

partnering with the poor  
for a just world



# SAVE A FAMILY PLAN

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## ANNUAL REPORT 2006-2007

[www.safp.org](http://www.safp.org)

*A message from Ms. Lois Côté, President of SAFP Canada...*

This January and February 2007 I had the opportunity to visit India. I traveled, with others, to the North East, South East and South West, to visit our SAFP partners. As you travel north you are aware of larger and deeper pockets of poverty, fewer resources, and heart breaking situations – more gender inequality, bonded slaves, forced prostitution of wives and daughters, etc. You find your hope in the fact that SAFP is there, helping poor people organize to improve their lives. Your deep desire is to want to do more. Globally, our world is certainly more aware of the one billion people in extreme poverty, through the Millennium Development Goals and Make Poverty History campaigns. Celebrities are calling our own countries of Canada and the United States to a more honest commitment, one we must keep. To see people condemned to this inhuman state of poverty forces one to question one's life style, one's way of life.



To all our donors, staff and volunteers, feel encouraged that what we all do is vital. Thank you for your support, hard work, and edifying commitment.

## FAMILY-TO-FAMILY PROGRAM

**The goal of this program is "to enable poor families in India to realize their overall development through promoting and strengthening economic and social development initiatives leading to the formation of a healthy and sustainable society."**

**Objectives:** empowerment of families by promoting their creative participation in sanghams (community-based organizations), sustainable economic independence, leadership, self-mobilized decision making, and asset creation – or, in other words, a self reliant family and community.

**14,582 families** were supported in the Family-to-Family Program in 2006-2007. Our partners in this program included **42 Diocesan Social Service Societies (DSSS)**, **22 Institution Based Rehabilitation Centres** and over **10,000 sanghams** (grassroots community-based organizations/CBOs) throughout the Indian states of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. Over **3,000** dedicated volunteers in India helped to facilitate the program at the local and regional levels and over **13,000** family members participated in some sort of training (eg. Entrepreneurial Development Training) through their sangham/CBO.

In this past year **48%** of families used their assistance to start sustainable livelihood initiatives including agricultural projects, livestock initiatives, small business units, fishing ventures and small production units.

**Mr. Shivadas** lives with his wife and two children in the Kottayam District of Kerala. Several years ago he had an accident at work which resulted in both of his legs being amputated. With the encouragement of the Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS), Mr. Shivadas became a member of a self-help group for the differently abled. He and his family were eventually selected to participate in Save A Family Plan's Family-to-Family program in partnership with KSSS. Mr. Shivadas took up tailoring as a livelihood initiative to support his family while continuing to participate in his self-help group. As well as being able to perform most of the daily living activities required of an able-bodied person, he works in the kitchen and farmyard, draws water from the well, and travels around his village. He makes use of two stools for his mobility.



*Mr. Shivadas, left, discussing his rabbit rearing operation with visiting SAFP Canada Executive Director Lesley Porter*

**16%** of families directed funds toward basic human infrastructure such as house construction, house repair, purchase of land, drinking water facilities, rainwater harvesting tanks, energy conservation systems, and latrine construction.

**64%** of families applied funds to their debts and other expenses such as education of children, medical treatment, loan repayment, and marriage of children.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

**The goal of this program is, "to contribute to the reduction of poverty and ensure the sustainable development of families through participation, empowerment and decentralization processes and capacity building of the partners."**

### **Sustainability through Participation, Empowerment and Decentralization (SPED II 2006-2009)**

SAFP has completed the first year of SPED II, a three-year program partnership with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) that follows the successful implementation of the prior three-year SPED program. The goal of SPED II is to contribute to the reduction of poverty by ensuring the efficient management of natural resources, increased educational status, improved health conditions, and improved economic conditions. With the addition of 13 new Indian partners (for a total of 51), SAFP's community development program outreach is now 116 villages in nine states.

All program activities involve grassroots participatory approaches (eg. participatory rural appraisal/PRA, participatory action research) that promote and support local level knowledge and empowerment through capacity building of stakeholders.



SPED II: Women from Fathimanager Village watershed area using PRA mapping tools for local planning (Marthandam Integrated Development Society, Tamil Nadu)

Recognizing that responsible stewardship of the land and resources upon which local people depend is critical to sustainable development, 32 watershed areas have been targeted; these are being developed using location-specific strategies for rain and soil conservation, waste management, and farming practices (such as rainwater harvesting, paddy cultivation, organic farming, vermicomposting, biogas production, and construction or reconstruction of wells, ponds, water pits/trenches, stone bunds, houses, and sanitary latrines).

60 villages have been targeted for 'Promotion of Basic and Primary Education' activities. These interventions focus on adult functional literacy, re-enrollment of drop-out children, and community awareness of and participation in the educational process.

69 villages targeted for 'Improving the Health Status of Communities' are focusing on community health education and awareness, immunization, health service accessibility, and HIV/AIDS awareness. 19 partners in Kerala

are working with almost 1700 sangham members to promote sustainable livelihood initiatives and to facilitate capacity building that will strengthen that potential for income generation.

Gender equality and environmental consciousness building are integrated into all planning and programming-- Gender and Environmental Impact Assessments (GIA, EIA) are required applications for all interventions, and local language handbooks are used to assist in this process.

Capacity building and promoting good governance are integral to the program's success: planning and evaluation strategies, skill-building, and knowledge acquisition are program priorities at all levels, that help strengthen civil society and enable effective citizen involvement and decision-making at the local level.

