



International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres
Fédération Internationale des Centres Sociaux et Communautaires
Internationale Föderation der Sozial-Kulturellen Nachbarschaftszentren
Federación Internacional de Centros Sociales y Centros Vecinales

2001

Annual Report

IFS Board of Directors 2001

The activities of IFS are directed by a voluntary Board of Directors, elected by and from the membership, world wide. Board members serve a four-year term.

Mr. Kim Adams
Oxford House
London, UK

Mr. John Mayhew
Tilbury, UK

Dr. Herbert Scherer
Verband für Sozial Kulturelle
Arbeit, Landesgruppe Berlin e.V.
Berlin, Germany

Madame Martine Egelé
Fédération des centres
sociaux et socio-culturels
de France, Strasbourg,
France

Ms. Emily Menlo Marks
United Neighborhood
Houses of New York, New
York, USA
Immediate Past President

Mr. Brian F. C. Smith
Woodgreen Community Centre
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
President

Ms. Veronica Guruceaga
Caracas, Venezuela

Mr. Frank Modica
Hamilton Madison House
New York, USA

Mr. Yaron Sokolov
Israel Federation of Community
Centres, Jerusalem, Israel
Vice-President, Outreach

Mr. Heraclio Henriquez
FESABAKO
Willemstad, Curaçao,
Netherlands Antilles

Mr. Daniel Onifade
Edinburgh University
Settlement, Scotland
Vice-President, Europe

Mr. Anthony Wagner
Pillsbury United Communities
Minneapolis, USA

Ms. Carol R. Lubin
New York, USA

Mr. Risto Pontela
Finnish Federation of
Settlements, Helsinki,
Finland
Treasurer

Dr. Ursula Weber-Hejtmanek
Wiener Hilfswerk
Vienna, Austria

Mr. Jos van der Lugt
Stichting Rijnstad
Arnhem, The Netherlands
Secretary

Ms. Dorit Rom
Israel Association of
Community Centres,
Jerusalem, Israel

Mr. Bernie Wohl
United Neighborhood Houses of
New York, New York, USA
Vice-President, Americas

IFS is grateful for the generous support of our donors in 2001

The Alan & Barbara Mirken Foundation
The Association of Canadian Community
Colleges
Fédération des centres sociaux et socio-
culturels de France
The Ford Foundation
The New York Community Trust
Pillsbury United Communities

Verband für Sozial Kulturelle Arbeit, e.V.
Berlin
WoodGreen Community Centre

Carol R. Lubin
Emily Menlo Marks
Frank Modica
Jutta Nothnagel
Mr. & Mrs. Rivington R. Winant

**A Message from the
President of the Board
and the
Executive Director
of the IFS**



The year 2001 marked the 75th anniversary of the International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres. The first settlement house was established in 1884 at Toynbee Hall, East London, and inspired the creation of neighbourhood based centres all over the world. The concept behind the term “settlement” was an innovative idea for the time: people concerned about social issues felt they could only be effective in working for improvements if they had direct experience with the existing problems by living among people in need and 'settling' into their neighbourhoods.

Founded in 1926, the IFS brought together community based organisations from Europe and North America wishing to foster linkages and to promote the settlement house approach to community development. Today, IFS has members in 30 countries around the world and continues to promote its vision of a fair, equitable and inclusive world. The direct involvement of neighbourhood residents in community programs is one of the great strengths of settlement houses in tackling the complex problems facing communities and individuals.

Our current socio-political context presents both opportunity and challenge. We know, more than ever before, that we live in a common world, a plane flight away from people in other countries, linked by events and decisions that affect us all. Human security, living in a diverse society and the incidence of intense disadvantage of many- poverty, lack of housing, poor access to services - have become urgent and very real issues to the citizens of today's world.

Neighbourhood centres are active across the full range of social, economic, cultural, educational and environmental needs, from children's day care centres to activity groups for senior citizens, from health projects to literacy classes, and to providing shelter for the homeless. But neighbourhood centres not only provide key services but also empower people to participate in building their own community. Now, as in the past, IFS and its members seek to develop harmonious relationships among different cultural, economic, religious and social groups, and to foster personal growth and self-confidence—helping neighbours to find solutions to problems together, in terms which are meaningful to them.

Brian F. C. Smith
President

Agnès van 't Bosch
Executive Director

Strengthening Neighbourhood Centres for the Future

Strengthening communities has been a central focus for the IFS network since 1926. In 2001, IFS members continued to reach out to community based organisations in countries around the world that face significant political and economic changes that impact directly on the health and social development of local populations. Emerging non-governmental community centres in CEE, in Latin America, Africa and Asia are playing a leadership role in responding to these new challenges by mobilizing citizens and promoting self-help social and economic projects in their communities.

