



Spring 2023

SAHAKARINI ESTABLISHED 1979 CAMROSE ALBERTA

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter!

We hope you find it informative and that it updates you on all old and new things that Sahakarini is supporting. Remember to make a note of the "Save the Dates" for your calendar. Once again, I would like to thank you for your continued interest and support.

Sahakaraini Chair, Litsa Tryphonopoulos

Namaste Direct (Guatemala)

Since 1979 Sahakarini has been making a World of Difference to generations of people struggling to find a way out of severe poverty. We have partnered with organizations in a number of countries on locally needed projects and services in healthcare, education, agriculture, water, food security, and micro-enterprise. We have learned many things. **One never underestimates the difference a small organization and a modest amount of money invested in people with drive to build a better life for themselves and their families can make.**

With that in mind, on April 12, 2023, Sahakarini entered into a new partnership with a Guatemalan organization, Namaste Direct. The purpose is to provide 24 Guatemalan women with training, some technology, and a micro-loan of 312.50 USD each, so that they can develop their own small businesses. That may not sound like a lot to us, but for the 4,500 women Namaste Direct has helped so far, it has been life changing. We are confident that this will also be true for the 24 women now being helped by Sahakarini. The project lead, on behalf of Sahakarini is Alan Fielding, a former president and long-time supporter of Sahakarini. Alan and Valerie visited the project and are sharing the inspiring stories of two women who have already participated with Namaste Direct. We are confident that the women Sahakarini are involved in helping will be equally successful – that their lives are about to get so much better.

Claudia's Story



"I feel powerful because I was able to earn enough money to support my son without going back to my ex-husband." During a visit to Claudia's small store she affectionately greeted local children who came by to admire the colorful, hand-made pinatas that decorated her shelves stocked with snacks and various household goods. "I love kids and knew I needed to sell something different to be competitive, so I started making

pinatas," she said. In addition to the extra revenue from her new products, Claudia has also been using a tablet she received from Namaste, loaded with a new business planning app, to grow her business. She told us that she was initially apprehensive about using the app, but it is helping her track her expenses and goals, and as a bonus - her son is proud of her for using technology. Claudia explained that participating in Namaste's program has given her more confidence. She has been a single mother since she left her abusive husband when her son was an infant 18 years ago. She has worked tirelessly to give him a better life than she has had, and in the past few years with Namaste, she has seen her work pay off. Her son passed his college entrance exam and will be off to university soon. With a proud, tearful smile, Claudia told us that she and her son celebrated this monumental accomplishment by sharing a meal on the floor of her shop.

Olga's Story

Olga Azurdia is another dynamic entrepreneur whose jewellery making business got its start with a micro-loan and now is thriving. She sells her creations in many villages and enjoys many return customers. She is pictured here with Valerie Fielding who is wearing a jade pendant made by Olga.



Pipal Tree (India)

Another thing we have learned is that the difference we make for others also makes a difference in us. As you have read in this newsletter before, Sahakarini is helping educate and uplift tribal girls and boys from forest communities in rural India. This is a Partnership with Pipal Tree and Fireflies Intercultural Centre. Sahakarini's lead for this project is Dr. Varghese Manaloor who teaches environmental and development economics and project evaluation at the University of Alberta, Augustana campus. He has developed an interdisciplinary study tour course to India in which students learn, first hand, the social reform process, work of various institutions and development organizations, and the 21st century challenges related to development.

In January, he took a group of Augustana students to the Children's Learning Centre as part of their study tour in India. This is what one student wrote about the experience. "After spending time with the students, our hearts were full, and each student had a positive impact on us... The memories and lessons I learned during this time will stay with me forever, and I am truly grateful for them." – *Ayra McCarthy, Augustana India 2023 study*



Shanta Bhawan Clinic (Nepal)

A third thing we have learned is that we are appreciated. This is from the director of the Shanta Bhawan Clinic in Katmandu, Nepal: We have been very grateful to have Sahakarini as our partner since 2018. With your support we have been able to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019 and Dengue outbreak in 2022. Sahakarini is presently active in these 6 countries.



Thank you for working with us to make a world of difference in Guatemala (micro-loans); India (School); Kenya (2 sand dams); Nepal (Clinic); Tanzania.

SAVE THE DATES

AGM

Monday, June 5 @ 6 pm
Messiah Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

Fall Event

Saturday, November 3, 2023
Norsemen Inn

FUNDRAISING

Drop your recyclables at
the Bottle Depot, Camrose
and donate to Sahakarini.



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