



# MATCH *affairs*

## Rebuilding Liberia with a gender perspective: A conversation with Joana Foster

By Jennifer Goldstone

Joana Foster's strong networks of feminists and development activists are serving her well in her role as Senior Gender Advisor with the UN Mission in Liberia. Ms. Foster is a lawyer and women's rights advocate. She says her years on MATCH's Board of Directors helped her expand her network and make more links across continents.

"I can call on so many people and draw on so much information thanks to these strong ties," she says. "I already knew some of the people at the UN agencies and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) which are helping Liberians get onto their feet after 14 years of civil war which claimed the lives of 150,000 people."

Such help is desperately needed in this West African country, which has the largest number of internally displaced people in the world and 850,000 refugees in neighbouring countries. The UN Mission in Liberia is helping implement the 2003 ceasefire agreement, working with the transitional government and aid agencies. The mission is comprised of military, civilian police officers, international civilian staff such as Joana Foster, and local staff.

Ms. Foster liaises among all the groups working for peace. She and her staff (eventually eight of them) provide gender awareness training and "train-the-trainers" sessions for military personnel, police officers, and bureaucrats. They strive to ensure that gender perspectives are taken into account in all sectors reconstructing Liberian society: "whether it be in designing schools so that the girls' bathroom is in a safe place or hiring women on the police force and in senior positions in government." Ms. Foster and her staff are also encouraging women to become candidates in the October 2005 election. They and NGO staff offer workshops for women on leadership, campaigning and negotiation with political parties.

"Women have been such strong advocates for peace," says Ms. Foster. "During the war, they travelled up and down the West African coastline urging heads of state to influence a peaceful resolution to the struggle in Liberia. Yet there are only three women

ministers in the transitional government." She would like to see women in more senior roles. With so many years of war and instability, women mostly focused on surviving and providing for their families.

Many women were also abducted into the warring parties, raped and forced to fight alongside their captors. So far, the UN Mission has disarmed 7,000 such women and is providing medical screening and treatment, counselling, as well as training on sexual and gender-based violence and human rights. The women will also be offered educational opportunities so they can learn a vocation and reintegrate into society. The biggest challenge is overcoming trauma, says Ms. Foster.

She recognizes that her time in Liberia is short (two years) and that it is critical to build the capacity of local institutions and NGOs that will remain after the UN Mission is over. Ms. Foster says taking this job was unexpected for her, but a natural progression from her work at the Gender Studies and Human Rights Documentation Centre and the African Women's Development Fund in Ghana, where she keeps a foothold. She was also the Regional Coordinator of Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF), a former MATCH partner in Zimbabwe. She has worked for various organizations, including CUSO in Ghana.

*continued on page 2*

INSIDE <i>this issue</i>	
• In Memoriam – Enid Valerie .....	2
• Madonna Larbi reflects on 12 years .....	3
• Coming MATCH Events .....	4
• Report on Programs .....	4
• President's Report .....	7
• Executive Director's Report .....	8
• Fundraising Report .....	8
• Board of Directors .....	9
• Auditor's Report .....	9
• Financial Statements .....	10
• Getting to Know Our Donors .....	11



"This position gives me a chance to remain working in Africa for Africa," says Ms. Foster. She has received much support from her family, whose members are in Ghana, the United States and England, where she completed her studies.

Ms. Foster says she will miss being on MATCH's Board of Directors: "You'd be surprised how many things I have done that were inspired by MATCH. For example, we run the African Women's Development Fund much like MATCH — respecting grantees and working with them as true partners.

"Another thing I learned through MATCH and my time in the United Kingdom is that women face the same issues whether they live in a developed country like Canada or a developing country. Violence against women happens regardless of economic status. This is why I encourage MATCH to continue its feminist perspective of promoting women's rights as human rights. Feminism is woven into everything the organization does — it is the fabric. I wouldn't want to see MATCH lose this perspective and become just an ordinary aid agency granting money."

Ms. Foster praises MATCH for managing its funds well, supporting partners and creating a strong network of women's groups that is useful to individual countries and effective at the UN level.

"I hope that network keeps expanding and that MATCH attracts more young people," she concluded.

