the documentary. I want to focus on the point that some places are more developed than others, not because of

a genetic superiority. What I want to say is that when you go to a project to work as a volunteer in a non-developed country, you shouldn't act as if you have all the answers or that you will bring all solutions that the community needs.

You should understand that people are different and that some things will work in some environments, but will not work in others. You should investigate the local culture and understand people's behavior.

It's much easier to find solutions when you know what the real problems are. Understanding the environment and people that you are working with is the first step to achieve the great results.

Rodrigo



Book cover of
Guns, Germs and Steel

Understanding the environment and people that you are working with is the first step to achieve the great results.

Final de Viaje

It was a month that felt like a year!

São Paulo

A big city. São Paulo reminded me that the big city distracts a lot, it easily puts your attention in so many options... to eat, to buy, to visit. And poverty becomes invisible. The public transportation: AMAZING! I really liked the subway and buses, so efficient.

Rio de Janeiro

It's hard to understand how the violence and poverty work here. They are right there, you look to the right: favela. To the

left: favela. In front: favela. You hear the gun shots, people live afraid ... you go through a tunnel and oh!!!! Nice houses, buildings, beautiful beaches. Look a little bit up: favela (slum in Portuguese). I stayed in a little city of Rio called Caxias, kind of a favela. The word plantation came again to my mind. People that are not involved with drugs work a lot, earn not much. Many children per house. Anyway, a big gap between the rich and the poor. At the end it was an amazing trip, journey. They were 12 accommodations and wonderful people that showed me each city. I thought a lot about traveling in this way, not stay-

ing in hotels but doing couch surfing, is like knowing a city through the reality of the host. And this also brought a lot of thoughts: economical status and in which one people born in, the feelings of being a tourist and not, ways of thinking, hiding my relationship with Lola, how amazing people you can meet, pollution, nature, education, what do the governments do, my Country, the differences and similarities... How relative is time that a month felt like a year.



Laura Baños

This article is extracted from Laura's 2nd period Investigation report. She's in January Belize-Brazil team and now in the project.

Open Your Mind, Free Your Soul

2010 June/July



Kareemah, El-Amin

Love you all, girls and boys

*You don't see **me**, but I do love you all, girls and boys*

*Not just me alone here, many **people** love you, don't feel you're there alone*

*We're **happy** seeing you feel not hungry*

*Your smile gives the world big **peace***

*Your dreaming eyes bring us big **joy**. Thank you for surviving, please stay*

A poem with Love, Me, People, Happy, Peace, and Joy,
By Jukyung



Felipe's writing note

23th and 30th of June, IICD participants participated for a poetry slam workshop at Cassopolis, MI. Kareemah, El-Amin, an acclaimed filmmaker, playwright, director, producer, poet and singer, she taught us how to write poetry. And This poetry will be published in a chapbook and performed at an Annual International Festival.

We all loved her workshop a lot. She kept saying that " Don't try to write something, but try to let out your feelings and thoughts." She tried to make us to feel something. She prepared popcorn, perfumes, seasoning, jewelries, etc. She asked to feel them. Then we wrote anything associated by these. She continued saying again "Do not think much and just write what you have in your mind now". It made us feel free and

basket there. We saw it, we smelled it and we tasted it without moving. Then we wrote everything without filtering. Then Kareemah made us pick a word and write a poem with this word.

Arthur from Feb Africa team said "it was nice because it made me open my mind. Kareemah made me relax so that I could come up with everything. I really loved this workshop because we could share our poems and our thoughts." Also Ashley said "She makes me feel my all five senses. I could feel I'm honest about myself."

write whatever.

After that we really wrote a poem. She gave us 6 words for 6-line poem. They were Love, Me, People, Happy, Peace, Joy for each line. Then all of us read it with all our feelings. Everyone brought up something from deep inside of them. I suddenly felt intimate with the others through this time sharing feelings.

We went back home, but feelings of the workshop didn't go away soon. I looked at myself deeply and felt truly who I am. I couldn't wait for another week. On our second time was even greater. We had meditation and were relaxed. We all traveled by her staying sitting on the chair. We all sat down and closed our eyes and all of us went to a kitchen, and we saw lemons in a

I, personally, like writing poetry and sometimes I write it and read it to my friend. I always thought writing is so difficult and I didn't know how to. When I heard about the poetry workshop, I absolutely wanted to participate. And now I feel like I know something. I only can try to let it go naturally from my body and mind, then it's going to be a poem and a story. I'd like to write more and I'd like to feel myself more! Open your mind, Free your soul with writing!

