



SAHAYA INTERNATIONAL, Inc. Davis California, USA

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT - January-December 2007

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Dear Friends,

It is with pleasure that I present to you this annual report highlighting our activities of the past fiscal year. The support from our growing network of friends and supporters allows us to continue our journey so we can make a difference in the lives of many people in developing countries. My sincere thanks to many of you for being part of this effort! It is my hope that in 2008 we can count on you and mobilize the resources to reach out to those in need.

Sincerely,
Koen Van Rompay (Secretary, Sahaya International)

Sahaya International

overview of activities

READ (Rural Education & Action Development)- Tamil Nadu, India



READ is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), active in rural areas of Tamil Nadu (India). READ has been our primary partner since the inception of Sahaya International. For a more detailed description of the many activities of READ, including copies of their latest annual reports, please visit www.sahaya.org.

General support of READ's programs.

Through its general fundraising activities (including the sale of embroidered cards and solicitation of contributions), Sahaya International continues to provide general assistance (salaries, supplies, etc.) to many of READ's programs, including:

- Three kindergarten/elementary schools: the Mother Teresa School in Periyakrishnapuram (99 students, 6 teachers), the Mother Teresa School in Thirukalapur (21 students, 2 teachers) and the Jawahar Matriculation school in Andimadam (60 students, 6 teachers).
- Two schools for mentally disabled children: in Perambalur (32 children) and Andimadam (15 children).

- Skill-training programs for girls (including card-making, sewing, type-writing)
- Women and men self-help groups; READ currently has organized 996 women self-help groups and 78 men self-help groups.

Child sponsorship program.

Sahaya International and READ have an orphan sponsorship program, similar to the program that was initiated with READ by the Alliance for Youth Achievement (www.allforyouth.org). For a monthly contribution of \$30, the children receive basic necessities such as nutrition, clothing, and school expenses. Some money is set aside and given at the end of the year to the guardian to start an income generating program. During this fiscal year, the number of sponsored children increased from 45 to 96. Three of them, being HIV-infected, also have a second sponsor who pays for additional medical expenses and travel expenses to receive anti-HIV medications, which has resulted in improved health. The sponsors receive regular letters and photographs.

In February 2007, all sponsored children were taken on a fun trip to Silver Beach in Cuddalore. For most of the kids and their guardians, it was their first visit to the sea.





The construction of a new building for the Mother Teresa School in Periyakrishnapuram starts with digging for the water well and the foundations.

Construction of Mother Teresa School.

From 1999 to 2007, the Mother Teresa School in Periyakrishnapuram village grew from 9 to 99 students, ranging from kindergarten through 4th standard. The children receive their education in a small rented hut with thatched-leaf roof, which leaks during the rainy season and is a fire hazard in the dry season. It was clear to everyone that a real school building was urgently needed; unfortunately, no available facilities existed in the area. Since 2005, we have been raising the funds necessary to construct a school building. In 2007, a 28,000 sq ft piece of land was purchased, and construction began. The school building is expected to be completed by June 2008, at the start of the new school year.

Preparation for construction of Jawahar Matriculation School.

The Jawahar Matriculation School of Andimadam is a kindergarten and elementary school, which is run by READ and provides basic education to 60 children from underprivileged families in the area. However, the owner decided to sell the property and demolish the school building (which is in bad condition). Thus, we decided to raise the funds to construct a new school building. During 2007, a sponsor donated the funds to purchase the piece of land, which is located adjacent to the Sahaya Illam (guesthouse) at READ.

Meanwhile, several schools in Belgium, led by the Koninklijk Atheneum school in Ekeren, started to raise the money for the construction, which is planned to start in April 2008. With continued fundraising, we aim to finish the school by the



The Mother Teresa School children come to admire the ongoing construction of their new school, which is expected to be inaugurated at the start of the next school year in June 2008.



Our orphan sponsorship programs benefit many children and also provide their families with money to start an income-generating activity, such as rearing goats.

end of 2008. For more information on the Jawahar Matriculation School and the fundraising, visit www.sahaya.org/read/jawahar_school.html.

HIV awareness program.

