



July 5, 2012

Dear Friends,

This week we are beginning a new series of Newsflashes to highlight the important work of our grantee-partners. We believe that when organizations share with each other, it can be a powerful tool for change. In this series we will showcase organizations that have developed resources or created a program that addresses the needs of children and families in their community. We hope that others can learn from their work, as well as have the opportunity to engage with organizations in different countries.

This week, we are showcasing the work of one of our South African partners: **Children's Rights Centre (CRC)**. Founded in 1988, initially in response to gross violations of children's rights during the apartheid era, CRC has grown from its activist origins to provide support services and training for organizations in South Africa. Their approach to advocacy and training around the right of play has increased their leadership as a capacity builder for organizations to incorporate play into their programming. CRC continues to gain national and international recognition as a leading organization focused on child rights.

CRC has played a leading role in the formation of "A Chance to Play Southern African Coalition," to promote the spread of, "the idea of play and its practice." CRC has developed an array of trainings and manuals for organizations covering topics from play mobilization to encourage "adult play champions" to provide safe and stimulating places for children to play, to the use of artistic expression and creativity in the care of children, among several others.

CRC states, "*Play is an essential right for children especially those that face so many threats to their well being. It lifts the darkness and reconnects to a child's essential humanity: curiosity, playfulness, needs to learn, their reaching out to life. As adults we have to be guardians and supporters of these rights!*" They believe, "***If you stop playing, you grow old!***"

To learn more about CRC's work, please visit: <http://www.childrensrights.org.za/>

We hope you enjoy this new series of the Newsflash, if you or your organization has developed resources or programming that you think others could learn from, please

send them to: newsletter@firelightfoundation.org.

Sincerely,

The Firelight Team

(Call for Proposals) United States African Development Foundation (USADF)
funding for CBOs ranging from \$50,000-\$250,000

(Fundraising Resource) Women Thrive Worldwide- Fundraising Guide for
Community-Based Organizations

(Call for Applications) Computer Aid International application for computers

(Resource) CRC: Play Rights Programming

(Resource) "A Chance to Play" book

(Call for Proposals) United States African Development Foundation (USADF)
funding for CBOs ranging from \$50,000-\$250,000

The United States African Development Foundation (USADF) provides grants of up to \$250,000 to community groups and small enterprises that benefit underserved and marginalized populations in Africa. USADF currently provides funding to 21 countries including: Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. They are most interested in funding:

- Agricultural cooperatives and small-scale producer groups
- Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)
- African Intermediary Organizations (AIOs)
- Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)

Organization requirements:

1. The organization must be 100 percent African-owned and managed.
2. The organization must be a legally recognized African entity (or in the process of becoming legally registered. Registration must be completed before any funding may be provided)
3. The organization must demonstrate that it has successfully worked together and has the potential to productively utilize development funds.
4. The ownership and management must be in agreement on the problem to be addressed and have a commitment to benefit their community.
5. The organization must have basic functional management and controls to use and account for USADF funds.

Benefit Requirements

1. The proposed project should represent both the applicant's and targeted beneficiaries identified needs.

2. The outcome of the project must provide real (measurable) benefits to the community. Benefits include job creation, increased incomes levels, improved market access, and quality of life improvements.

Other Considerations:

1. The project is consistent with USADF's host country strategies and partnerships.
2. The goals of the project can be implemented realistically with USADF funds.
3. There are sufficient management, technical and financial resources available for project success.
4. The organization can demonstrate long-term viability after USADF funding ends.
5. The organization can meet all licensing/regulatory and environmental requirements.
6. The project has potential for broader replication.
7. The level of funding from self and other sources (local, foreign, donors) committed to or available to the organization.

For more information and to apply for funding, please visit: <http://www.adf.gov/funding.html>

(Fundraising Resource) Women Thrive Worldwide- Fundraising Guide for Community-Based Organizations

Women Thrive Worldwide is a US-based organization working to shape policy to help women lift themselves and their families out of poverty. Women Thrive partners with both US organizations and organizations across the world.

Through working with local organizations in many countries, Women Thrive discovered that many times local organizations have difficulty navigating the often complex world of international assistance and fundraising. In response, they developed a fundraising guide specific to CBOs. The guide outlines the basic concepts of professional fundraising, to assist community organizations in accessing effective resources. From practical advice based on years of experience in professional fundraising in the United States to detailed instructions on how to write grant proposals, budgets and reports, the principles and methods the guide introduces are applicable globally and can be tailored to local environments.

