

personally known to us to be committed, trustworthy and competent. This is critical to a successful project.

Next we examine the proposal to see if it is a **project which benefits all disadvantaged members of the community, regardless of colour, ethnic origin, class or creed.** Although we operate from a Christian perspective, **all** members of the community are entitled to share in the benefit of our projects. We have found that projects which promote **education** and **health care**, particularly that of disadvantaged women, have been the most successful. Many women in developing countries are disadvantaged in terms of the education and health care available to them. Improvements in literacy, trade skills and primary health care, particularly of women, bring a tremendous benefit to the whole community and offer a way for its members to escape endemic poverty and disease. For long term growth and greater income levels, **loans** to individuals and groups for viable businesses are preferable to grants. The Grameen Bank in Bangladesh is an outstanding example of the benefits of micro-credit. Its founder, Mohammed Yunus, and the Grameen Bank recently received the Nobel Prize – not for Economics, but for Peace.

We then assess its **sustainability.** To be successful, a project must become self-supporting within a reasonable time. We see our role as “jump starting” worthy projects, which will then be able to continue on their own. Of course, health care and education projects may have difficulty in becoming self-sustaining, but if the project is successful and wanted by the community, a way can usually be found to see that it is continued. This may be by having it taken over by the municipality or some other level of government, or developing income generation or a fee structure.

Does our project partner show excellent **accountability and communication** skills? No one likes to see money

wasted, or have projects lose direction. In addition, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Wildrose Foundation require that we report regularly and completely as to the use and results of their support. Complete honesty and prompt and complete reporting are a must. They also add to Sahakarini's credibility with our donors and our funding organizations. Fax and e-mail make communication much easier than in the past, but reports don't write themselves! If our project partner is unable to provide full, prompt and effective reports, we will not proceed with the project.

Projects are the life-blood of Sahakarini. The above criteria help to ensure our scarce resources are committed to projects that are effective and fulfill our mandate.

Alan Fielding, President



Children in Sao Paulo Favela give new dolls a loving welcome and the best beds they can muster.

Application for Membership (new or renewal – valid for two years)

Please print name, address, and phone number (if you wish, also e-mail address) and sign below.

I, _____

of _____

Address

Telephone

e-mail (optional)

commit myself to the purposes of Sahakarini, and hereby apply for membership/renewal of membership in Sahakarini Inter-World Education and Development Assoc.

Signature

(optional) Enclosed is a contribution to the work of Sahakarini in the amount of \$ _____.

Mail to Sahakarini, P.O Box 1685, Camrose, Alberta T4V 1X6



News



Updates

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President's Message by Alan D. Fielding, QC

Valérie and I recently returned from a trip to the Holy Land. While we were there we met with Bishop Elias Chacour who is the Melkite Bishop of Israel, Palestine and Jordan. The Melkites are Greek Orthodox Christians who remained loyal to Rome at the time of the Great Schism between the Eastern and Western churches, and remain the largest Christian group in Israel and the West Bank.

Abuna [Father] Chacour was born in Palestine before Israel became a state, and has been in the forefront of the non-violent movement for civil rights for Palestinians within Israel and the West Bank. His remarkable story is told in a book called *Blood

Brothers *(www.bakerbooks.com). When we asked him if there is anything we in the West can do to help the process of peace in the Holy Land, he told us that it was probably unrealistic to try to change the foreign policy of the United States, but rather we should become involved in grassroots development projects.

It was heartening to me that Abuna Chacour would stress the importance of sustainable development – education, housing, clean water and economic development - as the long-term best road to peace. This is what we in Sahakarini are attempting to do in many parts of the world.

**Sahakarini Film Festival
April 13 and 14, 2007
United Church Auditorium
Theme: Women's Stories**

Friday, April 13, 7:00 p.m. – Film

Saturday, April 14, 9:30 a.m.

Muffins and Coffee

10:00 a.m. – Film

12:00 noon

Soup, bring your own sandwich

1:00 p.m. – Film

It is widely acknowledged that the empowerment and advancement of women are key to good development. Three films (titles to be announced later) will explore the conditions, courage, and challenges of women that make it so.

Sandals again sold at Loaves and Fishes dinner, Nov. 18, 2006.

The sandals, which had belonged to the late Rev. Gordon Schieck, one of the founders of Sahakarini, have been auctioned each year for several years, but with the understanding that they are donated back for repeated auction at the next Loaves and Fishes dinner. In the meantime, they have travelled to exotic places, including some of the projects.

Last year's purchaser had been Judge Harry Gaede, and so he was able to wear them at his wedding November 11, 2006, to Margery Monsma, a member of the Board of Sahakarini.

At the banquet, the pair described how they chose to share their love with others in this special way.



The sandals were sold this time for \$3,100. In all, over \$36,000 was raised that evening for the work of Sahakarini. The program had been a description of various locations of projects which Sahakarini had supported, under the pattern of "World Development Broadcast News."

Quilts and comforters

After the 2006 Loaves and Fishes Dinner volunteers pieced together 14 small quilts from squares decorated by guests at the dinner.

Hearts, hands and faces were some of the favourite designs. The quilts will be given away by visitors to Sahakarini projects over the next year.



Left to right are Shannon and Zachary Stolee, Fran Reed, Linda Dey (coordinator) and Vivianne Grue. Missing from the photo: Joy Leblanc, Elsie Ruckstuhl and Jeanine Forseille.