In 2005, READ implemented the Perambalur Education and Prevention Program thanks to a grant awarded by the Elton John AIDS Foundation (UK) to Sahaya International. For more details on this HIV peer education program, please see our previous annual reports and Sahaya's website. During 2007, with financial support by Sahaya International, some activities still continued, including distribution of educational materials, condoms, and the HIV street theater program. A manuscript describing the program has been accepted for publication in a public health journal.

HIV/AIDS care and support services and HIV positive network.

READ had previously started a HIV-positive network named "Malarum Mottukal" (meaning "blossoming flower") to assist persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV). The network meets monthly and provides counseling, medical assistance and referrals. Already more than 100 PLHIV have joined the network. Due to distance and/or health issues, approximately 60% of the members are usually able to come to the monthly meetings. Ninety-five members of the network visit Government Hospitals in other districts for medical treatment (management of opportunistic infections via antibiotics); travel time is usually more than 2 hours. While a year ago only 12 were receiving specific anti-HIV drugs (antiretrovirals; ARV), this number has currently increased to 23, with many reporting



The newly built Community Resource Center of READ will provide much-needed services to the local communities with special focus on disabled people. It has ramps to allow wheel-chair access.

clear improvement of their health. Travel time to the Government ARV centers is 4-6 hours one-way.

Network members were given financial support to help with their travel expenses to pick up medications. A total of 32 micro-loans (ranging from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 10,000; for a total amount of Rs 104,000) were provided to PLHIV to start micro-enterprises (for example, the purchase of goats or a sewing machine). This loan program is managed as a revolving fund, so that additional loans will be given in coming years.

This support and care program was funded by a grant from Gilead Sciences.

Public Hygiene Project.

Most people in rural areas such as Perambalur district don't have access to toilets and therefore have to use fields and other common spaces for defecation and urination. This poses many health risks for the community. The absence of sanitation facilities is especially difficult for women and girls who have to wait until it gets dark to go into the fields, and then risk rape and violence. They also try to drink minimal water, which leads to other health problems.

To alleviate these problems, Sahaya International volunteers raised funds in 2005 for a public hygiene project in which families are given loans of about \$120 to construct household toilets, and the repaid money is used to provide loans to new families. So far, more than 100 toilets have been constructed. In addition, in 2007, donors provided an extra \$500 to build toilets for 4 needy families that would not be

able to repay a loan.

The Vasanthi Fund.

This fund to support higher education for promising students was named after its first recipient, Vasanthi. Vasanthi is a young woman from a poor family in Andimadam who aspired to become a nurse. Thanks to a scholarship (raised in 2006 at a "Tea for Vasanthi" event), she is currently in her 2nd year at the Chidambaram College of Nursing in Chennai, and is currently among the top of her class (4th out of 50). A "Tea for Vasanthi II" will be organized in 2008 to finance the last 2 years of her studies.

Community Resource Center for rural disabled people.

Disabled persons have access to very few services in READ's district. Previously READ and Sahaya successfully applied to the Japanese Embassy, Chennai for grant support to construct a Resource Center in Andimadam to educate, train and rehabilitate disabled people. This center will include training on daily living, vocational training, a mini-health center and counseling and career guidance facilities for the disabled. The building will also accommodate a residential special school for mentally disabled children. Some of the facilities will also be used to assist other needy community groups. The construction work will be completed shortly. During 2007, Sahaya International provided additional support for building infrastructure

Cartoon-based Educational Materials

In collaboration with READ, I-TECH (www.go2itech.com) and Global Strategies for HIV Prevention (www.globalstrategies.org), Sahaya International had previously developed simple cartoons on HIV/AIDS that were used to educate low-literacy populations as part of the Perambalur Education and Prevention Program. During this past year, translations have been finalized in Telegu (by Mr. TN Swamy of Andhra Pradesh) and Bengali (by SAATHII - Kolkatta). An Arabic version of part I of the flipcharts has been prepared by Operation Mercy (Lebanon) for use in the middle East. New cartoons have been developed on sexual education. All materials are available online at www.sahaya.org/cartoons.html. We continue the development of more educational materials.

