

## NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

• Do you know of a tourism business or person practicing industry excellence? Maybe yourself? Be sure to nominate them/yourself for Ontario's 2006 Tourism Industry Awards. The deadline for nominations is Dec. 31, 2005.

The industry awards program has expanded this year, from 2 to 5 awards, in these five categories: Tourism Innovator of the Year Award, Volunteer of the Year Award, Business/Event of the Year Award, Health and Safety Award, Tourism Human Resources Development Award.



### TOURISM FEDERATION OF ONTARIO

The awards are administered by the Tourism Federation of Ontario (TFO), the united non-profit association representing Ontario's tourism industry, with 29 member organizations. Award nomination forms and criteria are available on the TFO's website at [www.tourismfederationofontario.ca/events.htm](http://www.tourismfederationofontario.ca/events.htm). Previous nominees may re-submit as appropriate.

Winners will be selected by a panel of judges and will be honoured at the Eighth Annual Tourism Forum of the TFO held March 28-29, 2006, at the Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel. This is one of the most important events of the year for Ontario's tourism industry.

For more information about the Tourism Forum, visit [www.tourismfederationofontario.ca](http://www.tourismfederationofontario.ca).

## AND, THE WINNER IS ...

• Jamie Smyth, of the Southern Georgian Bay Chamber of Commerce won a free registration to the EDCO conference after completing an evaluation form at one the Regional Economic Development Seminars.

## REGISTER TODAY!

• Don't forget to register for EDCO's Annual Conference, to be held Jan. 31-Feb. 2, 2006 in Toronto For more on the conference, and to register, visit [www.edcoconference.com](http://www.edcoconference.com).



• *Craig Kielburger is living proof that you are never too young to make a difference.*

## Child Rights Activist To Speak At Annual EDCO Conference

– Story by John Hewak

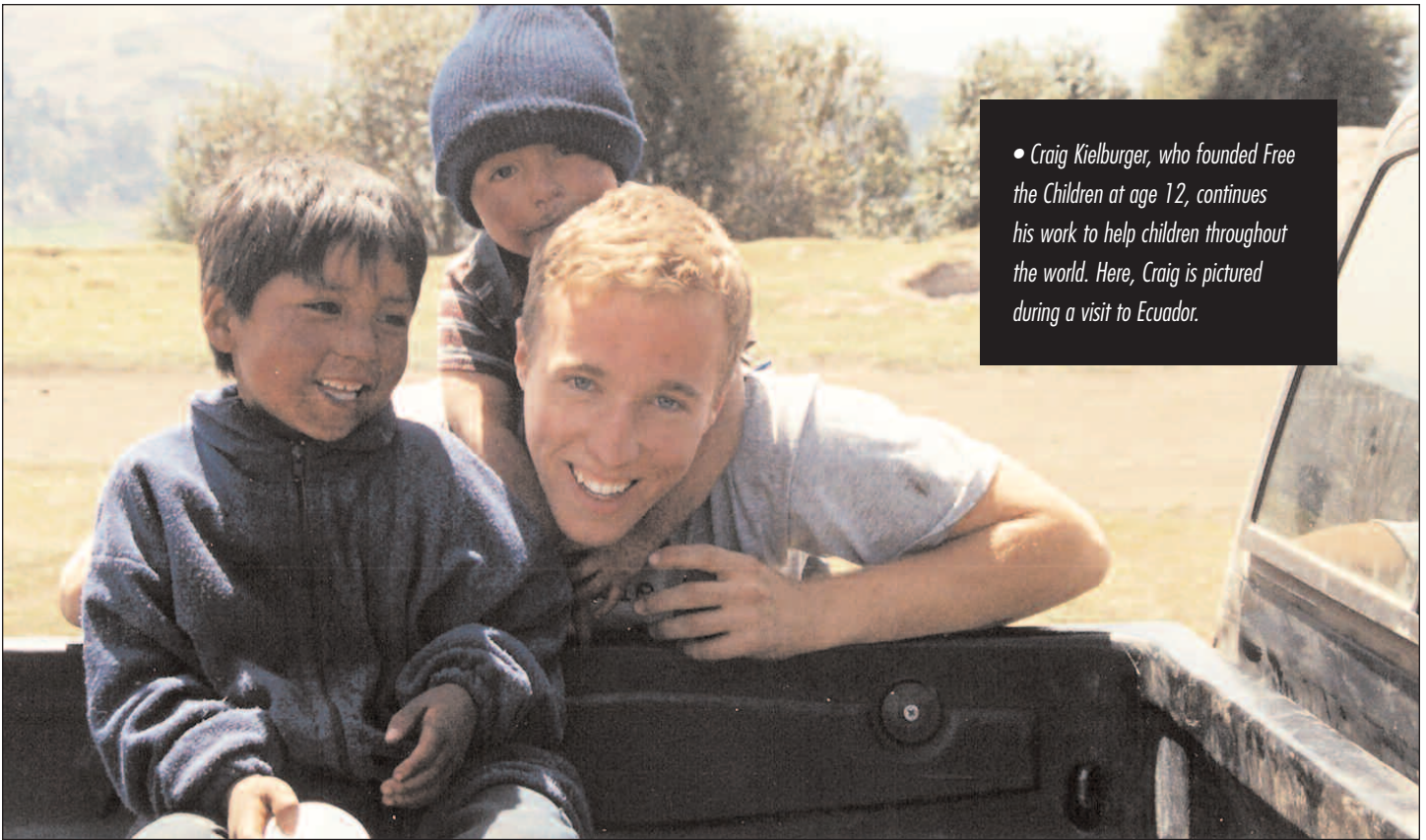
**W**hat do child rights in South East Asia have to do with economic development in Ontario? How do we prepare our youth for success in the global economy? How can we remain competitive internationally when faced with burgeoning labour costs at home? How are all these questions related?

