

P.O. Box 1685, Camrose, Alberta T4V 1X6 Phone 780-672-8222

## When the monsoon fails

### Land and water management pay off in Andhra Pradesh

For several years CCDO, our project partner in rural Andhra Pradesh, India, has been training farmers in wasteland reclamation and watershed management using simple gully bunding, checkdams and storage reservoirs. The techniques allow the farmers to make use of rains that fall in the mountains a distance away rather than letting the water rush away causing erosion. With these simple means of water storage and irrigation, the farmers have been able to plan their crops and reap better, more reliable harvests. Never was this more important than in the past year when the monsoons failed. Even without the usual amount of rainfall, the farmers did have a harvest. Unfortunately, this was not the case in neighbouring communities that had not been part of the project.



***Small dams like this one have made the difference for small farmers***

### Coming Events

**Friday, May 29, 2009**

Annual General Meeting  
 Bethel Lutheran Church  
 4102-73 St., Camrose

6:00 p.m. Potluck, 7:00 p.m. Meeting  
 Speaker: Alan Fielding on Guatemala

**Sunday, September 20, 2009**

Hike for HOPE

Miquelon Lake Provincial Park Group Site #4  
 12:00 noon – on, BBQ at 3:00 p.m.

Fall fun for all ages in support of Sahakarini

**Saturday, November 21, 2009**

Loaves and Fishes Dinner  
 Norsemen Inn, Camrose

**For further details call 780-672-8222**



### Directors 2008-2009

Alan Fielding, President

Herb Andersen, V-President

Dave Stolee, Treasurer

Dave Bartel

Horst Depner

MaryEllen Eriksson

Vincent Eriksson

Alan Ford

Margery Gaede

Roy Hehr

Gail Stolee, Exec. Dir.

Ken Taylor

#### Office

#4, 4926-50 Street

Camrose, Alberta

Phone 780-672-8222

Email [sahakari@telusplanet.net](mailto:sahakari@telusplanet.net)

Click Sahakarini in cyber space [www.sahakarini.org](http://www.sahakarini.org)  
 or [www.sahakarini.ca](http://www.sahakarini.ca)

Check it out and let us know what you think, what you would like to see more of, or any other ideas you might have to make our site even more meaningful to you. We welcome your feedback.

#### Mailing Address

P.O. Box 1685

Camrose, AB T4V 1X6

Fax 780-672-5506

# HOPE and Change brings hope and change

Hope is an agent of change. Change engenders hope. In 2006, CIDA approved the HOPE and Change project in six slums in India for 2:1 funding over two years. That project is now complete. In two short years, it has succeeded in meeting most of its objectives.

Through leadership training and exposure to other communities where change has already occurred, the people have come to believe that it is possible for them to change their lives for the better, and that they can develop the skills to do so. This is the beginning of daring to hope.



**Women's self help group**

subsidized foodstuffs and indicating that they may qualify for certain government pensions and services. About 40% now have voter identity cards. These are marks of citizenship.

Basic amenities such as reliable safe water are now available in 3 of the 6 slums, power in 3, and some toilets in 3. There is still a long way to go, but now the communities along with SERVE have established relationships with government officials that did not exist before and form the basis for further advocacy and cooperation.

Women have been empowered, given voice, training for better jobs, access to micro-credit; and serve in fully half of the elected leadership positions. This is a major change for them and for the communities.

Another major change has been an increase in

incomes through training for better paying jobs and access to micro-credit which saves the people from usurious debt charges levied by moneylenders. Where a nobody could be considered above the poverty line at the beginning of the project, now almost 20% can make that claim.



**Young women from multi-purpose healthworker program learn as they work in slums**

Children have continued to have access to basic K-7 education and the hope is to extend the school to grade 10. Meanwhile, non-formal education has helped 75% of women and 55% of men become literate in the Telegu language. Now they cannot be so easily cheated and can begin to learn about the world beyond their own communities.

Through the clinics and education sessions which stress basic prevention of disease, there has been an improvement in health standards. Children miss less school; workers fewer workdays.

All of these things help to alleviate poverty in its broadest sense. They are agents of hope and change.



**Driving students**

## Thank you for your help in Transforming the lives of others – Donors 2008-2009

Last year, the theme for Loaves and Fishes was *Transformation* because that is what your gifts do – they transform lives in huts, fields, clinics, councils and schools. Your gifts themselves are transformed through the power of matching grants so that even more can be accomplished. Thank you so much.

