



ANNUAL REPORT

January-December 2012

Officers

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

2012 Board of directors

Paul Adamson
Leslie Anastassatos
Joe Becker
Patrick De Grande
Rino Dizon
Lonna Hampton
Kartika Jayashankar
Karl Krupp
Andy Lauer
Adele Moussas
Mary Philip
Elisabeth Sherwin
Chung Truong
Cincin Young
Paulina Zielinska

Website: 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



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 2012 include several successful fundraisers, the start of programs in Vietnam, and the progress on our Sahaya documentary "*Sahaya, Going Beyond*", which will premiere in 2013.

My sincere thanks to all of you for being part of this effort. It is my hope that in 2013 and the coming years, we can continue to count on you, walk this journey together, and mobilize the resources to reach out to those in need.

Sincerely,

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.

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 to many of READ's programs, including:

- Two kindergarten/elementary schools: the Mother Teresa School in Periyakrishnapuram (172 students, from lower kindergarten to Vth standard) and the Jawahar Matriculation school in Andimadam (250 students, from lower kindergarten to 5th standard). Both schools were constructed with funds raised by Sahaya International and Sahaya.eu. Sahaya has raised the funds to construct a 2nd level on the Mother Teresa School (planned for 2013).
- Three schools for mentally disabled children: two in Perambalur and one in Andimadam.
- Skill-training programs for youth and disabled people (including card-making, sewing, type-writing, computer training, book-binding) 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. Some donors provide extra funds to cover additional expenses of their sponsor-child. During this fiscal year, the number of sponsored children has grown to approximately 210. In addition, 2 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, several years ago we took the challenge upon us to continue investing in their future by supporting their higher education. In 2012, five of them completed their college education (Diploma in Pharmacy, Master in Computer Science, Diploma in Electrical and Communications Engineering, Bachelor in Engineering, and Bachelor Degree in Special Education). At the end of 2012, 51 youth were pursuing higher education, poised to become the next generation of leaders. While some sponsors can cover the increased costs of college, other students are being helped by having a 2nd sponsor, or via



Praveen, 1st year Medical student.

funds contributed to the Vasanthi fund. In 2012, Praveen became the first student in our program to be accepted to Medical School.



At the end of 2012, approximately 210 children were part of our orphan sponsorship program in India.

Sahaya Walks Davis

Since 2007, Sahaya International has collaborated with Global Strategies for HIV Prevention to organize four consecutive annual Hope Walks Davis events. 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. On October 21, we had the 2nd Sahaya Walks Davis and raised approximately \$10,000. See the separate page for more information, or visit www.sahyawalks.org.

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. The network has currently 146 PLHIV members. 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 2012:

- 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, as most of them are currently taking antiretrovirals, which improve and stabilize 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 network members, sometimes checks their blood pressure, provides first aid, and provides health advice. The health center also distributes condoms, and the staff



The PLHIV network at READ, supported by grant support from the Gilead Foundation via Sahaya International.

gives condom demonstrations.

In the counseling center, the members are given individual and family counseling, conflict resolution, legal advice and aid depending upon their family circumstances. In 2012, 45 PLHIV members and their families 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.

- HIV/AIDS awareness program

As an annual tradition on World AIDS Day, December 1, READ conducted a special rally creating HIV/AIDS awareness in Andimadam and in the local villages. More than 450 people participated in this rally. The participants carried banners, chanted slogans and distributed freely the cartoon-based HIV education booklets that we had previously made (see <http://sahaya.org/iec-materials.html>). The participants consisted of members of the PLHIV network (“Malarum Mottukal”), school students from the Andimadam Higher Secondary School, members of READ’s women self-help groups, and the READ staff.



Lamling Vista (Nagaland, India)

2012 marked the 4th year of providing education to the kids of Yongam Village. It was the first full school year that the students and teachers enjoyed the newly constructed schoolhouse, which is much more spacious, clean, durable, and long-lasting than the old bamboo structure.

There were approximately 150 students enrolled in grades K-6. The subjects are taught in English medium and include Mathematics, Science, English, History, and Social Science for grades 1-6, and Rhymes and General Knowledge for kindergarten students. In order to comply with the new rules of the Indian education system that removes the requirement to pass a qualifying exam in order to graduate to the next grade, a new system was put in place at Lamling Vista for tracking students’ progress and education history in a “cumulative record” booklet.

The student enjoyed 2 annual traditions: the year-end picnic at a nearby river (December) and during the summer months, a week of sporting competitions in volleyball, soccer, and badminton.

Each year, the parents of the children become increasingly invested in their children’s education. They genuinely care that their kids are getting the best and are playing an active role to make it happen. For example, they hold regular parent meetings to discuss any issues or ideas. They have also been willing to help pay for things that we cannot fund 100%, for example the parents agreed that if we purchased new textbooks for the students, they would



In 2012, the **Mother Teresa Standard English School** of Periyakrishnapuram and the **Jawahar Primary -Nursery School** of Andimadam, run by READ, provided basic education to more than 400 children from underprivileged families. Plans for 2013 include the construction of a 2nd level on the Mother Teresa School.