*MATCH thanks Joana Foster for her kind words, her great contribution to MATCH and for taking the time out of her demanding schedule in Liberia to be interviewed. Although we will miss her presence at Board meetings, she remains a firm node in the MATCH network. We wish her success with her important work.*

### In Memoriam

#### Enid Valerie — translator and friend



**Enid Valerie**, who was MATCH's Spanish translator of the past 8 years passed away on April 23, 2004 after a brave battle with cancer. We miss her excellent work, attention to detail, kindness and positive attitude. Even in her last months, when MATCH Executive Director Madonna Larbi called her every three weeks, Enid was cheerful and concerned for others. As her good friend and neighbour Toby Brooks says, "I knew Enid earned her living translating for a number of organizations, but none gave her the satisfaction that working for MATCH did. Some days I would meet her in the hall and she would tell me how happy she was with her job that day because the work she was doing for MATCH could make a difference in women's lives."



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The aim of this publication is to engender thought and discussion about various development issues. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of MATCH as an organization and are those of the author(s) alone.

MATCH is committed, with our Southern sisters, to a feminist vision of development. Such a vision requires the eradication of all forms of injustice, particularly the exploitation and marginalization of women.

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Groups	\$25
Third World women's groups	Free

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## Madonna Larbi reflects on 12 years at MATCH



In October, **Madonna Larbi** will step down as executive director of MATCH, after serving for 12 years. Newsletter editor Jennifer Goldstone requested one last interview:

**Q:** *What have been some of the highlights and challenges during your time at MATCH?*

**A:** The most important highlight is the remarkable work of our partners in realizing their goals through the support of MATCH and its donors. There is also a sense of peace and harmony among staff, partners and the Board of Directors. We have truly pulled together as a team despite the range of perspectives among us and the challenges we face. There is mutual respect, acknowledgement of achievements and appreciation of strengths as we work toward the common goal of improving the lives of women everywhere.

Some of MATCH's challenges have been: to influence global fora and see action on women's rights; for our partners to persevere as they are directly affected by global economic changes and events in their own countries; and for MATCH to raise sufficient funds for our partners' work. Despite MATCH's small size, we have accomplished a lot — supporting small women's organizations who were unable to secure funds from larger donors or their governments, pushing for policy changes at the international level, fostering networks within and among continents, and encouraging women to take on leadership roles. MATCH's *raison d'être*, which is a direct articulation of women's vision in the South, has withstood the test of time.

**Q:** *Where do you see MATCH going in the future?*

**A:** Where its partners want it to — e.g. continued work on eliminating violence against women within a human rights framework, working for peace and enhanced status of women everywhere, and acting on issues as they emerge. MATCH is well positioned to respond to the needs of women in the South. We have just developed a new strategic plan, with input from Southern partners. We have eliminated our deficit of the early 2000s. We have developed fundraising and communications strategies to accompany the new plan. MATCH has a Board comprised of strong and talented

women, staff who are professional and committed, and a loyal donor base, upon which we would like to expand. We have also strengthened the Canadian network, building on MATCH-Winnipeg's success. There are MATCH groups in Winnipeg, Regina, Kamloops and Vancouver, with new ones starting in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Women's groups in the South continue to need an organization, which is sensitive and respectful of their needs. MATCH will need to keep embracing diversity - working with people from all sectors of society throughout the world who share its vision. Through MATCH, we can eliminate the physical and mental boundaries that prevent us from achieving our goal of equality in society.

**Q:** *Many MATCH-funded activities help women take on leadership roles. What are the qualities of a good leader?*

**A:** A leader recognizes that in attaining that privileged position others made it possible and helped them get there. They need to be mindful of that fact and help others fulfill their leadership potential. Indeed, we owe it to ourselves and to society to work for what is good. A leader also recognizes that they can't do it alone. In my view, they need God. Certainly, my Christian faith has kept me grounded and focused. Leaders, like all people, need love and joy and I get that from my son, Kwesi, who is going off to university, and from family and friends. A leader also places the well-being of the group ahead of her own interests. A leader has to have an ear and an eye, i.e. to listen and learn and a vision of what needs to be achieved.

I have been mentored by some wonderful women during my time at MATCH, including our former president and special ambassador, the late Rosemary Brown, whom I miss very much. I am also inspired by the example of leaders of partner organizations in the South. They work in the face of great adversity and still achieve so much. This is more remarkable than being a leader in a relatively comfortable environment.

Furthermore, I know that I have been just one player in the orchestra that makes up MATCH. MATCH is bigger than all of us. Still, there's lots of work to do and challenges to overcome with willing people to do it with. It is both an honour and a responsibility to be in a leadership position.

**Q:** *What are some of the things you will miss about MATCH?*

**A:** The camaraderie with colleagues. It has been an absolute privilege to work with them. I will also miss the contact with partners who are the very *raison d'être* of the organization. You see, I could always go to

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partners for insight, guidance or clarification on what they were going through and why they chose a particular approach to achieve their objectives. It has been a fantastic learning experience.

