

ANNUAL REPORT
2017-2018

Children's Care
International



152 MILLION CHILDREN ARE EXPLOITED
AROUND THE WORLD;
HENCE 152 MILLIONS
REASONS EXIST TO TAKE ACTION.

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR OF CCI'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CHRISTINE DUROCHER



Fourteen years ago, when CCI began working in 10 fishing villages in Andhra Pradesh, child labour was part of the regular culture; nowadays, it has almost completely disappeared, and almost all village children are enrolled in school. This is a fundamental change for the better in this region, where over half the children were not being schooled during the first days of our first project.

It is also striking that those improvements that have been observed in the villages as regards to schooling involve both girls and boys. It is to be noted that, although girls are still less likely to be educated, parents are today increasingly sensitised as to the importance of educating girls.

When asked why these changes in attitude have occurred regarding enrolling children in school, parents and children commented that there has been a great increase in parents' awareness regarding the importance of education. One particularly interesting fact is that it is the children who have contributed in convincing their parents that education is essential in a changing world, and their best guarantee of creating a good future for themselves. Hence CCI's students, several of whom are now young adults, became true agents of change in their communities.

In order to see emerging sustainable changes, it is of the utmost importance that efforts to raise the awareness of communities on topics such as the importance of education and the dangerous consequences of early marriages must be made in the long term. Moreover, to find a decent job and break the cycle of exploitation, children absolutely must go all the way to the end of their schooling programme. We are convinced that, in order to fight child exploitation, it is essential that effective work in the field be considered a long-term endeavour, and therefore CCI intends to continue its efforts to assist the most vulnerable communities.

Christine Durocher

OUR MISSION

CHILDREN'S CARE INTERNATIONAL (CCI) better known locally as *Aide internationale pour l'enfance (AIPE)* — is a non-profit non-governmental organisation founded in 2000, working in the field of international aid and cooperation. It has distinguished itself through its two-fold mission: liberating children and their families from poverty and exploitation and, at the same time, raising the developed world's awareness of issues relating to child labour by encouraging the public to engage in concrete efforts of solidarity.

Since July 2011, CCI was granted special consultative status by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC). This status gives CCI access to the UN platform where it can bring to the fore its vision and expertise in working with children, as well as contribute to raising the awareness of the international community.

OUR VALUES

CCI bases its work on fundamental values such as solidarity, transparency and sustainability. Its projects must be sustained, maintained and protected so that they may evolve and bring positive change in the long term. Our view is that accompanying children as they progress, helping them to reintegrate society, providing them with appropriate training and protecting each one of them, is a long-term effort; none of this can occur in the short term. It is only through several years' hard work and dedication, and CCI's involvement in especially geared projects, that it manages to bring about real change in society's practices and attitudes regarding child exploitation.





CCI'S WORK CONSISTS IN...

■ **Sheltering** child labourers within welcoming structures where they can flourish and recover their dignity.



■ **Providing** access to education to children freed from slavery, and developing programmes for the prevention of child labour.



■ **Offering** educational and vocational training programmes to young girls freed from sexual exploitation.



■ **Creating** microcredit clubs thereby facilitating income generation for marginalised women.



■ **Supporting** the communities within which it works so that each of its members can lead a decent life.



■ **Funding** vocational training programmes for young adults.







LATEST DEVELOPMENTS



■ **The magazine *Urbania*** included Roxana Robin, CCI's founder, in its list of "50 extraordinary individuals who make an extraordinary difference" ("*50 personnalités qui créent l'extraordinaire*"). The magazine emphasises her long-standing commitment to exploited children, as well as to their families and communities.



■ **The Chair of CCI's Board of Directors**, Christine Durocher, was named "2017 City Builder" (*Bâtisseuse de la Cité*) by the City of Montreal for her involvement in defending the rights of children and women. Ms. Durocher, Managing Director of *Au Coeur de l'Enfance* ("At the heart of childhood") a social paediatrics centre in Montreal, has become a key person in the development of services to children and families through the creation of a centre for children and families: *La Maison de l'enfance*.



