

# Solidarity...

"From my own limited experience I have found that the greatest degree of inner tranquility comes from the development of love and compassion. The more we care for the happiness of others, the greater our own sense of well-being becomes. Cultivating a close, warm-hearted feeling for others automatically puts the mind at ease. This helps remove whatever fears or insecurities we may have and gives us the strength to cope with any obstacles we encounter. It is the ultimate source of success in life." **Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso**

"Solidarity in this context signifies people who feel responsible for one another, the healthy for the sick, the rich for the poor, the countries of the North for those of the South. It means a sense of individual awareness, of reciprocal responsibility; it means we are conscious that when we give we receive, and that we can always give only what has been given to us and that what we have been given never belongs to us for ourselves alone." **Card. Joseph Ratzinger.**

"Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin." **Mother Teresa of Calcutta**

"It is the task of nations, their leaders, their economic powers and all people of goodwill to seek every opportunity for a more equitable sharing of resources, which are not lacking, and of consumer goods; by this sharing, all will express their sense of brotherhood. It requires "firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say, to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all" (SRS. 38). This spirit calls for a change of attitude and habits with regard to life-styles and the relationship between resources and goods, as well as for an increased awareness of one's neighbour and his legitimate needs. It is to be hoped that your reflections will also inspire concrete measures to combat the food insecurity, which claims as its victims too many of our brothers and sisters in humanity, for nothing will change at the world level, if national leaders do not put into practice the commitments written in your plan of action for implementing economic policies based not only on profit but also on sharing in solidarity. **John Paul II**



**Solidarity in Action Inc. (SIA)** was founded in early 2006 by Brock University students and alumni after profound international social justice experiences in South America and Africa. This same year participants from other universities joined SIA.

**Our mission** is to serve *in solidarity*, individuals and communities throughout the world providing social and integral support by means of our *Solidarity in Action Trips Abroad, Solidarity Exportation Projects, Sustainable Development and Environmental Programs, International Education Campaigns, and Canadian Home Front Projects.*



## Donations

**Please help us help people in need!  
Kindly indicate the type of projects  
or intention for your donation in  
your cheque.**

**Cheques should be issued to the order of:  
Solidarity In Action Inc.  
and mailed to:**

**317 Morton Street  
Thorold-L2V1C4-Ontario-Canada**

**Our Canada Revenue Charitable  
Number for tax deductible receipts:  
84433 5760 RR0001**

**Solidarity In Action Inc.**

**info@solidarityinaction.ca  
www.solidarityinaction.ca**



# By embracing solidarity you can make a difference in your life and the lives of others...

Through the international programs organized by **Solidarity In Action Inc.**, university students from all over Canada take a break from North American life, especially in the summer, to make a difference in their own lives and the lives of others.

Throughout a series of volunteer placements and hands-on community development projects in developing countries, students are given a truly unique international opportunity to explore the realms of social justice where they can connect their career goals with solidarity experiences in health, education, micro-business, ecology, construction, sciences, languages, etc.

A variety of volunteer opportunities in shantytowns alongside with locals help participants gain a better understanding of world issues and allow them to become more engaged global citizens.



## Solidarity in Action Inc. (SIA)

Is an international Canadian-based not-for-profit, non-denominational, social justice organization. Since its inception, it has helped students and different offices of 20 Canadian universities to organize social justice and solidarity trips, programs and projects.

We at SIA recognize that **solidarity** is a new and important trend in social justice by promoting a "heart-to heart" personal commitment with people in need who we consider brothers and sisters. Acknowledging the existence of an unfair lack of opportunities and worldwide situations affecting the dignity of human beings, SIA develops projects, programs and volunteer opportunities both locally and internationally.



Solidarity is a pragmatic and constructive social justice approach that gathers people with different systems of beliefs and motivations to work together respectfully in concrete solidarity projects.

## Urgent Goal and Need

*Since -by organization policy- we don't spend more than 5% of our donations in administration fees, our Apr 2008 -2009 goal is to raise \$50,000CF to hire permanent leaders/personnel to coordinate the growing amount of social justice programs and volunteers, and another \$20,000 CF to develop the auto-sustainability of our programs.*

## Testimonies

*For me, my solidarity experience in Peru was a transformative process inside and out. Whether one goes with or without in his life, I now understand this is not a significant determinant of happiness. This trip set the spiritual framework by which I was to regain that lost sense of pure, uncomplicated harmony with my life. To choose, to give oneself to the service of others, to stand next to them in times of material difficulty; this is one of the greatest of human expressions of compassion and more than being excited to go again, I am excited to spread the spirit in Canada. This trip needs a disclaimer "Warning: Solidarity May Transform You- Change at your own Risk".*

- **Daryl, Peru 2006**

*The fact that this is my third year participating in a Solidarity Trip to South America shows just how fulfilling the experience can be and that once you go, you can't really stop. I feel as if part of me belongs in South America and yet at the same time I feel that a part of South America is always with me here in Canada. I don't think a day goes by where I don't think of one of my trips and about the people I've met, the places I've seen and the experiences I've had. Somehow, it just becomes a part of you*

-**Natalie, Ecuador 2006.**

