

# The Canadian Scout Brotherhood Fund – Part II

by Lena Wong

In the June/July issue we gave you an overview of the history of the Canadian Scout Brotherhood Fund and the projects supported in 2002 and 2003. This month, we offer a selection of activities; some of which will hopefully bring home to Canadian youth how difficult it is to live in a developing country with very few support systems and very little money for many of the things we take for granted.

## Soccer with a Difference

Soccer is a game played and enjoyed worldwide. In Canada anyone can join a soccer team, play regularly and enjoy the game as a recreational activity. In many countries it is seen as the only way a poor youth can work

his way out of poverty. Often there are not even balls available to play with, let alone proper soccer balls. Many youth have to play in either the only pair of shoes they own or bare-foot. Here's an easy way to demonstrate the effect that kind of poverty has on local youth.

To make a ball you need a collection of rags and string or yarn. Pack the rags together as tightly as you can into something resembling a ball shape. Tie the whole thing together with string or yarn. Use this 'ball' to play the first half of a soccer game with the team members playing in the oldest, most raggedy pair of sneakers they possess if you are playing outdoors. If playing indoors in a gym, play in bare feet. For the second half of the game play with a regular soccer ball wearing soccer boots or regular sneakers as appropriate and available.

After the game, sit down and discuss the activity. How did the youth feel about playing with a cloth and

string ball? What was it like to play without proper footwear? How did this experience compare to playing with a real ball and soccer boots or good sneakers? Even if it was fun playing with the cloth ball this time, would it continue to be fun if this was the only ball ever available? What can your group do to help a Scout group in a developing country provide sports equipment to a community or school? Discuss the practicality and cost of shipping goods to Africa, Asia or South America. Might it be cheaper and more effective to send money through the Canadian Scout Brotherhood Fund for equipment and goods to be purchased locally or for local Scout associations to administer according to their priorities?

## Kenya Street Scouts – The Gift of Literacy

We have recently received a report on the Kenya Street Scouts Project - now called The Extension Scouting



▲  
*A family in front  
of their completed  
water tank*

*Local Scouts building a water tank*

Photos: Courtesy of WOSM, Africa Region Office

Project. It confirms just how such a project can help youth learn relevant life skills such as baking, marketing, leadership training (for youth and leaders), health education - including HIV/AIDS, poultry raising/market gardening, counseling skills, and driver training. Some of the participants in these workshops and courses have never gone to school and were unable to take notes. In spite of this, the approximately 70 youth who participated have had their lives changed as a direct result of the project and now have hope for the future. A total of 30 leaders are now better equipped to work with youth and train them in leadership skills. Kitchens have been built or renovated to accommodate baking activities that also provide sustainable income sources for the youth and facilities. Two young men are on their way to become drivers in an economy where a driver's license is a real investment in the future.

As a demonstration of how difficult it is to learn when you cannot read or write, go through this exercise with your group: Seat them in a circle and tell them a story with a specific viewpoint for 15 minutes. At the end of the story have them take a 20-minute break for a game, a snack or badge work. At the end of the break, re-assemble in the circle and ask questions about the story. How much have your youth retained? Can they re-tell the story sufficiently well? Are the youth confident that they have retained enough to be able to talk about this story at the next meeting? This should give them some idea of how difficult it is to learn something new and useful if you have been unable to go to school and learn basic reading and writing.

### A Fund-raiser Evening

Get your local Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers together to organize a fund-raiser evening with lots of activities and good things to eat. You can either charge an admission fee at the door or charge a few cents for each activity or refreshment. Invite parents and siblings along to boost numbers. Make this an event where participants move through different stations to try out games, crafts, food and drink.

**Games** (to maintain the spirit of community, play team games involving as many players as possible):

*Crocodile Race* (from [www.gamekids.com](http://www.gamekids.com)) – Form teams of 4-10 players. Players stand in a straight line behind the designated leader and put their hands on the hips or shoulders of the person in front. Everyone crouches down low; the “crocodiles” race each other to a finish line. The winning team gets to put a note in the suggestion box for the type of Brotherhood Fund Project the proceeds of the evening will help fund.



*Community members check out the tank's progress*

*Lion and Mouse tag* (also from [www.gamekids.com](http://www.gamekids.com)) - Form players into a circle and pick two, one as the lion and the other as the mouse. Blindfold the two players. When the lion roars, the mouse squeaks. The game stops when the lion catches the mouse by following the squeaks. The mouse now becomes the lion and another player is picked to be mouse.

*Follow the Leader* – Pick a youth who has a good sense of humour and lots of imagination as the first leader. Players form a line behind the leader and have to mimic all his movements and actions as he leads them through a course set out by the leadership team. Encourage the leader to use as many varied actions as possible (run in a squatting position, hop on one leg, etc). Any player who does not follow the leader falls out of the game. The last surviving player becomes the next leader and comes up with a new bag of tricks. When indoors, have the players sit or stand in front of the leader and mimic facial expressions as well as arm and leg movements.

**Crafts** (choose easy crafts that can be done by even the youngest visitors to your event). These examples (or the basic ideas) are collected from [www.kidsdomain.com/craft/](http://www.kidsdomain.com/craft/)

*Collectors Plates* – You need paper plates, cutouts from old magazines, glue, and thin ribbon. Glue a small collage of pictures onto a paper plate. Glue a length of ribbon on the back of

the plate forming a loop for hanging. We suggest using pictures with an international background, perhaps from old travel brochures.

*Drinking Straw Necklace* – You need different coloured drinking straws cut into short pieces, lengths of yarn, a safety pin and a rounded darning needle. Young children need to be closely supervised for this activity. Thread the needle with yarn and tie the end onto the safety pin to avoid straw pieces falling off. Thread straw pieces of different colours onto the yarn until the necklace is the desired length. Remove the safety pin and the needle and tie the two ends together, cutting off extra yarn.

### Updates on Other Projects

**Kenya - Gacharage Project:** The objective of this project was to educate Scouts and locals on all aspects of HIV/AIDS and how to avoid infection through behaviour change as well as to support families. Four tanks have now been built for elderly couples caring for orphaned children - they were full of water at the end of the rainy season. This means that the women do not have to trek to the local river for water. The Kenyan Scout group is now raising money to purchase a dairy cow for each household.

**Tent Shipment to Africa:** Some of the 2669 tents shipped to the World Scout Bureau's Africa Region Office have been distributed to Scout Associations in Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Mauritius and the rest are in the process of being shipped to other countries.

**B.-P. Memorial Project:** The clock tower has been renovated and the project organizers are looking for someone to repair the clock at a reasonable cost. A plaque recognizing Scouts Canada's contribution will be placed on the tower.

For more information about The Canadian Scout Brotherhood Fund, send us an e-mail at [lwong@scouts.ca](mailto:lwong@scouts.ca) with your name and postal address and we will be happy to send you a full historical report on this important aspect of Canadian Scouting. X

- *Lena Wong works in International Relations at the National Office.*