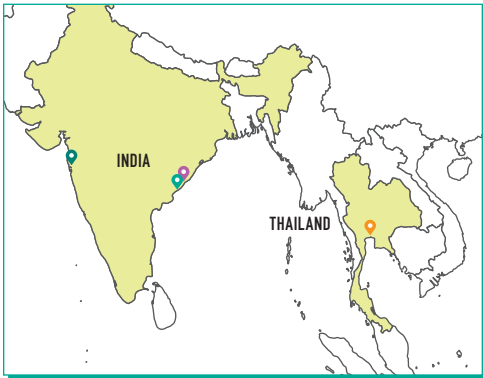
■ **CCI** has just opened a new branch in France. It now has the necessary legal status to officially begin activities in that country. Several fundraising events were held this year, such as benefit concerts.



■ **In fishing communities**, girls are under-represented at school because they are responsible for home and siblings. Our experience in the field has shown that many girls find it difficult to attend school, particularly those who are responsible for their younger siblings while parents are off at work. Thanks to the wonderful support provided by the Louise Grenier Foundation, CCI will be starting a new project in India in 2018 to educate young mothers and children with home responsibilities in the village of Thammayapalem, and in the city of Visakhapatnam, both located in the State of Andhra Pradesh.



■ **Thanks to the support** received from the Quebec Ministry for International Relations and the Francophonie, in 2017-2020, CCI is continuing—and even expanding—its activities in Quebec geared at raising the concept of global citizenship education. In collaboration with Éduconnexion—an educational programme of Social Justice Connection based in Montreal—CCI will also institute a new project of citizen engagement in high-schools in the Montérégie (region south and south-east of Montreal). Something to watch closely during 2018!



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INDIA

Reintegration of slum children into the regular state school system

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Accompanying children freed from indentured slavery

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Reintegration of marginalised women into the economic mainstream through the microcredit system

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THAILAND

Protecting illegal immigrant children from exploitation

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HAITI

Supporting MIDADE's activities

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CANADA

Global citizenship education

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INDIA: Reintegration of slum children into the regular state school system

Projects:

LOUISE GRENIER SCHOOL
(Rammurthypantulu peta Slum)

HOPE SCHOOL
(Chittibabu Slum)

LOCATION: **Visakhapatnam,**
Andhra Pradesh

LOCAL PARTNER: **Kidpower India**

CONTEXT:

In the slums of Andhra Pradesh, a million children still live in extremely precarious conditions. Many families work in landfills the whole day long, collecting scrap metal for resale. Their children are abandoned to their own devices, and spend their days playing in the streets without supervision. The two schools founded by CCI, the Louise Grenier School, and Hope School, offer a basic education to these children so that they may integrate the regular school system at the end of one year of schooling.

Project Objectives

- Developing children's social skills
- Schooling an average of 70% of children in two slums
- Offering a safe and dynamic space where children can flourish
- Promoting access to education for girls since they are less likely than boys to attend schools
- Raising awareness of communities and families as to the importance of education.

Destruction of the Rammurthypantulu Peta Slum, in Kancharapalem

In January 2018, the slum where the Louise Grenier School operated was razed to the ground by the local police. Already living in dire conditions, in a situation of extreme poverty, some families were relocated to an industrial suburb far away where the parents can no longer exercise their profession. Other families find themselves living on the street. This community has lost what it had built up, despite its precarious living conditions. The Louise Grenier School was quickly relocated to the Madhavadhara Slum, and resumed its activities in May 2018.



Accompanying children freed from indentured slavery (a.k.a. debt bondage)

Project Objectives

- Facilitating the social reintegration of exploited children
- Supporting the children, and lending a sympathetic ear
- Breaking the cycle of poverty by providing access to education and knowledge, from primary school to university, in accordance with each child's career preference
- Giving the same opportunities to girls and boys, and allowing them to serenely plan for their future
- Fighting against early marriages by holding awareness sessions within families and communities.