To download the fundraising guide, please visit: http://www.womenthrive.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=830&Itemid=152

(Call for Applications) Computer Aid International Application for computers

Computer Aid International is a a charity in the United Kingdom that aims to reduce

poverty through practical Information & Communication Technologies (ICT) solutions. Their mission is to empower poor and disadvantaged communities, work in partnership with organizations, focus on long-term sustainable development, and to provide affordable and environmentally sustainable ICT solutions. To date they have donated over 200,000 computers to universities and CBOs in developing countries including: Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, Rwanda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Applications can be submitted on Computer Aid's website through a simple form. The application asks the following questions:

- Please tell us the activities of your organization.
- Please tell us what the computers will be used for. Provide as much detail as possible.
- Number of PCs requested, which type of PC, type of Operating System, Keyboard language, and Voltage requirements

To apply for computers for your organization, please visit: <http://www.computeraid.org/enquire.asp>

(Resource) CRC: Play Rights Programming

CRC has championed Right to Play programming in South Africa. CRC holds trainings on child rights advocacy and the right to play with community groups, NGOs, and government organizations. Within the trainings, CRC exposes organizations to the concept of a child's right to play, interlinking this with children's other rights including safety, health, and participation, among others. In addition, CRC reaches an even larger audience by translating training materials into Zulu. Surveys sent out after trainings has revealed that 85 percent of the organizations reported an increased awareness and understanding of the right to play. Initially, most of CRC's trainees were unaware of the concept of play as both a right and a developmental necessity. The newly acquired knowledge led to greater reflection and adaptation by these organizations once they returned to their communities.

The impact of CRC's training model can be seen in the establishment of right to play programming by participating organizations. Using CRC's no-cost techniques, participants created child-friendly spaces in their communities, conducted play awareness trainings for additional staff, and almost all organizations incorporated an aspect of play into their work. CRC's reach extends beyond scheduled trainings as they continue to mentor participating organizations. By building a network of support within communities and supporting organizations to translate what they learned into their local context, CRC successfully brings forward initiatives that transform into meaningful changes for children and their families.

CRC explains their Right to Play programming: "***The right to play is always the surprising right!*** We feel compelled to deal with the seemingly, more serious needs of children and almost allow play just to happen. Children don't forget this need! In a remote village in Limpopo a support group of HIV positive children meet on a regular basis for care, information, health monitoring and companionship. The Children's Rights Centre on being able to visit them asked what they would predominantly like do: Their answer', 'learn all the games in the 'A Chance to Play' book!' So much is crossing their lives daily but play is a vital life giving, healing and comforting activity and they want as much as they can get. These youngsters are the first children to survive HIV+ into their teen years and they have had years of health and social challenges. The laughter and engagement of play, the way it builds their relationships, the happiness it gives them, makes play their healing gift."

To learn more about CRC's programming, please visit their website: <http://www.childrensrights.org.za/>

(Resource) "A Chance to Play" book

Children's right to play, recreation, leisure, art and cultural activities is set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Article 31) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (Article 12)

A description from CRC: " 'A Chance to Play' is the title of a South African play manual, it is not just games and activities but spells out the right to play and inspires play advocacy to ensure that play is well and truly established in our society. It is co-authored by the Children's Rights Centre and is about to be in its third reprint. Over 13,000 copies are now distributed and we would like to hope that each copy is influencing a play worker or a play leader to engage with close to a million children in South Africa and East and Southern Africa in playful interactions that heal, reduce conflict and social violence, keeps children safe, supports the development of children and increases happy relationships between children and adults."

The Chance to Play manual is organized as follows:

Part 1: Children have a Right to Play- Highlights the importance of play in the holistic development of children

Part 2: Play activities- A resource for games to play with children including game sets, outdoor games, and how to make games and toys from locally available resources

Part 3: Enabling Play- Describes how adults and volunteers can engage with children in play & the importance of advocacy around the right to play

To download the manual please

visit: <http://www.childrensrights.org.za/index.php/component/phocadownload/category/32-book>

As part of the Firelight Foundation's Capacity Building 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.php>. We welcome your comments, feedback and ideas for upcoming Newsflashes at newsletter@firelightfoundation.org.

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