



HQ 1154  
V53

IN TOUCH WITH OUR GRIEF . . .

AN EXERCISE IN RESPONDING TO THE CRIES OF CHILDREN

The biggest single cause of death among the developing world's children is diarrhea, which is caused by impure water, inadequate sanitation and inadequate health care. It kills 5 million young children each year, and disables 5 million more. A child dies every six seconds because of it. (1)

Malnutrition effects  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the developing world's young children. Forty thousand young children died each day from malnutrition and infection in 1982. (1)

The United Nations estimates that it would cost \$6 billion per year to overcome the worst aspects of large scale hunger by the year 2000. Six billion dollars amounts to only one, one-hundredth of what the world spends on armaments each year. (1)

UNICEF's three main goals; reducing infant deaths, increasing average life expectancy, and giving every child enough education to achieve literacy-- could be achieved for less \$ than the people in the industrialized nations spend each year on alcoholic drinks. (1)

Around the world, people spend \$250 million per day on cigarettes. It would cost \$70 million per day for the world's population to have clean water. (2)

Between 1981-1983... more than 2.5 million American children fell into poverty. Now 1 in 5 children is poor in America. (3)

290,000 children are among the 725,000 people who lost health services as a result of cuts affecting community health centers. (3)

In 1984, 115,000 low-income women, infants, and children will be dropped from the Special Supplemental Food Program (WIC) due to federal budget cuts. (3)

The federal government's spending projections for fiscal 1988-- compared to 1981-- show that per capita real spending for low-income families and children will decrease nearly 22%, while spending for national defense will increase 63%. (3)

Elimination of free veterinary services for members of the armed forces would raise \$3.2 million-- enough to compensate for the fiscal 1982 cutbacks in funds for immunizing children. (3)

Pentagon lunches receive a \$14.00 subsidy whereas school lunches receive \$1.20. (3)

1 nuclear powered aircraft carrier costs \$2.5 billion...  
The cut in food stamps for the poor is \$2.3 billion...

1 Trident nuclear submarine costs \$1.2 billion...  
The cut in Child Nutrition Programs is \$1.2 billion...

1 SSN nuclear attack submarine costs \$614 million...  
The cut in AFDC is \$614 million... (3)

An estimated 1 million cases of child abuse occur nationally each year. 2,000 of these cases end in death. (4)

90% of prison inmates claim to be victims of child abuse. 90% of abusive parents were abused as children. (4)

About 150,000 children are reported missing annually. Roughly 1/3 of those cases are never solved. (6)

LA County's Department of Public Social Services receives 50,000 child abuse reports a year. Only  $\frac{1}{2}$  of those cases reported can be investigated, due to the effect budgetary cuts has had on staffing. (7)

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In LA County one of every 2.5 women will be raped at one point in their lives. (8)

In America today, there is a one in four chance that a little girl will be the victim of incest, child molestation or rape, by the time she reaches 18. (9)

In 2/3 of the cases of sexual abuse-- the victims know the assailants. (10)

50-90% of sexual assaults against children are never reported. (11)

The Environmental Protection Agency has allowed the continued use of pesticides contaminated by dioxin in Stuttgart, Arkansas-- the self-proclaimed "rice capital of the world"-- while banning its use elsewhere. In 1981, Arkansas County had a cancer rate 50% higher than the national average, while Children's Hospital in Little Rock reports higher than usual numbers of handicapped pre-schoolers. (12)

The infant death rate of the area within a 10 mile radius of the Three Mile Island Power Plant has doubled since the nuclear reactor accident in March of 1979. (12)

According to a study carried out by the Service Employees International Union, the existence of dangerous levels of asbestos in 9% of American schools has not been adequately resolved by the government's control program. An estimated 3.24 million school children are exposed daily to this highly toxic substance, a known cause of cancer and lung disease. (13)

Two toxic waste dumps and the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant are located in Plymouth, Mass. Neighboring these locations is the Indian Brook Elementary School. Of the 20 pregnancies between 1977-1982 amongst the Indian Brook staff, one ended in stillbirth, three miscarried, and three infants had serious birth defects. (14)

Children are the second highest risk category for exposure to toxins in the US-- second only to chemical workers who work directly with chemicals. (15)

There are at least 115 active or abandoned toxic dump sites in nine Southern California counties. People living near one such dump in Fullerton, had ten times the number of headaches, sore throats, upset stomachs, etc. as people not living near the dump. Long-term health effects have yet to be assessed. There are 5 such dumps in Long Beach. (16)

#### CRIES

Do you hear their cries?  
Children crying out to you.  
They need your help.

Do you see the kids on the ground?  
There are some there who are sleeping  
Because they have no place to live,  
And there are some who are dead.

Do you hear their cries!

Nikki Cooper, 6th grade, (17)

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