Introducing Dhanaraj:

She is one of our brightest students. This past April, she obtained her MA in Sciences at Andhra University in Visakhapatnam, a prestigious university where admittance to its study programmes is very limited. She would like to continue her studies and work towards a PhD. Consequently, she applied for a scholarship, and should soon find out whether she has been successful. If accepted, her tuition costs will be covered, and she will also be provided with a living allowance for the duration of her doctoral studies.



Project:

EDUCATION OF CHILDREN FREED FROM INDENTURED SLAVERY

LOCATION: **Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh**

LOCAL PARTNER: **Resource Educational Society (RES)**

CONTEXT:

Indentured slavery entails working for a lender to pay off a debt, instead of repaying the loan with money or items. The debtor's entire family is forced to work off the debt, including children; note that the debt can be transmitted to descendants who thus become debtors at birth. CCI released some one hundred children from debt bondage in 2003, and since then finances their education. It also holds awareness meetings within these children's families and communities focussing on the importance of education and the dangerous consequences of an early marriage.

Supervision mission to oversee several CCI projects

Christine Durocher, Chair of CCI's Board of Directors, travelled this year to India to meet with our local partners, reconnect with project children and their families, and monitor budgets and projects. This mission presented an excellent opportunity to take stock of CCI's involvement during the last ten years. The results as observed, and testimonies from children, families and communities involved in CCI projects, made it possible to confirm that the length of time our organisation has been involved, and the extent to which its presence has been felt in the villages, have played a major role in their social transformation. These changes are particularly visible in the area of child labour, access to education, the education of girls, and a decrease in early marriages.

Reintegration of marginalised women into the economic mainstream through the microcredit system

Project:

MICROCREDIT PROGRAMME FOR MARGINALISED WOMEN

LOCATION: **Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh**

LOCAL PARTNER: **Resource Educational Society (RES)**

CONTEXT:

There are over 71 million single women in India (i.e., divorced, separated, non-married or widowed); they are severely marginalised by Indian society. To meet the needs of their families, they are often forced to take out loans and, unable to repay their debt, they consequently rely on the extra income provided by their children's work to get by. CCI's microcredit programme helps break the cycle of poverty and indebtedness, and ensure an increase in income, and a stability for marginalised women.

As a result of CCI's microcredit programme, there are now more than 200 small businesses in this region. We currently counsel 19 women, 15 of whom have been project beneficiaries for a few years, and 4 new project participants. On average, participating women reimburse their micro-loan in a year and a half, after which they decide to further develop their thriving micro-enterprise and so request a new loan. They are very good business women, and use their initiative to find ways to increase profits.

Project Objectives:

- Making it possible for the women targeted by the project to become entrepreneurs
- Mentoring these women in the setting-up and development of their businesses
- In the short term, increasing the beneficiaries' income
- In the medium term, enabling children to attend school, and have access to health care in a more systematic way.

Thanks to CCI's microcredit project, **Kesam Polamma,**



opened a tiny stall in her village, Tippalavalasa. Once she repaid her loan, she borrowed again to purchase a refrigerator so that she could also sell fresh beverages, yogurt, etc. She sells sweets, soft drinks,

but also lentils and seasonal vegetables. In 2017, with her business profits, she was able to have a little cement house built for herself, right next to her business. Her new home is much more comfortable and sturdy than the little hut she previously lived in, with its palm leaf roof.

Rayithi Yellamma and Mylapalli Satyavathi,

who have only been participating in the programme since 2017, decided to become business partners. Ha-



ving access to more capital allows them to buy larger quantities of fish at a better price, as well as purchase more expensive fish directly from large trawlers. Consequently, the two fish vendors

presently deal in significant quantities of fish. They are ambitious, and wish to continue the expansion of their business with additional capital.

