

### **Heloisa Speranza Modesto**

Heloísa Speranza Modesto was born in the state of Sao Paulo, in the Southeast of Brazil. She holds an agronomy degree from the Federal University of Lavras in Minas Gerais, Brazil and has recently finished her Master of Arts degree in Human Ecology at the University of Alberta. She worked facilitating the organization and capacity building of rural women's groups in Northeast Brazil during her CIDA Youth Internship in 1998. For her graduate research, she conducted her research with an artisan Mayan women's group in Guatemala.

### **Alison Naimark**

Alison Naimark recently graduated with a Degree in International Development Studies and Anthropology from the University of Toronto. She is currently working as a CIDA intern with Pueblito Canada. In mid August Alison will be traveling to the Dominican Republic to work with CEDECO, a local NGO. As a component of her university education, Alison spent one year working with the Women's Secretariat in Santiago, Chile. While there, she was responsible for conducting an impact assessment of labour training courses offered to female heads of households. Alison has also spent one month volunteering in Nicaragua. While in the Dominican Republic, some of her responsibilities will include project monitoring, proposal writing, fieldwork, and fundraising.

### **Claudia Paguaga**

Claudia Paguaga holds a master's degree in political science/developmental studies from Carleton University in Ottawa. In the fall of 2000, she was selected by the *Canadian Foundation for the Americas* (FOCAL) to participate in the *Youth International Internship Program* (YIIP), which is financed by the *Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade* (DFAIT) and was sent to Montevideo, Uruguay to work for the *Inter-American Children's Institute* (OAS) for a period of 6 months. During her internship, Ms. Paguaga researched several issues affecting children (i.e.: child labour, sexual exploitation, adoption, poverty, etc.) and compiled a document on the situation of child labour in Latin America, which was to be used as background information by the *Uruguayan National Committee for the Elimination of Child Labour*. Ms. Paguaga returned to Ottawa in mid-March and shortly after began coordinating the 2001-2002 Youth International Internship Program for FOCAL.

### **Carole Piovesan**

Having graduated from McGill University in May 1999 with a BA in Political Science and a minor in Cultural Studies, Carole left for Panama that same year to complete an internship with the *Federación Nacional de Padres y Amigos de Personas con Discapacidad* - an internship funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and organized by the Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL).

During her six-month placement, Carole met with local family-based groups in five provinces to help stimulate activity within a grassroots movement of parents who have a child with a disability; a movement working to include people with disabilities into all aspects of community living. Carole also spent time working with the national organization in Panama City, assisting with fundraising and event/project coordinating. From this internship resulted a compilation book of inspirational testimonies called "*La luz de mi camino*", published by CACL in 1999.

While in Central America, Carole also briefly traveled to Nicaragua to research some of the work being done by several local disability-related youth networks. There, she visited with families in Sta. Teresa, Ciudad Darío, Granada and Managua and met with members of two well-known local youth/family-based organizations advocating for the rights of people with disabilities.