

## Voices of Hope Report From Mexico City

*Children and HIV/AIDS: Action Now, Action How?* An International Symposium was held in Mexico City, August 1-2, 2008, a pre-conference initiative of the World AIDS Congress, organized by The Teresa Group in partnership with La Casa de la Sal. Noreen Huni, Chung To, Yasmina Vinci, Robert Manning, Bonnie and Roger Neugebauer represented the World Forum Foundation and the HIV/AIDS Action Tank, renamed Voices of Hope.

Concerns expressed at the Symposium echoed what was shared at the World Forum in Kuala Lumpur:

- Money from big donors does not always get to the right people.
- People on the ground who know what needs to be done are often the last ones consulted by donors about what to do and how to do it.
- As governments and NGOs partner in policy design, where are the voices of the CBOs?

The need for empowered grassroots programs was affirmed, and so furthered our belief that there is, indeed, a strong purpose for moving forward the work of Voices of Hope to focus on grassroots work with vulnerable children affected by HIV/AIDS. We will work to network grassroots programs toward greater individual and collective power and action. The network will be important for:

- increasing the capacity for advocacy, and bringing the voices of children and families into the dialogues
- sharing experiences, practices, and strategies across countries
- making connections to research
- making connections to volunteers
- addressing the immediate, short-term needs of programs in the network by seeking to build a micro-philanthropic online opportunity, where stories of your programs will create interest among direct donors.

The Voices of Hope network will be involved in program development for World Forum 2009, where the work will continue.

*Success!*



WORKING FORUM  
Multi-Site Early Childhood Organizations  
Working Forum for Multi-Site Early  
Childhood Organizations  
October 22 - 24, 2008  
Lihue, Hawaii  
[www.worldforumfoundation.org/Multi-Site](http://www.worldforumfoundation.org/Multi-Site)

*Report Coming Soon*

9th ISSA Annual Conference  
Active Citizenship: Democratic  
Practices in Education  
October 9-12, 2008  
Budapest, Hungary  
[www.worldforumfoundation.org/issa](http://www.worldforumfoundation.org/issa)



World Forum 2009 on  
Early Care and Education  
June 16 - 19, 2009  
Belfast, Northern Ireland  
[www.worldforumfoundation.org](http://www.worldforumfoundation.org)