Career training for young women freed from sexual exploitation



Project:

CENTRE BOISAR

LOCATION: **Boisar, Maharashtra**

LOCAL PARTNER: **Rescue Foundation**

CONTEXT:

In India, thousands of women fall victim to human trafficking each year. The Rescue Foundation annually frees some 300 young girls from sexual exploitation. This organisation goes after the exploiters, provides legal assistance to victims, and offers them health and psychosocial care. Help in reintegrating society, and socio-economic support services are also offered to young girls released from commercial sexual exploitation..

Project Objectives

- Making it possible for young girls to rebuild themselves mentally and physically, and regain possession of their own bodies by offering them access to medical care and psychological services
- Giving them access to a basic education or providing access to vocational training so that they may appropriately reintegrate the job market, and prepare for a better future
- Making it possible for young girls who wish it, to be repatriated to their countries of origin
- Providing legal assistance to young victims, and pursuing their captors
- Offering a place of refuge and a sympathetic ear, without discrimination, in addition to a healthy and well-rounded diet.

Protecting illegal immigrant children from exploitation

Project:

SANTIKHAM CENTRE

LOCATION: **Santikham Centre**

LOCAL PARTNER: **Foundation for Child Development (FCD)**

CONTEXT:

Many thousands of families from Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar illegally immigrate to Thailand in the hope of improving their living conditions, or fleeing an authoritarian political regime. Because of their status, their children must face multiple trauma: work exploitation, deportation to borders, identity crises, etc. The Santikham Centre was created to provide a secure haven for child workers where they can feel safe, rest, flourish and receive various types of care as well as an education.

Project Objectives

- Educating parents on the importance of obtaining birth certificates for their children, and informing children of their rights through activities that encourage co-ed schooling, tolerance and mutual respect
- Supporting education by offering scholarships to children in need
- Providing training on occupational safety, and workshops on hazardous behaviour so as to ensure their health and safety
- Making a recreational area available to them, thus letting children enjoy being children
- Training young leaders to get directly involved with working children, and ensure their safety within monitoring teams, in cases where parents are absent or when there are cases of suspected abuse.



Suzanne Simatos, member of CCI's Board of Directors, visits the Santikham Centre

Suzanne Simatos visited Thailand for two weeks in March 2017, escorting 17 students from John Rennie High School, in Montreal, and another supervisor, Lucy Gagnon. The group had the opportunity to spend several days with the children, volunteers and employees of the Santikham Centre, as well as visiting the surrounding slums. These Canadian students were able to observe CCI's work up close, in addition to concluding how urgent it is to put an end to exploitation. They also ran a workshop, and participated in raising the awareness of local communities regarding the plight of Burmese migrants and their children. The students were quite affected by what they observed, and returned home greatly motivated to engage in the fight against child exploitation.

Support of MIDADE's activities for disadvantaged children



SUPPORTING MIDADE'S ACTIVITIES

LOCATION: **Municipality of Jacmel**

LOCAL PARTNER: **MIDADE**

CONTEXT:

Jacmel is one of 144 municipalities in Haiti. Its already precarious living conditions worsened even more as a result of earthquakes that shook Haiti in January 2010 and October 2016. These disasters exacerbated the domesticity phenomenon in Haiti, a system where poor families entrust the care of their children to more affluent families, hoping these can perhaps provide them with better living conditions. However, in the majority of cases, their child, called a 'restavek' (from the French 'reste avec', meaning 'stays with') is exploited and mistreated, entrusted with all the household chores and the care of infants, in addition to having to suffer physical and verbal violence. Cases of maltreatment and exploitation of children are on the increase, hence the urgency of raising the awareness of families and the community at large regarding children's rights. The partnership between MIDADE and CCI was established in 2016 and CCI's support to MIDADE's activities will begin as soon as CCI receives the necessary funds.

MIDADE's rallies are organised with local community support. In addition to weekly gatherings concerning the rights of children, MIDADE has developed two other major projects: (1) recording and airing radio spots regarding children's rights, and (2) an Annual March through town each June 12 (World Day Against Child Labour) with banners and much fanfare.