Pediatric HIV Ward (Tambaram, India)

Sahaya International continued to be the fiscal agent for the collection of donations to improve the pediatric HIV ward at the Government Hospital for Thoracic Medicine in Tambaram (near Chennai, India). This project is led by Tom Furtwangler (I-TECH, Seattle). A social worker and better infrastructure (including toys and games) have been helping many children. For more information about this exciting program, please visit www.tambaramkids.org.

Prerana Women's Health Initiative (Mysore, India)

The Prerana Project is based on the belief that women have a right to voluntary, comprehensive, and culturally sensitive services for family planning, reproductive health, and HIV. "Prerana" means "inspiration" in Kannada, the local language of Karnataka. The project team hope to inspire women to advocate for improved reproductive health.

The project, the brainchild of Dr. Purnima Madhivanan and Sahaya board member Karl Krupp, grew out of a 2005 research collaboration between the University of California, Berkeley, and C.S.I. Holdsworth Memorial Hospital (HMH) in Mysore. The clinic was opened in HMH to provide services for more than 1,000 women who participated in a study investigating the relationship between reproductive tract infections and Herpes Simplex Type-2 virus infection. But it became apparent during the year-long study that the clinic was the only source of healthcare for many study participants. Funds raised and channeled through Sahaya International, and READ are used to keep Prerana open as a women's health clinic providing free services to all women in need.

EMBRACING HANDS (Madurai, India)

Embracing Hands is a home to support needy children and is located near Madurai. Well-wishers have sent financial support to this home via Sahaya International and READ.



The children of the Mother Teresa School go green and dance at their Annual Day (February 15, 2007).

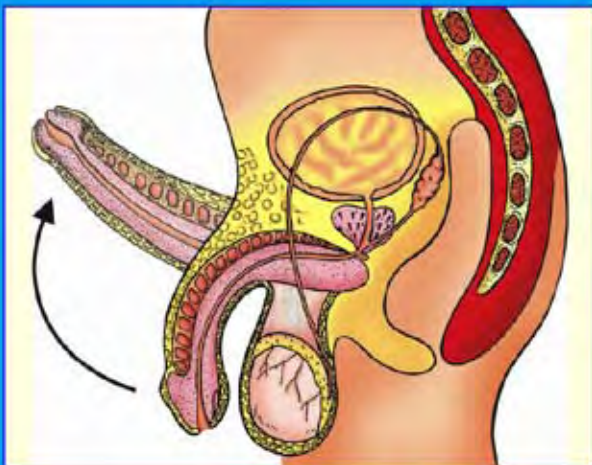
DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS ON HIV/AIDS:

In collaboration with I-TECH and Global Strategies for HIV Prevention, Sahaya International and READ previously developed two educational sets of flipcharts: Part I on HIV Prevention, and Part II on HIV Treatment and Care.

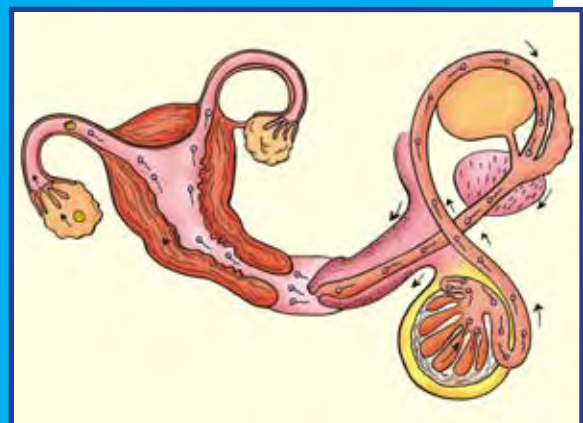


In 2007, translations into Telegu and Bengali were completed. In addition, Part I of the flipcharts (HIV prevention) has now also been adapted (via modification of cartoons) and translated in Arabic thanks to the assistance of Operation Mercy, Lebanon.

In addition, we developed a first draft of a set of flipcharts on reproductive and sexual education.



