

Spring 2020

# SAHAKARINI

ESTABLISHED 1979 CAMROSE AB



AN INTERNATIONAL NGO-LOCAL EFFORTS FOR GLOBAL CHALLENGES

## NYUAT PROJECT SHINE UPDATE APRIL 2020

Nyuat Project SHINE (Tanzania) is a health and sanitation-based project involving Maasai pastoralists in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area of Tanzania. The project features two related activities: 1) installation of approximately 200 biosand filters in homes across 2 local communities, and 2) development of a for-profit community-based soap making enterprise and related hygiene education. Nyuat is the community group providing local leadership. Project leads Laurie and Michael Barr brought the opportunity for Sahakarini's involvement (2016) through contacts made by their daughter Vanessa while she attended (2015) a U of Calgary Field School in the area.

Dr. Sheri Bastein, formerly of U of Calgary, is the co-lead on the project. Relationships were further developed and strengthened by recent visits and meetings, arranged between Nyuat Group members and Laurie and Michael (Sep 2019), and later (Dec 2019) with owners, and project partners, of Rocky Mountain Soap Company. These meetings allowed members, funders, and supporting partners to get to know one another and to discuss project management details.

The project demonstrated considerable success in its first 3 years. All biosand filters were deployed and used to provide fresh, clean water and single filters, due to their popularity, were

rumored to be serving multiple households. In addition to clean water, local production and widespread community use of soap was needed to achieve desired health and sanitation outcomes.

Nyuat has successfully demonstrated its ability to produce soap and has also completed preliminary sales to a local lodge and other consumers. In the last year, the project emphasis was to up-scale the soap aspect from a small, volunteer run, community-based project to a formally incorporated soap-making enterprise. The responsibilities that the latter brings (e.g. finances, administration, personnel, and sales and marketing) has proven to be a major hurdle for the group and its current leadership.

While grateful to all who have contributed to the project's success this far, everyone is in agreement that added management expertise is required to achieve a more assured and successful outcome. We eagerly and optimistically await Nyuat group's recommendations to achieving this goal.

Remember: 'Nothing worthwhile was ever easy'.

Project motto: Tuko Pamoja/We Are Together

*Submitted by Laurie and Michael Barr*

## FRIENDS OF SHANTA BHAWAN, NEPAL HEALTH CENTER (FSB) 2020

It has now been four years since I was first introduced to Sanjaya Basnyat, executive director of Friends of Shanta Bhawan, Nepal Health Center (FSB). Over the years I continue to be moved by the benevolence and integrity of his leadership and his incredible and supportive staff. We all extend our sincerest gratitude to Sahakarini for their partnership and financial support over these past two years.

FSB successfully moved into a new building in a location with a more peaceful and quiet environment. The clinic now has ample space for their patients – children, guardians, and elderly – to feel comfortable while waiting to receive their consultations, treatments and medications. Over the past two years we have been scaling up our Pediatric and Gynecological services, all of which are provided at subsidized rates.

The Health Center opened a new Pediatric unit, with prefab nursing rooms, which expanded its clinical capacity to treat women and children. We have also improved the clinic's equipment and infrastructure, thereby, providing high quality diagnostic and

treatment services for our clients. Additional technical improvements included purchasing computers to update patient record keeping and financial systems, resulting in increased accuracy, transparency, and accountability of our funding expenditures.

*Laura Parker*

Nepal, as has FSB, has also been affected by the global pandemic. Nepal Medical Council has requested that all the primary health care centers and private health organizations close down all their services except emergency services because of a lack of Personnel Protective Equipment and patient crowding which would increase the risk of virus transmission. We are however coordinating and planning to provide medication to our TB patients, if possible, or to divert them to other government health centers. We still need to pay rent but are not able to pay our staff their salary during these difficult times.

*Sanjaya Basnyat*

*Submitted by Laura Parker*

## 2019-2020 Board Members:

Litsa Tryphonopoulos, Vice Chair; Don Rebus, Treasurer; Carolyn Andersen, Secretary; Vaghese Manaloor; Michael Mucz; John Helps; and Vibhav Fadnis.

## SAVE THE DATE

MONDAY, SEPT. 14, 2020  
Annual General Meeting

SATURDAY, SEPT. 26, 2020  
Visioning Event for Sahakarini

SATURDAY, OCT. 24, 2020  
Loaves and Fishes Dinner

(Based on the public health recommendations related to COVID 19 the above dates are tentative.)

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Sahakarini would like to thank those who have supported our project work through financial donations and volunteer time.



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## SAHAKARINI'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY



On October 26, 2019 Sahakarini celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. This was a successful event as 165 people gathered to celebrate the continuation of Sahakarini's mission in today's world.

With the theme "Be Moved" we heard about opportunities to respond to the needs of current projects and possible future projects. Our past president Becky Berger had challenged us with "The past is prelude to the future; it does not have to define it. Where does Sahakarini want to go from here?" What opportunities are there to make a difference/a fairer/kinder/more just world. There are lots of possibilities. Thank you to all who contributed and celebrated with us.

## TRIBUTE TO RUTH JENSEN



Ruth Jensen, the president of Sahakarini, died suddenly on January 17, 2020.

Ruth brought leadership, knowledge and experience to the organization as she had worked in development internationally and had a compassion for people.

Reflections from Board Members:

*"Ruth was a dedicated community volunteer member, a kind friend willing to be with you and listen to you, and a person of great faith. When Sahakarini was looking for a president, Ruth stepped up and offered her services. With her insightful skills she lead the board to plan for Sahakarini's Visioning For the Future Planning Session."*

*"In my interactions with Ruth, I saw the image and character of a First Nations elder - dignified, knowledgeable,*

*caring and humble. She had much to offer and she shared it graciously."*

*"Ruth informed me of all the good work going on through Sahakarini and invited me, as a new member to the community, to join the Sahakarini Board. Ruth was convincing and passionate about the work being done internationally through a local organization. Ruth was a friend to all and a warrior for those who needed her support."*

We will all deeply miss Ruth as we were very fortunate that our lives have been touched by her.

## SAHAKARINI DONATIONS

Donations can be made two 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. *Know that we at Sahakarini are grateful for your donations, but ATB Cares provides you with a tax deductible receipt and provides us with individual donor information only if the donor approves. Your support makes change possible and thank you for that.*

Your support makes change possible. Thank you.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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