

Building tomorrow's Africa

When she travelled to Africa in February, MATCH program officer Guenet Guebre-Selassie found communities in evolution. And women in motion.



After attending literacy class, some children and young girls will be able to integrate into formal education and others will use their newly acquired skills in daily activities.

Seven initiatives in five African countries are channelling MATCH support directly into projects that work to end poverty, violence against women, and girl-child trafficking. They are transforming communities through training in leadership, entrepreneurship, and legal literacy/rights. They are innovating sustainable development, promoting good governance, and fostering income-generating activities. They are improving the health of communities through HIV/AIDS prevention and impact mitigation. They are

“Poverty robs you of control over your child’s future.”

empowering women through human rights sensitization and practical education.

Human rights build better futures

In Mali, ARAFD (Association Recherche Action Femme et Développement) is inspiring attitudinal and



behavioural change through public awareness, literacy and educational programs, and income-generating activities.

An ARAFD-initiated micro-credit program is helping stem the tide of child labour by providing women with sustainable income options so they can ‘hold on to’ their daughters and even employ them for both their own sake and for that of the family.

Malinese girls told Guenet they migrate for work to help their mothers who carry the responsibility of

continued on page 2

providing for their dowries and upkeep without the means to do so. Many girls spoke of the long, tiring hours they log for employers without any regard for their well-being; others were even cheated by employers who withheld salaries and invented reasons to fire them without pay.

ARAFD is raising the hopes of girls in the region who are eager to improve their lives. There is an increasing desire among the younger generation to undertake formal education and skills training in order to break cycles of poverty, discrimination, and abuse.

Sustainable development builds better futures

To turn the tide on a culture steeped in traditions and customs that keep women in service to men, the Ghanaian Government is working towards the Millennium Development Goal of promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women while pursuing a development agenda that includes the Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS).

Rescue Foundation Ghana (RFG) is paving the way for communities to run themselves – sustainably. Through public awareness, leadership development, business and financial management training, as well as agri-food initiatives, RFG projects are linking directly to nation-wide development goals.

Learning will be the key to better futures for these women and their communities. An association with RFG has allowed the University of Winneba to consolidate its gender unit by linking the students directly with community services. After conducting a gender survey in collaboration with RFG, hundreds of women now want to register for classes in the unit. Winneba University is training teachers, many of whom have already been in the field and are returning to university to further their careers.

Women's empowerment builds better futures

RFG supported the forming of the Yem-Som women's cooperative which is helping the women of the community of Esuekyr forge a new vision for their future. The co-op helps women become better off economically and empowered with skills and leadership to grow their community and independence.

“What we previously asked men to do for us, we now do ourselves. It is possible for women to do anything.”

They are proud to have their own bank account. Co-op chair Mary Asma says: “Because of the credit now available to me, I can do so much more.” She is excited to be able to provide schooling for her four children: “If things continue to go this well, I will help them go as far as they can in education.”

continued on page 3



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MATCH is a non-profit, non-governmental development agency that concentrates its support on women through overseas project funding and education in Canada.

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.

The newsletter is sent free of charge to MATCH donors. Subscriptions are available as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------|------|
| Institutions | \$25 |
| Groups | \$25 |
| Third World women's groups | Free |

Contributions to *MATCH News* of articles, notices, resource information and graphics are encouraged. We reserve the right to edit submissions.

Articles may be reprinted as long as credit is given to *MATCH News* and copies forwarded. Send submissions, subscriptions and changes of address to MATCH International Centre, 310-411 Roosevelt Ave., Ottawa, Ontario K2A 3X9, Tel: (613) 238-1312; Toll-free: (888) 414-8717; Fax: (613) 238-6867; E-mail: info@matchinternational.org; Web: www.matchinternational.org.

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Women in the co-op enjoy solidarity.

Guenet's visit to the factory where cassava is processed by the women of Yem-Som co-op illuminated what a profound difference the project is making in the lives of women. Says co-op member Joyce Kwansah: "With this project my life has tremendously changed. Previously, I worked at a cassava farm and was paid in-kind with some cassava that I would process and sell. Whatever I earned, I would give to my husband to spend as he wished. But since the training in gender and entrepreneurship and the founding of the women's cooperative, my outlook has changed. What I considered impossible for a woman to do, I now do and I succeed.



