



SAHAYA INTERNATIONAL, Inc.

Davis
California
USA

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT Fiscal year January-December 2004.

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Website: www.sahaya.org

(Sahaya International Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization founded in 1999)



Dear Friends,

It is with pleasure that I present to you this annual report, highlighting our activities of the past fiscal year. Despite many challenges, we continued our path of making a difference in the lives of many people in developing countries. We have been able to expand our network of friends and supporters. For many of you who have helped us to achieve these goals, my sincere thanks for being part of this effort! It is my hope that in 2005, we continue our dedication to mobilize the resources to reach out to those in need.

Sincerely,
Koen Van Rompay (Secretary, Sahaya International)



I. OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

a). READ (Rural Education & Action Development)- India:

Note: our productive collaboration with READ was the start of Sahaya International.

- READ continues to run many programs, especially for women and children, including 3 kindergarten/elementary schools, 2 schools for mentally disabled children, rehabilitation programs for physically disabled children, skill-training programs for girls, 640 women self-help groups, and 27 men self-help groups. In addition, READ is playing a leading role in HIV programs in their district, including the formation of the AIM network. For the many activities of READ, please see their latest annual report (downloadable from www.sahaya.org).
- READ collaborates with the Alliance for Youth Achievement (AYA; based in Colorado) on sponsorship programs for children and micro-credit programs for women self-help group members. Mr. Selvam (secretary of READ) is AYA's country director.
- READ is the local fiscal agent for grants awarded to SAATHII-India.
- READ's main support is currently provided by Sahaya International, including the sale of embroidered greeting cards produced by READ's trainees.

b). SAATHII (Solidarity and Action Against The HIV Infection in India).

- A grant awarded in 2003 by the John M. Lloyd Foundation, with Sahaya International and READ as fiscal intermediate agents, was used for the 2nd phase of mapping HIV services available in India, and these activities continued throughout 2004. This directory lists many organizations involved in HIV programs, and is currently being used for referral services. For more information on SAATHII and their activities, please visit www.saathii.org.

c). Tambaram Pediatric Center (Chennai, India):

Sahaya International continued to be the fiscal agent for the collection of donations to improve the pediatric ward at Tambaram hospital, Chennai (India). This project is led by Tom Furtwangler (Cascaese Health Communication Group, University of Washington, Seattle). A social worker and better infrastructure (including toys and games) have been helping many children. For more information about this new and exciting program, please see the special section on page 9, and visit www.tambaramkids.org.

d). Assistance to other NGO's in India:

A \$300 donation by a sponsor was used to give support to Rhema Educational Trust (Gujarat): this NGO has started a small school (Silent Valley English Medium School). The money was used to build extra classrooms that are urgently needed (visit www.sahaya.org for more information). Through the sale of greeting cards (made from leaves), \$530 was raised for a community program in Kerala run by Fr. Lazar.

e). Indian HIV awareness cartoons.

Sahaya International has been sponsoring the production of HIV awareness cartoons drawn according to Indian customs and traditions. These educational cartoons are based on the successful African booklet produced by Global Strategies for HIV Prevention. A first draft of these cartoons was included on the CDrom titled "Women, Children and HIV: Resources for Prevention and Treatment), which was distributed to all participants of the International AIDS Conference in Bangkok, Thailand (July 2004). In close collaboration with Liz Stevens (I-TECH, University of Washington) and other volunteers, this cartoon set has in meantime been expanded to cover additional topics in more detail. A first printed edition of flip-charts and booklets with these cartoons is planned for early 2005. Additional resources will be sought for further distribution, including via CDrom.

We thank all those who helped us, including the many volunteers behind the scenes. We couldn't have done it without you.



Children of the 2 Mother Teresa Schools and Jawahar Matriculation School, all run by READ in India.

f). Orphan programs via Alliance for Youth Achievement (AYA).

As mentioned above, AYA (www.allforyouth.org) is a 501(c)3 organization based in Colorado, which runs child sponsorship programs and micro-credit grant programs to poor families. For example:

- Full orphan sponsorship: \$30 per month
- Tuition for groups of students: \$18 per month

Sahaya International and READ collaborate closely with AYA on helping to find sponsors for children. Currently in READ's villages, 3 groups of 6 girls each receive tuition sponsorship, and 9 orphans receive full sponsorship. In addition, Sahaya International has also found sponsors for children in Africa and referred those to donate directly to AYA; several general donations have also been sent via Sahaya International to AYA to support orphan programs in Africa.

