

partnering with the poor
for a just world



SAVE A FAMILY PLAN

100% of your donation reaches the poor

ANNUAL REPORT 2009-2010

www.safp.org

A Message from Ms. Lois Côté, President of SAFP Canada...

Recently, I read Albert Nolan's 'Hope In An Age of Despair'. As I was reading, I kept thinking about Save A Family Plan, how much hope it offers to hundreds of thousands of impoverished people living in India, year after year for 45 years. Some days, it is not easy to be hopeful. In a world today where over one billion people are condemned to live in extreme poverty, you wonder how serious we are in wanting to eradicate the evil of poverty. SAFP is a huge sign of hope.

We recently evaluated our core, Family Development Program, with the assistance of an outside evaluator. Among the findings, there is "improved food security", among the families involved in the program. So much more needs to be done, including putting in to place the recommendations made in the evaluation.

It is to you our staff, volunteers, benefactors, partners and friends that we express our gratitude. Without you, this would only be a dream. We need your support more than ever.



FAMILY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Save A Family Plan's Family Development Program went through a strenuous evaluation this past year. The Family Development Program (FDP) is the organization's core program and, as such, the Board of Directors mandated that an evaluation of the FDP's effectiveness within both the Canadian and Indian contexts be carried out at this time. This program has continually grown and evolved over the years; from merely augmenting families' income to a systematic program for sustainable development of family and communities. This evaluation was conducted by *Grace Flesher* (Canadian Consultant) and *Maria Sindhu* (SAFP India staff).

There were many findings during this evaluation; some showing room for improvement and some showing great success. For example, the economic security, (specifically in the diversification of income) of the beneficiary families improves greatly during the participation in FDP. 70.6% of the families who were evaluated and were midway through the program reported to having income diversity within their families. Along with economic security, housing security was also evaluated. Housing security improves across the program period, with 76.5% of the mid-families and 64.3% of the mature families having secure and livable shelter. "Shelter is both a necessity and a human right", states Flesher. These are incredible achievements by SAFP, the families, the partners and the benefactors.

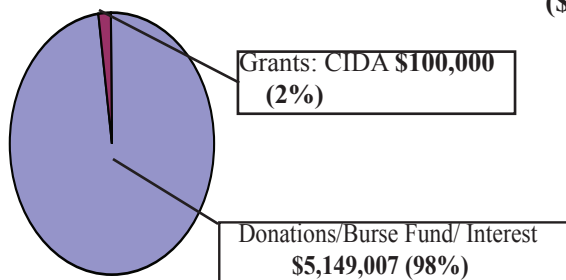
In 2009-2010, SAFP partnered with 43 Diocesan Social Service Societies (DSSSs) and 22 Institution-Based Rehabilitation Centres. Currently, the Family Development Program is being implemented in 5 states of India (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu). 77.6% of beneficiary families are located in Kerala. This program supported 17,171 families on their way to self-reliance. Of the financial support sent to Indian families in the past year through this program, 8% of funds were used for basic human infrastructure facilities (land, housing, drinking water and washroom facilities, etc.), 27% was used to begin/build up livelihood initiatives (business units, equipment, agricultural investments, etc.), and 10% was used for loans and other financial burdens on a family (bank loans, marriage and education of children, trainings, medical expenses, etc.). 55% was held in the beneficiaries saving accounts. This program is made possible by dedicated staff, an astounding 2,820 local volunteers, including sponsors, local animators, sangham members in India, and the partnership of individuals, families and communities in Canada, the United States and around the world.

SAFP also continues to support sustainable livelihood initiatives of 500 *Tsunami* affected families living in 13 affected areas in Kerala and Tamil Nadu with regular monthly support for a six year period (2005-2011).

