

APPLAUSE CELEBRATING THOSE WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

World's children close to her

'I had to give my life to this mission'

SPOTLIGHT

DONNA NEBENZAHL
THE GAZETTE

Roxana Robin is just 30 years old, but has a depth of understanding that goes beyond her age.

Robin heads Children's Care International, which fights the exploitation of children around the world. "We are trying to help children who are doing the most dangerous work, who are in slavery or have families the most in need," she says.

She opened one centre, in 2003 in Andhra Pradesh in India, where about 18 children now live. "We are supporting the families financially, but keeping the children safe in the centre because they were in bondage labour before, and forced to work," Robin says.

The children are educated at the centre, and can play and receive medical help there.

In November, Robin plans to open another centre in the same Indian state, partnering with the Indian NGO Ardar. "The first criterion is to help those children whose families have been touched by the tsunami," she says.

Robin was an orphan for two years in Bangladesh as a child, after her parents were killed. She was adopted by French parents, but has always, she says, been touched by the injustice in the world.

She went to India six years ago to volunteer in an orphanage. "This really opened my eyes," she says. "I had to give my life to this mission."

She has received help in her fundraising efforts from private foundations, including the Congregation Notre Dame and the Roncalle Foundation. Five schools also contribute to the project. One of these is École Marguerite De Lajemmerais in Montreal; a group of students is donating the proceeds from a guitar concert - now sold out - at the Salles du Gesù.



Roxana Robin, 30, is the founder of Children's Care International.

TELL US ABOUT IT

Want to acknowledge someone you feel deserves to be recognized for their community work, an important milestone they've reached or something they've done to make life better for others?

Send us a three- to four-paragraph story in your own words and be sure to include your own name, address and phone number. Write to Applause, c/o The Gazette, 1010 Ste. Catherine St. W.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Follow the yellow brick road

Connie Primiano, principal of Honoré Mercier elementary school in St. Léonard, writes:

English Montreal School Board principals headed a stellar cast of characters in a spoof of the Wizard of Oz on May 31 at Westmount High School. The play, called De-Tension, starred more than 25 EMSB administra-

and Desperate Housewives. De-Tension was written by EMSB staffers.

At the conclusion of the fun-filled evening, a cheque for \$8,000 was presented to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Last year, the principals spearheaded a fashion show that raised \$10,000 for the Shriners Hospital.

March through Laval streets