The answers to these provocative questions will be delivered by child rights activist Craig Kielburger during a keynote address to EDCO members

at the Annual Conference, to be held Jan. 31 to Feb. 2, 2006 at the Toronto Marriott Eaton Centre Hotel.

If you haven't yet heard of Craig Kielburger, you soon will. His tireless work on behalf of children's rights everywhere has been compared to Martin Luther King's commitment to African Americans or Nelson Mandela's dedication to Black South Africans. That's no faint praise. Consider the following:

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• Craig Kielburger, who founded Free the Children at age 12, continues his work to help children throughout the world. Here, Craig is pictured during a visit to Ecuador.



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## Working To Free The Children

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At the age of 12, Craig founded Free the Children, an international network of children whose mission is to eradicate child slave labour around the world. Both driven and funded by children, the charity began with a small group of classmates in Thornhill, Ontario who shared Craig's belief that kids can and should be helping kids in trouble, wherever they may live. By the age of 14, Craig was visiting the factories, sweatshops and slums of South Asia to see first-hand the appalling living and labour conditions of children who were forced to sell their childhood for pennies, or less.

What he learned there was that sweeping change was essential; what he needed to prove was that such change was possible.

"The change starts within each one of us," he has said, while adding that, "Each of us, no matter how young, can help change the world."

Craig is living proof that no one is ever too young to make a difference.

He has met with some of the most important religious and political leaders of our time, such as Mother

Theresa and Nelson

Mandela. He's been featured on Oprah, CNN, and 60 Minutes, and his work has been profiled in the Economist, Time, People and numerous newspapers.

"Craig has become a Pied Piper, inspiring students in hundreds of schools across the United States and Canada to join his crusade," said the New York Times.

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*"The change starts within each one of us. ... each of us, no matter how young, can help change the world."*

# Keynote Address Will Highlight World's Child Labour Abuses

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Craig is now 22, and Free the Children has grown to become the largest network of children helping children through education in the world, with more than one million youth involved in ground-breaking education and development programs in 45 countries. Its many accomplishments in the areas of education, alternative income, health care, water and sanitation provision and peace-building have earned it three Nobel Peace Prize nominations.

His best-selling books – notably *Free the Children*, which won the prestigious Christopher Award and has been translated into eight languages – and prestigious speaking engagements have facilitated high-profile partnerships with organizations such as the United Nations and Oprah's Angel Network. He was a guest of Oprah recently, and starting in February he will write a weekly column for the *Toronto Star*.

Craig's talk at the conference, titled *Globalization: Strategic Opportunities for your Community*, addresses how Ontario's youths – who hold our economic future in their hands – can best prepare for a truly globalized market.

As co-founder of *Leaders Today*, an organization dedicated to empowering youth through education, inspiration and training tools and that reaches over 250,000 young people each year, Craig has much to offer on the topic.

"Ours may be the first generation of truly global citizens," he says. "We will be interacting with India or Brazil just as likely as the business next door or the U.S.," he explains. "Our youth need to develop core competencies, not just in business, but in things like cross-cultural understanding, international policy, and languages and communications. Ontario can get an edge through school programs, volunteerism, and other leadership training opportunities."

The talk will also address the issue of rising labour costs and ways of remaining competitive through fair and safe labour practices that encourage sustainable development, business process innovation, consumer education and brand loyalty.

"Violation of labour practices in foreign countries is certainly an ethical issue, but it is also a business issue," Craig notes, adding that, "The use of child labour abroad is unfairly undercutting Ontario's ability to compete."

According to EDCO conference co-ordinator Vicki Nash-Moore, Craig was invited to speak because he represents a very different side of economic development than EDCO members would normally

be exposed to. "We hear about how Canadians are losing jobs to cheap labour overseas," she says.

"Craig will deal with this issue from a unique standpoint that embraces both social justice and economic competitiveness."

For more information on the EDCO Conference and Showcase "Economic Transformation: Strategic Opportunities for your Community," visit [www.edco.on.ca](http://www.edco.on.ca).

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– Craig Kielburger