"IFS has opened many avenues for a small local organization such as the DPJC, which started from zero, with no experience in social services, nor in the NGO field. The partnerships developed with other IFS members have encouraged us to persevere and to continue learning. Exchanges provided youth with a much needed broadening of their horizons. By going abroad, they were able to become more aware of the needs, opportunities, and possibilities of others outside their small circle...and have returned to continue their volunteer work more enthusiastically."
- Ricardas Liskausus of Dvasines Pagalbos Jaunimui Centras in Klaipeda, Lithuania

Over the past year, improved outreach and networking resulted in increased interest in IFS activities in these countries. Ten organizations became new members of IFS in 2001 from Africa, India and CEE. As new non governmental organisations with limited funding and experience, these centres seek training opportunities to build their skills and to strengthen their centres. Exchanges between members in 2001 provided the sharing of expertise in diverse fields including the recruitment of volunteers, management and governance issues as well as a range of technical areas such as computer skills, job training, youth work or creating housing cooperatives.



IFS EuroGroup Seminar, April 2001, Bulgaria

Two "East-West" capacity building seminars took place in Europe, bringing together over 60 participants from Western and Central/Eastern Europe. The first was held in April 2001 in Sofia, Bulgaria, hosted by IFS member, the Art Forum, focusing on the theme: "Using cultural activities to promote local social development". The second took place in October in Vienna, Austria in October 2001 and was hosted by the Viennese Welfare Organisation (Wiener Hilfswerk) on the theme "Volunteerism and development".

This dialogue is by no means a one-way street. Even community centres with decades of experience have found that international exchange has challenged them to reflect on "the way it's always been done".

"In our country [Germany] and in the Western world in general the perception of these changes was that the people in the East would just have to adjust to our Western system and learn from our experience in this system in order to learn how to cope and how to live with it. What we did not expect was the impact this process would have on our own situation and how it would force us to undergo changes ourselves. Our experiences as neighbourhood centres during these years are good examples of what international relations are all about and what an organisation such as the IFS, can do."

-Herbert Scherer, Verband für Sozial-kulturelle Arbeit, Berlin, Germany

Making the Global Link

Throughout the year IFS members and volunteers participated in many international meetings and forums, using IFS' special consultative status at the United Nations and the Council of Europe to give a voice to community concerns.

IFS representatives participated in many UN forums including the UN Commission on Social Development held in New York in February 2001, the UN Commission on the Status of Women held in March 2001 in New York, the Third UN Conference on Least Developed Countries held in Brussels in May 2001, and the World Conference on Racism held in Durban, South Africa in August 2001.

"Through networks we have been able to build upon the unique strength of neighbourhood centres' local focus. Working together we have been able to link agencies and mobilize many community members who are often left out of policy debates."

*-Rob Howarth, Toronto
Neighbourhood Centres, Toronto, Canada*

IFS was also represented by its French member on the special Council of Europe committee responding to the draft European Social Charter on Human Rights.

In June 2001, the French National Federation (Fédération des centres sociaux et socio-culturels de France) hosted a seminar in Strasbourg, France for representatives of IFS national federations of the United Kingdom, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Germany, France and Israel to discuss the building of the new Europe and the development of joint actions in social policy development within the European Union.

IFS also participated in many meetings and events throughout the year on issues of social development through its membership

in international networks of non governmental organisations such as the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN), the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) and the Conference of NGOs in consultative relationship with the United Nations (CONGO).

"What we experienced (...) happened in Europe on the whole. What was put under scrutiny was our concept of democracy, of participation and the whole question of the role of the state in relation to the individual, to economic forces and to civic society."

-Herbert Scherer, Verband für Sozial-kulturelle Arbeit, Berlin, Germany

Telling our stories

In 2001 the Federation launched its three-year plan to strengthen its function as an information clearinghouse through the enhancement of Internet services, publications and research. IFS will document and transfer experiences of neighbourhood centres worldwide in order to serve as an international resource for community building and civic participation.

"One of the best ways of empowering communities is by giving them information. It is no coincidence that the most oppressive societies are also the most secretive".