In addition to child sponsorship programs, AYA also helps READ with card sales, and a micro-credit program for women.

g). HIV awareness program for the deaf (Kenya).

This program is led by Kevin Henderson and Jackie Odwesso, and is funded by a grant of 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).

A grant for this project was submitted to the World Bank in 2003 . Through several rounds of review, we were selected as one of the 47 awardees (selected from 183 finalists, out of 2700 applications). For more information, see www.developmentmarketplace.org.

Kevin and Jackie have developed a peer educator system in sign language to teach the deaf communities in Kenya about HIV. Currently 4 master educators, and 85 deaf youth peer educators have been trained (45 in 3 schools and 40 in two deaf churches); our outreach efforts were successful in already reaching 11 major schools averaging 100 students each as well as two deaf churches with about 20 participants each; two puppet shows were conducted, one at each church (see page 10). A sign language vocabulary on HIV issues has been developed. This program is ongoing and is currently also collaborating closely with the Liverpool Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) centers in Kenya to provide deaf-friendly services. A training manual is currently being developed for distribution.



Dr. Joe Becker and the team in Cameroon.

h). Cameroon: Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

Since February 2002 Sahaya International has supported numerous activities in Kumba, Southwest Province, Cameroon. These programs are run via Dr. Joe Becker. Currently, there are six clinics involved in the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV.

These programs have offered free counseling and testing for HIV to more than 10,000 women reporting for antenatal services in these five clinics. Of these, unfortunately, just over 11% tested positive for HIV. For those testing positive we offer the drug nevirapine according to the HIVNET 012 protocol, which has been shown to significantly reduce the chances the baby becomes HIV-infected. The program currently offers free rapid antibody testing at 1 year of life for the infants born to positive women. We hope, in the coming months, to offer free PCR testing at 6 weeks of life. This is costly and involves transporting the PCR sample to the capital city, Yaounde.

We have been expanding our efforts to include treatment of HIV positive individuals at 8 clinics. An application to the Diflucan Donation Program to obtain ~50,000 doses of the anti-fungal medication Fluconazole (value ~\$200,000) for the treatment of AIDS-associated Cryptococcal Meningitis and Oropharyngeal Candidiasis has been awarded. Training has been given to practitioners about the use of this drug and record-keeping. Additionally, we are currently developing the capacity to begin offering anti-retroviral medications at reduced price to HIV+ individuals.

More information on this program can also be found at www.inthivpartners.org.

i). Consultant/collaborator function of Sahaya International.

Sahaya International gets daily requests from NGO's or individuals for assistance, especially for HIV programs. Although we don't have the resources to provide financial assistance we try to provide advice and assistance via e-mail or by sending CD's with information.

II. FUNDRAISER EVENTS

In addition to our network of dedicated volunteers who sell the embroidered greeting cards made by READ's trainees on a regular basis to friends, relatives and colleagues (including at Davis Farmer's Market, UC-Davis, University Retirement Community), a few special events were organized.

- On Saturday January 31, 2004, the Gospel Justice Committee of the St. James Parish in Davis hosted a screening of the movie "A Closer Walk", with Koen Van Rompay as guest-speaker. This movie was followed by a productive group discussion. Since then, the Gospel Justice Committee has adopted Sahaya International as an organization for continuous support. During this past year, Sahaya International has also received a Community Gift of the St. James parish for the programs at READ.
- On Saturday April 17, Sunday April 18 and Sunday April 25, the Indian dance troupe NATyA had 3 dance performances in the San Francisco bay area. Sahaya volunteers raised funds by selling home-made refreshments at these events.
- On Saturday September 25, the Belgian Club of Northern California (www.bcnc.com) hosted a special "Belgian beer and Friet/Fries" fundraiser event in Hayward, California. The event was well attended, and in addition to the legendary good food and beer, a silent auction was held with many art items, books, and household items donated by club members. The proceeds went to 3 charities, including Sahaya International.
- Students Against Global AIDS (SAGA) is a group of students from the University of Maryland (Baltimore County) and the University of Maryland Medical School. Throughout the year, they raise awareness on HIV to their fellow students and raise money for Sahaya's HIV programs.