Jua



Jukyung and Ana Luisa try to express what they think and feel



Ana Luisa reads her poem



Jukyung, Ana, Jacob, Joao, Ashley, Talita, Vitor, Felipe, local participants and Kareemah

Manifesto

This article is extracted from Lola's 2nd period/Investigation report. She's in January Belize-Brazil team and now in the project.

My dear friends. This report is the last about the travel. I will share a Manifesto that I wrote after one party that we were invited in Sao Paulo.

Manifesto

And we came back from the party because of you, men. The music was amazing, the food was good, but there were men. Men who think that women are there looking for them, waiting for them, to their service. Men who drink and talk to everyone with boobs just to see if they give them something. I left the party because of you, stupid men. Because I was tired of being polite, of saying no to

your invitation. I was tired of being naked in your eyes.

Yes, even if you don't believe it some of us like to go to parties just to hear some music and be with their friends. Some of us don't drink and don't go to bed with strangers. I left the party because I lost all the trust, because even if you say that you are a good man, I can see in your drunk eyes and I can feel in your disgusting spit that what you want from me is not a nice talk, a short friendship.

Yes, I am a woman and I don't like to lose my time with you. Yes, I am a woman with dreads, tattoos and hair in my legs. I am a woman that you could never touch, kiss or even love. I am one that will always threaten you.

Today you were five. Five simple guys from the city, with any nationality, any age, any color. Everywhere is the same.

Under and over the Equator line, men are men, girls are girls, and the loneliness of the human being grows the same. Sex will not give you any answer my dear friend. Life is not a TV show. Even if you try you will not escape, one day there will be no more parties, no more women to harass. We will stand up, I will stand up. I will continue saying no with a smile. I will take with violence the hand that you use to put around my hip without permission. I will teach your male children to cry even if you say to them that they shouldn't because "they look like girls". And I will teach your female children to use a hammer and defend themselves from you, from their brothers, from the outside, from the city.

Lola Díaz Barriga



Lola playing with kids

The poem resist itself to the lack of words.

*There's no enough language, no knowledge;
just an empty drawing waiting.*

The things, colors, that we thought permanent, here are unreal.

The obvious is as absurd as this poverty and misery.

*A way is open,
a realization is brighting.*

*We are not butterflies,
so we can not expect to build wings just waiting inside our safe cage.*

*We, humans, need to go out
to go further and further.*

*The challenge is to exist without notion,
no without a place to pee.*

I could not be passive anymore.

*The reality is waiting for the hunter, the artist that will come to
draw the difference.*

The Most Special Experience, Outreach/Fundraising

Hello, I'm Ara from Korea. I'm in the March Belize team with my 5 friends. I almost finished my program in IICD, and I'm waiting to leave to Belize. I've been here, IICD about 3 months. While I was here I did lots of program for preparing my project in Belize. I studied about my project country, discussed world issues, made the garden, investigation,, etc. To me most special and valuable experience here was "fundraising"

All volunteers in IICD should raise the fund for our investigation period. We will go to several countries (Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua,, etc) and investigate about 1 month while traveling up from Costa Rica to Belize. Thus, for this investigation and our flight ticket, insurance we raise the funds from people. In brief, we are getting support from people that allows us go to help Belizean children.

It is not easy to ask for donations from strangers in a foreign country. We are staying in front of the stores, and say "hello", explain who I am, why I am doing here, what I am going to do. Then ask for the donation from people who are interested in our project. During the fundraising I should face bad and diffi-

project myself and explain what I will do in our project area, Belize. This is the important point; fundraising is not only about the money, also connected with our project. When I know what I'm going to do there and I can explain it, I could feel people can trust me. Thus they were willing to show their heart as a donation.

In my 1st fundraising, I could not be sure what I can do, what I wanted to do for Belizean people.

Because of this, sometimes I even couldn't explain about my project. Then people didn't trust me well. How can they trust me even I don't know what I will do there? When I came back to school from 1st fundraising, I started to think about my project specifically. Finally I could organize my ideas, so I explained my project to people with confidence. Now I have been looking forward to go to my the

cult situations. Some people just passed me as like they couldn't see me, someone asked me "How about Haiti?", and there are some people even said to me "why are you begging money here?" Whenever I met those people, of course I felt sad and disappointed, but also I should be stronger. On the other hand I could meet many nice people. For example, one couple came to me and said "are you going to Belize to help them? Wow really nice! "I was so excited and explained a lot about my plan, then they said they are doctors, so they have a plan to go to help in poor countries. So they came to me and wanted to talk to me. I could feel there are a lot of people helping others and acknowledging what we are doing. That night I was so happy and proud of myself. During the fundraising, some people don't behave kindly, and it

makes us to get frustrated.

