



THE GIFT OF LIFE

**Collages by students from Boys and Girls Harbor
Genesis and P.A.C.T. Programs, Harlem, New York**

This year, students ages 12-18 from Spanish and Central Harlem have been studying the harsh living conditions in poverty-stricken regions of Angola and India. They have learned of worlds where food, medicine and education are often just dreams. And they responded. They have created the artwork you see here to depict what they imagine life to be like for their peers in those countries. Their goal: to raise money to help them. "It's good to think of others instead of just yourself all the time," said Dawudeen Maynard. Yahira Hernandez added, "We're raising money to help build a school".

"The Gift of Life" auction was held on April 29, 2003 at the Boys & Girls Harbor "11th Annual Salute to Achievement" luncheon. Through the sale of these works, over \$13,000.00 was raised to support two projects. The first is the Sulaxmi, an elementary school in Lucknow, India, where "low-caste" Hindu and Muslim girls can receive an education. The second is the Concern Worldwide site in Huambo, Angola, where increasing the availability of food is primary, while de-mining the land and combating disease are also major concerns.

Students from two elementary schools in Angola and India also participated in the art project. The artworks from East Harlem, Angola and India are being exhibited at various sites in New York: Blue Heron Arts Center, May 7-18; el Museo del Barrio, May 20-June 4; United Nations, June 12-20; Sotheby's June 23-27, 2003.

For more information please contact: Filomena Cornelio at fcornelio@msn.com