A-1 Catering, Herta Albrecht, Herb and Carolyn Andersen, Debi Anderson, Marilyn Murray and John Anderson, Muriel Anderson, Raymond Anderson, Noreen Anger, Bonnie Arends, Lawrence and Minnie Arnold, Johannes and Janeen Asfeldt, Augustana Circle of Service, Kurt Auschrat, Elizabeth Bagdan, Frank C. Bales, Ruth Ball, Veronica Banack, Malcolm and Carol Barr, Battle River Community Foundation, George Baum, Ken Baxandall, Yvonne Becker, Diane Beckman, Sam and Anna Marie Belke, Ted and Hanna Belter, Harold and Erika Benkendorf, Trudy Benkendorf, Otto and Elfriede Berg, Donald and Myrna Bergen, Horst and Doris Berkholz, Bernice Bernard, Bethel Lutheran Church, Phyllis Bjorgum, Janet and Sterling Bjorndahl, Ray and Norma Blacklock, Michael and Angelica Bogner, Alan and Jean Bouck, Howard and Phyllis Bouck, Lena Bowal, Bob Brawn, Monica Breitkreutz, Elfia Breitkreuz, Ivy Breitkreuz, Robert and Margaret Bruce, Signi Bruner, B's Contracting Ltd., Erich and Edeltraud Buerger, Clifford and Helen Campbell, John and Betty Campbell, Canada Helps, Central Agencies Inc., Jeff Chung, Church of

Shaun Creasy, Cliff and Vicki Cullum, Kristen Cumming, David and Darlene Dahle, Scott Davey, Horst and Karin Depner, Gerrie and Linda Dey, Linda Dobson, Doug Drader, Cliff and Bev Drever, Ken and Iris Drever, Lee Drever, Drever Agencies Ltd., Tim and Shirley Dubland, Lawrence and Denise Dufresne, Alma Dworznicki, Edna Dyck, Dorothy Easton, Dave and Jan Edwards, Donna Elashuk, Red and Fran Elliott, Wade Elliott, Elliott's Auto Care Ltd., Irene Engst, Linette Enzenauer, Rhonda Harder Epp and Roger Epp, Vincent and Mary Ellen Ericksson, David and Barbara Eriksson, Janelle Evenson, Leonard and Shirley Ewert, Alice Falkenberg, Josette Faltreschi, Scott and Linda Farnham, Farnham West Stolee, Mary Pattie Fellner, Alan and Valerie Fielding, Marc Fielding, Patricia Fielding, Fielding and Company, Edith Fields, Don and Dixie Fischer, Phyllis Fisher, Roy and Lynn Fixsen, Alan and Ruth Ford, Don Forestier, Adam and Penny Foster, Berdie Fowler, Barb Frank, Ulrich Frank, Frank J. Flaman Foundation, Anne Fraser, Iona Froehlich, Harry and Margery Gaede, German Church of God, Gord Gifford, David Goa, Edna Good, Clarence and Mabel Goosen, Natalie Grant, Dave Green, Jean Green, Ken Green, Ron and Vivianne Grue, Bill and Ericka Gusse, Henry Gusse, Dennis Gustavson, Rudie and Hilda Gutzman, Alfred and Ruby Hansen, Patti Harberg, Anna Harder, Louis Haselwood, Johnathan and Michelle Hawkins, Robert Hazen, Sharon Hazen, Alan and Ella Heffren, Roy and Mary Hehr, Rita Helmig, Howard and Sandra Hildebrand, Adolf and Maria Hill, Niels and Thelma Hjorth, Deanne Morrow and Anthony Hladun, Else Hoffman, Ed and Muriel Holdsworth, Drew Hosford, Laverne and Marilyn Hoveland, Anjah Howard, John and Nancy Howard, Diane Hutchinson, Don and Nola Hutchinson, Interiors on Main, Dorothy Jackson, Doug Jackson, Paul Jehn, Brenda Johnson, Ira and Adeline Johnson, Frieda and Lewis Jones, Martin and Connie Kaefer, Frieda Karl, Gary and Betty Kellsey, Yvonne Kelly, Dale Kemp, Tom and Diane Kieren, Barry Vall and



***Changing the lives of girls and women***

God – Camrose – 55+ Group, Church of God – Faith Promise Mission, Church of God (Kelowna), Church of God (Winnipeg), Lynn and Heather Clark, Carla Coates, Computers Plus Inc., Donna Congden, Kennedy Congdon, Margaret Congdon, Elizabeth Cowan,