Sahaya International and its programs in the news....

1). **Motor-biking through rural India on an HIV mission.**

by Koen Van Rompay, AIDS 2004, vol. 18, N13-16.

www.sahaya.org/graphics/AIDS2004.pdf

2) **One man can make a difference.**

by Elisabeth Sherwin, Davis Enterprise, October 29, 2004.

www.dcn.davis.ca.us/~gizmo/2004/one-man.html

3). **Here's a good present for the whole family, saving a life.**

by Elisabeth Sherwin, Davis Enterprise December 24, 2004.

www.dcn.davis.ca.us/~gizmo/2004/orphans.html

4). **India - Future Forsaken. Abuses against children affected by HIV/AIDS in India.**

by Zama Coursen-Neff; Human Rights Watch (www.hrw.org)

5). **Timely awareness required to fight AIDS.**

by Radhika Jhamb, India Post, December 22, 2004.

www.indiapost.com/members/story.php?story_id=4127.

6). **Return to frontline of India's AIDS battle.**

BBC News, December 10, 2004

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/4059219.stm



HIV/AIDS awareness rally organized by READ in Andimadam on December 1, 2004

A glimpse at some of our programs...



The children in READ's villages who are all sponsored by the Sahaya network of friends and family in the USA and Europe. The children came to READ's training center to collect their school uniforms, and receive toys donated by Sahaya friends in the USA.



The children in two of READ's schools, the Mother Teresa school of Periyakrishnapuram (left) and the Jawahar Matriculation School (right).



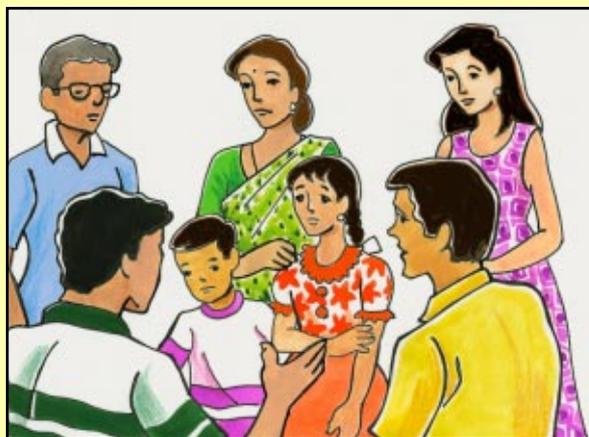
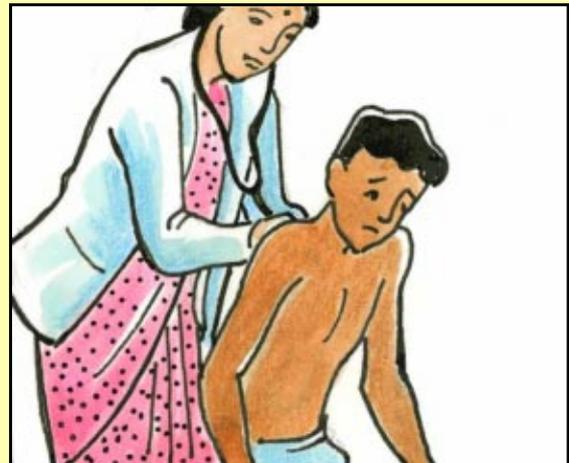
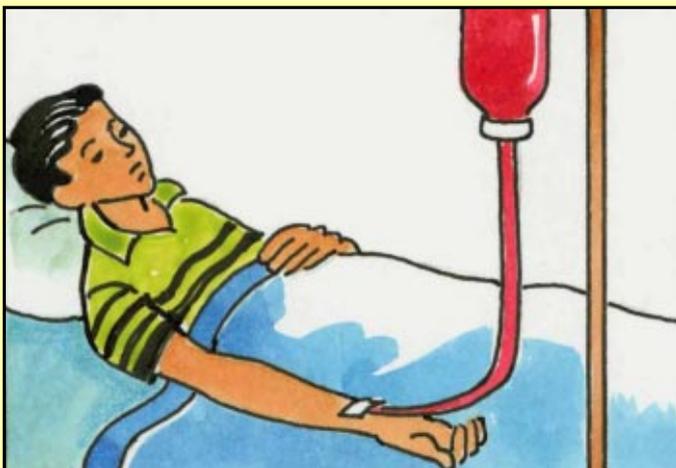
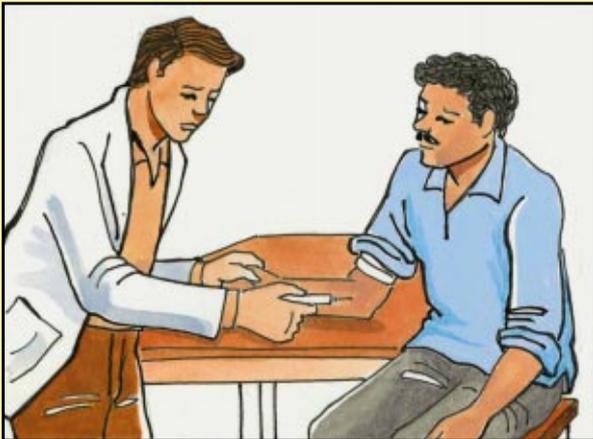
READ (India): Street theater for HIV awareness