Joyce Kwansah

Education builds better futures

Tanzanian widow Mama Hindu has been sole support to her four children since her husband passed away in 2004. With the help of the Tanzanian Women and Children's Welfare Centre (TWCWC) – a MATCH partner – Mama Hindu gained legal literacy and entrepreneurship training, as well as a loan from a revolving credit scheme. She opened a small booth where she started to sell soda, milk, and homemade cookies. With this modest effort, Mama Hindu has been able to send one child to university, another to college, and keep two in secondary school. Upon becoming a widow, Mama Hindu didn't know her rights. She didn't protest when her in-laws seized the property of her husband, nor did she go after her rightful inheritance. The TWCWC is now helping her through litigation with her in-laws. She is determined to see justice, and to build a lasting future for her family.

Let's get wired

MATCH is overhauling some internal communications systems. One of our goals is to generate more interest in and traffic to the MATCH website. We'd like to share updates about our projects and activities with you through the internet.

There will soon be a way to subscribe to such updates via the website. In the meantime, please EMAIL US to ensure your address gets into our database.

Go on-line right now and send a message to info@matchinternational.org saying "YES!" to receiving e-updates. Then stay tuned for more information.

President and Executive Director's Report

Over the past year, women around the world withstood increased pressures from rising fundamentalism, ravages of war, aftermath of natural disasters. As such, women's quest for social and economic justice intensified. From Canada to the United Nations (UN), women are defining and demanding better mechanisms to speed up the long-overdue promises on equality and the delivery of fundamental human rights.

By providing support to Canadian women at the Commission on the Status of Women, MATCH participated in the advancement of the UN agenda on equality.

MATCH also continued to empower women in four regions of the world through 21 critical projects.

In January, war escalated in Sri Lanka after the government formally announced withdrawal from the 2002 ceasefire agreement. As hopes for peace faded, MATCH proudly strengthened ties with Sri Lankan women, even supplementing our regular project work with an active partnership with the Women Defining Peace Project. This CIDA-funded venture supports Sri Lankan women's groups in eradicating gendered violence through sustainable peace initiatives.

In February, we witnessed MATCH at work as program officer Guenet Guebre Salassie collaborated with partners in French and English-speaking Africa [see page 1]. Guenet observed moving, tangible results – widows reclaiming stolen property, livelihoods created from modest financial investment, community leadership seized for the first time. We also contributed to similar positive changes among women in Asia, the Caribbean, and Latin America.

In April, we launched a new three-year global program that sees every dollar raised for project work matched by \$3 from CIDA.

Every single result achieved by MATCH is a testament to the commitment of our partners and women around the world who share our vision for change. Our collective will to make a difference depends on supporters like you who provide the encouragement and financial means to keep going.

Our knowledgeable board of directors continues to root MATCH's work in women's self-defined needs and in equitable, cross-cultural ways. And a dedicated team of skilled staffers puts it all together on a daily basis.

2008/2009 is sure to present more challenges. Factors such as the global food crisis, civil wars, and climate change will make efforts by groups like MATCH all the more relevant as we strive to empower women to gain equal participation in and equal benefit from any solutions enacted.

As we continue to help build a better and more just world for all, we sincerely thank you for your part in realizing these goals.

Sincerely,

Jane Heron
President

Bonnie Diamond
Executive Director

MATCH has a new home!

Our new office is located at:

310-411 Roosevelt Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
K2A 3X9

Other contact information remains the same:

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FAX: 613-238-6867
Email: info@matchinternational.org
www.matchinternational.org

Profile – Helen Whetter and MATCH Winnipeg

MI: When did you first become involved with MATCH?

HW: I've been part of MATCH since I attended the United Nations Forum for Women in Nairobi in 1985. I was impressed by the women who were there and the reasons they had come, particularly those who had walked hundreds of miles from parts of Africa to be there. It was touching to hear about the work they were doing to achieve equality within their homes, families, and communities. So when I got home, I joined MATCH Winnipeg.

MI: With what type of activities is MATCH Winnipeg involved?

HW: We meet regularly to discuss topics that are common to women in all parts of the world – issues that are local as well as global.

Each year, we host a fundraising luncheon during International Development Week to raise money for overseas projects.

We raise public awareness with a MATCH display at annual International Women's Day events. Last November, we put up a MATCH display at the Global Justice Film Festival. And we were recently invited to contribute to the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation 'lunch and learn' series where we shared information about MATCH projects and why we support them.

Our interest in women's rights has led us to explore the interconnectedness of sustainability and development issues. Our MATCH group has discussed ways to reduce our ecological footprint, tried the '100 mile diet', and participated in the one-month challenge to consume only fairly-traded products. We've even been organizing to help meet the Millennium Development Goals.