*Q: Will you stay involved with MATCH?*

**A:** I will be an ardent financial supporter and if at anytime I am asked to contribute in any way that is possible, I will be most willing to do so. Despite financial challenges, MATCH is a remarkable organization. I salute its creators, Norma E. Walmsley and her friends, for their inspiration to start MATCH.

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### Coming MATCH Events

**MATCH's Annual Business Meeting** will be held at the Ottawa City Hall, 110 Laurier Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, on September 18 at 10 a.m. in the Festival Control Room.

#### **Eliminating violence — a human rights issue**

MATCH Board members Joana Foster and Nkiru Nzegwu will speak about "Violence Against Women Within a Human Rights Framework" in Regina, Kamloops and Vancouver, following the September Board meeting. Please contact MATCH's office in Ottawa for details.

#### **Women, media and the new global order to be discussed in Toronto**

MATCH Board members Urvashi Butalia and Judith Wedderburn will speak about this topic at the University of Toronto at the William Doo Auditorium, New College, 45 Willcocks Street on September 21 at 6 pm. Free admission.

#### **MATCH to hold fundraising dinner**

MATCH will hold a fundraising dinner on Thursday, September 23, at 6 pm in the Rooftop Terrace of the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. The speaker is Judge Akua Kuenyehia, First Vice-President of the International Criminal Court in the Netherlands. She will discuss the role of women in peace building, reconstruction and reconciliation. Tickets of \$125 each may be purchased from MATCH. Tax receipts will be issued for a portion of the amount.

#### **Royal Bank to hold fundraiser in Toronto**

The Royal Bank of Canada will hold a fundraising reception for MATCH on Monday, September 20, at 6 pm on the 40th floor, South Tower of the Royal Bank Plaza, 200 Bay Street in Toronto. Many thanks to Charlie Coffey, Executive Vice-President of the Royal Bank Financial Group. Donations will be gratefully accepted and tax receipts issued.

### Report on Programs

#### AFRICA

##### **Mali**

*Association pour le Progrès et la Défense des droits de la Femme malienne (APDF)*

The APDF offered a three-day workshop for youths, which aimed to mobilize them to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and to end harmful practices such as female genital mutilation. The workshop was attended by 60 young women and men. They were also trained and given information to become peer educators.

##### **Mali**

*The ARAFD (Association Recherche-Action Femme et Développement) in partnership with ASFENK (Association des Enseignantes de Koulikoro)*

The two organizations are trying to protect young domestic workers from sexual abuse. They counselled girls and young women and provided them with information on their human rights and reproductive health to prevent abuses and the spread of HIV/AIDS. The partners also held meetings with employers and distributed pamphlets. They trained 20 peer educators and ran radio programs on reproductive health in three cities.

##### **Togo**

*Groupe de réflexion et d'action, Femme démocratie et développement (GF2D)*

Since 1999, the GF2D has helped 531 women strengthen their leadership skills to take part in Village Development Committees. This past year, MATCH funds went towards training 30 rural women in negotiating skills to advocate support for their projects. They also learned how to approach donors and enhanced their communication skills.

##### **Malawi**

*Women's Voice*

In Malawi, HIV/AIDS is on the rise, especially among young people. Women's Voice worked through its "Gender Clubs", established at schools in three districts, to raise awareness of the disease and how to prevent it. The Gender Clubs involve students and teachers discussing issues of gender and human rights and carrying out joint activities. Training was offered to 75 club members of both sexes so they can inform and empower their peers to take action.



## Ghana

Gender Studies and Human Rights Documentation Centre (GSHRDC)

The centre is an important information source for researchers, students and non-governmental organizations. This year, staff are finalizing a publication on the status of women in Ghana. It will be shared with activists, governmental and non-governmental agencies and inform efforts to improve the status of women in Ghana.

## Tanzania

Tanzania Women Lawyer's Association (TAWLA)

The association trained 10 more volunteer lawyers for its legal aid clinics. It also opened a new clinic in Dodoma. More than 800 clients were helped this past year and 36 court cases successfully completed. TAWLA broadcast messages about women's legal rights on radio and television. It also offered a "legal aid day" to all members of the public.

## Kenya

Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practice

The committee worked to eradicate female genital mutilation and harmful traditional practices such as early marriage, harmful healing practices — especially related to care for women during and after they give birth. Five awareness-raising campaigns were held in villages, and traditional birth attendants were briefed on proper care. Eighty women who had suffered complications while giving birth were able to get reconstructive surgery.