The newly constructed school building for the Lamling Vista School in Nagaland provides education to 150 students ranging from kindergarten to 6th standard.

pay for half of the cost. This involvement from the parents is very encouraging, because it means that they are beginning to own their children's education. It also gives us hope that the parents will continue to educate their kids beyond elementary school at Lamling Vista.

In addition to strengthening staff and infrastructure, plans for the future include data collection on how many students continue their education upon graduating from Lamling Vista, consistent with our motto "Bridging the gap to a brighter future".

Prerana Women's Health Initiative

During this year, Prerana continued its important work – screening women for cervical cancer in both urban and rural parts of Mysore, conducting education and awareness programs to increase antenatal care and HIV testing among pregnant women and opening a newer, bigger women's reproductive health clinic. 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 220 women with roughly one in four getting additional services including PAP smears, biopsies. Our education and awareness programs in 75 rural Mysore villages were well attended and embraced by all. We focused on birthing preparedness and importance of screening for cancer.

The biggest achievement this year was our new Prerana women's health clinic that has become fully functional in the last quarter of the year. We improved the infrastructure and necessary supplies required to provide good quality health care for women coming to the clinic. We hope the next year will see an increase in the number of patients accessing services at this clinic.

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.

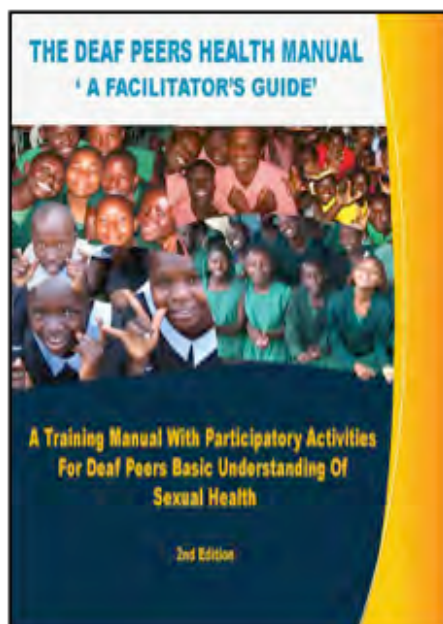
During 2012, 3 chapters in the Philippines were active: Cebu, Leyte and Misamis Oriental. Continuing activities include:

- **Information drives** at schools, local government units, barangays (suburban neighborhoods), churches and private groups.
- **Mosquito eradication using ovitraps and Bti products:** The administrative assistant has so far made 50 ovitraps for distribution. Instructions on how to build ovitraps are also distributed. For large bodies of water, *Bti* (*Bacillus thurengiensis israelensis*) products that kill mosquito larvae are used.
- **Surveillance and monitoring of Aedes mosquitoes:** Using ovitraps with monthly sampling, the Aedes density distribution can be surveyed, and the data can be used as preventive tool to predict high-risk areas for dengue and advise the local leaders to warn the community and increase clean-up activities.

For more information, please visit www.sahaya.org/mdfa.html.



The Mosquito-Dengue Fighters Association, coordinated by Cincin Young (top picture, 2nd from left), organizes many information campaigns to local schools and organizations on the role of mosquito control measures to combat Dengue.



HIV/AIDS



To promote awareness on HIV/AIDS
Differentiating between HIV and AIDS
Modes of transmission
Modes NOT of transmission
How to avoid contracting HIV



2 Henry



Flashcards with letters H, I, V, A, I, D, S
Illustration of HIV virus (one of the many known forms)
Illustrations of modes of transmission
Illustrations of modes NOT of transmission

Sexual Health - Digital Activities
The power of self-education: education, learning and self-empowerment.



Sexual Health - Roleplay
A roleplay activity to ensure that the information on the manual is understood and practiced by the role-actors to ensure a complete understanding of the manual.



The cover and 2 sample pages of the 2nd edition of the Deaf Peers Health Manual.

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).

Thanks to continued grant support from Gilead Sciences via Sahaya International, a 2nd edition of this manual was completed.

Rehema Center (Kenya)

The Rehema Daycare, School and Orphan program in the Korogocho slums of Nairobi has been a partner of Sahaya since 2001. Rehema currently feeds and educates 600 children, using funds sourced from its income generating projects, support from well-wishers, and the Rehema Christian Fellowship Church, a religious ministry that was founded in the slum. Fifty of the children have no place to go to, and stay permanently at the Center.

Several orphans receive support via Sahaya International. In addition, a group of volunteers from Voluntours to Africa (www.letsgotoAfrica.com) worked at Rehema for a week, and thanks with financial support from the NorthWest Austin and La Grange Rotary Club, converted a chicken coop into a library that was then stocked with many books. The children at Rehema were all happily surprised when the library was opened. As Rehema has offered to share the books also with other school programs in this slum, this library is making an incredible difference in the lives of thousands of children.

