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Dear Friends

CELEBRATION AND CHANGE AT THE CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE

This month marks the beginning of the 10th anniversary year of the Children's Institute, University of Cape Town. Over the next year, we will be celebrating this first decade in a number of ways – small and big. For a start, we've introduced a suite of anniversary logos; the letterhead you see here is part of the suite. In the coming months, we'll announce some other forms of celebration.

In this 10th anniversary year there will also be a number of changes at the Children's Institute.

At the end of March 2012, my term of office as director comes to an end. By then, I will have passed the university's retirement age and so will not be eligible for a second term. Under the leadership of Marian Jacobs, who chairs the Governing Board of the Children's Institute, the University of Cape Town will shortly begin the search for a successor director to lead the Institute into its second decade. You can expect to see an advertisement for the post in the next issue of the *Mail and Guardian*. I have assured my colleagues at the Institute and on the Governing Board and International Advisory Board that I will assist, in whatever ways are appropriate, to facilitate a smooth handover during the period of transition.

I've been privileged to have served as director to a remarkable organisation whose founding vision and energetic, attuned staff have enabled it to become an exemplar of engaged, socially responsive research, training and advocacy for better policy and programmes for children. I've learnt a great deal from my colleagues and from our many partners – in civil society, in government, in the donor community, and in international networks, both academic and activist. Long may these partnerships flourish!

A second change, in progress, is to reconfigure some of our staff functions and streamline our administration to achieve a leaner, more financially viable organisation – a necessity in the current funding environment. One result of this change will be a smaller support staff. The Children's Institute remains committed to pursuing its founding vision as energetically as ever.

Your continued friendship, support and collaborative action are vital to the work of the Children's Institute, especially in this time of change.

Kind regards

Shirley Pendlebury
(Director)

