

THE "CHILD" SYSTEM MANUAL

Comprehensive Help for International Little Destitutes {A manual for those working with street children.}

The Children's Village Concept - 1

Your "Second Phase" Successful Graduates & III & IVth Phase Residents

The main objective of the Third Phase "CHILD" Rescue Centre is to provide a further secure and healthy environment for children who, otherwise, do not have a home or family situation. The reasons for their homelessness are many and varied, but mostly not at all their fault. A child needs love, affection and security much more than he/she has a need to find food, clothing or a place to sleep, but given a safe place in which he/she can feel wanted, 75% of the battle to set such children on the path back to normalcy is already over. As the children have been without guidance, some for many years, they have developed a mentality of survival that includes total freedom and variety. The most important feature of any centre that intends to help them should provide, within a single area, as many varied activities as possible, which are all educational in nature, without seeming so.

Where Are They Up To?

The children undergoing the "CHILD" Third Phase of strengthening will already have spent three months attending the "CHILD" Second Phase night shelter, or will have been found to have come from a working situation which is detrimental to their health or safety. In either case, the children will be somewhat settled in their daily activities, health and security. They will be more confident and well on the way to a better future. However, that does not mean that they will not leave the programme if mistreated or not treated with proper ongoing affectionate and loving attitude by the staff. By now the children are cleaner, healthier and happier. At this Phase, the children need psychological help more than anything else. For this reason it is most important that the numbers be kept to a minimum, to extend personal assistance to its maximum potential. The suggestion is about fifteen or twenty children at a time.

Employment Programmes

Those who are employed already can be re-situated if the need arises. Those children being relocated from the Second Phase can be found simple jobs in the local area. The period of time that the children will be under the care of the Third Phase will be two to three months depending on the child. The main reason for this Phase is to see the determination of the children. In performing well at a job, keeping to timed activities, keeping clean and getting a salary for all this, they will show their sincerity. The money they make can be kept in a bank account, and small amounts can be allowed as pocket money. It may be that the children find the work satisfying, but the main point to bear in mind is whether they are receiving proper and personal training in that field, whatever it may be. Many times in a working environment the children learn the skill, but extremely slowly. In a Vocational Training environment the children tend to learn much more quickly. Analyze this carefully.

Research

The "CHILD" Third Phase Rescue Centre will cater to the needs of working and street children, study their activities in detail, and offer constant encouragement and advice to them about the difference between life on the street and that available at the centres... and beyond. Their reactions to certain aspects such as classes in literacy, care and attention, cleanliness and punctuality training etc. will be monitored and a report will be prepared to determine the feasibility of further projects in the immediate and other areas.

Location

The site of your "CHILD" strengthening Village should be outside the city, but not in the wilds. Try to choose some land that is next to a body of water. It will be expensive to set up, but will become a regular source of income for your organisation as time progresses. You can advertise it as a picnic spot, especially for schools and colleges, businesses etc., a place to hold meetings for organisations like Rotary, Lions etc. Try to obtain grants for the initial planning. This amount will provide for the construction of the necessary buildings, land clearance and landscaping, plumbing, wiring, sanitation etc. including environmental development, and facility for agriculture/dairy training and various handicrafts, skills and trades.