*"The work of AfroPeruvian women is really taking off ... being able to share experiences at the seminar in Ghana with Madonna Larbi, Rosemary Brown and other sisters, helped me so much. Madonna has been a great mentor."*

Natalia Joya  
Black Association for the Defense and Promotion of  
Human Rights, ASONEDH (Peru)

*"Madonna, I feel proud of being your brother and thank God who put you in our way."*

Jorge Ramirez Reyna  
ASONEDH (Peru)

## ASIA

### Nepal

Women in Need (WIN)

WIN operates two crisis counselling centres and a shelter for women and children victims of violence and rape. It also offers legal aid to women. WIN holds workshops on gender issues and eliminating violence against women at schools, community organizations, government departments and law enforcement agencies. In the past year, there has been much collaboration with the police to better serve victims of violence.

### Nepal

Nari Chetana Kendra Nepal/Women Awareness Centre Nepal (WACN)

WACN is helping women establish savings and credit groups and providing training on how to run cooperatives. Thirty-three women are now operating cooperatives. WACN is also offering training on how to make organic pesticides and grow vegetables off season. So far, 400 women are putting this training into practice. Farmers are becoming more interested in mass production commercial farming, so WACN trained eight women in marketing and commercial farming practices. MATCH's support helped the organization leverage new funding from the British Embassy's Enabling State Program.

### Sri Lanka

Lawyers for Human Rights and Development (LHRD)

The women's desk of LHRD promotes and protects the rights of women through awareness raising and capacity building. Lawyers also offer legal aid to women and girls who have been victims of sexual violence. This past year, lawyers extended their services to a women's prison, mediating and providing legal support. Five new legal aid centres were established. Six paralegal training sessions were offered, including three refresher courses for paralegals. LHRD also held two gender relations and women's rights seminars.

### Sri Lanka

Women's Education and Research Centre (WERC)

WERC, a new MATCH partner, was established to encourage publishing by feminist researchers and activists on the status of women in Sri Lanka. WERC fosters peace through holding seminars on gender issues and empowering women through research, documentation, monitoring and training on enhancing



the image of women in the media. Among WERC's publications this year was the reproduction of a law book highly sought after on the subject of clauses affecting women.

### **India**

*Ekta Mahila Manche (EMM)*

EMM is the women's wing of a larger organization *Ekta Parishad* (established in 1991). *Ekta Parishad* is a mass peoples-based organization advocating for the livelihood, rights and self-reliance of small farmers and tribal groups. EMM was formed in 2001 to encourage the participation of women at the senior levels of the *Ekta Parishad*. MATCH funds went towards strengthening the leadership abilities of women in EMM and towards the organization's efforts to make women aware of their land rights. Leadership training was offered to 25 women and land rights awareness raising sessions were held in five districts. The EMM estimates that it has reached one million Indian women with its mass information campaign and seminars. MATCH's support has helped the organization leverage funds from other sources.

### **CARRIBEAN**

#### **Jamaica**

Women's Media Watch

The organization held workshops in schools and communities for youths to inform them how they could take action to eliminate violence against women. Among those reached by the sessions were teen mothers who are often at risk of domestic violence and who have low self-esteem.

#### **Jamaica**

S-Corner Clinic and Community Development Organization

S-Corner operates a clinic and outreach programs for people in the poor urban area of Bennettsland. Among the many accomplishments of the past year: people attended health information sessions at the clinic; a health promotion video was broadcast throughout the community; and a child was removed from a violent home and put in care of the state. Staff continue to visit people in their homes and work towards peace and improved health for everyone in the community.

#### **Jamaica**

Jamaica Women's Political Caucus

The Caucus recruited three more young women to join in its efforts to ensure representation of women and

their issues at the highest levels of governance. It also organized a training session on "engendering political decision-making" with two other organizations. The Caucus supported women seeking office in local government elections.

### **Trinidad and Tobago**

MAMATOTO

This natural birthing centre is run by nurses and midwives and helps women of all backgrounds in the country. MAMATOTO launched a resource centre in January. It provides information on all health topics of interest to women and their families, including natural births, parenting, teen sexuality, HIV/ AIDS, Doula and labour support and baby massage.

### **LATIN AMERICA**

#### **Chile**

Coordinadora Nacional Indianista (CONACIN)

CONACIN is establishing a centre for Indigenous women to practice traditional medicine and healing techniques of benefit to other Indigenous people and poor people searching affordable medicine. The centre also offers workshops for urban Indigenous people on Mapuche weaving so they can sell their blankets, ponchos and clothing.