MI: Why should others start up local MATCH groups?

HW: Our gatherings always generate a feeling of excitement, an expression of optimism. I think one of the important things about a MATCH group is the sharing that happens. At a meeting on violence against women, for instance, we had two representatives of a local safe house for sex trade workers talk about their experiences at the front-line and someone discuss her efforts to end trafficking of children – people are still buzzing about how moving that meeting was. We all feel that MATCH allows us to share such enriching experiences.

MI: With so many other NGOs working in the Global South, why do you continue to direct your support to MATCH?

HW: MATCH was formed because women from the South were saying 'Please tell our stories'. Our support goes to the smallest and poorest of grassroots organizations, often those that wouldn't receive



Pictured from left to right: Helen Whetter, Marge Pawliw, Denise Koh, Trish Masniuk, Stella LeJohn MATCH Board Member at an MCIC event.

government funding. This support enables them to have a stronger voice. MATCH doesn't impose a way of thinking on those women, we support their own – I think that's crucial.

We so appreciate the work that MATCH does. It's very important that we all work collaboratively on these important issues.

Asia overview

In Nepal, MATCH partners with Women Awareness Centre Nepal (WACN) and Women's Rights Forum Nepal (WRFN). In Sri Lanka, we support the initiatives of Lawyers for Human Rights and Development (LHRD), the Women's Education and Research Centre (WERC), and Women's Education Research Centre (CENWOR).

These MATCH partners strive to address the most pressing concerns affecting women in their countries, including:

- Poverty alleviation – by establishing cooperatives, revolving credit systems, and income-generating women's networks, we help provide economic stability and control to women and their families
- Awareness-raising – by sensitizing women to their rights, we empower them to challenge the traditions that oppress them socially, politically, and economically
- Violence against women – we support education and income-generation activities that tackle this difficult issue with initiatives that allow women to support themselves and their children
- Women and girl-child trafficking – our partners expose the magnitude of the problem in the media, take up cases in the legal system, and lobby governments to intervene on behalf of its citizens abroad
- Lack of information – we help secure space within the media to address women's issues for publications supported by MATCH such as the Kantha Newsletter, Nivedini (journal of gender studies), and Pravahini, a bi-annual newsletter published in English, Tamil and Sinhala

South America overview

Concentrating our South American work in Paraguay and Peru, MATCH supports partners whose efforts reach marginalized peoples such as Afro-Peruvians, rural women, and indigenous communities.

Our Paraguayan partner is the Colectivo de Mujeres 25 de Noviembre. In Peru, we work with Centro de Desarrollo de la Mujer Negra Peruana (CEDEMUNEP), Centro de la Mujer Peruana "Flora Tristán", LUNDU-Centro de estudios y promoción Afro-Peruano, and Minga-Perú.

These organizations are making a difference in such areas as:

- Marginalization – through popular education about the electoral process, organizing, and mobilization
- Women's empowerment – with trainings in indigenous communities on gender, health, and reproductive rights
- Sustainable development – by promoting sound income-generating activities controlled by local women's organizations and helping women participate in community decision-making
- Women's rights – Afro-Peruvian women are claiming their rights as citizens thanks to educational initiatives on race and gender
- Youth identity crisis – an innovative arts program addresses racial stereotypes and gender discrimination among Afro-Peruvian youth
- Lack of information – "Chacarera" magazine is the only publication dedicated to rural women in Peru
- Poverty – youth and women in rural and remote Amazon are empowered by the radio program "Bienvenida Salud" to speak out on issues from violence against women to sustainable agriculture

Tell your friends to visit matchinternational.org.

Caribbean overview

MATCH projects in the Caribbean revolve around three primary themes: awareness-raising on women and HIV/AIDS, women and sustainable development, and violence against women.

This important work is being creatively carried out by Caribbean partners STWAI (St. Thomas Women's Agricultural Initiative), WAND (Women and Development Unit), and CAFRA (Caribbean Feminist Research and Action), along with the Women's Issues Network in Belize.

By the end of 2007, an estimated 230,000 people were living with HIV/AIDS in the region. MATCH partners



A woman farmer of STWAI tending to their Sorrel crops.

work to raise public awareness and challenge policy makers to view the disease as a community development issue and not just a health concern because of the systemic social and economic fallouts of the disease.