MIDADE's objectives are achieved through activities related to five major themes:

- **OBSERVING:** teaching children to observe the world around them
- **STUDYING:** showing them how to analyse what they see
- **COPING:** learning what attitude to adopt, how to face what they experience
- **ASSESSING:** learning to determine if a situation is favourable or not
- **CELEBRATING:** learning how to share in their success.

QUEBEC

Thanks to support provided by the Quebec Ministry for International Relations and the Francophonie, CCI leads an important mission in Quebec to develop the concept of global citizenship education by raising the awareness of local populations regarding issues affecting international solidarity:

- Child exploitation/labour
- Poverty and debt bondage
- Early marriages
- Equality of women and men
- Importance of education
- Human trafficking
- Microcredit
- Fair trade and responsible consumerism

In 2017-18, CCI held 54 educational activities geared toward global citizenship:

- four kiosks
- three conferences
- six explanatory photos exhibits
- screening of three movies, each followed by a debate
- thirty-seven workshops for young people
- a video contest

Photos depicting some of CCI's 2017-2018 educational activities

→ Winners of CCI's video contest aimed at showing some simple actions one can do every day to fight against child exploitation: Katherine Jackson, Yasmine Benzidane (not shown), Magali Gervais and Laurence Marier.



→ Panel discussion held at the Edouard Montpetit CE-GEP on human trafficking in Quebec and elsewhere in the world, attended by some 250 young people.



- Photo exhibit showing the importance of the cultural connection in the rehabilitation process of young girl victims of sexual trafficking in India, at the Chichi Café in Longueuil..



- Screening of the movie "BAS! Beyond the Red Light", and discussion with around one hundred students from the Granby CEGEP featuring human trafficking in India, and the use of education as a tool in combating sexual exploitation.



- Information session held with students from the Robert-Quimet High School in Acton Vale, in the framework of Quebec Days of International Solidarity.



- CCI manned several kiosks to raise awareness in various educational institutions, from high schools to universities.



- Screening of the movie "Lion," and discussion with students from the Sorel-Tracy CEGEP on poverty, and the plight of children in India.



- CCI highlighted World Day Against Child Labour in cooperation with the organisation "Tous les Enfants de l'Autre Monde" ("All the children of the other world") by organising an event that generated many enriching discussions between participants.



CCI's democratic and associative life

- The last **Annual General Meeting** took place on September 7, 2017, during which we were able to describe CCI's efforts to those present, and describe our international projects in detail.
- **CCI's Board Meetings** serve to determine the organisation's guidelines. The Board met four times in 2017-2018, seeking to enhance our national as well as international projects.
- CCI is a member of the **Quebec Association of International Cooperation Organisations** (AQOCI) and its Committee on Women and Development (QED), the Quebec Coalition Against Trafficking of Persons (CQCTP), and the Quebec Committee Against Sweatshops (CQCAM).



Communications

Newspaper article

“**Créer pour dialoguer**” (Creating to encourage talking), published on November 4, 2017, in Le Devoir (a Montreal French-language newspaper). The article focuses on art-therapy methods used with child labourers in Thailand who frequent the Santikham Centre.

→ <https://www.ledevoir.com/culture/511840/creer-pour-dialoguer>

Blog post

“**Quand le cinéma devient une fenêtre sur le monde**” (When the cinema becomes a window on the world), published on November 21, 2017, on JQSI's Blog (Quebec International Solidarity Days). This posting explains how the cinema can contribute to a better opening onto the world by giving as an example the film Lion, shown to students of the CEGEP (community college) of Sorel-Tracy in the framework of the JQSI.

