



It was standing room only on February 4 as Change Her World presented the documentary ***It's a Girl***. The room at the Arden Park Hotel was filled to capacity by women who came to learn why there are almost 200 million girls missing in our world.

Gendercide is the great moral dilemma of this century much as slavery was in the last century. It is a global issue yet most of the world stands by and does nothing. Even where there are laws on the books to protect girls, these laws are often not enforced. As well, the biases of the justice and law enforcement systems frequently render these laws useless. For this reason girls and women fear to report violence and atrocities committed against them simply because they are frequently re-victimized by the very people who are there to protect them.

Girls are eliminated particularly in India and China at alarming rates through sex-selective abortions, female infanticide, murder, starvation, violence and of course, the One Child policy brutally enforced by the Chinese government. China has the highest suicide rate among women in the world. India is recognized as the 4<sup>th</sup> most dangerous country in the world to be woman. Afghanistan ranks first in this infamous listing.

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## Change Her World Day In The City of Stratford

**November 6, 2013**

Underwear on a clothesline in the band shell on Veteran's Drive? How can this be?

Indeed, it was exactly that, as Change Her World celebrated the collection of 10,000 pairs of underwear and the City of Stratford declared November 6... **Change Her World Day**. Quite an honour! The Board of Directors thanked the mayor and council for this recognition of their efforts to educate, fundraise and address the needs of girls and women in Malawi, Africa.

Despite the wind and rain, Linda Willis and Carol Hamilton welcomed friends, volunteers and well-wishers who attended the festive event in recognition of this significant milestone. This charity begins anew with the goal of collecting the next 10,000 pairs.



## ***It's A Girl*** (continue from Page 1)

The number of gendercide victims surpasses the number of deaths in both World Wars combined. Gendercide surpasses the number of people killed in all the genocides of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. How is it that most of the world is silent?

This war against girls is rooted in century old traditions and sustained by deeply engrained cultural dynamics which in combination with government policies, accelerates the elimination of girls.

Did you know there are more girls killed in China and India than are born in the US in one year?

Did you know that the US and Canada **do not** prohibit abortions on the basis of fetus gender? Most Western European countries as well as Australia and New Zealand do.

In response to the question :

***“What are you feeling having watched this film”*** the women present responded with words like....

*overwhelmed – shocked – angry – sad*

**Change Her World** fights gender inequality in all its insidious forms through its mandate to educate the girls in Northern Malawi and through the message ***“You are loved”*** found on the bracelets the girls wear. The CHW Project Committees and Zone volunteers in Malawi (who are the backbone of the work) impart with every action that the girls are valued, important and all are treated with the dignity and respect inherent in their rights as human beings.

The women who attended the film ***It's a Girl*** were given an action sheet explaining how they could not only support the work of Change Her World but how to become involved in organizations working in India and China as well.

We look forward to seeing what fruits this evening might bear, as women have the time to ponder the horrors suffered by our sisters around the world and commit to the call to respond.

**What will you do?**

***“If you want to change the world  
...start with her.”***

**Linda Willis  
Board Chair**

## **CHW Shipment # 3 Arrives in Malawi, Africa**

As Christmas 2013 approached, the Change Her World girls and their schools got a great gift. Fourteen boxes of classroom supplies were part of the forty-three carton shipment that was sent in late November 2013.

Much thanks was given to Mabel Nesbitt of Stratford who gathered, sorted and delivered to Change her World twelve boxes of items for classroom use. There were games, craft supplies, globes, scissors, glue, paints, which were new



***Project Chair Fiskani Chirwa oversaw the distribution of the supplies.***

to students in Malawi but are considered more “old school” in Canada given the technology that is becoming standard equipment in Canadian classrooms. Included also were donations of many types of balls and skipping ropes.

In addition, a variety of flashcards and teaching charts all directed towards the needs of primary learners were purchased as part of this delivery. Four cartons each went to three schools. It is a beginning and only a beginning. If students are to be eager to come to school to learn in ways other than rote, and if teachers are to be supported in their critical role, providing relevant teaching and learning materials must be part of the experience.

Toothbrushes, toothpaste, underwear, bras, clothing and a small quantity of medical supplies were part of this shipment as well. Infant blankets and clothing rounded out the shipment contents.