During the evening, READ's cultural team uses street theater to spread correct awareness on HIV to villagers and encourage everyone to help those already affected by this disease.

Examples of educational cartoons developed by Sahaya International, in collaboration with Global Strategies for HIV Prevention, I-TECH, and READ.

Myths and Facts about HIV/AIDS: A practical guide to prevention, health and life.



The Pediatric Center

Tambaram Hospital, India

The Pediatric Center at Tambaram Hospital is an ongoing effort to support and improve the pediatric care delivered at Tambaram Hospital near Chennai (formerly Madras), India.

Tambaram Hospital is a large public teaching hospital. Originally founded as a tuberculosis sanatorium in the 1920s, Tambaram began seeing HIV in 1992, and since then has seen an exponential rise in the number of HIV admissions. They are currently diagnosing approximately 1000 new HIV cases each month. As a public hospital, Tambaram accepts all patients at no charge, despite extremely limited resources.



At Tambaram, inpatient pediatric facilities are centered in a large open ward. The majority of the children come from poor rural families, and a significant proportion are AIDS orphans. Parents, grandparents, or guardians stay with children in the ward, sleeping on mats on the floor next to the children's beds.

Our Programs

Currently, our main project is to support a social work program in the ward. Previously, children and families in the pediatric ward did not have any games, diversions or structured activities, and families had no support or advocacy services. Our first priority has been to support a full-time social worker dedicated to the pediatric department at Tambaram, who can work with families and children facing the crisis of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other illnesses. We began supporting the social worker in March, 2003.

We also support other programs in the pediatric ward, and have a longer term plan to impact clinical care and improve the infrastructure. You can learn all about our programs at our website, www.TambaramKids.org.

How You Can Help

The nonprofit Sahaya International provides fiscal sponsorship for this program, and maintains the account from which activities are funded.

Mail donations to:

Sahaya International • c/o Koen Van Rompay • 2949 Portage Bay Avenue # 195 • Davis, CA 95616

Please make checks payable to Sahaya International. Please indicate that your donation is for Tambaram. Sahaya International is a 501(c)3 non-profit and donations to them are tax-deductible.

How to Keep in Touch

Visit our website, or join our e-mail announcement list by writing to us at info@tambaramkids.org.

www.TambaramKids.org



HIV awareness project of the deaf (Kenya): Development of tools and vocabulary.

Plaster masks are prepared (a), and painted for a puppet show. The actors, dressed in black, maneuver the puppets and use their hands to communicate in sign language (b). The story involves a married couple with infidelity problems, and a friend (center) who has to intervene to stop further fighting (c), in meanwhile receiving much attention from the audience. The husband collapses when he finds out he has been infected by HIV (e). In the absence of a black stage and curtain, as in the case of traveling to remote schools, the puppets are used by actors sitting behind tables (f). The HIV Awareness for the Deaf Project team of Kevin Henderson (white), Jackie Odwesso (with glasses and blue jacket) and the master educators (g). In addition to using existing words of Kenyan sign language like female and male genitals (h, i), additional vocabulary is developed to describe terms such as syndrome/sickness (j), unprotected sex (k), and prevention/immunity (l).