



# SAHAYA INTERNATIONAL, Inc. Davis California, USA

## ANNUAL REPORT

January-December 2011

### Officers

1. Ramin Yazdani, *President*
2. Dr. Koen Van Rompay  
*Secretary & Treasurer*

### 2011 Board of directors

Paul Adamson  
Joe Becker  
Hilde De Cock  
Patrick De Grande  
Rino Dizon  
Lonna Hampton  
Karl Krupp  
Andy Lauer  
Adele Moussas  
Mary Philip  
Elisabeth Sherwin  
Chung Truong  
Cincing Young  
Paulina Zielinska

### Website: [www.sahaya.org](http://www.sahaya.org)

Sahaya International Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization.

### Mailing address:

Sahaya International  
c/o Koen Van Rompay  
2949 Portage Bay Av., #195  
Davis, CA 95616  
[koen@sahaya.org](mailto:koen@sahaya.org)



Dear friends,

It is with pleasure that I present you this annual report highlighting our activities of the past fiscal year. The support from our growing circle of friends and well-wishers allows us to continue our journey so we can make a difference in the lives of many people in developing countries. Special memories of 2011 include several successful fundraisers, the growth of our network (including our European sister organization Sahaya.eu), and our important steps forward into the world of social media and video.

My sincere thanks to many of you for being part of this effort. It is my hope that in 2012 we can continue to count on you, walk this journey together, and mobilize the resources to reach out to those in need.

*Koen Van Rompay (Founder/Secretary)*

# 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 annual reports, please visit [www.readindia.in](http://www.readindia.in).

### 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:

- Two kindergarten/elementary schools: the Mother Teresa School in Periyakrishnapuram (178 students, from lower kindergarten to Vth standard ) and the Jawahar Matriculation school in Andimadam (216 students, from lower kindergarten to Vth standard). Both schools were constructed with funds raised by Sahaya International and Sahaya.eu. Two schools for mentally disabled children: in Perambalur and Andimadam.
- Skill-training programs for youth and disabled people (including card-making, sewing, type-writing, computer training, book-binding) that take place at the READ Community Resource Center.
- Women and men self-help groups that READ has previously organized. Currently approximately 1,000 groups are active. READ assists them via a micro-finance program with loans for income-generating activities.
- General support to READ's Community Resource Center (RCRC) for rural disabled people.

### Child sponsorship program

Sahaya International and READ have an orphan sponsorship program. For a monthly contribution of \$30, the children receive basic necessities such as nutrition, clothing, and school expenses. During this fiscal year, the number of sponsored children increased to approximately 200. In addition, 5 girls who had previously lost their sponsor were covered by general donations. The sponsors receive regular letters and photographs.

As the years have gone by, more of these children have excelled in high school and aspired to higher education at technical schools, nursing schools and universities. Rather than drop them from our program, we took the challenge upon us to continue investing in their future. Currently 41 youth (including 28 women) are pursuing higher education, poised to become the next generation of leaders. While some sponsors can cover the increased costs of college, we are busy finding additional sponsors to help with expenses via our Vasanthi fund, named after a young woman who thanks to our educational support is now working as a registered nurse. In 2011, nearly \$5,000 was raised.





*At the end of 2011, approximately 210 children were part of our orphan sponsorship and Hope Walks/Sahaya Walks program.*

### **Sahaya Walks Davis**

Since 2007, Sahaya International has collaborated with Global Strategies for HIV Prevention to organize an annual Hope Walks Davis event. The proceeds of this event are sent to READ to cover extra medical, travel and nutritional expenses for HIV-infected children in READ's programs and provide general assistance to uninfected children who were in dire needs. In 2011, we changed the name to Sahaya Walks and had a successful event on October 8 that raised nearly \$8,300. for more information, see page 12, and visit [www.sahyawalks.org](http://www.sahyawalks.org).

### **Ongoing fundraising for construction work at Mother Teresa School (Periyakrishnapuram)**

Thanks to Sahaya's previous fundraising activities, a one-story school building with 4 classrooms was completed in the summer of 2008. Because the school has 178 children, the classrooms have become overcrowded. Accordingly, a 2nd level with 4 extra classrooms is urgently needed.