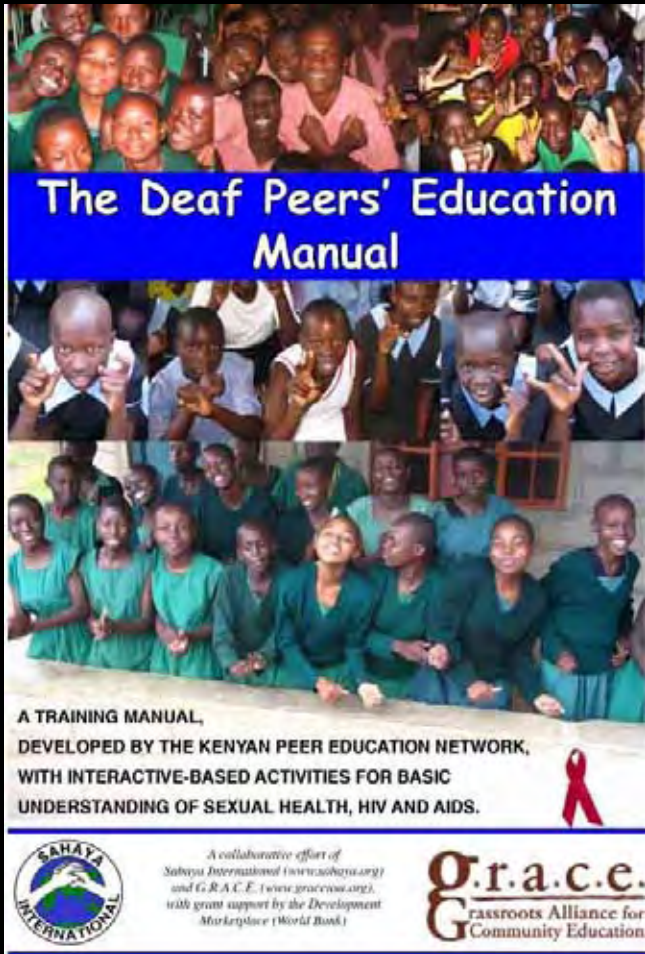
While our financial resources don't permit the distribution of hard-copies, we make all materials available for free downloading at www.sahaya.org/cartoons.html.





The Jawahar Matriculation School, which provides basic education to 60 children, has been operating in a rented building that is scheduled to be torn down soon. A new building will be constructed in 2008 thanks to the fundraising efforts of volunteers in Belgium (particularly the Koninklijk Atheneum School of Ekeren) and the USA. Sahaya International donated the funds to purchase a 19,096 square foot piece of land.

HIV Awareness of the Deaf (Kenya): The “Deaf Peer’s Education Manual” was launched at a reception in Nairobi on September 27, 2007. The program director (Jacquilyn Odwesso; right) and special guests (including Dr. K. Van Rompay of Sahaya International) distributed copies of the manual to representatives of schools and organizations that work with Deaf people.



HIV Awareness of the Deaf (Kenya)

This program, which is led in Kenya by our program coordinator Jacquilyn Odwesso, was originally funded by a 2004 grant from the Development Marketplace program of the World Bank. This project is executed in close collaboration with GRACE (Grassroots Alliance for Community Education; www.graceusa.org). This program developed a peer education curriculum with Kenyan sign language vocabulary, and created a Peer Education Network

to teach deaf youth and adults about sexual health & hygiene, puberty, relationships, and HIV/AIDS.

During the past year, thanks to grant support from Gilead Sciences, we were able to finalize “The Deaf Peer’s Education Manual - A training manual developed by the Kenyan Peer Education Network, with interactive-based activities for basic understanding of sexual health, HIV and AIDS”. On September 27, 2007, a special reception was held in Nairobi to launch the manual. The reception was attended by representatives of schools of the Deaf, organizations of the Deaf, non-governmental bodies (such as US-Peace-corps, Liverpool VCT), church-

based organizations, the press and other stakeholders. Sahaya's secretary, Koen Van Rompay, was chief guest at this reception and also visited the 3 schools that were involved with the development of this manual. So far the manual has been distributed to 60 schools and units of the Deaf, private organizations, and government agencies. For more information, and to download the pdf file of the manual, please visit www.sahaya.org/deaf.html.

