



Dear Friends,

The photo to the right shows an encounter that took place at the United Nations on October 17, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Ms. Asia Snow, a mother from New York who supports the Street Library, is presenting to the President of the UN General Assembly a Tapori silhouette made by 7-year-old Jim from New Orleans.



Jim and his family know the Fourth World Movement through the Street Library program. The youngest of eight siblings, Jim has been involved since he was a baby. He was always the first to arrive at the corner of run-down houses where Fourth World Volunteers would conduct the Street Library project after school. He would help spread out the blankets and then rush toward his favorite books.

The flooding and turmoil of Hurricane Katrina uprooted Jim's family, along with so many others we know. Now in Texas with his mom, a brother, and a grandpa, Jim hasn't lived with his other siblings since the storm. He *has* had news from them, however, as well as from other children. Since Katrina, donations have made it possible for Fourth World Volunteers to locate and visit families from New Orleans who are still scattered across the South. These visits help families re-establish crucial ties and regain hope.

Jim was able to join in the Tapori Silhouette Campaign by drawing pictures and messages to say what is most important for him. What was most important to Jim? On his fabric heart, he drew two of his sisters and signed simply, "Love, Jim." He knew the Volunteers would take his message to his sisters, as well as around the world through the Tapori network.

In New York, parents like Asia Snow are active participants in our network. They have welcomed into their neighborhood not simply a program, but *people*, because from the beginning they saw Volunteers intent on working in partnership with them to reach their goals for their children and their community. The effect of that relationship reaches beyond the Street Library's blankets and books. At the United Nations, as Ms. Snow held up Jim's Tapori silhouette, she emphasized the importance of these links among people:

*Where I live, many things make it hard to focus on your kids. The **Street Library** has helped me and other mothers make time for that. The **Tapori Silhouette Project** shows that people in other places are going through the same trials and tribulations as we are. Hearing that helps people know that they are not alone. This silhouette we are giving you comes from a special place where there has been a lot of suffering. We have been in touch with the Street Library kids from **New Orleans** to let them know that we are thinking of them. Because of the silhouette project, Jim can smile. Even if it's not good today, **it can be better tomorrow.***



The links between Jim's family, Ms. Snow's and others are shaping this long-term effort to overcome persistent poverty and exclusion. As the year ends, we are writing to you because your understanding and support are essential in strengthening and moving forward this network of people from different backgrounds.

We also need your financial support. Whether for the expenses involved in visiting families like Jim's, obtaining Street Library materials, designing Tapori newsletters, or sustaining the Volunteers who make possible the links between these very diverse people, our programs depend on your continued donations.

For all of us, may this holiday season be filled with family, friends, and other relationships that give rise to the hope that, yes, "It *can* be better tomorrow."

We count on you. Sincerely,

Jill Cunningham, Director