

*From the Treasurer's desk:*

**2008 Annual Report**

Our initial focus was to build an orphanage building within our 3 acres in Kamina, DRC. After research, we have learned that the more accepted method of supporting orphan children in Third World countries is to not put them together in a sterile environment but to keep them in individual home units with "guardians". Our 92 children were initially put into these types of homes in 2007 when we started our Organization, as they were mostly found on the streets. So, we have changed our focus to keeping our children in their Guardian homes. They have bonded a great deal with their Guardians, who might be grandparents, distant relatives, or kindly people who took them in.

We are now looking to build facilities inside the security wall that will provide feeding facilities, training areas for women to work, Sunday School for the children, etc. To date, we have started building a large shed for tools, etc. We hope to start cultivating the land so the workers can grow their own fruits and vegetables for the children.

During 2008, we were able to send 81 children to school for the 2008-2009 school year. This includes funds for tuition and required uniforms. We inoculated all 92 in October, and finished sealing the top of the security wall to protect it from the rains. Due to special donations from our wonderful donors, we were able to send funds so that all 92 received their own mosquito net to be placed over their sleeping area. They also received their own blanket, tooth brush, and soap. This past Christmas, they were all given a new set of clothing including personal items for the maturing girls. The workers were given a hot Christmas dinner funded by The City of Refuge International.

Following is a brief summary of how our funds were used for the year 2008:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Program costs	76.5%
Fundraising	15.8%
Management	<u>7.7%</u>
Total	<u>100.0%</u>

**Looking Towards 2009**

We collected enough funds during the latter part of 2008 to purchase mattresses for all 92 children. We have also been blessed with funds to purchase tools and seed so that the workers can begin planting their own garden inside the security wall.

Since all children are orphans and do not know their birthdays, we established the month of April as Birthday Month. We were able to send enough at the beginning of the month for them to all have a special day.

**New Ways to Contribute**

Due to the request of our donors, we have now established an automatic deposit system where you can have your donation transferred monthly from your account to the City of Refuge International's checking account. If you are interested in knowing more, please send a note of request to our mailing address and a Sign-up Form will be mailed to you immediately.

Our Paypal account is established and an easy way for many to donate. This can be found on our Web site at [www.cityofrefugeinternational.org](http://www.cityofrefugeinternational.org)