**Children Baked and Decorated Cookies at St Marys Presbyterian Church for Change Her World**

## Another Hunger Season!

"The hunger season has begun again, far worse than last year", Douglas Ndindi, Vice-Chair for Change Her World, reported in his email to the Board of Directors in early January 2014. The government had rationed maize distribution to 10 kg per family while supplies lasted but supplies were dwindling quickly leaving many families without food. Lackson Kachawanda, a member of the Chilumba Project Committee and a physician assistant responsible for the CHW Medical Scheme Program, reported a few days later that he had recently been called to examine an ill CHW girl. His exam revealed that malnutrition was the cause of her illness as she had not eaten in several days. He requested that food be immediately purchased to restore her to health.

This news sprung the Board of Directors into action and an appeal for funds for food was launched via e-mail. Each donation of \$50.00 would buy 75 kg of maize per girl (which would last 2 months) for 116 girls. The hunger season in Malawi usually strikes in early January and lasts well into March until the first harvest of maize replenishes the government markets.

Soon online donations began to arrive as did cheques and cash to meet this urgent need. In late January and early February, the project committees in both Chilumba and Mzuzu/Ekwendeni made the purchase of 50 kg bags of maize at private markets and distributed a bag and a half of this food to each CHW girl. This was supplemented by dehydrated vegetable soup mix donated by the Ontario Gleaners Smiles abounded on the faces of the girls as the food was received with gratitude and thanks to each Canadian donor who had contributed.

**If you did not receive news of this crisis situation via e-mail and would like to be informed of such situations in the future, please provide your e-mail address to Carol Hamilton at:**

[chamilton@changeherworld.ca](mailto:chamilton@changeherworld.ca)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 4th Annual Dinner

**Stratford Country Club**  
53 Romeo Street North  
Stratford, Ontario

**Saturday April 12, 2014**

**5:30 PM Social Hour**  
**6:15 PM Dinner**

**...Gift Basket Silent Auction**  
**...Door Prizes**  
**...Project Work Update**  
**...and much more**

**Tickets: \$40.00**

Available after March 15 at Blowes  
on Wellington St. and York Street  
Kitchen on Erie St. or by calling  
Linda Willis at 519. 271-5598

**AN EVENT THE WHOLE  
FAMILY WILL ENJOY!**

### 2nd Annual Stratford Fundraising Concert

**November 2014**

Watch the CHW Website for details.



## Music Filled The Air

From old time favourites to classical piano and sing-a-long tunes... the **First Annual CHW Fundraising Concert** was held in Stratford on Sunday evening - November 3. The sound of music filled the air in St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. The Four Steps entertained with Old Time Gospel favourites. The GeeGee's sang folk tunes with the special addition of traditional Swiss Yodeling. Poppy Kipfer's classical piano offering left the audience spellbound and Donna Camp (vocal and flute) and Cliff

Houndsell (with Jaron Camp on guitar) added a variety of selections. A gourmet cake buffet finished off the evening in style. A special thanks to Carmen Grant in her role as MC and also to those who donated cakes and worked in the kitchen. The resounding success of the evening assures a repeat performance in November 2014. Watch the CHW website for details.

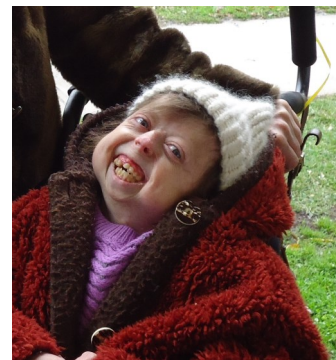


**Pictured above are the musicians who donated their time and talent to this toe-taping musical evening!**

# A Volunteer Who Will Be Missed!

On December 31 2013, family and friends gathered to celebrate the life of a young woman, Laure St. Pierre. Laure and her mother Lucinda, had attended the Change Her World showing of the documentary, *Half The Sky*, in February 2013. Laure was so moved by seeing the plight of girls and women around the world that she asked the Board of Directors if she could fundraise for Change Her World by making beaded necklaces and bracelets.

Her project quickly grew and soon she and her Mom could be found every Saturday morning at the Stratford Market. In December, after struggling a lifetime of 24 years with Progeria, she succumbed to her illness. She will be sadly missed but amazingly, her efforts raised more than \$5,000.00 for Change Her World!



## Collection Campaigns

We were pleased to have Melmira Bra and Boutique in Toronto support our bra collection with the donation of 130 bras and we offer our sincere thanks for their support.

We continue to accept new underwear, bras and clothing. We do accept some clothing which may be gently used but it must be sturdy, modest and in excellent condition. We need in particular girls tops and skirts sizes 6 -16.

