

The New Community Project presents

# Spending Money

Sweatshops, deforestation, child labor OR  
Creating a better world for everyone everywhere?  
It depends on how you spend your money



Every year 150 million cell phones are trashed in US (along with their toxic chemicals—and coltan mined from war zones in the Congo), and we spend \$15 billion on texting.

Fast food? Not so fast! Every meal creates a pound of trash and requires 1400 gallons of water to produce (burger, fries and soft drink). Beef production is the leading source of greenhouse gases, and we pitch 50 billion soda cans a year—a huge waste of resources and energy!

\$1 of every \$5 US'ers spend is on transportation. Car driving is our worst environmental action — every mile creating a pound of CO2...and killing .0001 squirrels or other small furry creatures...

Your sneakers? A young woman in China was paid 30 cents to make them. Globally, 43 million people work in Export Processing Zones. Long hours and low wages — but big profits for somebody!

US'ers spend \$10 billion a year on bottled water. Making, shipping, and disposing of the bottles requires 50 million barrels of oil annually—and we throw away 40 million bottles per day! Globally, 1.1 billion people don't have clean water to drink, leading to 1.8 million deaths each year...

The average US teenager spends \$100 a week on stuff — CD's, clothes, cinema, colas. UNICEF says half the world's children are "denied a childhood" by poverty, war, and the AIDS crisis.

Hot cocoa? In West Africa two-thirds of child workers on cocoa plantations aren't in school, and thousands are under 14 years old.



"... turning the world upside down."

**New Community Project**

Peace through Justice

Care for Creation • Experiential Learning

# Knowledge is Power!

## Know the product

- Who made your clothes or sports gear – and how were they treated? Find out at [responsibleshopper.org](http://responsibleshopper.org)

## Know your needs — and the needs of your neighbors

- 65% of US kids have a TV in their room; 85% of the world's poorest children don't go to school
- The average pet in the US has \$460 spent on it annually – that's more than 1.5 billion of the world's people have to live on every year
- US'ers spend about \$5 a day eating out; the US wastes half the food it produces – 20,000 children around the world die daily from hunger-related causes

## Know the enemy

- Corporations and trade organizations set the rules for how people and the environment are treated – find out how they're doing ([globalexchange.org](http://globalexchange.org); [citizen.org](http://citizen.org); [planetfriendly.net](http://planetfriendly.net); [killercoke.org](http://killercoke.org))
- Advertisers annually spend \$1000 on each of us, trying to convince us that we are what we drive, drink or drool over – resist!

## Know the Scriptures

- "You who trample the needy and bring the poor of the land to an end... who deal deceitfully with false balances... who buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals. Surely I will never forget..." (Amos 8:4ff) "You cannot serve God and mammon (material goods)." (Matthew 5:24)



## Our Neighbors' Predicament — Our Response

*"They treated us like dogs! You could not speak to your friends, there was constant pressure to produce more — and if you complained about anything, the foreman said, 'There's the door — there are 10 more outside who will work for less than you.'"* Noe Urbina, on his experience of working in a sweatshop in San Salvador, El Salvador

*"I decided I had to give up chocolate — and I hated to, because I love it! But I'll still eat Fair Trade."* Young adult from California after learning that some cocoa is harvested by child workers in West Africa

*"The biggest thing I've realized is that even though I always seem to 'need' something, I'm not in need at all. That's why I've decided to give my money to the people of the village."* High school student sending NCP money she'd been saving for school clothes after taking part in a Learning Tour to Central America

# Invest Yourself!

**Spend** your money on things that support your values. Get your youth group or school class involved in selling Fair Trade coffee or chocolate (Equal Exchange, SERRV, Ten Thousand Villages) or give up something yourself for a month (fast food, bottled drinks, etc.). Send the profits to help people like the Burmese girl in the photo have a decent life. She was sent off to be a domestic worker at the age of 15; an NCP sewing project in her village enabled her to come back home.



**Get involved** by seeing the world for yourself on an NCP Learning Tour and by joining groups that work for economic fairness, human rights, and environmental sustainability. Check out: National Labor Committee (sweatshops); CorpWatch (holding corporations accountable); Human Rights Watch (treatment of child workers); Global Exchange (list of businesses with worst human rights record).

**Support young women**, millions of whom are out of school and out of luck. NCP's Give a Girl a Chance program gives girls the education or skills they need to have the future they deserve.



- \$20/\$35 — buys school supplies/uniform and shoes for a girl
- \$100 — buys a sewing machine
- \$60/\$100 — pays a year tuition, Sudan/Burma



**Be an example** for your classmates or co-workers, helping them see a better way for the planet and for our neighbors.



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Sources for Spending Money: State of the World 2004 (World Watch); NLC.org; UNDP; Earth Policy Institute; Planet Ark; State of the World's Children 2006 (UNICEF); Made to Break (Giles Slade)

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