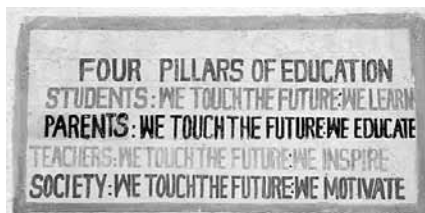


**Children at HOPE School**

Donna Kilarski, Carl and Evelyn Kober, Herta Krause, Kristie Kreamer, Linda Kreamer, Henry Krenz, Walter and Gladys Krueger, Raymond Kuefler, Erika Kugler, James and Romonda Kuntz, Trudy Langrty, Holly Lassenes, Mike Jones and Alyson Lavers, Jennifer Leavesley, Peter and Joy LeBlanc, Martha LeGear, Herman and Doreen Leicht, Fritz and Renata Lenk, Harald Lesser, Roy Lillebeun, Vi Lindgren, Max and Alice Lindstrand, Carsten and Denise Link, Bob Lyon, Doug Lyseng, Dorothy Lysons, Susan Macklin, Karen MacLeod, Varghese and Usha Manaloor, Dwayne Mason, May McCarthy, Peggy McDonald, Arlene McIntyre, Bob and Mary McKinnon, Martha McMorran, Robert and Darlene Meier, Joan Merrill, George Meyer, Ken and Kay Miller, Michael and Laurie Moffitt Barr, Audrey Morello, Barbara Morrill, Michael and Brenda Mucz, Dittmar and Pat Mundel, Geraldine Murphy, Lindsay Nihirny, Edna E. Nelson, Frieda Ness, Magdelene Neugebauer, Randy and Sheila Niven, Linda Norman, Tim O'Connor, John and Treva Olson, Verlyn and Mardell Olson, Vicki Olson, Robbie O'Riordan, June Osborne, Wayne and Betty Overn, Tim and Ellen Parker, Bill Passi, Stephen Pawluk, Betty Pearson, Alver and Arlene Person, Audrey Pfannmueller, Daryl and Ruth Phillips, Warren and Donna Phillips, Paul and Tammy Pineo, Erhard and Lorene Pinno, Helmut and Else Popke, Walter and Jacqueline Pringle,

Reta Quarterly, Paul and Pamela Ramalingam, Glenna Ramsey, Larry and Margaret Rathnavalu, Don and Christina Rebus, Edna Reimchen, Ted Reimchen, Remax Real Estate, Tammy and Ron Richard, Merlyn and Dean Rix, Ken and Marnie Roberts, Ronda Shott Photography, Darrell and Lila Rosland, Jack and Jane Ross, Norma Ruhl, Henry Rutkowski, Kim Ruzicka, David and Helen Samm, Patty Chevalier and Maurice Samm, Gary and Karen Shieck, Mina Shieck, Stan and Margrit Shieck, Arvid and Anita Schimke, Ernest and Talita Schneider, Marjorie Schneider, Kevin and Sandra Schole, Connie Schultheis, Emmy Schultz, Fred and June Schultz, Herta and Theodor Schultz, Doug and Shirley Schwartz, Elfrieda Seib, Sigmund Selent, Louise Sevigny, Shirt Off My Back Tailoring, Sharon Shmyr, Basil R. Singh, Dolores Skaret, Karl Skaret, Susan Skaret, Skaret Farms Corporation, Norma Smart, Gary Smith, Glenys Smith, Yvonne Smith, Janice Snell, Ewald and Hilda Sommerfeld, Starcheski Chiropractic Clinic, Jerome and Pat Stetar, Naomi Stinson, David and Gail Stolee, Doris Stolee, Jon and Shannon Stolee, Lilly Streibel, Annie Syed, Ken and Caroline Taylor, Tress Taylor, Rick Tews, Timberline Roofing, TLB Contracting Ltd., Gary and Marlene Tonhauser, Barb Tower, Glenda Tower, Janice Trueman, Doreen Turpie, Marie Tveit, Jeff and Tricia Twomey, Ingrid Urberg, Carl and Greta Urion, Daniel and Emily Vassell, Harvey and Marcia Vikse, Will Voth, Albert and Holdine Wagner, Margaret Wallace, Signe Swanson and Jack Waschenfelder, Lynne Washington, Paula Marentette and Craig Wentland, Cody Werner, Amy Wieschorster, Elisabeth Wieser, Egan Wilhelm, Otto Wollon, Audrey Woodman, Dorothy Woodman, Les Woods, Stan Wright, Richard and Marianna Yamabe, Horst and Ilse Zado, Martha Zander, Don and Carol Zech, Marilyn Zielke, Dan Zietarsky, Doug Zietarsky, Dave Zimmer.