We thank everyone who has donated to the collection campaign!!! We could not do what we do without you!!!

**Yes, I value girls and women in the developing world and I want to help them break the cycle of poverty through education!**

### Single Gift Option

Cash

Cheque

Credit Card

Please accept my special gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ My cheque to **Change Her World** is enclosed.

Mail to: P.O. Box 1057, Stratford, Ontario N5A 6W4

Please charge my  VISA  MASTERCARD ....for the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

CARD NO. \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRY DATE \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Monthly Gift Option

VISA

MASTERCARD

I authorize Change Her World to make a monthly withdrawal on my credit card (as indicated above) in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. I understand that this amount will be charged to my credit card on or near the 22nd of each month.

CARD NO. \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRY DATE \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you very much! Change Her World respects your privacy. We do not sell or exchange personal information with any other organization.**

**For further information, please call 1-888-909-2491. Mail your donation to: Change Her World P.O. Box 1057, Stratford, Ontario N5A 6W4**

Charitable Registration No. 81600 9252 RR0001



We are delighted to report that we have women who have offered to sew ...

*-reusable sanitary protection-*

...one as far away as Manitoba. In some cases it is an individual woman but we also have 3 groups of women who have taken up the task. A heartfelt thank you to each one of you!!!

Sewers

- Kincardine Church Group
- Mapleview Mennonite Church Group
- Nancy Chung & Friends
- Marilynn Binns
- Marilynn Shimkus
- Odra Reidl
- Lorraine Stevenson
- Shirley Weitzel

**If you want further information on this project please call Linda Willis at 519-271-5598 or for sewing information go to [www.daysforgirls.org](http://www.daysforgirls.org).**

## Stratford Girls Reach Across the Ocean

When it was time to celebrate Marjie Sylvester's tenth birthday (a student at Central Perth Elementary School), she did not want her friends to bring gifts for her but gifts for girls in the Change Her World Chilumba Project. Marjie's mom Val had donated to the collection campaign in the past and had set a powerful example of care and compassion for her young daughter to emulate.

So, when Marjie's friends came for her party, they brought an article of clothing for a girl in the Project. In addition, Val bought 6 white T-shirts and had each of the girls decorate and put their name on it.

When the shipment went to Chilumba last fall, tucked in a big brown envelope were the 6 decorated T-shirts and 6 photos of the girls showing each girl with the shirt she had done along with some explanation and directions for the committee.

When photos were sent to us, we then forwarded them to Marjie and her Mom. The girls could then see the Malawian girl wearing the shirt they had decorated and know her name. This is a wonderful example of how such a simple thing can have so much effect on the lives of girls in two very different circumstances of life. Change Her World salutes these 6 girls Marjie, Ashlyn, Brooklyn, Hanna, Justice, and Marris and thanks them for their care and concern for girls they will never meet and from whom they will never receive a personal thank you. You are changing their world through your kindness and generosity.



# CHANGE HER WORLD

Founded in 2010, this organization is dedicated to removing the barriers that prevent girls and women from being educated in the developing world.

Currently, girls and women in our project in Northern Malawi are receiving support but the need is great.

Our Corporate Objects include:

- ◇ Education of girls
- ◇ Relief of poverty
- ◇ Clean water and sanitation
- ◇ Promotion of health
- ◇ Provision of micro financing

**If you want to change the world...start with her**

## News From the Canadian Board of Directors



*From left: Lorraine Stevenson, Linda Willis, Carol Hamilton and Michelle Semak*

At the November Annual Meeting of Change Her World, it was with regret that we accepted the resignation of Cathy Johnston as a Director. Cathy was with us at the initial stages of the charity development and we thank her for her time and effort and wish her all the best as she pursues her retirement goals.

On a happier note, we were pleased to welcome two new Directors, Michelle Semak and Lorraine Stevenson, both of whom were long time volunteers of Change Her World and will now be working in a more official capacity. We look forward to working with both of them in the years to come.

### **Volunteer Help Needed:**

- ⇒ Qualified Bookkeeper and/or Chartered Accountant
- ⇒ Website Hosting and Maintenance Expert

Please contact Carol Hamilton, Board Treasurer at 519.949.8701 or [chamilton@changeherworld.ca](mailto:chamilton@changeherworld.ca)

**We wish to thank Kevin Hill, Commercial Printers Stratford, for the charity discount provided for the quality printing of this report.**

### **Change Her World**

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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

Mail Label