#### **Peru**

*Asociación Negra de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos (ASONEDH)*

The women's program of ASONEDH offered leadership training to 77 Afro Peruvian women. Topics included identity, history, human rights - including women's rights, leadership skills and community organizing. Training was also offered to 12 Afro Peruvian women's organizations, benefitting 231 women.

#### **Peru**

*Centro de la Mujer Peruana Flora Tristán*

The centre created the National Rural Women's Network in 1988 to strengthen women's participation in development projects and decisions affecting their lives. The magazine, *Chacarera*, is the voice of the network - providing women with information they need and supporting advocacy efforts aimed at enhancing the status of rural women. MATCH's support this past year went towards the publication and distribution of this magazine.



## Peru

### *La Voz de la Mujer*

This women's shelter in Lima has taken in more than 1,200 women and their children. It offers business training to help women become financially independent. Many women also participate in a towel-making program and La Voz has established buyers at hospitals and schools. Lawyers have been retained to deal with cases of domestic violence. A dental clinic has also been established.

## Peru

### Minga-Peru

The organization works with Indigenous women in the Tigre river area of the Peruvian Amazon to improve their economic conditions and quality of life. Training on income-generation initiatives and leadership have been offered to 42 women. These trained leaders are reaching out to other women in 23 communities.

## CANADA

MATCH supporters throughout the country spoke about the organization at events in their communities. The MATCH groups in Winnipeg, Regina, Kamloops, Alma and Vancouver are growing stronger. We look forward to the activities of the new MATCH groups starting in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Their outreach reaffirms the links between activists in Canada and the South.

*"Madonna Larbi extended such a warm and humane gesture to me as a single mother supporting five children when she visited our project in 1991, that I will never forget her. I have copied that gesture with other women ... I thank God for having worked with Madonna."*

Salome Anyoti, SAWI (Zambia)

*"On several occasions Madonna took the trouble to visit us in far away villages in Sri Lanka. she was a golden thread that linked the women in the two worlds and a towering strength to us."*

Manel Tiranagama  
Rural Women's Organizations Network, Sri Lanka

*"Madonna Larbi worked tirelessly to better the lives of the marginalized ... She is my mentor and I will miss her daily sound guidance."*

MATCH staff member Anita Wong

## President's Report

"A woman's work is never done" — and MATCH's work will never be done as long as women continue to face violations of all aspects of our "human rights".

In the past year, MATCH continued the work that was begun in 1976 after the UN World Conference on Women held in Mexico City. We saw how strong we are as an organization — able to accomplish a lot with limited resources — the way women do all over the world.

Although it has been a sad year for MATCH as we mourned the loss of a few of our sisters, we know that they would not have wanted our sorrow to keep us from carrying out our work.

Aside from the outstanding program carried out this past year by a formidable staff, headed by Madonna Larbi, MATCH reached some important milestones: a new agreement with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and a new strategic plan. However, the most important accomplishment has been financial, as the year ended with a small surplus after wiping away previous budget deficits.

We have also seen that previous initiatives are bearing fruit. The 2003 exchange that took place in Ghana between Latin American women of African heritage and African women has resulted in a trans-Atlantic dialogue. Many MATCH projects begin as small holistic "woman-centred" activities, and these often grow and produce innovative spin-offs. An important thread in all of these activities and their offshoots is that women want to speak with each other.

These conversations are taking place across borders and within Canada too. We found that MATCH support groups are being formed in various parts of Canada, particularly when women hear first hand from MATCH partners and overseas Board members.

In the past year, we have continued to honour contributions made by Norma E. Walmsley and Rosemary Brown through the scholarships made in their names at Carleton University in Ottawa and Simon Fraser University in Vancouver. This year, we will be able to implement a similar scholarship named after another MATCH founder, Suzanne Johnson, at the Institute for Women's Studies and Gender Studies at the University of Toronto.

In the coming year, we will be hiring a new administrative head of MATCH. Words cannot describe the dedication that Madonna Larbi has brought with her 12 years of brilliant service as MATCH's Executive Director.

We appreciate being able to count on you to help MATCH continue to fulfill its mandate.

Ceta Ramkhalawansingh



## Executive Director's Report

Thank you for your loyal support over this past fiscal year. We are very pleased that the measures we took these past two years to whittle down the deficit of recent years have ensured that it has been completely eliminated a year ahead of schedule. In fact, we are able to declare a modest surplus upon which we intend to build a reserve. Naturally, none of this would have been achieved without you and without the staff who made great sacrifices to realize this goal.

As you will have gathered reading this issue of *MATCH News*, I am leaving MATCH at the end of October after 12 years as Executive Director. It has been a privilege working with an organization that makes such a difference in the lives of women and by extension their families. My association has enriched my professional life immensely with partners, supporters, the staff, and the board and all with whom I have worked.

