

canadian
Humanitarian
Our Model



Our Vision

That every child might reach their
full potential.

Our Mission

We help disadvantaged children break free
from the cycle of poverty.



Our Philosophy

That all people are equal.

That the opportunity to reach one's
potential is a basic human right.

That poverty can be eradicated.

That by building children -
by helping them to grow intellectually,
physically, emotionally, and socially;
by fulfilling their needs as they gain an
education and discover their talents;
by giving them the tools to take control
of their own futures -
they will grow up and change their world.

The background of the entire page is a photograph showing the lower legs and feet of several children walking on a reddish-brown dirt path. The children are wearing dark-colored pants, and one child on the left has a red, white, and blue striped stripe on their leg. The image is slightly blurred, giving it a candid, documentary feel.

Our Methodology

The Holistic Child-Centered Network (HCCN) is a comprehensive, educational program that lifts children to a better future.

This model has already changed the lives of hundreds of extremely poor children who have broken free from poverty and social exclusion to become fully contributing members of their communities.

Two foundational principles of the model are The Ethic of Care, and Hope. Soon after entering the HCCN programs, students feel special, cared for, and supported. They begin to believe that, if they do their part, they will have a better future.

This hope is a powerful motivational force which enables the students to work hard every day to achieve their goals, to succeed at school, and to remove themselves from the cycle of poverty, despite present challenges.

Our Model

The Holistic Child-Centered Network (HCCN) model is inspired by Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs.



The pinnacle of this Hierarchy is to achieve one's potential. The question that drives CH program activities and project governance is, "What will help this child to reach their potential?" CH has reviewed the developmental and emotional needs of students entering its programs, and has identified a number of common deficits. The HCCN model addresses those deficits. This model has been in place in our centers since 2005.



Our Approach

Canadian Humanitarian uses a grassroots or “bottom-up” approach.

At the start of a project, we liaise with local government authorities to refer the most vulnerable children in the community.

Holistic Program

Our model provides opportunities for healthy emotional, intellectual, social, and physical development.

Education alone, or a hot meal alone, is insufficient for a child to develop their potential.



Family-Centered

Children are supported in a family environment. Most students have lost one or both of their parents and are living in a foster family situation with a surviving grandparent, aunt, uncle, older sibling, or neighbor when they enter a CH program.

These families are monitored through monthly home visits and programs.



After School Program

The HCCN model is an after-school program. Students range from grade 1 (5 years old) to grade 12 (18 years old). Students are registered in local public schools. School supplies and uniform are provided, and tuition is paid. Education Center staff are authorized to sign all student registration documents, and thereby become co-guardians of the children.

Students attend after-school programs at our Education Centers Monday to Friday. Tutors assist students with homework and provide remedial and supplemental education. Students also participate in special interest clubs such as art, drama, music, dance, sports, literature, environment, and debate. These clubs utilize adult volunteers from the community. On weekends, students come to the center for a shower, to do laundry, braid each other's hair and comingle.

Centers are rented facilities located near the public schools the students attend. The Centers have running water, shower facilities, and provide a safe and secure environment for students to gather and learn. Centers house a library, study hall, music room, computer lab, and play areas for student activities. Students receive a hot meal either at lunch or supper every day.

Each program has 50 to 70 students, allowing for a familial relationship to develop among students, between staff and students, and between staff and guardians.

Staff includes: program manager, teachers, social workers, cooks, house cleaners, guards, and an accountant. Staff members become parent-like mentors who work with guardian families, students, and the school to ensure that the students fully participate in both the public school and the after-school Center programs.

Once students have completed Grade 12, we continue to support them until their final graduation from University, College, or Vocational School through the Scholarship Program. After graduation, they become members of the Alumni Association.

Health Maintenance

Each child has an in-take physical and an annual check-up to monitor their medical and dental health.

Expedition groups bring foreign-trained medical and dental professionals to care for the students and their families.

Contracts with local medical and dental service providers are in place to provide care when needed.



Expeditions

Expedition groups are a vital part of this program.

Foreign volunteers bring love, knowledge, skills, and hope to students. Specialized expedition groups include University field studies, Medical and Dental care, Social Worker and Teacher training, Entrepreneurship and Business Management training.

As volunteers teach and share activities and ideas, students begin to see the world differently and consider new possibilities.



Guardian Programs

Some of the Education Centers provide special programs for guardians, to help them acquire a marketable skill or start a small business enterprise.

The Center offers information sessions to help guardians understand child development, grief and loss, child nurturing, and health matters including sexual and reproductive health.



Scholarship Programs

Students accepted into Universities, Colleges, Technical and Trade Schools, and Vocational Training Programs continue to receive benefits from CH as part of our scholarship program. Each student receives a monthly stipend, tuition and book allowance. The students report monthly on their grades, attendance at classes and provide receipts for transportation costs, books, and living expenses.

CH has helped the graduating students form an Alumni Association. This Association helps the students to connect with fellow students and support one another emotionally, and to find jobs. Alumni return and provide support to the Centers as mentors and tutors. They also arrange annual get-togethers for all scholarship students.

Scholarship Students can also compete for additional grants and awards. Each year, top scholars are awarded a laptop or bursary.





Outcomes

As students participate in our programs, they quickly gain a sense that they are valued and that by working hard every day they can remove themselves from the cycle of poverty. They develop confidence in, and hope for, a better future.

In one generation, CH beneficiaries move from the desperation of poverty to the hopeful future of opportunity, employment, and success.

