

## President's Message

**"Where are you?", God called to Adam  
(Gen. 3:8)**

Perhaps God is a bit lonely and wants to be in relationship with his wonderful creation. We have all likely had the pleasure of receiving a call or letter from someone we haven't seen for a while asking where we are and what we have been up to. It brightens our day and enriches our relationship.

I have been thinking lately about the importance of relationships in the context of Sahakarini's work with our project partners. We work through trusted partners with whom we have established a personal relationship. Yes, we provide project support and solidarity, but we also receive blessings by our friendship with these remarkable people who do so much with so little.

Sometimes we ask "Where are you?" when we haven't heard from them in a while, and sometimes we are challenged to respond to new project requests which are outside our comfort zone. They are in effect asking us "Where are you? Have you forgotten us?"

And we in turn invite our members and supporters to become involved in a relationship of friendship and solidarity, whether by financial support, participating in an international work camp, coming to the Loaves and Fishes dinner or by joining the board or a committee.

Where are you?

Alan Fielding, President



## Notes from the AGM 2007-2008

A convincingly high noise level, excellent potluck meal, and guests Rod and Jennifer Haney made for a particularly good annual general meeting in May.

The assembly approved a change to the bylaws that allows the expansion of the board from the current 12, to up to 18 members. This will help us as our scope of activity grows. Being a volunteer driven organization means that a strong, hands-on board is vital.

Various reports were received as part of the printed annual report. If you would like a copy, please call the office at 780-672-8222 or email [sahakari@telusplanet.net](mailto:sahakari@telusplanet.net).

Rod Haney, our CIDA manager, spoke about his recent trip to India where he visited two Sahakarini projects among others. He reported enthusiastically about the range of activities and the dedication of our partners, at the same time reminding us of the importance of our role in building the capacity and independence of our partners.

He also told about the work of other NGOs they visited and particularly highlighted the work of MYRADA, a major Indian NGO that has shifted much of its work from projects to training, thus helping to build the capacity of local groups and organizations to help themselves. Our partner SERVE has taken advantage of some of their training programs.

"Human development," Haney noted, "is all encompassing. It is not just economic. It is about creating the environment for people to realize their full potential so that they can live productive and creative lives they value. NGOs in India play a significant role in reducing poverty and fostering change," he observed. "Even state governments are realizing that they can work better through NGOs than through their own bureaucracies."

### Directors 2008-2009

Alan Fielding, Chairman  
Signe Swanson  
Dave Stolee  
Herb Anderson  
Dave Bartel  
Horst Depner  
MaryEllen Eriksson  
Vincent Eriksson  
Alan Ford  
Margery Gaede  
Roy Hehr  
Sheila Niven  
Gail Stolee  
Ken Taylor

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News

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Updates

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## Fire and Water in Guatemala

Phase one of the fire and water project to install 50 safe, efficient cook stoves and 50 water purification filters for villagers in rural Guatemala is now complete. Preparation is underway for completing the project with the remaining 50 stoves and filters.

The stoves are proving very successful. They are raised, fuel efficient, ventilated and easy to assemble, use and maintain. Each of these features is important. But rather than explaining their benefits, see what the women who have received them have to say. (Thank you to Alice Lindstrand for help with translation. Paraphrasing is editor's.)



Parts for Onil stoves.

**Estella:** I am so happy about this stove. I do not have to breathe smoke every time I cook and I won't burn the hair on my arms. I do not need to cut so much firewood. Thank you for bringing me something so useful with so many advantages.

**Alida:** ...much less danger of our children getting burned and they are much healthier

**Vilma:** I am so happy that this stove is so easy to put together and to maintain. Being a woman, I like to change things around and it is easy to move. With this stove, my eyes do not sting, I do not have to rinse the soot off my dishes all the time, we do not need to cut so many trees, and we do not get burned.

**Irma:** The stoves are very useful for this community. I hope that all the women use them so we can get more and help other women because they are really good. They save wood, and we won't get sick or burn ourselves.

### LET US KNOW

We do our best to keep you up to date and to keep up to date with you. Please use this convenient multi-purpose form to keep in touch.

I would like to become a member of Sahakarini (no fee)

Please change my address

I would like to make a gift

I would prefer to receive information by email

Please send me information about \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Please use it for \_\_\_\_\_

Sahakarini is a registered charity

Business number 11913 1936 RR001

Fall 2008





**Above: Learning to assemble a filter.  
Left: Women try out a new stove.**



For the people on your list who have everything, consider a gift of HOPE this Christmas...

