

# CHILDREN HELPING CHILDREN...

## A Child Labor Project Update



PHOTO: ILO

CHILDREN AND adults in the U.S. and abroad are mobilizing to stop the problems of child labor, forced labor, and sweatshops. As part of this effort, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) initiated its Child Labor Project, calling for children to be in school rather than at work. The AFT seeks to educate and activate its members on the problems of child labor and other similar abuses.

At the AFT biennial convention last August, this project was launched with speakers, a rally led by students and teachers, and a raffle to support schools for children freed from bonded labor in the carpet industries of Bangladesh and Nepal. In conjunction with the convention, the article "Children without Childhoods," which originally appeared in the Summer 1996 *American Educator*, generated a large response from members. After reading the article, this class of first and second graders from Yonkers, New York, began their own efforts to combat child labor..

For more information, please contact:

The Child Labor Project  
 555 New Jersey Avenue, N.W.  
 Washington, DC 20001-2079  
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 Fax: (202) 879-4502

Contributions to the Child Labor Project are given to support schools for former child workers.

To Whom it May Concern, 11/9/96  
 I am a Yonkers public school teacher at School 31. I read the article "Children without Childhoods" in the summer issue of *American Educator*. I spent some time in India where I saw the realities of child labor, the article touched a real chord in me. I presented it to my class of first and second graders and we all decided to save our money and contribute it to the Child Labor Project. The students in my class are mostly inner-city children and are not luxury they can generally afford. If you could write to us, telling of the good work their contributions would toward, I'm sure it would mean a great deal to them.

Thank You! →  
 (address on back)

Thanks again,  
 Kirby Roberts

P.S. - I enclosed a photo of some of my students. I so hope you can see the faces of the children who care so much!





ear Child Labor Project,

We are a class of first and second grade students at School 31. We learned about the children who have to work every day instead of going to school and playing. We feel terrible that this happens. We gave our money to you so you can help these kids.

Sincerely,

LA-ASIA  
SEAN  
Ms. Doherty

KARINA  
Gary

Oliver  
PATRICK-T

Jeffrey Batis  
Vanessa  
Jason Hall  
Tiffany

Men Gen  
Michelle  
Christopher  
Patrick J