However there are also good points, and we need to find out good part in here.

While I'm doing fundraising, I tried to remind myself of

project, with all my heart.

Then, how do you think what is

the best donation? 50 dollars bill? 100 dollars bill? a blank check? Of course all of these are valuable. Nevertheless the best donation to me was a HUG from other people. Even they didn't know me, they wanted to hug me. Because I'm a volunteer and I will help people. That's all reason. When they hugged me, I could feel real love from their whole heart, and that love turned into energy, made me work more hard. For those big love and supports, I should go to Belize and do my best. Now I'm going to there with their love, and spread their loves to my Belizean children.

I hope to see you in Belize with all love!



Fundraising is not only about the money, also connected with our project. When I know what I'm going to do there and I can explain it, I could feel people can trust me. Thus they were willing to show their heart as a donation.

News Letter IICD

I'm Gemma Granados (26), from Spain. I want to introduce about myself, what I've done here and what I'm going to do in the Project in Belize.

I'm a graffiter and illustrator, I work with garbage when I work for galleries, and I make toys or sculptures with it. The last year I lived in Buenos Aires for a year, and I had the opportunity to travel to the other countries around Argentina. I saw the realities which were different from Europe. I saw lots of children working and living alone in the street, and these situations gave me a big impact, I could see rural families without electricity and clean water. When I came back to Spain, I didn't feel good with myself.



I only watched this situations but I didn't do anything to help this people. I thought I needed to make something to help this families and I was told about the program from Danilo who is from Brazil, and a volunteer in Zambia now. Then I decided to enrol for this program to be a volunteer as well.

My time here in IICD is almost finishing, I've met a lot of interesting people from different countries, and I think this experience makes me grow a lot. The life in IICD is hard sometimes, but we had a lot of precious moments, too. For me, outreach/fundraising was the hardest thing in this program, but I tried to enjoy it. We went out twice to do it, each was for 2 weeks. First

My team learned to work together and how to solve the problems in the team

Dream for Belize

time, it was really hard, but the second time was amazing, my team learned to work together and how to solve the problems in the team. Now we know more about each other. We are excited to go to Belize and to start our project with what we've learnt here.

We work in pairs with one partner in the project in Belize and my partner will be Ara, from Korea. We have different characters. I want to do a lot of things at the same time, so I easily lose my patience. On the other hand, my partner, she is a little bit slow but she's calm. We can help each other with strengths and help the other's weaknesses. We'll have a good balance together.



We also have different interests; it will also help us to work better. I want to work with children about art and music. I want to make classes for women about recycling, and then they can make stuff with the garbage that they can sell to the tourist people.

Also I want to make big murals in the wall to make their surroundings beautiful. Ara wants to teach about HIV/AIDS to the teenagers in the schools. Belize has the highest AIDS/ HIV positive rate in the Cen-

tral America. Together, we will make people work together like us. They can talk about their own problems and they will find the solutions together. We will try to make change and we'll learn a lot there.

Finally, I want to say thanks to everybody that has helped us for the fundraising, and believed in our job. We won't waste it, and we'll do our best. Also I want to send all my positive energy for the all the volunteers who prepare to go to the

projects and also who come from the project. Enjoy and learn a lot of. We are a big family. Everybody needs trust each other.

Enjoy your project and help as much as you can.

Pusinkyyyyyyyyyyyyy!!!!

Gemma Granaham

Central America with a Social Look

From April 9th to May 11, I've had the opportunity to experience the current reality of most Central American countries as a teacher for the Belize Team.

With a *social* look and not with a *tourist* look, I could see several realities that come together and form a chain of different social classes. Often these are incompatible in the current socio economic realities of such countries.

The trip plan was to go in thirty days through the following countries of Central America: Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala then to finish in Belize, a Caribbean country.

The primary objective was to bring these countries into a socio economic and cultural benefit to the real needs that were raised and studied. This would make it easier to create solutions for short or long term and implement effective actions in the near future.