→ <http://www.jqsi.qc.ca/?Quand-le-cinema-devient-une-fenetre-sur-le-monde>

CCI's Newsletter and Flash Bulletins

March 2017 (Flash Bulletin):

Christine Durocher, Chair of CCI's Board of Directors, named “**2017 Bâtisseuse de la Cité**” (City Builder) by the City of Montreal

→ <https://us7.campaign-archive.com/?u=ef06a1db249bb-886b4613f01d&id=1bc302d7b7>

April 2017 (Newsletter):

→ <https://us7.campaign-archive.com/?u=ef06a1db249bb-886b4613f01d&id=3ec44a2ee4>

June 2017 (Flash Bulletin):

“June 12, 2017: World Day Against Child Labour”

→ <https://mailchi.mp/9c6f89865934/invitation-pour-la-journee-mondiale-contre-le-travail-des-enfants>

July 2018 (Newsletter):

→ <https://us7.campaign-archive.com/?u=ef06a1db249bb-886b4613f01d&id=add1f78048>

Facebook

- 62 postings by CCI
- 1,287 followers



CHILDREN'S CARE INTERNATIONAL

RESULTS

FISCAL YEAR ENDING JANUARY 31, 2018

| | 2018 | 2017 |
|--|----------------|-----------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| REVENUES | | |
| Donations | 71 194 | 114 471 |
| Subsidies from Ministry of International Relations and La Francophonie | | |
| Programme d'éducation à la citoyenneté mondiale (PÉCM volet 1) | 45 000 | - |
| Programme d'appui à la mission éducative (PAME-OCI) | 5 000 | 30 000 |
| Québec sans frontières | 5 756 | 11 028 |
| AQOCI contribution | 10 159 | 9 000 |
| Fundraising activities | - | 6 728 |
| Conferences / school projects | 4 605 | 1 366 |
| | <u>141 714</u> | <u>172 594</u> |
| EXPENSES | | |
| Contribution to international projects | 31 814 | 97 891 |
| Education and public awareness | 58 042 | 72 631 |
| Management and Planning | 16 392 | 18 697 |
| Rent | 12 068 | 14 320 |
| Marketing and fundraising | 5 278 | 8 655 |
| Office expenses | 1 521 | 7 744 |
| Audit fees | 2 000 | 7 684 |
| Promotional tools | 1 667 | 7 131 |
| Telecommunications | 1 571 | 1 595 |
| Insurance | 1 975 | 1 508 |
| Dues | 2 616 | 1 247 |
| Depreciation of fixed assets | 1 283 | 1 183 |
| Banking fees | 104 | 672 |
| | <u>136 331</u> | <u>240 958</u> |
| EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES | <u>5 383</u> | <u>(68 364)</u> |

OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE FOR COMMITMENTS MADE AND GIFTS RECEIVED

Thank you to our donors

\$5,000 and over

Congrégation de Notre-Dame

Minister of International Relations and La Francophonie (MRIF)

Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale (AQOCI)

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Fondation Louise Grenier

Fondation Donat Prévost Inc.

Les Œuvres Le Royer

La Fondation Solstice

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Filles de la sagesse du Canada

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Sisters of Charity – Halifax

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Bridge Street United Church Foundation

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Moniales Carmélites de Montréal

Syndicat de l'Enseignement de la Région de Québec (SERQ)

Sœurs Adoratrices du Précieux-Sang

Private donations



The extremely important role played by our volunteers and interns

CCI wishes to celebrate the work of its volunteers and trainees. It is due to their dedication, commitment and motivation that CCI can continue its fight against child exploitation. Every year, CCI can count on their constant and strong commitment and loyalty.

How can you support CCI?

Anyone can support CCI in its fight against the exploitation of children. Donations are a sure way to help the organisation continue its projects overseas as well as in Quebec, and to seek other projects to finance.

You can also support us by becoming a member, which is a sure way of spreading the news about our activities and values within the community. Becoming a member also allows you to participate in the organisation's associative life, and stay informed about its activities and projects.

For more information on ways of supporting CCI or becoming a member, please consult our website:

www.aipe-cci.org/en/contribuer



✿ TO MAKE A DONATION ✿



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Registered charity number: 896652013RR0001



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REASONS EXIST TO TAKE ACTION.

NGO with Special Consultative Status from ECOSOC
(United Nations Economic and Social Council) since July 2011.