**Support a child at HOPE School!**

The water filters have also had a very good reception. This is what the women have to say about them:

**Isidra:** Water is life.

**Sara:** Thank you for helping us with this filter. It will help us and our children very much. We worry because our children are so sick from contaminated water. Thanks to this filter we will be able to drink pure water and have good health.

**Dora:** ...we will save on wood because we will not need to boil our water.

Thank you to everyone who supported the fire and water program. It was a favourite cause for many wanting to give especially meaningful Christmas gifts in 2007. We hope you will share this progress report with the person who received the "gift" of a filter or stove from you.

**Loaves and Fishes 2008**

**TRANSFORMATION**



Saturday, November 15 ~ 5:00 p.m.  
Dinner 6:00 p.m.  
Norsemen Inn, Camrose  
For information or tickets  
call 780-672-8222

## Kristen's Diary

Below are excerpts from notes made by Kristen Cumming who visited India this summer. Kristen does some contract work for Sahakarini so was able to arrange to speak with some of the beneficiaries of the HOPE and Change Project outside Hyderabad.



Photo by Marilyn Schwab 2008

We visited Midhani slum, the residents of which are largely (anecdotally 90%) gypsy and have migrated from drought-prone agricultural regions where employment is scarce. The literacy level within the slum is below 5%.

The 2008 monsoon was very late and agricultural work is therefore delayed, placing considerable pressure on families that intended to migrate back to rural employment.

I spoke with **Mrs. Sona**, a beautiful, shy and petite 26-year old woman who had been recently widowed and cares for her four daughters by working as a manual labourer on a construction site.

She participates in non-formal basic education in the evening and is hoping to attend the sewing program eventually. Two of her daughters attend the HOPE school. She has availed herself of the crèche program and of medical care provided by SERVE. She has ambitious goals for her children and wants to educate her daughters so that they will not have to work as manual labourers, and so that they can celebrate successful marriages.

I spoke with **Mrs. Narasamma**, whose beautiful smile lit up the room. Mrs. Narasamma works as a labourer at a vegetable market. She is attending non-formal basic education and is a member of the self-help group. She reports that the group is very helpful in discussing issues important to families and within the slums. She has one son attending HOPE school and relies on the medical care provided by SERVE. When asked about the most pressing issues in the slum, she reports that sanitation, abstinence and education of girl

children are her priorities.

We proceeded to the driving school and spoke with two students and a trainer. There is considerable demand for drivers and graduates can expect to earn 4000 rupees per month (about \$100) during probation and between 5000 and 6000 rupees after probation.

On a brief visit of the plumbing school we learned that graduates are government certified and eligible to earn approximately 6000 rupees (\$150) per month.

We concluded our visit at Leninagar where we toured the HOPE School and visited health worker trainees. Brief discussion with Jhansy Paul yielded some very promising information about Health Worker trainee's employment prospects. Jhansy indicated that of the 39 students in the First Batch of training, all had received government employment. Of the 39 students in Second Batch, 20 had received contract employment and 19 received private sector employment. She reported that several employers were contacting the school to hire graduates, and those students were reporting earnings at 5000 rupees per month in contract positions, and 7000 rupees per month in government positions.



Photo by Marilyn Schwab

## Thank you so much for extending your hand in 2007-08

Last year, the theme for Loaves and Fishes was Extend a Hand because it truly all begins when you are willing to extend your hand. Your gifts make a difference on the ground in the huts, fields, clinics and schools. They make a difference when we apply for matching grants. They make a difference when we consider a new project. So, thank you...