In addition, construction of a bridge is very much needed to cover the the moat at the entrance of the school, which becomes flooded severely during

the rainy season. During 2011, nearly \$11,000 was raised for these projects (of the estimated ~ \$55,000 that is needed). Construction is scheduled to start in 2012.

### **HIV/AIDS care and support services & HIV awareness programs**

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. Currently 124 PLHIV have joined the network. Most of them arrive in very destitute situations. Approximately 80-90% of the members are usually able to attend the monthly meetings. During the previous years, the activities of this network were largely supported by consecutive grants of Gilead Sciences, Inc.

Thanks to continued grant support from Gilead Sciences, Inc., a number of activities have been implemented during 2011:

#### **- Support services to PLHIV:**

Network members were given financial support

---

to cover their monthly travel expenses (to pick up medications) and some food expenses on those travel days. This has had a major impact. While in 2008 only 23 were receiving anti-HIV drugs (antiretrovirals; ARV), currently more than 80 are receiving ARV, resulting in clear improvement of their health.

***- Gilead Health & Counseling Center***

The Gilead Health & Counseling Center was started in 2010, and is located in the READ Community Resource Center. Every month the health nurse checks the height and weight of the PLHIV network members, sometimes checks their blood pressure, provides first aid, and provides health advice. The health center also distributes condoms, and the health nurse gives condom demonstrations. In 2011, the nurse provided more than 1,100 consultations for PLHIV.

In the counseling center, the members are given individual and family counseling, conflict resolution, legal advice and aid depending upon their family circumstances. Approximately 25-30 PLHIV members have been making use of this counseling center on a regular basis. In addition, the part-time counselor also visits PLHIV at their home to provide counseling and assist with conflict resolution.

***- Training to PLHIV on HIV and home-based care:***

On February 19, 2011, Ms. Gnanacaronmani, a highly experienced HIV field staff, provided training to 25 PLHIV on home-based care. This included pre- and post-test questionnaires and evaluation.

***- Peer education programs to improve HIV awareness and reduce stigma***

In 2005, with grant support from the Elton John AIDS Foundation, a peer education model (the Perambalur Education and Prevention Program (PEPP)) was developed to educate and empower rural low-literacy communities in READ's target area. PEPP was successful in spreading correct HIV awareness. The results have been published previously (<http://www.human-resources-health.com/content/6/1/6>).

While some activities continued after the 2005 grant period, it was important to provide refresher training and train additional people as peer educators. Twenty-five barbers, 14 READ staff (including

two "Outreach Workers") and two PLHIV network members received the training and were equipped with flip-charts and booklets ("Myths and facts about HIV/AIDS").

The PLHIV peer educators and outreach workers visited the barbers three times per month to provide them with extra materials (booklets, condoms) and to answer any questions. The Outreach workers and PLHIV peer educators also gave 73 programs to women self-help groups. Pre- and post-test questionnaires demonstrated that the program led to increased awareness.

**Prerana Women's Health Initiative  
and Public Health Research Institute  
(Mysore, India)**

The Prerana Women's Health Initiative and Public Health Research Institute are 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 hopes to inspire women to advocate for improved reproductive health.

During this year, Prerana did a lot of amazing work – screening women for cervical cancer in both urban and rural parts of Mysore. The money that was donated through Sahaya helped defray the costs of medical testing for women attending the free screening events for cervical cancer prevention. The screening camps served about 400 women with roughly one in four getting additional services including PAP smears or biopsies. The staff was able to diagnose a considerable number of abnormal lesions that were managed with cryotherapy and LEEP. They also diagnosed Stage 2, Stage 3 cervical cancer and these women were referred for additional services and management to our partner institutions at subsidized rates. In addition, four physicians and two nurses were trained to carry out cervical cancer screening and cryotherapy. We hope that we can continue to offer these life saving services to women of Mysore.

For more information, please visit [www.sahaya.org/prerana](http://www.sahaya.org/prerana).



With grant support of Gilead Sciences, READ staff, PLHIV and barbers were trained as peer educators to fight the HIV epidemic, break the stigma and spread correct information on HIV/AIDS via interactive workshops, one-on-one communication and the distribution of booklets and condoms.