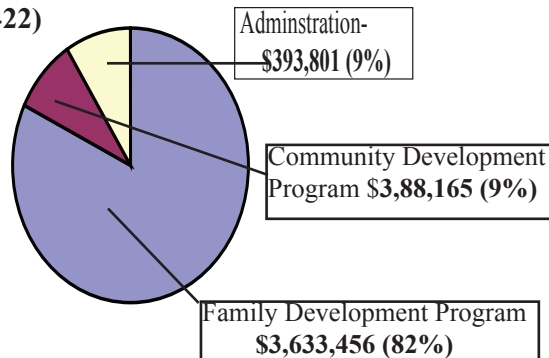
Summary of Revenue and Expenditures 2009-2010 for the Year Ended March 2010

(From financial statements prepared by Hyatt Lassaline LLP and approved by SAFPC Board of Directors)

REVENUE (\$5,249,007)



EXPENDITURES (\$4,415,422)



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT--SPECIAL PROJECTS

- SAFP Environmental Sustainability Program
- Human Trafficking and Migration Program
- Disaster Management & Rehabilitation Program- Tellicherry Social Service Society, Kerala- *Relief (medical camps, food, clothing) for flood victims and torrential rains in Kannur and Kasargod districts.*
- SAFP Homes of Healing Special Program: Home of Hope, Kunnamthanam, Thiruvalla, Kerala- *Provides subsidy for monthly food program for mentally and physically challenged children/youth; Assisi School for Hearing Impaired, Kerala- funds provided for the general needs of the students and school.*
- Support for the Diocesan Social Service Societies
- SAFP MDG (Millennium Development Goals) Housing Program- Dioceses of Kothamangalam, Kottayam and Cochin
- Kanivu Project, Kerala- *funds provided for support (rehabilitation/awareness of rights etc) to wandering & homeless mentally challenged women of the Cochin area.*
- Little Stars School, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh- *Funds provided for free education and life skills to 470 poor street children.*
- Para-Medical Training and Certificate *for young women in difficult circumstances, Kerala.*
- Shraddha Nikertan, Ankleshwar, Gujarat- *support provided for education and hostel project for 50 boys and girls in the region.*
- Alleppey Diocesan Charitable & Social Welfare Society, Kerala- *funds for various projects and needs for the impoverished in the diocese: Infant Jesus Vimala Orphanage, St. Michael's Forane Church, and the Irene Home.*
- Council of People Living with HIV/AIDS of Kerala, Ernakulam, Kerala- *Funds used to improve the quality of life of children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS*
- Daughters of the Cross, Bandra, Mumbai, Maharashtra- *Funds for the general needs of the Emile Care Centre for the Aged and the hostel program for 50 impoverished tribal girls in the Vellugaon Mission.*
- Diocese of Udhagamandalam- Social Service Society, Ootty, Tamil Nadu-*Provides support for the HIV/AIDS positive network for impoverished women in the area.*
- Diocese of Muvattupuzha-Samridhy Social Service Society, Kerala- *Funds to construct an eco-friendly house with sanitation facilities for an HIV/AIDS affected widow; and educational support for her two children to continue their studies.*
- Dharmagiri Vikas Centre, Kothamangalam, Kerala- *Angels Care Tribal Hostel- assistance for the purchase of 50 bunk beds for the hostel + food for 125 children.*
- Support for Carmel Vikas Society, Andhra Pradesh- *funds for the social service society infrastrucutre which meets the needs of local poor.*
- Sneha Sadan, School for physically and mentally challenged children and youth, Kalady, Kerala- *provide funding for the general needs to run the school program.*
- Don Bosco Sneha Bhavan, Palluruthy, Cochin, Kerala- *Musical instruments and sports equipment for street children; Valsalya Bhavan- funds provided for temporary housing and the construction costs of a new building-house which will accommodate young girls living on the street, bus shelters and train station of local area.*
- Infrastructure needs at SAFPC India Office & Aiswaryagram, Parappuram, Kerala
- Tuticorin Multipurpose Social Service Society, Tamil Nadu- *Funds for child labour program.*

Special Projects Continued:

-Bethlehem Abhay Bhavan Charitable Society, Perumbavoor, Kerala- *Funding provided for general needs for intellectually and physically challenged adults.*

-Help-A-Poor Child- Marian Education Centre, Kolkata, West Bengal- *provide financial assistance in the operational costs of education of poor children from the Picnic Garden areas (TWSS); Mary Martha Provincialate, Priavoor, Ernakulam, Kerala -Urban Based Rehabilitation Program- City Based Women Empowerment-providing support services to women, children and adolescents through community out-reach action.*

-Cultural Academy for Peace, Ernakulam, Kerala-“Sakhi Program” – *Financial support for short stay home for women in difficult circumstances (i.e. abused/domestic violence, sex workers, HIV/AIDS patients, etc.)*

-Calcutta Anglo Indian Services – Lawrence DeSouza Home: “The Tiljallah Project”, Kolkata, West Bengal.(CSSAI – Canadian Social Services for Anglo-Indians)-*Monthly medical costs for 228 seniors, monthly pension for poor seniors, education support for 19 youth Support for the night shelter*

-Calcutta Anglo Indian Services – Lawrence DeSouza Home: “The Tiljallah Project”, Kolkata, West Bengal.(TWSS – Third World Support Services). -*Education fund for students from poor families*

-Idukki Highrange Development Society, Kerala- *Staff support for a resource poor Upper Primary Muthuvan Tribal school in Vengapparakudy in Koodakkadu Tribal Settlement at Maryavoor, Funds for infrastructure (LCD projector & sound system) for capacity building training*

SPED II PROGRAM

In partnership with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Save A Family Plan has successfully completed the Sustainability through Participation, Empowerment and Decentralization (SPED) II Extension Program from April 2009-July 2009. This Community Development program was aimed towards gender mainstreaming and promotion of sustainable livelihood initiatives for women affected or infected by HIV/AIDS and women vulnerable to trafficking and migration. Based on a total (Canadian) budget of \$186,133, with Partner NGOs in India mobilizing local resources worth an additional \$22,218 the SPED II extension program allocated funds for:

- **Gender Mainstreaming** - Gender training for 1,638 Priests and Religious Sisters.

- **Promotion of sustainable livelihood initiatives and micro enterprises:**

- *Entrepreneurial Development Program (EDP) Training-*

A total of 526 (265 HIV/AIDS infected or affected females and 246 females victims of/prone to migration and trafficking and 15 males) participated.

- *Livelihood initiatives and Microenterprises-* A total of 513 participants from 17 partners (267 HIV/AIDS infected or affected women and 246 women vulnerable to human trafficking and migration) started viable and sustainable income generation projects.

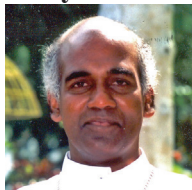
SAFP applied for CIDA funding in October 2008 for the SPED III program to begin in April, 2009. The SPED II extension program was going to lead into the beginning of the SPED III program; however, this has not been the case. SAFP's application is still 'active', but unfortunately has not moved from this position over the last 17 months. SAFP is in communication with CIDA representatives and local MPs and is trying to move this program forward.

SAFP Community Development Story

Devalben and her family members from the Bhuj-Kutch area of Gujarat were engaged in construction work and used to migrate to places where ever work is available. This was affecting her children's education. In partnership with the Prem Nivas Social Development Trust in Lodai and with the Rs. 5,000 (\$125 Cdn) subsidy received from SAFP and contributing some money from their family savings she bought a small cement mixer. Thus they were able to get the contracts in their *own* village and neighbouring villages instead of working for another contractor. The outcome of the support from the Community Development Program by SAFP and partners is that Devalben doesn't have to migrate to other places to find work. She is able to concentrate on her children's education and make a better life for her and her family. (Picture insert above of Mrs. Devalben)



A Message from Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath, President of SAFP INDIA



I never wanted to give up...