-Luke Geoghegan, Toynbee Hall, London, UK

During the year, two issues of the *IFS Newsletter* were published and widely disseminated and a new IFS website was designed with the aim to become an effective tool for information exchange and communication between members. The site will also serve as a resource to the interested public by collecting historical documents on the settlement movement and neighbourhood work and providing case studies and practical approaches and tools to community building around the world.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

December 31, 2001

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION [expressed in U.S. dollars]

	2001 \$	2000 \$
ASSETS		
Current		
Cash	27,207	46,745
Accounts receivable	1,667	3,121
Grant receivable	300,000	—
	328,874	49,866
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	7,429	8,173
Deferred revenue	275,000	—
Total current liabilities	282,429	8,173
Fund balance	46,445	41,693
	328,874	49,866

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND FUND BALANCE [expressed in U.S. dollars]

	2001 \$	2000 \$
REVENUE		
Donations	3,540	2,752
Government Grants	2,303	—
Foundation Grants	27,000	65,500
Member dues	38,932	30,627
Other income	9,191	453
	80,966	99,332
EXPENSES		
Administration	57,849	30,705
EuroGroup program	11,508	15,417
Communications	5,452	3,774
Board meetings	—	2,746
United Nations	115	353
Policy Support	1,432	1,278
	76,214	61,163
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the year	4,752	38,169
Fund balance, beginning of year	41,693	3,524
Fund balance, end of year	46,445	41,693

Financial Statements for December 31, 2001 were audited by Ernst & Young and are on file with the State of New York at: New York State Department of Law, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10271

IFS Members 2001

Albania	Women in Development Association
Austria	Wiener Hilfswerk
Bulgaria	Art Forum
Canada	Association of Neighbourhood Houses of Greater Vancouver Canadian Association of Neighbourhood Centres and Settlements Toronto Neighbourhood Centres WoodGreen Community Centre
China	St. James Settlement, Hong Kong
Czech Republic	KOPRA
Denmark	Askovgaarden
Estonia	Viljandi Settlement Usaldus
Ethiopia	Agri-Sevice Ethiopia
Finland	Finnish Federation of Settlements
France	Fédération des centres sociaux et socio-culturels de France
Germany	Nachbarschaftsheim Schöneberg Verband für Sozial Kulturelle Arbeit, Germany Verband für Sozial Kulturelle Arbeit, Landesgruppe Berlin e.V.
Ghana	EDIKANFO Progressive Foundation
Hungary	Association of Open Study Groups Csalad Es Kozosseg Alapilvany Csapokert Community House
India	National Youth Service Action & Social Development Research Institute Social Education for Environmental Development
Israel	Israel Association of Community Centres Israel Federation of Community Centres
Latvia	Livani Foundation of Latvia
Lebanon	H. Karagheusian Commemorative Corporation
Lithuania	Charity Fund Lekeciai Neighbourhood Centre Dvasines Pagalbos Jaunimui Centras Petrasiuonu Bendruomenes Centras Public Institution Sintautai Academy Social Innovation Fund Vilnius Community Centre
Netherlands	Nederlands Instituut voor Zorg en Welzijn Stichting Rijnstadt Vereniging Steunfuncties Welzijn
Netherlands Antilles	Federashon Sentranan di Bario Korsou
Palestinian Authority	Al-Iod Charitable Society-Lod Center
Poland	Centrum Wspierania Aktywnosci Lokalnej
Romania	Phoenix Carita Society
Russia	Women's Organisation Bihor-Oradea Centre of Social Pedagogy Help to Youth Cooperation NGO Centre for Scottish Culture Social Protection of Family & Children
Spain	Associacio de Veins del Casc Antic
Sweden	Birkagarden Fritidsforum
UK	British Association of Settlement & Social Action Centres Community Matters-National Federation of Community Organisations Edinburgh University Settlement Scottish Gypsy Travellers Toynbee Hall
USA	Ella Austin Community Center General Board of Global Ministries Goddard Riverside Community Center Hamilton Madison House Henry Street Settlement Pillsbury United Communities Providence Neighbourhood Center United Neighborhood Centers of America United Neighborhood Houses of New York University Settlement Society of NY
Venezuela	Fundación comunitaria 23 de enero (Fundacom23)



International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres
Fédération Internationale des Centres Sociaux et Communautaires
Internationale Föderation der Sozial-Kulturellen Nachbarschaftszentren
Federación Internacional de Centros Sociales y Centros Vecinales

The International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres is a membership association of national, regional and local non governmental multi-purpose community-based organisations working to strengthen communities around the world

Headquarters

*835 Queen Street East
Toronto, Ontario M4M 1H9
Canada*

Tel: +1 416 469 5211, ext. 1163

Fax: +1 416 469 0714

Email:

ifs.anamaria@herc.woodgreen.org

European Office

*17 Guthrie Street
Edinburgh, Scotland EH1 1JG
UK*

Tel: +44 131 650 6310

Fax: 44 131 650 2569

Email:

florence@ifseurope.org.uk

Website: www.ifs.network.org