SAVE A FAMILY PLAN
partnering with the poor for a just world
Annual Report 2011-2012
100% of your donation reaches the poor

A MESSAGE FROM MS. LOIS CÔTÉ
President of SAFP Canada

Great things are accomplished in the seemingly hidden lives of people. This last trip to India I visited a village in Tamil Nadu. I was told I was going to a “Parliament of the Children”. We gathered in a tiny, Hindu village temple where ten or so children were having their regular meeting. Their ages ran from 12-17. They were giving their reports on their latest activities. After each child reported, they applauded the youngster with loud, supportive, rhythmic, clapping. Their main issue is child marriage. When they discover that a child marriage is going to take place they go and speak to both parents of the two children. They try and convince them to stop moving ahead with marriage plans for both children. It is important to know that much good is being accomplished by the most vulnerable and poorest members. These children are going to grow up to be exemplary citizens and workers for justice.

The Family Development Program is designed to address this issue at a grassroots level. All families and communities involved, participate in awareness training to learn about their rights, how to take action and mobilize themselves and hold the government accountable. With the assistance of the local staff members and partners, the families are made aware of the Government of India funding schemes to which they have a right. In the past year 910 families received funds from the government, totaling $687,012. Programs accessed include: food ration cards, widow’s pension, housing subsidies, construction of sanitation facilities, access to clean drinking water, medical insurance, support for small businesses, and funding for girls’ education. The Family Development Program also encourages families to take ownership of their development through accessing funds at a local and community level. Through the partnerships and generosity of local NGO’s, church groups, self-help groups and other community based organizations, 768 families were able to obtain these local resources last year, totaling $209,348.

Reena and her family live in Alleppey, Kerala. They struggled to meet their basic needs on a daily basis and were living off a meagre and unreliable income. They lived in a small hut on 0.05 acres of land which was their only possession. Through the Family Development Program, Reena was able to access $200 in local funds from a credit union which allowed her to start a small poultry business. She received $100 from her local self-help group to renovate and construct a small shop. With the profit she made from these businesses she paid off the family’s debt. To reconstruct their house they accessed a government housing subsidy of $580 and received $500 from other local organizations. Recently they were able to access a government health insurance scheme and are able to afford the medical expenses of the family.

SUMMARY OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES 2011-2012
(from Financial Statements prepared by Hyatt Lassaline LLP and approved by SAFPC Board of Directors on June 27, 2012)

** A portion of our administration cost is covered by the Canadian International Development Agency and the interest from socially responsible investments
A MESSAGE FROM
BISHOP SEBASTIAN ADAYANTRATH
President of SAFP India

A group of people from a poor part of our Archdiocese came to see me three months ago. They asked me to help a young man who had a head injury in an accident and who badly needed an operation. I was able to give them $200 from the charity fund of the Archdiocese. They came to see me again with another request for his family. He is a carpenter and has returned to work after surgery. They have three girls who are in grades five, three and one. We came to know that his family lives in a small room near a coffee shop and their living condition is desperate. There are no toilet facilities inside this small room, and when the monsoon arrives things become unhygienic. They came to see me in order to help them to buy a small piece of land for the family. They told me that if he gets the land, the government, the parish community and some other people will help him to put up a small house. We realized there was no way we could raise enough money to do this for him. We feel that he should have this small plot of land for the safety and health of his family. We continue to brainstorm, approach generous people, and above all, pray that the Good Lord will help us on the way.

I share this story with you since stories of the many people who are being assisted through Save A Family Plan are similar. We are assisting the poor because they are created in the image of God; we are assisting the poor since justice demands that we stretch out our hands in love and solidarity. I share this story because we need to keep asking ourselves why are there so many poor people in this country and all over the world? You are a part of this struggle. May God bless you for your generosity.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Save A Family Plan operates a Public Engagement Program designed to increase awareness and understanding about world issues among participants, encouraging them to be global citizens and actors of change. We believe that through solidarity and action we can partner together for a better, more sustainable and just future for everyone. This year we engaged in 24 public workshops with various schools and community groups. In February 2012 for International Development Week we hosted a workshop titled ‘Just Theatre for Change: Empowering Women and Girls’, the theatre-based workshop used a variety of games and activities to examine the local and global impacts of power, privilege, gender, race and class.

We have also explored new types of social media this year through joining Facebook and Twitter. A blog was developed (www.saveafamilyplan.me) to provide information and articles about development in India and around the world. This has proven to be very effective, with continuously increasing visits to the site.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH PARTICIPATION, EMPOWERMENT AND DECENTRALIZATION (SPED III)

SPED III is a five-year program currently being implemented by SAFP in partnership with the Canadian International Development Agency. Through 29 partners, across 12 states (Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh) in India, SAFP is working in 580 villages to facilitate a core process, which aims to help community members to develop a critical understanding of the local issues they face and the underlying causes of their poor quality of life. Each village has the chance to identify and address one key issue each year by identifying their own strengths and assets and mobilizing local resources, including the many schemes and programs offered by the various levels of government. By repeating this process each year and reflecting on their learning, the communities will develop the capacity to address their issues on their own in the future.

Through the participatory methods of the SPED III Program, communities are able to design activities that are tailored to address their unique situations and approach problems from a variety of angles. In Satna, Madhya Pradesh, poor agricultural productivity was identified as the key issue by two farming communities. Exposure visits were arranged for a group of farmers to learn firsthand about advanced organic farming techniques that are economically viable and environmentally sustainable. The communities also received training about healthy practices in agricultural fields and the importance of protecting the environment for the future. In order to preserve and promote local traditional knowledge, a seed bank was created by identifying and collecting traditional seeds, which are inherently more compatible with local farming conditions, resistant to pests, disease and droughts, economically productive, and environmentally sustainable than the high yielding new varieties being promoted today in the market.

In this way, the solution to the villages’ identified problem is long-term and sensitive to the local situation.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Special Projects are rights/needs-based programs designed to address specific regional issues. They are being implemented with 43 of our partners, in 8 states (Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Meghalaya, West Bengal) throughout India. In total, there are 49 projects being implemented in the following sectors: environment, basic education, health and sanitation, human rights, income generation activities, social services for the elderly and disabled, and housing.

In the past year Save A Family Plan in partnership with the Assisi Convent Educational Society and Clare Bhavan Organization completed a special project for indigenous women and children of the Nadapa and Dhaneti Village of Gujarat State, India. Indigenous people are among the most vulnerable and marginalized groups in India. They face disproportionately high levels of poverty, illiteracy, and poor health, making projects like this crucial to the lives of those in the community.

The project focused on giving quality, supplementary education classes to children, and supporting their talents and creativity through community festivals and events. In total, 156 children attended after school tutoring support classes, 58 children received school supply kits and 72 children were able to attend summer school camp. The project supported the hosting of a Children’s Day celebration and other cultural activities, having a quarterly meeting for parents of drop-out children and running health and hygiene awareness classes. The second component of the project allowed 29 women in the community to access micro-credit loans which enabled them to start a small business. They received training in how to access government resources and consequently received $1,500 to support various projects such as: tailoring, handicraft work, snack shops, animal rearing and auto repair.

Save A Family Plan

If you have questions, would like to make a donation, or inquire about booking a presentation, please contact us!

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