Recently I met a young woman who does cleaning in one of the institutions and earns meager income to support her young family. She looked so happy and while talking to her I asked whether she ever contemplated if she would like to die. I had a reason to ask this: she has been widowed at the age of 27, her husband dying of cancer leaving two children behind. She was left alone to raise the two children while dealing with their own emotional life. She never worked outside the house while her husband was alive. They had only six years of married life. She was a young woman then, quite attractive, and there were many young men who wanted to make use of her. She resisted all that, raised the children with her sweat and blood: one is in grade 10 now and the other in grade 7. They are great children who care about others. She shared with me that she never contemplated ending her life, even though life had been very hard on her. She said that her faith in God and people have been the saving grace in her life. I raised the question to her since it was on the same day I heard one of the richest people in our parish took poison and ended his life, since certain things were not working out according to his plan. What a contradiction... The poor continue to teach me a lot; especially, they teach me how to be happy and content in life. They carry the secret of the kingdom, and that is the reason Jesus said "Blessed are the Poor". While I live out my faith through my head, the poor live their faith through their heart. They believe what the gospel tells them, while I may not believe many of the important lessons the Bible talks about, but I am sure that my connection with them keeps me grounded and happy. They teach me that it is in little things one may be able to show faithfulness. Being human is the greatest gift one can profess, and there is no point in being anxious, because we are not the rulers of the world.

Save A Family Plan continues to share its life with the poor: it is not an easy journey since we do not have many of the answers. We often wonder why human beings do not share their gifts with each other, why some are left alone in life to fend for themselves, why life is so hard on many of the poor, and why they are being misunderstood by society. Our journey takes us to the 45th year of service. I have been lucky to be part of this organization and I am sure that you too feel the same. Let us walk together searching, hoping and praying. Many get inspired by our journey and is not that the best witness we could ever give to the world which is waiting for truth and integrity?

SAFP Canada's Board of Directors 2009-2010 Voting Members

Ms. Lois Cote, President
Sr. Joan Atkinson, CSJ, Vice President
Mr. Patrick Mahon, Secretary
Mr. John Willemse, Treasurer
Mr. Jerome Collins
Ms. Colleen Greidanus
Rev. David Boutette
Rev. Steve Wlusek
Rev. Murray Watson
Rev. William McGrattan

Non-Voting Members

Ms. Lesley Porter, Executive Director
Rev. Mr. Mark Morley, Student Representative
Ms. Patty Keffer, SAFP Staff

Our Sincere thanks to...

- The trustees, staff and volunteers of SAFP India and Aiswaryagram
- Over 12,000 generous donors
- Dedicated volunteers, including: board members, individuals, members of Community Living London, seminarians from St. Peter's Seminary, and regional representatives
- Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
- The Canadian High Commission, Delhi, India
- Canadian Social Service for Anglo-Indians (CSSAI)
- Canoffer Society of Alberta
- Hyatt Lassaline Chartered Accountants
- Mr. Eugene Sawchuck, LLB
- Social Justice & Peace Studies Program staff and students and The Centre for Social Concern, King's University College, University of Western Ontario
- Ontario Council of International Cooperations (OCIC)
- RAYJON SHARECARE of Samia, Inc.
- Solidarity in Action Committee (SIA)
- St. Peter's Seminary
- TD Commercial Bank
- The Roman Catholic Diocese of London
- Third World Support Services (TWSS)
- Wellington West Capital, Inc.

SAVE A FAMILY PLAN

P.O. Box 3622
London, ON
CANADA
N6A 4L4

P.O. Box 610157
Port Huron, MI
U.S.A.
48061-1832

Phone: (519) 672-1115
E-mail: safpinfo@safp.org

Fax: (519) 672-6379
Web: www.safp.org

****Check Out SAFP on Facebook and Twitter!**

100% of your donations reaches the poor.

SAFP Charitable Registration Numbers:

BN11914 1943 RR0001 (Canada) 98-600-4051 (USA)