

Fall 2014

SAHAKARINI



MAKING AN IMPACT THROUGH SAHAKARINI PROJECTS



Projects are at the heart of Sahakarini's mandate. We are always looking for opportunities to work with trusted local partners in developing countries. We have found over the years that the kinds of projects which give the most benefit to the vulnerable and marginalized are those which combine a committed and efficient local partner with the hard work and motivation of those who benefit from the project. A look at some of our current projects will illustrate what I mean.

Kya Kimwe sand dam, Kenya Sahakarini provided funding of 1,286,193 Kenyan shillings (\$15,097 CAD) which enabled the Utooni Development Organization and the people of Kya Kimwe to build a sand dam. The dam was built over a period of several months by the labour of the community members under the direction of skilled dam

builders. The sand dam was completed on time and on budget and is working well. The whole community has access to water, particularly during the dry months of July to September. Even though drought conditions prevailed, the members of Kya Kimwe were able to harvest their crop because they used drought resistant seeds from their seed bank.

Socotá, Colombia This is a project with the Iglesia Evangélica Luterana de Colombia (IELCO) to provide \$27,000, of which the Community Initiatives Program of the Alberta government contribute \$12,000 in matching funds, to assist in the conservation of water resources and to encourage local production and self-sufficiency in food for 15 families. Dittmar and Pat Mundel will carry out a monitoring visit in October 2014. Our project partner reports

that the gardens are regularly checked for progress and fencing. They also monitor the natural springs which provide water for the community. One of the additional benefits is that some of the families are able to sell produce in excess of their family needs to other members of the local community.

Sahakarini has provided partial funding through designated donations for the support of our internship program. This year our intern is Leah Johnson who is attached to our partners in Bogotá and Socotá, Colombia. She is making the most of her time there and intends to improve her already excellent Spanish to professional level. Her six month internship was planned to end this fall, but she has asked permission to extend it until June 2015 so as to be able to give more back to the local community.

Sahakarini has agreed to provide additional funding for the internship up to \$3000 which will also come from a generous designated donation for internships.

Iryango Widows Self-help group, Uganda This is an agricultural project which is a continuation of an earlier project which is administered by the Africa Community Technical Service (ACTS). Sahakarini has provided funding of \$21,450 (21,852,221 Ugandan shillings) to enable the 120 members to obtain a small loan and a goat. The members' gardens are located on 240 plots of land, and the landlord has shown interest in renewing the lease. Each of the members received a goat, and the total number of goats is now 217. The members planted crops of their own choice, which included sorghum, corn, sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, peas, groundnuts and cassava.

One of the constants in these three very different projects is the hard work, commitment and motivation of the beneficiaries.

In our continuing effort to find outstanding opportunities for the support of self-help projects, we are now looking at other projects in India, Uganda, and Colombia.

Sahakarini is making a difference!

Alan Fielding
Chair, Projects Committee

Above: Kya Kimwe Sand Dam Project in Kenya.

LEAH'S INCREDIBLE JOURNEY—INTERN IN COLOMBIA

May 2014

I have now passed through the first week of my internship in Colombia with IELCO (*Iglesia Evangélica Luterana de Colombia*).

The majority of my first week was spent in exactly the same conditions as I have in my home in Canada. Yesterday I was able to view another side of Bogotá.

My largest point of reflection is in a comment made by Anna yesterday in Caracolí: "*Vivimos en la misma ciudad, pero no vivimos en la misma realidad*", or, "We live in the same city, but we do

not live in the same reality."

June 2014

The political studies graduate inside me is incredibly happy to be in Colombia for the national election.

There is no 'easy' road to choose. From my point of view, to continue the war is to continue producing generations who believe violence to be an option for dealing with conflict, rather than fostering a society which both places their power in their institutions, and as well believes in their institutions to peacefully manage conflict.

September 2014

I've spent nearly the last two months living in *el campo* or the countryside, in the mountains above the town of Socotá, working with and observing the Sahakarini Project in Socotá. There have been four dominant themes that have emerged throughout my activities in Socotá.

These themes include the Sahakarini project and visits to the gardens; the strong presence of hospitality in local culture; nightly biblical studies throughout the mountain; and finally, mining and the conversations the communi-

ty has concerning this industry and its future.

Right now the community is facing a difficult transition. Therefore, in many ways the project is creating a window or a possible answer to the question: what's next?



COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING (CSL) STUDENTS 2014

We are fortunate once again to have CSL students working with Sahakarini. These students have chosen as part of their studies at Augustana Faculty to participate in the work of a local organization. This is a benefit to them as they link their experience to their current course of studies and it benefits the organization as they

bring their knowledge and enthusiasm to us.

One of our CSL students in global studies will be part of our organization for 50 hours. She will be involved primarily with the committee planning the Film and Speaker Series for 2015 as well as attending Board meetings and cataloguing some of our internal work.