*The **Mother Teresa Standard English School** of Periyakrishnapuram village currently provides basic education to 178 children from underprivileged families. Because the number of students has outgrown the available space of 4 classrooms, we plan to construct a 2nd level. In addition, we raised funds for the construction of a bridge at the entrance, where the heavy monsoon rains create a dangerous river.*





*The newly constructed school building for the Lamling Vista School in Nagaland provides education to 130 students ranging from kindergarten to 6th standard.*

## **Lamling Vista (Nagaland, India)**

A new project since 2009 is the Lamling Vista elementary school in Yongam, Nagaland. This village has a population of approximately 1500 people, consisting of 180 families. There are no proper roads and communication systems with the nearest small city of Lenglong, 12 km away. Because no facility was available to educate young children, a small school was started in 2008 to provide kindergarten and elementary education.

For the 2011 school year, there were 130 students enrolled in grades K-6. At the request of the parents, we added a 6th grade, bringing the total number of teachers up to eight. In May 2011, the kids transitioned into a new school building that was constructed in an open field right next to the existing structure. The new schoolhouse is built with more robust materials which will last and has more than double the space than the old bamboo structure, including an office and library. Each of the 7 classrooms is equipped with a new set of desks and a large chalkboard. Everyone is very happy with this big accomplishment.

## **Mosquito Dengue Fighter's Association - Philippines**

In 2011, Davis resident and long-term Sahaya supporter Cincin Young started and registered the non-profit, non-government organization, the

Mosquito-Dengue Fighters Association (MDFA) in the Philippines. Sahaya took this project under its fiscal umbrella to provide assistance with fundraising. The main purpose of the organization is dengue prevention through mosquito control.

Dengue is the second deadliest mosquito-borne disease in the world, and infects 50 million people each year with over 15,000 deaths. In the Philippines, it is the deadliest mosquito-borne disease. In 2010, dengue cases reached 135,000 counts with around 800 deaths, including many children. In 2011, Cincin and her friends organized a Filipino Fiesta fundraiser for this project (see page 11). For more information, please visit [www.sahaya.org/mdfa.html](http://www.sahaya.org/mdfa.html).

## **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 World Bank. This program created a Peer Education Network to teach deaf youth and adults about sexual health & hygiene, puberty, relationships, and HIV/AIDS. In 2007, we published and distributed "The Deaf Peer's Education Manual - A training manual with interactive-based activities for basic understanding of sexual health, HIV and AIDS" (to download, visit [www.sahaya.org/deaf/index.html](http://www.sahaya.org/deaf/index.html)).

Thanks to continued grant support from Gilead Sciences via Sahaya International, a 2nd edition of this manual is currently being developed.

To take Sahaya International to the next level, reach a larger audience and widen our ripple effect of “making a difference,” a cutting-edge promotional video that would highlight our activities would be extremely useful. Because making a high-quality promotional video is expensive, Sahaya International started in 2010 a collaboration with ReelAid ([www.reelaid.org](http://www.reelaid.org)), a Hollywood- based organization started by movie actor/director Andy Lauer. Reel-Aid consists of people who work in the film industry and who use their available resources and expertise to help make promotional videos, 10 to 15 minutes long, for small non-profit organizations - such as Sahaya - at a much reduced cost.

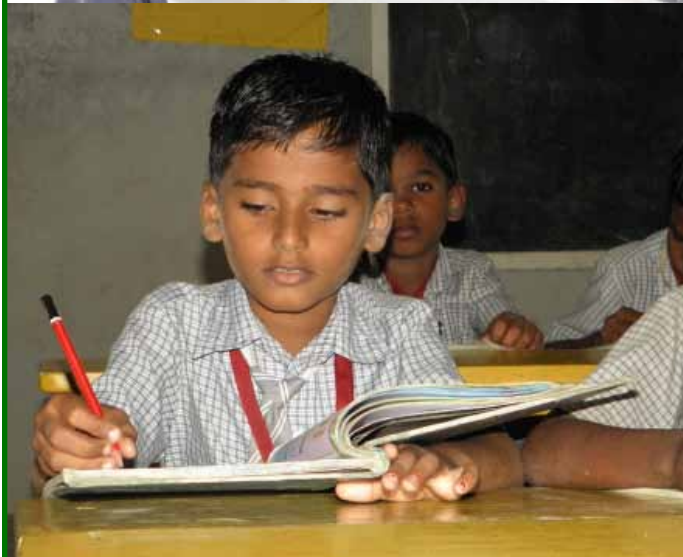
From December 11 through 23, 2010, Andy Lauer and Director of Photography Josh Gibson spent time in India to take the video footage, which included a special focus on several families. 2011 was spent on editing the video footage. In September, a 2-day work session was held in Los Angeles with Andy Lauer, Rory-Owen Delaney, Senthilkumar Cheetancheri, Ramin Yazdani and Koen Van Rompay. The video is expected to be completed and premiere later in 2012. For more information, visit [www.sahaya.org/video.html](http://www.sahaya.org/video.html).







