

Spring 2019

# SAHAKARINI

ESTABLISHED 1979 CAMROSE AB



AN INTERNATIONAL NGO-LOCAL EFFORTS FOR GLOBAL CHALLENGES

## SAHAKARINI CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

Sahakarini at 40 years of age is a mature lady still going about the business of living up to her name of “working together” with her overseas project partners and her local partners here at home. Forty years of making a difference in the lives of people! Building Sand Dams in Kenya, supporting a health clinic in Nepal, a Children’s college in India, vegetable gardens and food supply in Colombia are a sample of the good work that changes and has changed people’s lives.

For us here at home, it gives joy to know that we can make a difference. That joy and sense of accomplishment enriches our lives and encourages participants to give of time and talent to local homegrown projects and programs right where we are planted.

The future is before us. How will this Grand Dame Sahakarini look and work in the days and years ahead? Come and join us as we celebrate the past 40 years and begin to unpack the future.

## CURRENT PROJECTS IN AFRICA, INDIA AND NEPAL

We are currently supporting two, with the possible addition of a third, sanitation and health related projects serving the needs of women and families in impoverished rural areas of Africa, India and Nepal.

Nyuvat Project SHINE (Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Tanzania) involves local soap production and distribution as well as sanitation health education in rural communities. Entrepreneurship training for soap sales to local hotels and lodges provides the possibility of additional income to support soap making training and basic soap making ingredient purchases. Biosand filter (\$70 US per unit cost) availability and training in installation and maintenance greatly enhance the quality of water available for family use. These filters remove 90% of bacterial and 100% of parasitic contamination and can remain functional for a decade.

Friends of Shanta Bhawan Primary Health Center (Kathmandu, Nepal) is functioning well and serving the need for health care for local families of limited means. The clinic has recently moved to a cleaner and more spacious location and is actively promoting its available services to the local community. An added outpatient pediatric care component supports the clinic’s focus on providing family centered health care at minimal patient cost. Clients are quickly recognizing and supporting the

quality of locally accessible quality medical care available to them.

An upcoming joint project possibility, with Shanti Life India Foundation is centred in Gujarat state, India. It is focused on empowering vulnerable village women to achieve safe and healthy living conditions in rural areas as well as an opportunity to attain a source of livelihood for their families and themselves. Those chosen will be provided with entrepreneurship training and access to low interest micro- loans which are locally recycled as they are repaid. Projects being locally evaluated and supported will deal with water management and hygiene related services which are much needed in their communities.

It is both exciting and gratifying to see how funding such local initiatives is resulting in not only improving the quality of life for people but also allowing them the opportunity to manage and sustain the projects through their own efforts. Such empowerment truly gives them hope for a better future.

Michael Mucz  
Project Committee Chairperson

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Celebrating 40 Years!

This year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sahakarini's founding. It's a great opportunity for reminiscing about the past and strategizing about our future. What attributes that were present 40 years ago are still part of our ethos? How might Sahakarini continue its mission in today's world? How do we remain relevant?

As part of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we hope to emphasize both the work we have done and our continuing commitment by encouraging people who have been associated with Sahakarini to tell their stories. One of our goals is to provide updates on some of our past projects, including any information we can glean about people who were associated with them. We have already begun work on this. In addition to joining past and present, this may also provide us with information that will be of help as we consider future projects.

Anniversaries are occasions for celebration, reflection and reminiscence, but we should also look forward to opportunities that might be heading our way. The history of Sahakarini will always inform our mission and, perhaps, the type of people who are attracted to the organization. The past is prelude to the future; it does not have to define it. Where does Sahakarini want to go from here? What opportunities do we look forward to pursuing? These questions and others will be a major focus of our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. Join us at the AGM on June 3 and let the conversations begin!

Becky Berger, President

The AGM will be held at Messiah Lutheran Church on Monday, June 3. Dinner will be served at 6:00 followed by a speaker and the business meeting. Jane Ross, one of the founders of Sahakarini, has agreed to be our speaker. She will share her story of Sahakarini's founding and some of the early initiatives with which she was involved. We look forward to this initial event in celebration of our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

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## FILM AND SPEAKER REPORT



The committee felt that the 2019 Film and Speaker Festival was a very successful concluding event of our three year study of Power: Power of the Individual, Power of Community and for this year, Abuse of Power and the human capacity to imagine and create a new reality, a more just, compassionate, peaceful and hopeful world. We also agreed that the discussion should continue but in a new format. This is a work in progress.

I want to acknowledge the risk the Sahakarini board took in backing our more challenging topics and content. I appreciate the hard questions they asked and admire their struggle to understand and commit to backing the committee's work.

Dedicated, creative, compassionate, wise and delightful people have worked in discerning, planning and executing the last 5 Film and Speaker Festivals. It has been challenging and time-consuming, but it has felt miraculous to experience the Festival creating itself, leading us to great community conversations about important issues of our time.

The committee noted the growing following of Film and Speaker, and we feel it is important to expand our understanding and engagement in creating a better world through providing global educational opportunities for Camrose.

Linda Gervais, F&S Committee member



Office: 4920- 50 Street, Main  
Street Mews Building, Box 1685,  
Camrose, AB T4V 1X6  
Phone: 780-672-8222  
Email: sahakarini@gmail.com  
Website: www.sahakarini.org  
Office Manager: Carolyn Andersen

## 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. *Know that we at Sahakarini are grateful; for upir donations, but ATB Cares does not provide us with individual donor information so we are unable to acknowledge your generosity. Your support makes change possible and thank you for that.*

3. CanadaHelps website: @ <https://www.canadahelps.org>

Your support makes change possible. Thank you.