We mostly used public transportation, sometimes even crossing borders. So it was possible to make the travel cheaper and at the same time to be closer to the everyday life of local people being included in their reality.

In Costa Rica, the buses in the capital San Jose and surrounding cities are very similar to municipal bus from São Paulo or Rio de Janeiro, however, while traveling through these countries the situation changes quite precarious and transportation is increasingly evident.

In "Chicken" buses and cars are in poor condition in most cases. The population of the countries of Central America moves every day, whether in rural or urban areas. They need to do this to keep their sources of low incomes and continue fighting a government failed and absent in lower social classes. These are the people that require more assistance.

Walking through very poor neighborhoods and isolated communities, it's possible to follow the struggle for survival of people from many interesting cultures and hold to different beliefs. In most cases is Maya! Therefore one of the more common occupations is still a craftsman, seamstresses and many other crafts

that become a source of income.

The food is simple and at breakfast the famous "Gallo Pinto (black beans, fried egg or scrambled, fresh cheese, cream and tortillas) leads the requests in the streets, bars and homes. Fruits like mango, banana, watermelon, orange and others are found on every street corner. Vendors who sell them already peel and cut them for very low prices. These fresh fruits contribute to a much more healthy food than many other countries. Generally, in the same places you get delicious juices with the same fruits. The chicken meat is the most consumed and the cheapest one.

The heat is often very strong, even in cities with high altitude, but the work never stops in rural areas. Even on Sundays you will find many workers on the farms of bananas, oranges or other specialty, and working very long hours. At the end of the day they leave to return to their families, take a bucket of cold water to bathe and to sleep before everything starts again. Women carry huge baskets and often clay pots on their heads, either with water or fruit and home cakes to sell in the "calles" (streets).

Children put on their school uniforms and spend half day in public schools and the other half often working with parents on the streets. In the city of Granada, Nicaragua, more than 2,000 children attend the center for extracurricular activities "Carita Feliz". They help children develop their minds, making them better prepared for future challenges with a more open mind, because one of its main functions is to show the range of options that life offers. Talking to local people, I wondered about the situation in their homes. Often, even without any luxury or even with poor sanitation and poor housing conditions, they can cook rice and beans every day for their children. It was sufficient for a modest smile that expressed a discreet happiness of who is not hungry. The food, fortunately is not a major problem.

The lack of policy and conduct of certain governments rather, are a major problem. Corruption is a serious issue in most countries and the lack of good relationships between neighboring countries is also something sad. Already there were often attempts at unification in Central America, but was never actually put into practice. The

lack of trust of people in their government is something that frustrates and brings out a feeling of contempt and betrayal. You can see it in people beyond the poverty, they are abused by this lack of morality. Compared to Africa, I conclude that: "Many times the innocence, goes hand in hand with happiness." Because in Africa I could see that even innocent people, even in misery, live their days in the best possible way and did not express this lack of morality and disregard what I could see in Central America.

Another major problem found is vio-

lence. Nowadays, in cities such as San Salvador in El Salvador or Tegucigalpa in Honduras, are places where the walking in the streets at night is out of the question. In San Salvador, 12 people are killed at gunpoint a day. I'm not just talking about slums and desolate places, either because even in Tegucigalpa, in some evening I was in a slum that I didn't know, alone, walking with all my stuff and I did not feel afraid. I only saw people in packed buses, returning from work, or working on the streets for daily bread. However, there are places very



Haemin with children in Central America

Opportunities can be given and so robbers can build schools, politicians can build an honest and glorious country and children can believe in a better future. Role reversal is required.

rich. These cities can be as dangerous as others. The lack of government support in areas of risk and the absence of security actions makes most places risk points and always at gunpoint in large cities. Small towns with more tourist are much calmer now, both because tourism is the economic basis of most of these countries. The crimes grow too much and indignation and lack of resources in society is what drives to it.

For this now I get the main point of discussion. The problems are blending and creating a social monster. It is necessary for effectiveness in solving all these problems, whether through education, culture, environment or development, either where they should be treated everyone equally and urgently. Because the

violence will not cease growing if the poverty is not controlled. And poverty will never be controlled if corruption is not unmasked. And among many, many other factors that add more and more social diseases that must be treated.

This is the social look that discriminates primary facts to the growth and change in a positive way in underdeveloped countries.

Opportunities can be given and so robbers can build schools, politicians can build an honest and glorious country and children can believe in a better future. Role reversal is required.