Consultant role of Sahaya International

Sahaya International receives requests almost daily from NGO's or individuals seeking assistance, especially for HIV programs. While we don't have the resources to extend financial assistance, we do our best to provide advice and assistance via e-mail or by sending CD's with information.

Sahaya's secretary, Koen Van Rompay, also subscribes to several e-mail list servers focused on HIV/AIDS, and regularly posts messages with replies to inquiries and other information.

Collaboration with SAWES (Sevapur)- Belgium

Although Sahaya International is only registered in the USA, we have been receiving growing support from volunteers and sponsors in Belgium. In 2007, we entered a fruitful collaboration with the Belgian non-profit organization SAWES (www.sevapur.be), which was founded by Lea Provo, and supports the organization Inba Seva Sangam in Sevapur, Karur district (Tamil Nadu, India). SAWES is currently fiscal intermediate agent in Belgium, so that donations to READ's programs are now also tax-deductible in Belgium. This collaboration has already led to 30 sponsored orphans, and general donations for READ's programs (especially the construction of the Jawahar Matriculation School and the disability programs). We are very grateful to Sawes and Inba Seva Sangam for this collaboration.



Students and teachers from the Deaf Schools in Mumias were involved with the development of the peer education curriculum and network.

HIV awareness program for the Deaf (Kenya)



Students and teachers from the Deaf Schools in Nyang'oma (above) and Maseno (below) were involved with the development of the training curriculum and the peer education network.



HIV awareness program for the Deaf (Kenya): song, dance and puppetry with sign language



Sahaya International

fundraising activities

In addition to submitting program-specific grant proposals to funding agencies, our dedicated team of volunteers also regularly solicits contributions from the general public through various ways:

Evening of Indian Dining & Entertainment.

On June 9, 2007, local Sahaya volunteers organized together with the St. James Gospel Justice Committee an “Evening of Indian Dining & Entertainment” at the St. James Memorial Center in Davis. The event included a delicious Indian dinner (prepared by Mary Philip, Susie O’Bryant and their volunteers), a silent and live auction, and slide show. This fundraiser raised almost \$10,000 towards the construction of the school building for the Mother Teresa School of Periyakrishnapuram. We thank the many volunteers and sponsors of this event.

Hope Walks -Davis.

Hope Walks (www.hopewalks.org) is an initiative by Global Strategies for HIV Prevention (San Rafael, California). It is an educational and fun(d)-raising walk that provides an opportunity for children, along with family members and friends to make a difference in the lives of orphans and vulnerable children by providing health-care, education, shelter and food.

In close partnership with Hope Walks (with special thanks to Jenny Allen Brooks, Dr. Art Ammann and Ed Middendorf) and the Cal Aggie Christian Association (CA-House), we organized on October 28, 2007 the first Hope Walks Davis event in Arroyo Park (www.hopewalks.org/davis). The event educated more than 150 participants and volunteers, and raised approximately \$9,400 to provide for the basic needs of orphans and vulnerable children in READ’s rural area in India - food, clothing, shelter, school fees, uniforms, and support of basic health care including HIV testing, treatment and care.

We thank the many partners in this effort, including the many participants and dedicated volunteers who made this possible. Please see the special section for photographs of this successful and fun community event.

Community Gift Awards.

During this past year, the St. James Parish of Davis, California, awarded Sahaya International a \$710 Community Gift, which was used for the construction of the Mother Teresa School of Periyakrishnapuram.

Slide presentations.

Several Sahaya supporters in Davis (including the Frank-Bobelle family) hosted dinners for their friends at which Koen gave a slide presentation summarizing the history and activities of Sahaya. These dinners led to several orphans being sponsored and other general donations for our programs in India. In addition, Koen gave slide presentations for 2 UC-Davis classes, the Davis Rotary Club and the United Nations Association chapter of Davis.

Sale of embroidered greeting cards.