With its regional partner, MATCH

works to address the rural underdevelopment that remains a region-wide issue, particularly for women. Women in the Caribbean have a long history of small-scale farming and land ownership, yet their contribution to food security has been undervalued.

In the face of unfair trade practices by large scale multinationals that spur socio-economic displacement and loss of livelihoods, MATCH-supported initiatives are teaching new techniques that empower women to be market savvy in the new agricultural age.

With the help of MATCH and the Women's Bureau of Jamaica, women are contributing to clean environmental farming practices and inspiring innovation in the green farm movement, making them leaders in the fight against rural poverty.

On the small island of Nevis, MATCH is helping to sensitize front-line workers on issues relating to violence against women while training law enforcement, legal, and community workers on how to better assist victims of violence. Outreach efforts include advocacy tools for lobbying governments to prioritize women's safety and discrimination.

Jamaica through Erynn's eyes

by Indira Bondy, Caribbean Programme Officer

As a CUSO cooperant, Erynn Lyster worked with Women's Media Watch (WMW), a progressive women's NGO in Kingston and MATCH partner for over 12 years. Believing MATCH supporters in Canada could learn a great deal from her reflections, I sat down with Erynn to discuss her Jamaican experience.

Why did you choose Jamaica and WMW?

I fell into Jamaica with Canada World Youth and then applied to be a CUSO cooperant with WMW while I was still there.

What is Women's Media Watch and what does it do?

WMW is a women's NGO started 20 years ago by women concerned about the negative portrayal of women in the media. WMW carries out workshops and seminars to raise awareness about gender-based violence. In particular, WMW promotes a gendered analysis of the media in order to increase awareness of the influence of media in our lives. WMW is comprised of a small, part-time staff and a dedicated group of volunteers.

With what activities were you involved at WMW?

I helped "brand" WMW by redesigning their educational material, quarterly newsletter, and creating a website – womensmediawatch.org. I also participated in training sessions.

What is the focus of WMW initiatives?

WMW undertakes critical gender assessment of music and other popular entertainment. We work with women's centres that house and teach young women, unwed mothers, and young "at risk" men who come to these centres to learn life skills.

The entertainment industry, especially music, has a major impact on youth. Women are often portrayed as sex objects giving young men the message that women are commodities. A high degree of homophobia is also emphasized.

Through workshops, WMW encourages young people to critically analyze the media and uncover the positive images they would prefer society to portray.

continued on page 8

Youth love WMW workshops because they get to talk openly about relationships and how the sexes relate. Young men in particular enjoy the training because they get an opportunity to discuss gender issues honestly, often for the first time.

In your view, what are the challenges facing Jamaican women?

As with other cultures across the world, patriarchy is the predominant factor precipitating many of the issues facing women in Jamaica.

The extreme gender-based violence faced by women in Jamaica is under-reported and often perpetrated within the context of domestic life, so not considered a public matter. Only two shelters for abused women exist in all of Jamaica.

The family is seen in many forms and the traditional North American nuclear family is not the norm. Even though they are regarded as the heads of households, men are often absent from the home, so the burden of caretaking and parenting falls to women (whose unemployment rate is almost double that of men). There is often a lack of male role models for children.

Women still lag behind men in terms of access to power, both politically and in the private sector. Many of the religious leaders are men.

But there are some positive role models for young girls such as Prime Minister Portia Simpson and many women entrepreneurs.

How is it similar or different for Canadian women, in your opinion?

I think Canadian women and Jamaican women face many of the same underlying issues, they are just manifested in different forms within our cultures. Women in Canada enjoy more autonomy than our Jamaican counterparts due to better access to resources and some protection under the law. While there is an acknowledgement in Jamaica that women are not equal, I think women in Canada are sometimes too complacent when it comes to gender equality issues.



Erynn Lester (back row, 2nd from right) and MATCH board member Judith Wedderburn (front row, centre) with members of WMW.

Where has your experience with WMW taken you?

I came to realize how important education is for young children. In Jamaica, it is critical that children receive the best primary education possible because their grade six GSAT exams determine what level of quality high school s/he attends. The best primary schools are usually private and are financially out-of-reach for most parents, so poor children often do not have the same opportunities as others.

So I have founded a small non-profit called 'Something Special' which provides children from Jamaica's inner-city and impoverished rural areas the opportunity to receive primary education at a quality institution. We are currently supporting three young children aged 4, 5, and 7.

I'm very excited about this initiative and invite you to contact somethingspecialeducation@gmail.com to learn more.

Please join us...