Thank you to CIDA and the Wildrose Foundation, whose matching grants multiply the benefits from individual donations.



**Painted on the wall at HOPE School**

## Where Credit is Due

Micro-credit refers to a system of making small loans available to poor people who would not be considered or have access to credit through conventional banking. The system has proven highly successful in putting money into the hands of the poor to enable them to do such things as start small enterprises. Begun in Bangladesh by Nobel laureate Mohamad Yunus and the Grameen Bank, micro-credit has shown that the poor will make the most of the opportunities offered and will honour their commitments, often better than the so-called rich.

*Where Credit is Due*, a twenty minute DVD produced by Sahakarini, explores what happens when opportunity in the form of micro-credit meets determination in the form of fifty Guatemalan village women. Their story is an inspiration to all of us who want to make a difference. Miriam, one of the women leaders in the community, summed it up perfectly, "We are capable of everything. We just need people to believe in our capabilities."

In 2008, Sahakarini commissioned Hans Olson of Edmonton to make a short documentary film about the women and the micro-credit project

Sahakarini undertook in partnership with the Kaqchikel Presbytery (KP) in Guatemala.

Olson and cameraman Mike McLaughlin spent several weeks in the villages. It was a bit of a homecoming for Olson who had lived there as a CIDA intern under the auspices of the Tatamagouche Centre.

The film was a first for Sahakarini, which has as part of its mandate creating awareness amongst Canadians about the issues in developing countries and some of the ways in which these challenges are being met. Production was made possible with the help of public engagement funding from CIDA, generous provision of space and mentoring for Hans during the editing phase from the NFB in Edmonton, and the cooperation of the Kaqchikel Presbytery.

The film premiered at the 2008 Loaves and Fishes Dinner and has since been entered in several festivals and shown to school and university students studying international development. It has been picked up for Canada-wide distribution by Moving Images, a Vancouver-based organization.

## Ambassadors of HOPE

For four Christmases, students at Jack Stuart School in Camrose have shown global citizenship in action by supporting students at HOPE School in Hyderabad.

To recognize their contributions and encourage them in their efforts, Sahakarini presented the first ever Ambassador of HOPE Award.

Pictured in front of banners the students made are L to R: Caitlin Twomey, Malinka Voytechuk, and Shavonna Voytechuk.

Back: teacher Darlene Dahle.

The banners have tracings of the children's helping hands and photos of ways in which Sahakarini projects reach out and help others.





## President's Message

On a recent holiday to Guatemala, Valérie and I and our children Marc and Ariane had the pleasure of spending a couple of days with our project partners in the Chimaltenango area. The microcredit women's groups are continuing to work well, strengthening community bonds and providing income for their families. We visited a number of homes in the rather remote village of Yepocapa. Our partners, the Kaqchikel Presbytery, have installed inexpensive water purification systems and clean-burning, efficient stoves. The women were extremely grateful for the assistance for a number of reasons:

- the firewood required is reduced by three quarters
- there have been no smoke inhalation problems as the stoves are properly vented outside
- there is much less danger of burns
- there are far fewer stomach and intestinal complaints, particularly for the children, caused by contaminated water
- the families don't need to buy bottled water or soft drinks as there is an ample supply of purified water available.

I was particularly interested to note that both the stoves and the water filters are very well used, even after months and years. Often we hear about cases where technological changes are introduced but don't last either because they break down and aren't fixed, or because the local people don't buy into the idea. This is certainly not the case in the homes we visited.

For me it reinforced the idea that some of the most effective means of sustainable development are the simplest.

Alan Fielding,  
President

***Stoves like this use fuel efficiently and save children from burns and respiratory illnesses***



***Sahakarini president, Alan Fielding, meets with villagers at Kaqchikel Presbytery***



- I would like to become a member of Sahakarini (no fee)
- Please change my address
- I would prefer to receive information by email \_\_\_\_\_
- Please send me information about \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make a gift of  \$50  \$100  \$150  \$200  \$500  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Gifts can be made:  one time  monthly for \_\_\_\_\_ months (by post-dated cheques)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Sahakarini is a registered charity Business number 11913 1936 RR0001

Spring 2009

Sahakarini is registered with CanadaHelps.org for donations on-line.

***Helping the poorest of the poor transform their lives through partners we know and trust.***

