

How The Foundation Came To Be

A nephew of Alphonse Gerwing visited him shortly after his 77th birthday. The important question that was asked was how to keep Al's work active, and ongoing into the future! Even the distant future!

It was then proposed that a foundation be set up where the capital is preserved and only the interest is donated each year, using the NGO Rainbow of Hope For Children. As a result, every donation continues to "give" year after year"

It was soon apparent that Al's family, friends and collaborators approved of the idea and indicated their support.

As a result of the principal that has been built up through donations, a sizable amount of money has been distributed to Al's projects in Brazil and Latin America.

The purpose of the Foundation is to keep Al's projects (and memory) alive long into the future. By contributing to the Foundation, you can help to ensure that Al's work will continue to make a difference in people's lives.

For more information about the Foundation and ways in which you can support its work, please go to the Alphonse Gerwing Charitable Foundation website.

One of Al's nieces has put together a book of Al's memoirs. It is entitled, **No Ordinary Man: the Memoirs of Al Gerwing** and is available at McNally Robinson bookstore.

"There is no trust more sacred than the one the world holds with its children, There is no duty more important than ensuring that their rights are respected, that their welfare is protected, and that they grow up in peace."

- Kofi A. Annan Secretary General of the United Nations State of the World's Children 2000



"Sister renewed her plea for a downtown shelter and I promised her then and there that I would move heaven and earth to rescue them and get a shelter."

-Al Gerwing

"He was quite a guy. He lived his life for others, completely for others."

"He was an ordinary man who did extraordinary things."

"In a discouraging world of feckless leaders, it's enough to know saints like Al still live among us. I loved that man."

"Al's death has left a deep void. We can help fill that void by keeping his work alive in our care and concern for the underprivileged and marginalized in our society."

"We are guilty of many errors and many faults, but our worst crime is abandoning the children, neglecting the fountain of life. Many things we need can wait. The child cannot."

- Gabriela Mistral

THE
**ALPHONSE
GERWING**
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

www.socialjustice.ws

*Assisting development projects
in Alagoas, Brazil;
and in other
Latin American countries.*

Provincially incorporated (Sask.) and
registered charitable organization.

Tax Registration #89627-5914RR 0001

When Al Gerwing first visited Maceio, Alagoas, in Brazil's impoverished N.E. in 1979 he was appalled by the slums, most of whose inhabitants had come recently from the country.

The rural exodus was caused in part by periodic droughts, but mainly by the owners of large plantations mechanizing, or turning from cane to cattle raising and expelling their many workers. Al noted how the slums of 1979 had increased alarmingly when he visited Maceio a second time in 1986.

At this time, retired from teaching, he began to study Portuguese, and soon made the acquaintance of various "movimentos" (movements of the people to achieve a specific goal) in the capital devoted to:

1. **obtaining land for landless peasants;**
2. **lots, housing, infrastructure and micro-industries for communities of the urban homeless;**
3. **the rescue and education of street children.**

When these "movimentos" presented him with proposals for improving the lot of their people, Al checked back in Canada for an existing NGO (non-government organization) that was already organized and ready to act. Today that organization is **Rainbow of Hope for Children** (with which the Alphonse Gerwing Charitable Foundation is affiliated) located in Wainwright, AB.

CURRENT PROJECTS IN ALAGOAS

Agriculture: The Foundation supports land reform which invests in small agricultural production whereby families cannot only feed themselves but can produce enough to earn a decent living.

Urban homeless: The Foundation supports programs that help to house street children and that educate youth and women in literacy, culture and life skills to counter the risk of abuse, violence and poverty.

Rural empowerment of women: The Foundation supports an organization formed to help empower women to overcome repression, exclusion and a denial of the rights of citizenship. It is a rural version of the education programs for the urban homeless.



WHAT CAN I DO?

BECOME INFORMED

- Read books about the developing world.
- Attend presentations by visitors from developing countries.
- Visit the developing world.
- Get to know the people from other countries who live in your community.
- Read the Prairie Messenger.

ACT

Donate your time, talents and resources. Donate to the Alphonse Gerwing Charitable Foundation.

TO DONATE:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Prov.: _____

Postal Code: _____

e-mail: _____

Mail to:
The Alphonse Gerwing Charitable Foundation
14 Harvard Cres.
Saskatoon, SK S7H 3R1
e-mail: tedgerwing@sasktel.net