An International Panel Discussion on the Impact and Implications for Women of the World Food Crisis followed by MATCH's Annual General Meeting

Today with food shortages in crisis proportions many women are literally starving and at the same time carry the emotional pain of having to feed hungry children cakes of mud.

Panellists discuss the reality and help us determine our part in creating sustainable solutions.

When: September 19, 2008, Light lunch @11:30 am, panel presentation from 12:00 to 2:00 pm (including a question period), MATCH AGM

Where: Public Service Alliance of Canada Building, 233 Gilmour St., (main floor) Ottawa, ON K2P 0P1

MATCH encourages everyone to attend its AGM.

For more information contact Sehsuvar Suatac at 613-238-1312 ext. 3 or info@matchinternational.org.

Established to honour its founding president for her outstanding contribution to the international community, each year MATCH International Centre awards the Norma E. Walmsley Award for International Understanding to a student from Carleton University's Norman Paterson School of International Affairs (master's program).

Meet this year's recipient – Laura Sparling – in her own words:

Since starting my Master's degree, I've become increasingly committed to women's issues. My studies in conflict resolution analysis led me to focus my major research paper on the use of gender quotas in the electoral systems of countries emerging from conflict. I want to look at how effective those quotas have been in incorporating women's issues into national agendas and legislation, and who are the women being elected. Are they the wives, sisters, and granddaughters of male leaders? Tokens? Do they adopt traditional or stereotypically masculine political agendas? Or do they embrace a more peaceful approach?

Women are the overwhelming victims of conflict, so they definitely bring a unique perspective to peace-building. Women are more burdened by conflict and often represent the higher percentage of the afflicted population. Their unique perspective on how to prevent conflict and build their way out of it is essential to any successful peace-building initiative.



As I become more exposed to MATCH and its mission, it is that much more flattering to be recognized with this award. What I appreciate most is how MATCH supports grassroots ideas and respects pre-existing projects. It's one thing to go into a country and execute a project the way you see fit; it's quite a different thing to be receptive to the voices that are already active in that country.

To support women is to support communities. We should all want to do that – everyone has a mother, sister or wife. Women are the hidden force in society that makes the world turn, yet get so little recognition for it. They are so involved in the inner workings of families and communities, yet remain under-recognized.

The challenge for the international development movement is to continue to support the grassroots struggles – what exists locally is often hidden or deemed too small to invest in by international donors. Some groups are not willing to take a chance on micro-finance projects, for instance; many NGOs focus on bigger projects they think will yield a larger return.

In our society, there is so much 'other-ing' of people in distant countries. It all seems so vastly different from our own lives that it's hard to relate our family and community relationships with theirs. It helps grab people's attention when we humanize global stories.

I think development – international, sustainable, community – is about everybody.

We are all implicated in making a difference.

As always, your feedback on the newsletter is welcome. Please forward any comments or suggestions to tjones@matchinternational.org.

Fundraising Report

Your generosity allows MATCH to make a real difference in the lives of thousands of women in some of the world's poorest countries. Every time we are able to respond to a request for assistance from another part of the world, it is thanks to the commitment of individual, foundation, and government agency donors like you.

In 2007-2008, MATCH raised \$766,750. Of this total, \$373,002 was raised predominantly through sustaining donors, four direct mail appeals, and foundation proposals; the remaining \$393,748 came from our matching grant agreement with CIDA (the Canadian International Development Agency).

To our monthly sustaining donors – a special thank you. Your regular contributions represent approximately 18% of donor revenue and play an enormous role in our financial forecasting.

To the number of donors who took advantage of our investment account option – congratulations. We appreciate your creative support and positive feedback on the merits of donating this way.

To the following organizations and foundations – our gratitude for your generous assistance: CAW Social Justice Fund, CIDA, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario, Fleming Foundation, Manitoba Council for International Cooperation, Roncalli Foundation, Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation, Sisters of St. Joseph of the Diocese of London, Vancity, William F. Lede Family Foundation, and Women's Inter-Church Council.

Like most charities, MATCH faces challenges in raising money in this uncertain economy. While we endeavour to increase understanding among Canadians of the role of women's participation in international development and the commonalities that exist among women, regardless of geographic location, **WE NEED YOUR HELP** – please talk to your family and friends about why you support MATCH. Tell them about the inspiring projects we support that so many other NGOs overlook. Tell them every donation is matched 3 to 1 by CIDA. If your classroom, workplace, community club or church group would like to hear from a guest speaker about the role of women in international development, please let us know. Raised awareness is what makes our work possible.