Felipe Gomes.



Yuri in front of Humana Second Hand Shop



Felipe on the road



Haemin and Felipe with local people

Let's enjoy without alcohol!

May B.B (Brazil&Belize) Team had problems about alcohol in IICD, then we had 2 weeks alcohol education.



Ashley gave us an alcoholism test on the alcohol workshop

This education included:

- To choose the topic about alcohol and then, to study and to investigate about it.
- To make a presentation about your topic for other people
- To write an article about why IICD has the No Alcohol policy
- To write a list of 10 activities for celebration without alcohol
- To attend 5 AA (Alcohol Anonymous) meetings

At first we thought it was too many things to do, but when the time went by, we realized it helps us a lot. Blair, one of the member of May B.B team said "Actually it was so good experience to hear the others' thought about alcohol and I was so surprised that there were a lot of people who suffers from alcohol. It was very serious. We met a lot of people in AA meeting, they want to change themselves with strong will, and it touched me. Even though they drank a lot before and made mistakes, they are fighting with themselves against alcohol. Now I'm totally on their side and I support them from my heart. "

Also during the alcohol week, we made our own schedule for alcohol education and finally we finished all of our work. Then we had a big workshop for all day long on 29th June. We invited all

IICD participants. We tried not only to give them education but also to have fun together so that we also could learn we can enjoy without alcohol.

We started the workshop with making posters about 'No Alcohol'. Then we shared what we drew and explained what we tried to say to the others. And then we made an exhibition with all pictures. Next program was Hand Printing. We put colors on our hand and printed our hand on the big paper for the meaning of a pledge of 'not drinking'. All of us did it includes our guardian, Milla.

The most popular program was to make healthy drink. We made some cocktail with fruit and juice without alcohol. It



Our Guardian Milla



was a great time and all of us enjoyed a lot.

We prepared plenty of programs for workshop. We showed our personal products like blog and video we made, brain stormed about things associated by alcohol, did alcoholism test, made stories with mistake after drinking, gave presentation about alcohol and we played



Jua and Arthur Hand Printing On the Workshop

catching the tail game. Jin who is DA in IICD said "Presentation was little bit boring but I really enjoyed another programs, It was so creative and fun. I could felt that May B.B team really tried hard for the workshop. Thanks for everything." After alcohol weeks, May team said that "We made a mistake before, but now we are totally changed. We will

never make same thing again, we hope that everybody enjoyed workshop and think about how serious the alcohol is. We have to keep No Alcohol policy because we are volunteers to help people in poor country. Many of them ruin their life because of alcohol. Imagine domestic violence, children abuse, to get fired from job caused by alcohol. It's terrible happening these for

someone's life. We have to be role models for them with sticking to this policy. They can see us, learn from us and make better situation. Also it's better for our own safety not to drink. We don't know what is going to happen when we drunk. As a volunteer we should be more serious with what we're doing."

MK

Activities For Celebration Without Alcohol

2010 June/July

1. Sports like soccer, volley ball, and basket ball
2. Having body massage
3. Playing games
4. Shopping
5. Watching movies
6. Taking pictures
7. Singing songs with friends
8. Talking with friends about world issue
9. Driving somewhere to have fun
10. Cooking delicious food
11. Going to the park and enjoy the green
12. Eating outside
13. Going to the beach
14. Camping
15. Riding a bicycle
16. Taking a walk
17. Party with cake and coffee
18. Card game
19. To make healthy drink without alcohol and share with friends
20. Volunteer
21. Reading books
22. Planting flower
23. Drawing and painting
24. Playing musical instruments
25. Origami
26. Write an email to your old friends
27. Dancing
28. Learning new languages
29. Meditation

You see? We could have a big big fun without alcohol!!!!

GAIA Action Program

Come! Be a member of the new Gaia Team at IICD Michigan.

It's a 12 month program beginning in September 2010. The first 4 months will be education, community actions and fundraising at our facility in Michigan, the next 4 months will be at our school in St. Vincent. In St. Vincent you will be building, promoting and installing renewable energy systems in the local villages to help them to be self-reliant. Lastly, the final 4 months will be spent back in Michigan, Detroit specifically, also working with renewable energy and urban gardens in what has become the poorest city in the U.S.



Programs for 2010-2011

Africa Team	Belize Team	Brazil Team	Gaia Action Team
February/August November	January/March May/September	January/May September	September