*The Jawahar Matriculation School of Andimadam, of which construction was completed in 2009, provides currently basic education to 216 students, ranging from kindergarten to 6th Standard. Achievements in 2011 include improvements in infrastructure and extra English training to the school teachers.*



# Sahaya International fundraising events

We thank the many individuals and organizations that spent their efforts on raising funds for us via special events:

## **Ustad Shafaat Khan**

On Saturday February 26, Ustad (“Maestro”) Shafaat Khan gave a benefit concert for a fully packed room at International House Davis. This artist has distinguished himself by being the first known artist to have attained simultaneous excellence in performing the Sitar, Surbahar, & Tabla. Mr. Shafaat was accompanied by Mr. Chishty and V. Sundaresan. We thanks Davis resident V. Sundaresan who arranged this fundraiser. A total of \$1,732 was raised toward the construction of the 2nd level of the Mother Teresa School.



## **Free Spirit Dance and Trance Dance**

Sahaya President Dr. Ramin Yazdani has been organizing regular Free Spirit Dance and Trance Dance workshops in Davis. He donates all the proceeds towards the construction of a bridge at the Mother Teresa School of READ.

## **Charity Work Day**

The concept of Charity Work Day is that on that day, participants will go to their regular work but will voluntarily donate a certain amount (partial or full) of their daily salary to a charity like Sahaya.

Sahaya Director Chung Truong organized the first Sahaya Charity Work Days on December 10, 2010 and January 28, 2011, and raised \$1,660 for the Mother Teresa school

of Periyakrishnapuram.

## **Orphan support dinners**

For the past few years, Rochelle Frank and her family have been organizing annual fundraising dinners at their home to raise funds for Sahaya’s orphan sponsorship programs. for the past few years. So far, 3 children are receiving group sponsorship. A dinner was organized on January 22, 2012. An additional 15 children have found an individual sponsor among the dinner participants.

## **Filipino Fiesta Dinner**

On October 8, Director Cincin Young and her friends organized a Filipino Fiesta dinner that raised awareness and nearly \$2,000 for the Mosquito Dengue Fighters Association (see page 11).

## **Sahaya Walks Davis - 2011**

Since 2007, our annual Hope Walks event has been 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 (see page 12). At this event, Elizabeth Busch and Joab Maldonado also premiered the “Sahaya song”, which they had written.

## **Indian lunch fundraiser for Ramya**

On November 17, Karthika Jayashankar and several of her friends organized an Indian lunch fundraiser at her department at UC-Davis, to raise funds toward the tuition of Ramya, who is part of Sahaya’s orphan sponsorship program and is currently in 1st year of Veterinary School in Chennai, India. A total of \$533 was raised.