Anna Altmann, Herb and Carolyn Andersen, John Anderson and Marilyn Murray, Muriel Anderson, Anonymous, Lawrence and Minnie Arnold, Johs and Janine Asfeldt, Augustana Circle of Service, Dawn Simmons Auerbach, Shahabodeen Bacchus, Elizabeth Bagdan, Ruth Ball, Barbara Bancarz, David and Murial Bartel, Sam Bartel, Selma Bartel, Ted Belter, Otto and Elfrieda Berg, Christine Bennett, Marion Bennett, Bernice Bernard, Horst and Doris Birkholz, Phyllis Bjorgum, Janet and Sterling Bjorndahl, Ray and Norma Blacklock, Ruth and Seig Bockrandt, Gary and Florence Boden, Alan and Jean Bouck, Paul Breau, Elfia Breitreuz, Ivy Breitreuz, Monica Breitreuz, W. Robert Bruce, John and Sharon Bruneau, Erich and Edeltraud Buerger, Clifford and Helen Campbell, John and Betty Campbell, Central Agencies Inc., Li Chen, Church of God Faith Promise Mission, Church of God (Kelowna), Church of God (Winnipeg), Arthur Cole, Les Congdon, Margaret Congdon, Marvin and Susan Congdon, Elizabeth Cowan, Dwight and Isabel Cumming, David and Darlene Dahle, Kuldip and Virenda Delhon, Horst and Karin Depner, Linda and Gerrie Dey, Cliff and Bev Drever, Ken and Iris Drever, Tim and Shirley Dubland, Sheryl Dubois, Lawrence and Denise Dufresne, Edna Dyck, Dorothy Easton, Dave and Jan Edwards, Fran and Red Elliott, Dorothy Engen, Irene Engst, Roger Epp and Rhonda Harder Epp, Vincent and Mary Ellen Eriksson, Alice Falkenberg, Josette Faltreschi, Lee and Jane Farrow, Maria Fast, Marc Fielding, Valerie and Alan Fielding, Phyllis Fisher, Alan and Ruth Ford, B.H. (Berdie) Fowler, Quinn Fox, Ulrich Frank, Harry Gaede, Margery Monsma Gaede, Bruce and Sharon Gair, German Church of God, David Goa, Edna Good, Clarence and Mabel Goosen, Laverna Grandfield, David and Janet Gross, Henry Gusse, Walter and Margaret Gusse, Rudi and Hilda Gutzman, Nancy Hanneman, Alfred and Ruby Hansen, Agnes Hansen, Lucille Hansman, Jean Hartan, Jonathan and Michelle Hawkins, Robert Hazen, Alan and Ella Heffren, Roy and Mary Hehr, Adolph and Maria Hill, Niels and Thelma Hjorth, Harry and Ingrid Hoehne, Darlene Hoffman, Wolfgang Hoffman, Anjah Howard, John and Nancy Howard, Asgeir Ingibergsson, Jack Stuart School students, Dorothy Jackson, Dean and Beth Jarrett, Ira and Adeline Johnson, Dale and Nanette Jones, Frieda and Lewis Jones, Mike Jones and Alyson Lavers, Martin and Connie Kaefer, Katepwa Farms, Gary and Betty Kellsey, Tom and Dianne Kieren, Carl and Evelyn Kober, Walter and Gladys Krueger, Peter and Joy LeBlanc, Fritz and Renate Lenk, Vi Lindgren, Jon

and Laura-Joy Lindstrand, Max and Alice Lindstrand, Carsten and Denise Link, Lorna-Jean Lockerbie, Dorothy Lysons, Karen Macleod, Joe and Pat Mah, Varghese and Usha Manaloor, Philippe Martin, Gordon and Lori Matties, May McCarthy, Arlene McIntyre, Bob and Mary McKinnon, Earl and Martha McMorran, Mill Creek Church of God, Robert and Darlene Meier, N. Deo and Mary Mishra, Jonathan Mohr and Robyn Simpson Mohr, Daniel Moi, Michael and Brenda Mucs, Pat and Dittmar Mundel, Geraldine Murphy, Magdalene Neugebauer, Sheila and Randy Niven, Hans Olson, Erhard and Lorene Pinno, Helmut and Else Popke, Herta Popke, Edna Nelson, Tim O'Connor, Orlando Olson, Verlyn and Mardell Olson, Faye Oswald, Dee Patriquin, Stephen Pawluk, Robert and Betty Pearson, Jasminka Pecanac, Alver and Arlene Person, John and Carmen Person, Del and Loretta Pierce, Paul and Tammy Pineo, Harry Prest, Pat Prest, Walter and Jacqueline Pringle, Larry and Margaret Rathnavalu, Don and Christina Rebus, Donna Reimchen, Edna Reimchen, Dean and Merlyn Rix, Ken and Marnie Roberts, Jane and Jack Ross, Rod and Sheilagh Ross, Debra Rupertus, David and Helen Samm, Maurice Samm and Patty Chevalier, Anne Schieck, Don and Jean Schieck, Gary and Karen Schieck, Stan and Margaret Schieck, Arvid and Anita Schimke, David Pankratz and Janet Schmidt, Ernest and Talita Schneider, Emmy Schultz, Fred and June Schultz, Herta and Theodore Schultz, Elfrieda Seib, Kevin and Nola Sharp, Basil Singh, Dolores Skaret, Karin Smith, Kevin and Darlene Sorenson, Dave and Katherine Stablyk, Hans Steinke, David and Gail Stolee, Doris Stolee, Jon and Shannon Stolee, Lilly Streibel, Cliff and Phyllis Suddaby, Signe Swanson and Jack Waschenfelder, Mary Ann Sware, Elaine Taylor, Ken and Caroline Taylor, Tress Taylor, Gary and Marlene Tonnhauser, Donna Tower, Marie Tveit, Carl and Greta Urion, Dennis Vandenburg, J. William Voth, Albert and Holdine Wagner, Alex Wagner, Margaret Wallace, Diane Weeres, Craig Wentland and Paula Marentette, Fern Wiebe, Egan Wilhelm, Will and Laura Williams, Otto Wollin and Traute Wollin, Dorothy Woodman, Les Woods, John Wortman and Jean McBean, Richard and Marianne Yamabe, Horst and Ilsa Zado, Martha Zander.

