

FREE THE CHILDREN

233 Carlton Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5A 2L2
T: 1.416.925.5894
E: info@freethechildren.com
W: freethechildren.com

October 1, 2013.

Dear Mr. Mullan,

I hope this note finds you well.

Please allow me to formally introduce myself. My name is Marc Kielburger and I am the co-founder of Free The Children, an international children's charity and educational partner.

Free the Children is proudly Canadian and now works around the world. Founded in 1995 by my younger brother Craig when he was only 12, Free The Children has grown into a network of more than 1.7 million youth. The model of our work is young people, in the developed world, helping other young people in the developing world.

My brother and I are both proud graduates of the Catholic School system, through Mary Ward Catholic Secondary School and Brebeuf College School respectively. Craig and I and were raised with the important value of service through our educator parents. In our work with Free The Children, we aim to create a generation of active global citizens through service based programming centered on social justice and leadership.

Internationally, Free The Children's development projects are carried out through our holistic development model, Adopt a Village, which is based on five pillars: (i) clean water, (ii) health care, (iii) education, (iv) alternative income projects, and (v) food security/agriculture. To date, our organization has built over 650 schools and school rooms in 45 countries, educating over 55,000 children daily and provided health care and clean water access to more than one million people. Free the Children has been internationally recognized for its work and has been nominated three times for the Nobel Peace Prize.

In relation to our health care pillar, the organization provides a number of resources to help build stronger and healthier communities, including mobile health clinics and a permanent clinic in Kenya. The medical facilities funded by Free The Children are designed and equipped to provide basic health care services.

I wanted to be in touch as I understand there may have been some misinformation about the purposes of our health care activities. This may have come through concerns that were raised by certain media organizations that were based on inaccurate information. As a senior leader of our faith and the Church, we wanted to humbly and personally reach out to you and provide some clarity on the questions which may have been raised.

Please allow us to share that Free The Children does not partner with development organization or other international agencies which are in direct conflict with Catholic teachings. Furthermore, Free The Children does not endorse, advocate, counsel, fund or perform abortions in any way, in any of our project countries. We are very passionate about this point and seek to be very clear in our comments.

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Our clinic in Kenya, called the Baraka Clinic, opened in 2010 and currently serves over 30,000 local community members in the Maasai Mara. This past year, the clinic opened a Pre-natal wing which assists in the delivery of children in a safe and healthy environment. The wing was designed to aid in the health care of expecting mothers and their babies. We would like to share that this this solely serves the purpose of providing pre-natal and post-natal care to expecting mothers and their newborns.

The Baraka Health Clinic is registered with the government of Kenya as all public health care clinics are required to do so. As referenced above, while we do not seek to partner with groups that are in direct conflict with Catholic teachings, unavoidably due to local government regulations, we are sometimes forced to make some adjustments. To provide a specific example, contraceptives are not part of Free the Children's development model. However because our clinic in Kenya is certified and supported in-part by the government of Kenya, the Baraka Health Clinic is mandated, by law in the country of Kenya, to stock provide contraceptives to patients should they personally request them. (Please allow us to share that in Kenya, the Catholic Mission Hospitals and Catholic Mission Clinics in our region have also adopted this same policy, and have contraceptives on hand in their own clinics as well, as mandated by the government).

Please allow us to be clear however, that our staff at the Baraka Health Clinic do not proactively provide contraceptives, as it is not part of our holistic model.

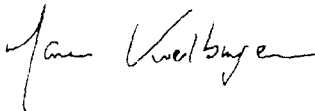
I hope the above is helpful. Please know that we are very passionate about these issues and take them very seriously. I would be very pleased to speak with you in person and to provide more details about any of the projects and programs mentioned above.

Should you have any follow up questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at any point. My email for your reference is [REDACTED] and my direct phone number is [REDACTED]

Thank you very much for allowing us to share these important issues with you. We really value our opportunity to work with young Canadians and to help educate them on their role and responsibility in helping to make their local and global community a better place.

The support that we have received from Catholic Schools over the years has been very generous and we want to do everything we can to ensure you feel connected and informed on Free The Children's work.

Sincerely,



Marc Kielburger, OCM
Co-founder, Free The Children