It is really difficult to list all the extraordinary moments that defined my years at MATCH. What I do know, though, is that I learned, I grew professionally and notwithstanding the challenges and the turmoil in the world around us, I would not change these years for anything.

I recall my first visit to the Philippines some years back when by good fortune I met the co-founder of Women's Awareness Centre Nepal, at the hostel for the Institute of St. Scholastica's College in Manila, run by Sister Mary John. Although it was our first time to meet, we talked until the early hours of the morning. We discussed the concerns of women in Nepal — plotting, planning, crying, laughing — but determined to work for change. The issues she spoke of, I discovered, were similar to those in other parts of the world. MATCH's healthy survival and ability to transcend boundaries became even more real. The organization's unwavering support of its partners, even in the face of opposition and discouragement, remains crucial.

On this note, I ask you to send in names of potential donors so that we can increase our database. I hope they will turn out to be as supportive as you have been. To our sustaining donors please increase your monthly contribution if you can. Please remember MATCH when doing up your wills. There could be no better organization that would really act as a good steward of your donation. I will, of course, continue to support MATCH financially after I leave in October.

I have always viewed my tenure at MATCH as a member of a relay team — running as best as I can, not dropping the baton and handing it over to someone else. This is the time to do so.

Please accept my sincere thanks for making my 12 years at MATCH, serving women around the world, such a fulfilling and wonderful experience.

Madonna Larbi

## Fundraising Report

By Terri M. Jones

We would like to say a huge "THANK YOU" to all of our donors who have once again generously supported the vital work of MATCH. Each donor, whether they be an individual, foundation or a monthly sustaining donor, truly makes a difference in the lives of women in some of the poorest countries in the world.

The auditor's report shows that as well as CIDA's generous support, \$369,873 was raised predominantly through direct mail appeals and foundation proposals. We had the usual four mail campaigns last year: March (a portion of which falls into the previous fiscal year); May; September and Christmas.

We are especially grateful for our Sustaining Donors. These regular contributions represent nearly 13% of the money MATCH raises, and combined with the "matched" amount from CIDA plays an essential role in planning our programs since it is guaranteed money.

We are excited about our two September fundraising events (see page 4) and are hopeful that not only will they create revenue but public awareness of MATCH as well. An added challenge to raising money is increasing the number of donors in our database. We are not in a financial position to advertise MATCH in print or TV ads like some charities but we do ask you to use "word of mouth" to let people know the important work we do, there is no better advertising than that. Please mention MATCH to your friends and colleagues, pass along our newsletters or send us names and addresses and we'll be happy to contact them. Also, if you are involved in a group or committee and would like to have someone from MATCH speak at one of your gatherings please let us know.

We realize that you are inundated with requests for your financial support and are very grateful that you continue to have faith in, and appreciation for, MATCH's efforts to one day have a world where women everywhere will be able to live, work and pursue their aspirations in an environment of peace and safety.

Thank you again for your continued support!

*"Madonna will be sorely missed. She has a superb rapport with partners, staff, the Board, donors and all the people she interacted with in MATCH's interest. We truly appreciate her personal commitment to MATCH — she will be a MATCH partner for life ... once a match maker, always a match maker."*

MATCH Board member Stella Le John



## MATCH's Board of Directors 2003-04

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 Jodi Joy, Board liaison  
 Manuela Popovici, intern from the Norman Patterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University, January-April 2004

*"Madonna Larbi sought out needy organizations in countries and linked them up with growing organizations as a measure of empowering them. Yes! Madonna is truly an "empowering" person. Thank you, Madonna, for bringing MATCH to our doorstep. May you face success wherever you go."*

Shiranee Mills, Gender Specialist  
 Asian Development Bank (Sri Lanka Resident Mission)

*"Madonna has given boundlessly of her energy, her commitment and, indeed, of her soul ... She will be much missed but her accomplishments at MATCH will endure."*

MATCH Board member Lene Madsen

## Auditor's Report

To the Members of MATCH International Centre - Centre International MATCH:

We have audited the statement of financial position of MATCH International Centre - Centre International MATCH as at March 31, 2004 and the statement of changes in net assets and the statement of revenues and expenses for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Centre's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

Except as explained in the following paragraph, we conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In common with many not-for-profit organizations, the Centre derives revenue from donations, which are not susceptible to complete audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of this revenue was limited to amounts recorded in the books of the Centre and we are not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to revenues, deficiency of revenues over expenses, assets and net assets.

