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HUMAN RIGHTS



FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

OBSERVER

Children's Program Begins Advocacy Initiative in Mexico

In September, a Minnesota Advocates delegation conducted an advance planning trip to Mexico to develop the advocacy initiative for the Global Child Survival Project. The delegation met with more than thirty non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and individuals involved with children's and women's rights in Mexico to present Minnesota Advocates' new global child survival and human rights model. In turn, the delegation learned about current human rights issues in Mexico and how the NGO community addresses such problems.

The delegation worked in both Mexico City and Oaxaca City and found that many women and children still experience violations of their most fundamental human rights. Thousands of women and children live on the streets or are victims of domestic abuse. Although the Mexican government has taken measures to address these problems, much work has yet to be done. The Minnesota Advocates team was pleased to find that both the Mexican NGOs and government structures are very advanced and attuned to these problems. For example, the Human Rights Commission of Mexico City has established the Casa del Arbol (Tree House), an interactive learning center

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HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS DINNER RECOGNIZES LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights celebrated its sixteenth annual Human Rights Awards Dinner by recognizing the tremendous contributions of Minnesotans to the human rights movement. The Human Rights Awards Dinner, the largest international human rights event in the Midwest, drew over 450 attorneys, executives, government officials and activists. The event not only provided an opportunity to acknowledge our local community's contributions, it also encouraged increased activism from individuals and organizations throughout Minnesota and the Midwest.

The 2000 Human Rights Awards Dinner honored retiring Congressman Bruce F. Vento for his unwavering commitment to human rights throughout his career and the Intercultural Mutual Assistance Association in recognition of its pivotal work for immigrants and refugees in Rochester and the surrounding area.

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*Volunteer Award
Winners Lynn
Schultz and Jane
Keple of J.J. Hill
Montessori School,
St. Paul*



*Members of the
Nimely Pan
African Dance
Company*