Gifts were made to honour the memory of Gordon Schieck, Eloise Umbach, Don Snell, Hem Reimchen, and Alex Wagner.

Gifts were also made to celebrate the wedding of Tress Taylor and Gian Gibson, the birthday of Mina Schieck, and in honour of Earl and Martha McMorran.

## The School Called HOPE

*"... one year of school changes a child  
... years of school transform  
that child's future"*

*- Gracia Machel\**

School is in for another year for 350 children in the slums of Hyderabad in south central India. Hope is strong that they will gain the knowledge base needed to break the cycle of poverty.

"It is hard to imagine the poverty and discrimination these people face when we have so much freedom and material wealth," said Gail Stolee, executive director of Sahakarini. "We could not walk away from 350 kids who truly want and need to learn. Some changes just take time. But the impacts are life long."

A wonderful group of volunteers has come forward to spearhead the support effort. One of the committee members, Linda Dey, visited the school in 2005. She recalls that "The children are wonderful, but they are so poor. They were really proud to be going to school. I believe that education is their hope, is the way out for them."

We will be looking for opportunities to link the school with organizations here and in India that might have an interest as well as individuals who want to help give these children that chance.

Sahakarini first supported the school in 2004 when there were fewer than 200 students. It has continued to grow as partner organization SERVE works with families to encourage them to send their children. In a community where the education of girls is often not a priority, they are especially heartened that 47% of the students are girls. Educating girls means that you are educating families for the future.

In addition to academics (K-7 at this time) the children receive a hot meal, school supplies, and regular medical attention. Their parents report that the



Photo by Marilyn Schwab



children's behaviour also improves greatly once they go to school.

In a new initiative, the committee will be approaching a number of businesses to encourage them to make Christmas gifts to the school as gifts to their clients. Knowing a gift was made to help the children can give everyone concerned joy at Christmas and throughout the new year. If you are interested in this idea for your business or family, call or email us. Cards are available for you.

### Here are just a few ideas for how you might help.

- Sponsor the opportunity for one child to attend for a year . . . . . \$200
- Purchase books for one child or for many . . . . . \$10 each
- Provide a hot lunch for one child all year . . . . . \$100
- Hire a teacher . . . . . \$1,500
- Provide uniforms for all the children . . . . . \$4,500

### If you like the idea of monthly gifts using post-dated cheques, you could

- Provide books for ten children; or uniforms for seven; or a hot lunch for one . . . . . \$10/month
- Provide all the sports equipment; or pay the rent for one month; or transport nine children for a year . . . . . \$25/month
- Provide uniforms for 40 children, or books for 60 children . . . . . \$50/month
- Hire a teacher for the year . . . . . \$125/month

You may know some of the committee members. Feel free to talk to them about the school or how you can be involved in supporting it. Committee members are Linda Dey, Bev Drever, Lynn Clark, Herb Andersen, Donna Phillips, Gail Stolee.

\* Gracia Machel is former minister of education for Mozambique, activist, and wife of Nelson Mandela.