In our opinion, except for the effect of adjustments, if any, which might have been required had we been able to satisfy ourselves concerning the completeness of donations, as explained in the preceding paragraph, these financial statements present fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of the Centre as at March 31, 2004 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. As required by the Canada Corporation Act, we report that, in our opinion, these principles have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

McIntyre & Associates  
 Professional Corporation  
 Chartered Accountants

Ottawa, Ontario  
 May 10, 2004



## Financial Statement

Statement of Financial Position  
MATCH International CentreStatement of Revenues and Expenses  
MATCH International Centre

	March 31		Year Ended March 31	
	2004	2003	2004	2003
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Cash	\$ 121,352	\$ 18,435		
Short-term investments	—	5,222		
Contributions receivable	29,854	—		
Other receivables	47,997	14,512		
Prepaid expenses	5,010	6,330		
	<u>204,213</u>	<u>44,499</u>		
<b>CAPITAL ASSETS</b>	<u>472</u>	<u>1,693</u>		
	<u>\$ 204,685</u>	<u>\$ 46,192</u>		
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>				
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities				
- programs and projects	\$ 134,600	\$ 71,249		
- other	29,351	12,174		
Deferred revenue				
- program and projects	5,472	12,128		
- donations	<u>17,095</u>	<u>—</u>		
	186,518	95,551		
<b>NET ASSETS</b>				
Invested in capital assets	472	1,693		
Unrestricted	<u>17,695</u>	<u>(51,052)</u>		
	<u>18,167</u>	<u>(49,359)</u>		
	<u>\$ 204,685</u>	<u>\$ 46,192</u>		
<b>Revenues</b>				
CIDA program contributions	\$ 360,766	\$ 405,872		
DFAIT contributions	—	15,000		
Fundraising	369,873	322,046		
Interest	46	81		
Other	<u>2,357</u>	<u>1,185</u>		
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<u>733,042</u>	<u>744,184</u>		
<b>Expenses</b>				
Direct programs				
International	489,758	547,071		
Canadian — publications	18,364	25,294		
— public engagement	<u>4,516</u>	<u>—</u>		
	512,638	572,365		
Indirect programs				
Support staff costs	18,270	35,919		
Operational	<u>31,968</u>	<u>27,923</u>		
	50,238	63,842		
<b>Total direct and indirect programs</b>	<u>562,876</u>	<u>636,207</u>		
Core operational	102,640	110,797		
Awards	<u>—</u>	<u>4,270</u>		
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<u>665,516</u>	<u>751,274</u>		
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b>	<u>\$ 67,526</u>	<u>\$ (7,090)</u>		



## Getting to Know Our Donors



Sister Pat Derbyshire with Kim (last name withheld) and her baby at a home for young mothers founded by the Sisters of Charity of St. Louis.

**The Sisters of Charity of St. Louis** share MATCH's vision of helping women get out of situations of violence and improve their lives. The Calgary chapter of this international Catholic order learned about MATCH either at a conference or through its publications and added the organization to its list of charities it

supports.

"If you look at how the Sisters of Charity of St. Louis got started and consider the work of MATCH's partners, there are similarities," says Sister Eily McAllister.

The order was founded by Elisabeth Molé in France in the early 1800s, following the French Revolution. Ms. Molé had long been involved in social causes in Paris, trying to bridge the wide gap between rich and poor. Her calling became even stronger, even though her husband was beheaded during the Revolution for being a member of the nobility. Through the Catholic Church, Ms. Molé established the order of sisters to help young women who had turned to prostitution as a means to support themselves. The sisters taught them such skills as sewing and cooking so they could get other work. Later, the Sisters of Charity of St. Louis focused more on education, serving as teachers and faith educators. They expanded to England and Canada — first to Quebec and then to Western Canada. There are now 700 sisters in six countries; 15 of the sisters live in Calgary.

The order of sisters is dedicated to St. Louis, who was king of France (Louis IX) in the 13th century. He was known for feeding and befriending the poor and for successfully negotiating peace with adversaries. He was canonized a saint by the Catholic Church.

The Sisters of Charity of St. Louis are involved in education in many different ways. For example, in Calgary, the sisters run a home for pregnant young women called Elisabeth House (named after their founder). Residents are provided with housing, food, education, and moral and spiritual support during

pregnancy and up to six months after their babies are born. In Regina, the sisters were instrumental in starting a shelter called Sophia House for women escaping domestic violence. Established by Sister Yvonne Toucanne, the home is now managed by lay people. Even so-called "retired" sisters continue to remain active in the community.