So for your ongoing support of our shared vision of a changed world – thank you again. That support is essential to making it happen, and we are truly grateful for it.

Terri M. Jones,
Marketing & Development Officer

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.

MATCH International Centre
 310 - 411 Roosevelt Avenue
 Ottawa ON
 Canada K2A 3X9

3 cool ways to support MATCH

#1: The United Way

Even though we are not a United Way agency, you can designate MATCH International as the recipient of any gifts you make through your employee payroll deduction to the United Way.

Easy. Simply indicate the name 'MATCH International' and charitable business number 12303 7939 RR0001 on your payroll pledge form. Then the United Way will issue you a charitable receipt and send your donation straight to us.

#2 – Planned giving

A planned gift – or 'legacy gift' – gives you the control to decide in advance what happens to your estate.

Naming MATCH in your will is one of the simplest and most flexible ways to leave a lasting legacy while allowing you to maintain your current level of financial security. Whether you allocate a specific cash amount, an asset, or a percentage of the remaining estate – you will receive a receipt for the value of your gift along with a tax credit to reduce tax otherwise payable on your final tax return. A simple clause in your will is all it takes to leave MATCH a gift that keeps on giving.

#3 – Life insurance

Consider giving this powerful gift with big benefits. Make a significant future gift at a current cost that's modest – without reducing your estate. The gift is not diminished due to taxes, probate or administration fees. Making MATCH the owner or beneficiary of a new or existing policy entitles you to a current tax receipt for the premiums you pay, yet the amount of your gift will grow as the cash surrender value of the donated policy increases.

Even by simply naming MATCH as a beneficiary, your estate will be entitled to a tax receipt when the policy proceeds are received.

For additional details regarding any of these donating options, contact Terri Jones at 613-238-1312 or tjones@matchinternational.org, or consult your financial advisor or lawyer.

Auditors' 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, 2008 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with 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, MATCH International Centre / Centre International MATCH 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 MATCH International Centre / Centre International MATCH and we are not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to revenues, excess 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 respects, the financial position of the organization as at March 31, 2008 and the results of its operations and the changes in its financial position for the year ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

McKechnie & Co.
Chartered Accountants
Ottawa, Ontario

August 8, 2008

Financial Statements

Statement of Revenue and Expenses MATCH International Centre

| | Year Ended March 31 | |
|---|---------------------|-------------------|
| | 2008 | 2007 |
| REVENUES | | |
| CIDA | \$ 393,748 | \$ 348,563 |
| Fundraising | | |
| - General | 220,211 | 213,697 |
| - Foundations/Corporate | 152,791 | 152,251 |
| TOTAL REVENUES | <u>766,750</u> | <u>714,511</u> |
| EXPENSES | | |
| Direct programs | | |
| International | 618,879 | 590,221 |
| Canadian | 15,033 | 11,328 |
| | <u>633,912</u> | <u>601,549</u> |
| Indirect programs | | |
| Support staff costs | 11,127 | 10,563 |
| Operational | 8,770 | 9,177 |
| | <u>19,897</u> | <u>19,740</u> |
| Total programs | 653,809 | 621,289 |
| Core operational | 106,268 | 94,237 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | <u>760,077</u> | <u>715,526</u> |
| EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES | <u>\$ 6,673</u> | <u>\$ (1,015)</u> |

Statement of Financial Position MATCH International Centre

| | March 31 | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 2008 | 2007 |
| ASSETS | | |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| Cash | \$ 78,667 | \$ 74,773 |
| Contributions receivable | 2,540 | 91,014 |
| Other receivables | 18,217 | 1,975 |
| Prepaid expenses | 11,199 | 5,057 |
| | <u>110,623</u> | <u>172,819</u> |
| CAPITAL ASSETS | 2,331 | 4,065 |
| | <u>\$ 112,954</u> | <u>\$ 176,884</u> |
| LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | | |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | \$ 40,024 | \$ 67,808 |
| Deferred revenue | 34,962 | 77,781 |
| | <u>74,986</u> | <u>145,589</u> |
| NET ASSETS | | |
| Investment in capital assets | 2,331 | 4,065 |
| Unrestricted | 35,637 | 27,230 |
| | <u>37,968</u> | <u>31,295</u> |
| | <u>\$ 112,954</u> | <u>\$ 176,884</u> |

Full financial statements available upon request by contacting the MATCH office at 613-238-1312
or email info@matchinternational.org.