Our international network of volunteers continues to sell the embroidered greeting cards made by READ’s trainees to friends, relatives and colleagues (including at Davis Farmer’s Market, UC-Davis, University Retirement Community). On November 10-11, volunteers also staffed a Sahaya table at the Women’s Guild Bazaar at St. James, and on December 2 at the Alternative Gift Fair at the Davis Community Church; at both events, many cards were sold.

We thank the many volunteers who helped us in all the fundraising efforts. We simply couldn’t have done it without you!

“An Evening of Indian Dining & Entertainment”

After the success of the first Indian dinner in 2006, a second similar event was held on June 9, 2007 at the St. James Memorial Center in Davis, California. We thank the tremendous team of volunteers who worked very hard to make this event successful in raising funds for the construction of the new school building for the Mother Teresa School in Periyakrishnapuram village (India).





hopewalks

A PROMISE TO CHILDREN OF THE EPIDEMIC

We want to thank all participants and the amazing team of volunteers that made the October 28 Hope Walks in Davis a success. The event was held to give everyone, particularly children, the opportunity to do something concrete in the face of the worldwide AIDS epidemic. We walked, ate energy bars, drank lemonade, played games, and listened to people talk about their hopes for an AIDS-free future.

On the day of the event, we were delighted that Davis Mayor Sue Greenwald was able to attend. We also benefited from Mary Suparek's singing and Frank Starsnik's magic. And thanks to everyone who helped blow up hundreds of blue and orange balloons!

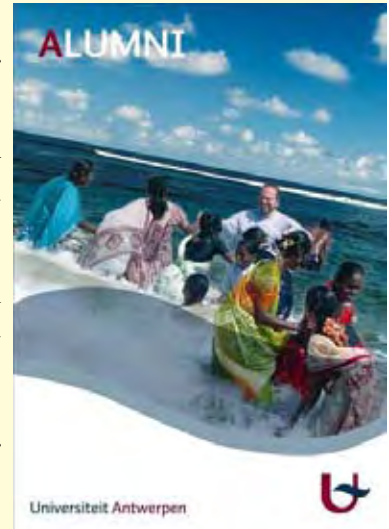
Please -- seniors, boomers, teens and children -- join us also in 2008. We hope to make this an annual fund-raising event. More importantly, we hope to spread the word that AIDS is a treatable disease that can be challenged by education and caring.



Sahaya International in the news

A partial list of articles mentioning Sahaya's activities.

- “De avonturen van een Vlaams wetenschapper in Indie (deel 2).” , by P. De Meyer; Gazet van Antwerpen, Belgium, March 17 and 18, 2007.
- Alumnus van het Jaar Koen Van Rompay en Sahaya International. Red nu een kinderleven.”, by P. De Meyer; Alfabet, number 71, March-April-May 2007; University of Antwerp, Belgium.
- Alumnus van het Jaar Koen Van Rompay schenkt Indisch dorp een toekomst.”, by P. De Meyer, Alumni Magazine April 2007, University of Antwerp, Belgium.
- Step by step: Fundraiser making strides for AIDS victims.”, by E. Sherwin; Davis Enterprise, September 14, 2007).
- “Support for HopeWalks is building in Davis. Oct. 28 event raises fund for HIV/AIDS orphans.”, by E. Sherwin, Davis Enterprise Monday October 8, 2007, page A3.
- “Hopewalks helps AIDS orphans. All ages can participate in Sunday event.”, by E. Sherwin, Davis Enterprise, Monday October 22, 2007, page A3.
- Hope Walks Davis provides funding for HIV-infected children.”, by G. Johnson, California Aggie, October 14, 2007.
- Karma Yoga. How a western scientist followed his heart to find a way to help empower a village community in rural India.”, by E. Sherwin; Senses Magazine, Winter 2007, p36-39.



SAHAYA ILLAM



Please remember that visitors are welcome to visit READ and stay at the Sahaya-sponsored guesthouse Sahaya Illam. The house has 4 bedrooms (each with western toilet and shower) and a cook to prepare delicious south-Indian meals. Transportation can be arranged to visit READ's programs or to visit the famous temples in the area. For more information, please see www.sahaya.org/guesthouse.html.