"We try to be conscious of the poor," says Sister Eily. "We have many ministries, and we highly value education. I know there are many obstacles that prevent women from realizing their full potential, and lack of education or marketable skills is certainly one of them."

Sister Eily says it is critical that MATCH publicize itself more, continue raising awareness of violence against women, and supporting groups of women helping women: "Such work will always be timely — as relevant to our founder's work 200 years ago in France as it is today."

MATCH Executive Director Madonna Larbi thanks the Sisters of Charity of St. Louis for their support and adds, "Although we are aware of the excellent work of the sisters in communities, we were pleased to learn how closely linked their founders' goals are to MATCH's and thank Sister Eily for speaking with us".

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**Shirley Totten** of Fredericton, New Brunswick, says MATCH's mission fits well with her values and aspirations for what is possible when small amounts of money are given to women.

"Growing up in Nova Scotia, I saw the benefits of the Antigonish Movement (cooperatives) and witnessed the struggles of farmers and of single mothers," says Ms. Totten.

She, her three sisters and brother grew up in the country near her grandparents. When Ms. Totten's parents divorced in the 1940s, her mother became a cook at a restaurant to help support the younger children who were still at home. In this post-World War Two era, Ms. Totten developed an interest in events in Europe, reading such books as Churchill's *The Gathering Storm*, a book about Nazi resistance by Jewish people in Warsaw, and a book about terrible economic conditions in Germany after the first World War.

*continued on page 12*



**Yes! I Support Women's Efforts**

To end violence, poverty, inequality, and injustice globally!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**My donation is enclosed...**

- \$ 25    \$ 35    \$ 50
- \$ 75    \$100    \$200
- Other      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Bill my:    

Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Become a Sustaining Donor!**

MATCH can count on my ongoing support. I authorize MATCH to draw the following amount from the specified chequing account on the first day of each month. If you prefer your monthly donation be processed on your credit card, please check off the amount and fill in your card information above:

- \$ 10    \$ 15    \$ 25
- \$ 50    \$ 75    \$200
- Other      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

(Please enclose an unsigned cheque marked VOID)

**GUARANTEE:** You may change or cancel your participation in the Sustaining Donor Plan at any time by notifying MATCH International Centre.

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*continued from page 11*

She also sought to fulfill her brother's dream of becoming a pilot and joined the Royal Canadian Air Force at 18. Sadly, Ms. Totten's brother died of muscular dystrophy when he was 17. Although she did not become a pilot, Ms. Totten was trained as a photographer and participated in such projects as the mapping of Canada.

After three years, she left the air force to work and travel across Canada. In the 1960s, she settled in Montreal and began work as a computer programmer. She also resumed her studies. So started a career in information systems, programming and supervising people.

"My favourite part of my career was writing code," says Ms. Totten. "One could always make something happen on the computer. We spoke the same language"

She says she felt less able to deal with people — to anticipate or effectively handle their issues. Nevertheless, she rose to supervisory positions in the male-dominated field. Her last job was with the New Brunswick government. She retired eight years ago.

Ms. Totten volunteers for Meals on Wheels, taking food to people who have difficulty cooking or getting around: "The people we visit have become friends. I marvel at their independence and that they are still working towards something despite many obstacles. They are always cheerful and never complain."

Ms. Totten also admired the spunk and accomplishments of Rosemary Brown. She read her autobiography and articles about her in magazines and newspapers. That's how she learned about MATCH and became a donor.

"I also liked the 'matching' aspect of the organization — that people in Canada and developing countries who confront the same issues come together to find common solutions," she says.

Ms. Totten referred to other development schemes that appeal to her — one involving farmers in Prince Edward Island and Sierra Leone designing and building a rain water catchment to irrigate fields in dry spells. She also likes savings and loans schemes and cooperatives, several of which have been funded by MATCH.

Contemplating such approaches to development often occurs when Ms. Totten is walking on the beautiful trails around Fredericton — the former railroad that now makes up the Trans Canada Trail.

She also enjoys spending time with friends, her one surviving sister and family, and working in her huge yard: "I raked 102 bags of leaves last year and welcome helpers!"

MATCH Executive Director Madonna Larbi thanks Shirley Totten for her generous support to MATCH International Centre and adds, "It is always rewarding for us to hear how Rosemary Brown touched so many people, including you. I think many of our readers will also be inspired by your story — your career path, values and volunteer activities."

*"Madonna is very dedicated to MATCH and has always been efficient, compassionate, and worked overtime, (literally) in seeing that the wishes of the Board were met and that partners were fairly treated."*

MATCH Board member Yvonne Sinkovitch