For more information, visit <http://www.sahaya.org/rehema.html>.

Sahaya Vietnam program

This program was initiated by Sahaya director, Chung Truong, in close collaboration with the Boo Sun Monastery. It provides much needed support services to very poor families in the rural area of Kien Giang, including the construction of simple homes (at \$1,000 per house) and educational scholarships for children. During 2012, the funds were raised to construct 12 houses, and to support 39 needy students. In addition, general donations were also used to provide many other children with school supplies. For more info, see page 10 or visit www.sahaya.org/vietnam.html.

REHEMA CENTER (KENYA)



VIETNAM

The Vietnam housing and education program in Kien Giang provides poor families who lived in very miserable conditions with a simple house and basic supplies to meet their most urgent needs. In a second stage, we provide school materials and educational scholarships to students of such underprivileged families. To learn more, visit www.sahaya.org/vietnam.html.



To take Sahaya International to the next level, reach a larger audience and widen our ripple effect of “making a difference,” we started in 2010 a collaboration with ReelAid (www.reelaid.org), a Hollywood- based organization started by film maker/ actor Andy Lauer, to make a cutting-edge promotional video that would highlight our activities. In 2012, we continued the post-production. We are very honored that Academy Award winner Jeremy Irons agreed to be the narrator, and that Enya gave us permission to use the song “May it be” as the theme song. In June 2012, Andy Lauer, Ramin Yazdani (President of Sahaya) and Koen Van Rompay (Founder of Sahaya) met with Jeremy Irons to record the narration. The video, titled *Sahaya - Going Beyond*, will premiere in 2013. For more information, visit www.sahayagoingbeyond.org.



Sahaya International fundraising events

We thank the many individuals and organizations that dedicated their time, resources and talents to raise funds for Sahaya International:

Andrew Corbett & friends/ Mudlark

On Saturday September 15, Andrew Corbett and friends/Mudlark gave a benefit concert for a fully packed room at International House Davis.

Free Spirit Dance and Trance Dance

Sahaya President Dr. Ramin Yazdani has been organizing regular Free Spirit Dance and Trance Dance workshops in Davis. All proceeds are donated for the construction of a bridge at the Mother Teresa School of READ.

Orphan support dinners

For the past few years, Rochelle Frank and her family have organized annual fundraising dinners at their home to raise funds for Sahaya's orphan sponsorship programs. Three children are receiving group sponsorship. A successful dinner was held on September 29.

Sahaya Walks Davis - 2012

Sahaya Walks 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 (see page 13).

Heroes of the Heart Award

In the Spring of 2012, Sahaya was nominated for the Heroes of the Heart Award, offered by the CommunityTechKnowledge Foundation. After a lively voting contest, Sahaya won the top award of \$5,000, which was used to enroll an additional 14 children in our orphan sponsorship program.



Indian lunch fundraiser for Ramya

On September 12, Karthika Jayashankar 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.



Mudlark (left) and Andrew Corbett & friends (right) performed a benefit concert for Sahaya.



Sunday,
October 21, 2012
2 to 4 pm

Because we care for HIV-affected children in India

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 \$10,000 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), Davis Community Church,

United Methodist Church Davis, Unitarian Universalist Church, India Association of Davis and the Freedom from Hunger and CSF clubs of Davis High School.



The screenshot shows the One Day's Wages website interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for HOME, ABOUT, DONATE, COMMUNITY, PARTNERS, MOVEMENT, and RESOURCES. Below the navigation, there is a main content area with a featured article titled "Improving Children's Health in India | Sahaya". The article includes a photo of children and text describing the partnership with Sahaya International. To the right of the article, there are several sidebar sections: "community" with links for Members, Blog, Featured Stories, and Groups; "campaign for a cause" with buttons for "birthday for a cause", "idea for a cause", "work for a cause", and "group"; and a "wage calculator" with input fields for "I Make:" and "a year:" and a "Calculate" button. Below the calculator is a "ways to donate" section with two options: "Online" and "Checks".

One Day's Wages

Sahaya International is proud to partner with the Seattle-based organization One Day's Wages (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.

During 2012, a start was made with the implementation of the health curriculum. Medical exams of the children are planned for early 2013.

We are very grateful to One Day's Wages and everyone who contributed to the success of the fundraising.

The banner features three photos of children: a girl on the left, a boy in the middle, and a boy on the right pointing upwards. The text "Sahaya International.eu" is prominently displayed in the center, with "VZW" below it.

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 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. For more information, visit www.sahaya.eu/nl.html.
- **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.
For more information, please visit www.sahaya.eu.

Sahaya International

in the news



- “What do Jeremy Irons and Davis have in common?”, Davis Enterprise, April 7, 2012, page A1
- “Award helps Indian orphans”, Davis Enterprise, June 7, 2012 (letter to the editor)
- “Sahaya Walks helps HIV infected children in India”, Davis Enterprise, October 12, 2012, page A3



We thank all our donors and volunteers for their generous support!