# MOSQUITO-DENGUE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

*"Dedicated to Dengue Prevention through Mosquito Control"*



**Filipino FIESTA**  
International House  
10 College Park, Davis CA 95616  
October 8th 2011, 4-7 PM  
Organized by Sahaya International

A dinner and entertainment extravaganza to benefit the Mosquito-Dengue Fighters Association (MDFA) in the Philippines with the mission of fighting dengue through mosquito control

Seating is limited, so get your tickets soon!  
Just \$35 per person for an evening of great food and fun  
For tickets, call 530-297-3231 or email [cincy2001@yahoo.com](mailto:cincy2001@yahoo.com)

Extra donations are appreciated and are tax-deductible. Send your check, payable to "Sahaya International", with mention MDFA to: 2103 Whittier Drive, Davis CA 95618

For more information about the MDFA, please visit us at:  
<http://mdfa.shutterfly.com/> or  
<http://www.sahaya.org/mdfa.html>

Hosted by the Davis Filipino Group

Sahaya Director Cincin Young and her friends organized a Filipino Fiesta at International House Davis on October 8, 2011. The evening included a full dinner, entertainment, a silent auction, and an educational slide presentation on the basics of Dengue fever and the important work that the Mosquito-Dengue Fighters Association is doing. We thank everyone who contributed financially or through their volunteering efforts to the success of this evening.





Sunday,  
October 9, 2011  
2 to 4 pm

Many people in Davis showed that we truly care about HIV-affected children in India. We walked, played games, threw water balloons, blew up air balloons, ate snacks, drank lemonade, listened to music, wrote letters, and raised almost \$8300 to provide the infected children in our programs in India with hope for a future.

We want to thank all participants and the amazing team of volunteers and partner organizations that made Sahaya Walks a success. We also thank our partners: First Baptist Church, Global Strategies for HIV Prevention, St. James Parish, International House Davis, University Covenant Church, the Cal Aggie Christian Association (CA-House) and several Davis High School Clubs.

Because we care for HIV-affected children in India



## One Day's Wages

Sahaya International was proud and thrilled to launch a new partner project with the Seattle-based organization One Day's Wages ([www.onedayswages.org](http://www.onedayswages.org)) to bring improved health care and health education to the more than 600 children and youth who are part of READ's programs.

The original goal was \$9,200 was surpassed, as a total of \$10,367 was raised.

Activities are scheduled to start in the Spring of 2012.

We are very grateful to One Day's Wages ([www.onedayswages.org](http://www.onedayswages.org)) and everyone who contributed to the success of the fundraising.



While Sahaya International was initially only registered in the USA, we had been receiving growing support from volunteers and sponsors in Europe, particularly with the orphan sponsorship program and the school programs at READ. In 2011, we continued to build on these collaborations:

**- Netherlands:**

Sahaya International (USA) was recognized in 2009 by the government of the Netherlands as ANBI (Algemeen nut beogende instelling). Donations to Sahaya International from donors in the Netherlands are now tax-deductible. € 4235 was raised in 2011.

**- Belgium:**

In July 2009, a core team of volunteers in Belgium registered the non-profit organization Sahaya International.eu (abbreviated: "Sahaya.eu"). While Sahaya.eu is fiscally independent from Sahaya International (USA), we share goals and causes. In 2011, a total of € 12,944 was raised. For more information, please visit [www.sahaya.eu](http://www.sahaya.eu).

# Sahaya International in the news



- “Indian musician performs at benefit”, Davis Enterprise, February 15, 2011.
- “Indian music benefits Davis nonprofit”, Daily Democrat, February 24, 2011.
- “Indian music concert raises funds for school”, Davis Enterprise, February 24, 2011.
- “Bananenconfituur op schapenmarkt zaterdag 2 juli”, published in gepubliceerd in [www.ditiswijk.nl](http://www.ditiswijk.nl); [www.groentje.nl](http://www.groentje.nl); [www.nieuwsbladdekaap.nl](http://www.nieuwsbladdekaap.nl); [www.wijksecourant.nl](http://www.wijksecourant.nl)
- “Couple make a difference a world away”, Davis Enterprise, August 2011.
- “Sahaya International sends hope across the globe”, Davis Enterprise, Sept. 21, 2011, page A1

A screenshot of the Sahaya International Inc (USA) Facebook page. The page features a large group photo of children and adults. The profile picture is the Sahaya International logo, which shows a hand holding a globe. The page has 276 likes and 7 people talking about it. A blue callout box with white text says: "Visit us on Facebook and 'Like' us to receive regular updates." The page also shows navigation tabs for About, Photos, Likes, and Join My List, along with a status bar at the bottom with options like Status, Photo, Ask Question, and Milestone.



We thank all our donors and volunteers for their generous support and efforts.