New and Continuing Projects:

Guatemala

Our contact arose out of information provided by Hans Olson, a young man from Camrose, who served for a year as a CIDA intern in the country. He made us aware of a rehabilitation program conducted by the Kaqchikel Presbytery of the National Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Guatemala. Guatemala in 1996 ended a very long period of civil war, and since then there has been gradual rebuilding. The Presbytery have been working for some years in about 20 villages. The people are mostly of Mayan background. A great deal of emphasis is placed on work with women.

Sahakarini's project will be in central Guatemala, some distance west of the capital, in three villages: Labor de Falla, involving 20 women, Cerro Alto, with 15 women, and Bola de Oro, with 18 women. It will be microcredit assistance, through loans to each woman on the order of \$75 to \$300, for a period of one year.

Their activities will be similar to those already taking place in nearby communities: weaving, crafts, market gardening, livestock raising and producing of aloe vera shampoo. There will be a sort of specialization of activities in each of the three villages.



Women making aloe vera shampoo

Our commitment is U.S. \$4,500, which we remitted in January of 2007. The Kaqchikel Presbytery will administer the project for us, to run to Feb. 28, 2008. Ronaldo Similox is director of the projects for the Presbytery, and our communications are with him.



Ronaldo Similox organizes the development projects for Kaqchikel Presbytery.

India

CIDA provides support for HOPE and Change Hutment project with SERVE [Society for the Enlightenment and Rehabilitation of Village Ends]

Almost three years ago, Sahakarini became involved with helping HOPE School for Slum Children. Now for the next two years we will be working with our partner SERVE (in Hyderabad, India) to strengthen the community in ways that will help the adults to become more self-sufficient, and hopeful as well. [The terms "Hutments" and "village ends" distinguish some slums.]

This project will receive 2:1 matching funds from the Canadian government through CIDA.

The HOPE and Change Hutment project has 6 elements:

- 1) Community and leadership development.
- 2) Official recognition of residents by government and so of their rights as citizens.
- 3) Health care promotion, and education.
- 4) Income-generation skills training and opportunities.
- 5) Assistance in basic education for children.
- 6) Women's role and status.

In each newsletter we will focus on one of these elements.

Capacity development is crucial to the long-term success and sustainability of any project. To that end, we are devoting considerable energy and resources to developing local leadership, including women.

The paramount goal is for the people to understand their situation within the current legal and social setting. They will be able to participate in bringing about recognition from government, and as a result to access basics such as ration cards, water, sanitation, and healthcare. This will set them on the way to identifying and achieving other goals.

At the end of two years, there should be good progress if not complete success in the negotiations with government to accord recognition to the beneficiary communities. Obtaining documentation is key.

For SERVE as an organization, the strategy involves mentoring, adding some staff, networking with other NGOs, and continuing to monitor and evaluate.

Profiles of two recently new Board members (as of annual meeting, June 2, 2006)

Herb Andersen joined the board because he wanted to be part of a local organization that is making a difference in enhancing the lives of individuals in underdeveloped countries. He views board membership as an opportunity to learn more about the complexities of development work while contributing his time to board responsibilities.

Herb has lived in Camrose since 1982. Prior to his retirement in 2004, Herb held a senior management position with the Agriculture Finances Services Corporation in Camrose. He had previously held positions with other employers in agricultural economic research, small business financing, and real estate management and appraising.

His education includes a B.Sc. in Agriculture from the University of Alberta and an MBA from the

University of Western Ontario. His interests include travel, gardening, fly fishing and volunteer work. He has held or currently holds volunteer board and committee positions in several organizations including Messiah Lutheran Church, the Camrose Rotary Club, the Bethany Group, Augustana University College, the Camrose Public Library, Community Futures East Central Alberta, and Sahakarini.

Roy Hehr was born and raised at Crossfield, the oldest of six children. (At the time of his mother's death in 1937, the youngest child was just eleven days old.) Roy spent the first nineteen years of his life on the farm with his father.

Afterwards he went to Bible College, first in Regina, but also in Medicine Hat. He graduated from Hillcrest Bible College in the spring of 1950. It was there that he had met his wife Mary, and they were married in Calgary, June 6, 1950, with the wedding reception being held on the farm east of Crossfield. They have three children, two girls and a boy.

Roy and Mary farmed for twenty years, busy years but ones they enjoyed. As a lay preacher, Roy did considerable speaking in different denominations, especially filling the pulpit when regular pastors had to be away at conferences or other church work. This eventually led to ministry on a full-time basis.

In the spring of 1972, they had a farm sale and rented out their land. Work in the ministry took them to Saskatchewan for seven years. They then moved back to Alberta, taking an assignment at Beaumont until retirement.

After their years with the ministry they bought a small farm to take life easier. They enjoy country life, but the time finally came when they realized they had to make one more move. That decision brought them to Park Place North in Camrose.

HOW DOES SAHAKARINI CHOOSE A PROJECT?

This question was raised at a recent board meeting, and we thought it might be useful to discuss it in our Newsletter.

We receive project requests from all over the world. We cannot possibly respond to all requests for assistance so we have developed some criteria to help us decide which projects to support.

The first thing we look for is whether the proposed project complies with our Mission Statement: **"To help the poorest of the poor to help themselves"**.

Then we look for a **strong and committed project partner**. Typically, Sahakarini likes to enter into projects with persons and organizations which are