Seven fourth year economics students have chosen to work with us for 20 hours. They will learn how Sahakarini uses ethical guidelines to choose projects and interact with our international partners and ourselves. They will also be involved in our fund raising for Loaves and Fishes.

Two first year students will shadow one of our

board members as he works in the community involving young people in the Augustana Faculty fund raising SCORE and the Sahakarini fundraiser Loaves and Fishes Dinner. Their total participation will be 20 hours.

All of our CSL students will be at the Loaves and Fishes Dinner. We hope you will come and meet them.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For Sahakarini, this has been a year focussed on a very simple question. "Do you have food and water for you and your family?" The answer, sadly, is that for so many people, the answer is "No". That is simply unacceptable in this day. From a sand dam in Kenya to goats and micro-credit in Uganda, to water conservation and agriculture in Colombia, we have been able to use the gifts you have given to

ensure that for many, the answer is now "Yes, we do and we now have hope and opportunity too".

We are quickly approaching the annual Sahakarini Loaves and Fishes dinner. (November 15, 2014) The story of the loaves and fishes - the feeding of the five thousand - teaches us many things. One of the obvious ones is that wonderful things

happen when people are willing to share what they have even though it may be only a little bit. Jesus was concerned not only about welcoming the crowds and teaching them, but also about their basic need for food. This need was filled as people shared unselfishly and without fear. It is certainly a story for our times when some of us have much while others lack even the basics. On November 15, we

will be gathering and we will have the opportunity to share some of what we have. Please join us so that others can be fed, nourished, healed, and encouraged.

Gail Stolee, President



NEW FACES ON THE BOARD

We are delighted to welcome four new board members this year. If you think you would be interested in becoming a member of our board, please contact the office at 780-672-8222.

David Edwards has been a follower and supporter of Sahakarini since he and his wife Jan retired to Camrose following a career as a United Church minister. He especially appreciates Sahakarini's emphasis on sustainability and partnerships. Dave serves on the Education committee.

Melissa Kennart is a global development studies major at Augustana Faculty University of Alberta. She is a member of both the Projects and Film and Speaker committees.

Varghese Manaloor is the John P. Tandberg Associate Professor of Economics and Management at Augustana Faculty, University of Alberta. One of his major interests is exploring ways to promote environmental sustainability and development. He is originally from Kerala in

India and regularly takes student groups on study tours around India. Varghese sits on the Projects committee.

Les Parsons is a cross-country ski coach at Augustana whose life experiences have taken him around the world and led to associations with people from all walks of life and social strata. His passion is to involve more young people in causes like Sahakarini. Les is involved with SCORE, a fundraiser for Sahakarini

put on by the Augustana chaplaincy students, Loaves and Fishes, and the Film and Speaker series.

Continuing board members:
 Gail Stolee - Pres.
 Margery Gaede - vice-Pres.
 Carolyn Andersen - Sec'y
 Don Rebus - Treas.
 Alan Ford - Film and Speaker, Fund Dev.
 Jen Lindstrand - Film and Speaker
 Dittmar Mundel - Projects
 Ken Taylor - at large

UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2014

SCORE

November 4, 12-4 pm
at the Forum
Augustana Campus U of A
A student sponsored sale
and fundraiser for
Sahakarini.

**LOAVES AND FISHES
FUND RAISER DINNER**
Saturday November 15 @
Doors open 5:00 pm
Dinner at 6 pm @ the
Norsemen Inn, Camrose
Guest Speakers: Leah
Johnson, Pat and Dittmar
Mundel

**FILM AND SPEAKER
SERIES 2015**
Watch for details.



Plant a Seed!



Attend the **Loaves and Fishes Fund Raiser Dinner** to learn more about our projects and to plant a seed! Saturday, November 15, Norsemen Inn, Camrose.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Sahakarini would like to thank those who have supported our project work through financial donations and volunteer time. Thank you to the *Augustana Community Service and Learning* students who continue to provide assistance to Sahakarini in a variety of ways. We also say thanks to the Augustana Chaplaincy for choosing to support Sahakarini with the funds raised through SCORE again this year.

SAHAKARINI DONATIONS

Donations can be made three different ways.

1. Canada Post @ Sahakarini, Box 1685 Camrose T4V 1X6
2. ATB Cares website @ <https://www.atbcares.com/donate>.
Your donation will be forwarded to Sahakarini plus a 15% matching donation from Alberta Treasury.
3. CanadaHelps website: @ <https://www.canadahelps.org>

Your support makes change possible and thank you for that.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- Please change my address
- Please add my name to the mailing list
- I would prefer to receive information and newsletters by email

NAME _____

Mailing address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

Donations can be made online at www.CanadaHelps.org or through www.atbcares.com