### **Public Engagement**

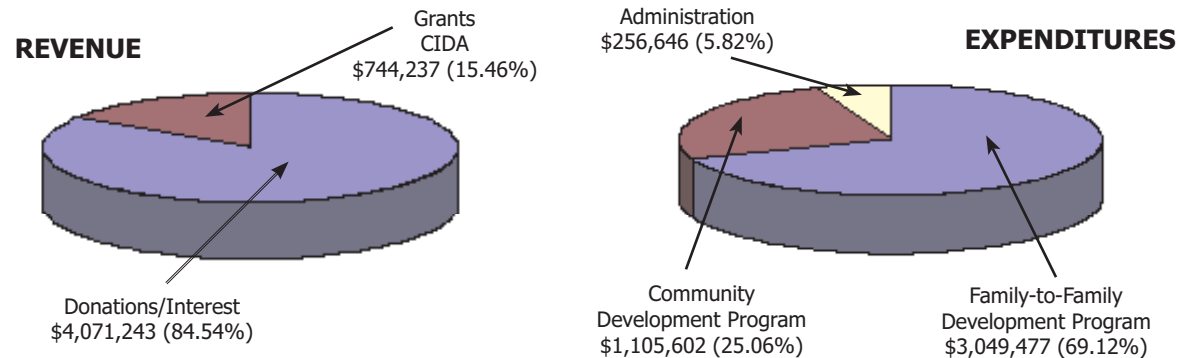
#### *Highlights included:*

- Involvement in 2006 London Regional Social Forum: "*Toward Progressive Social and Ecological Change*"
- Attendance at the *International AIDS Conference* in Toronto, *International Cooperation Days* in Ottawa, *Global Microcredit Summit* in Halifax, *India Social Forum* in Delhi, *Social Justice Now Conference* in London, ON
- Co-hosting "*A Call to Action*", a presentation with Zimbabwean child rights activist Betty Makoni, and "*Microcredit: Helping People Out of Poverty*" with guest speakers A. Sauder (Director of Mennonite Economic Development Association) and Fr. P. Moonjely (visiting Director of SAFP partner Welfare Services Ernakulam, India) in London, ON
- Involvement in *International Development Week* (Feb. 2007): London Public Library display and organizing the London speaking engagements for Zimbabwean author/activist A. Chihota-Charamba
- *Gender Equality Success Story* at CIDA office, Gatineau (presentations by Pres. SAFP India Bishop S. Adayanthrath, and Exec. Director SAFP Canada L. Porter)
- Organizational and board membership in *Ontario Council for International Cooperation* and host for Southwest Regional Group meetings.
- In February, SAFP Directors Lesley Porter and Fr. A. Bharanikulangara were invited to participate in a *Canadian High Commission/CIDA Mission roundtable* in Chennai, India to discuss continued Canadian commitment to reducing poverty in India through effective civil society partnerships and strategic use of aid funding.

At a SAFP 41st Anniversary Celebration and Silent Auction held in October, special acknowledgement was given to the valued contributions of a group of Community Living London volunteers who have assisted weekly in the London office for over ten years.

## Summary of Revenue and Expenditures 2006-2007 for Year Ended March 31, 2007

(from financial statements prepared by KPMG Auditors and approved by SAFPC Board of Directors, June 2007)



**Charitable Registration Numbers: BN11914 1943 RR0001 (Canada) 98-600-4051 (U.S.A.)**

### SAFP Special Projects

- Prem Nivas Social Development Trust, Lodai, Gujarat: support for the Mahila Vikas Sangham/traditional Kutchi handicraft collective, which assists 15 village women's collectives with marketing of their products.
- Cultural Academy for Peace, Kerala: financial support for "Sakhi Program", a short-stay home for women in difficult circumstances (ie. abused/domestic violence, sex workers, HIV/AIDS patients, etc.)
- Kalady Farmers Cooperative Bank, Kerala: funding for the construction of four sanitary latrines and two bathrooms for the residents of the Home
- Calcutta Anglo-Indian Services: "The Tiljallah Project", West Bengal: assisting with basic human needs of 96 elderly and destitute
- Child Labour Eradication Program, Tuticorin Multipurpose Social Service Society (TMSSS), Tamil Nadu: provision of teaching/school materials, uniforms, meal and non-formal education
- Archdiocese of Bangalore, Karnataka: assistance for the construction of the Bangalore Archdiocesan Pastoral and Social Work Centre
- Education/Hostel project, Belgaum District, Karnataka: improvements serving impoverished boys and girls in the Madwal Area of Belgaum.
- Sarvajagatick Viraakta Math, Belgaum, Karnataka: education of poor children and tailoring classes for girls from five villages
- St. Mary's Counselling Centre, St. Mary's Society, Mapusa, Goa: financial assistance for staff salaries for providing counselling services to impoverished individuals and families in the Goa area.
- Pratheeksha Rehabilitation Centre, Kerala: purchase of mini-bus for transportation of physically disabled children to and from hospital and school for treatment, etc.
- Home of Hope/Home of Healing, Kerala: providing psychiatric patients and those with incurable diseases with daily medication
- Hyderabad Social Service Society, Andhra Pradesh: helping to eradicate child labour through sensitization of parents/employers, establishment of non-formal bridge schools (benefitting 200 children)
- Association of the Sisters of the Destitute/Anpakam (Home for Senior citizens), Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu: purchase of solar water heating system to provide hot water for the residents

- House Construction and support for Tribal Primary School: Idukki Highrange Development Society, Kerala
- House Construction for Widows: Tuticorin MSSS, Tamil Nadu
- Medical Treatment (re: cochlear implants) for young man: Ernakulam, Kerala

### Disaster Management & Rehabilitation (DMR)

Through SAFP's tsunami program, 500 families continue to receive \$15 monthly assistance (until 2011) to support income generation projects.

SAFP continues to contribute to an Emergency Relief Fund, which is used to assist families in case of natural disasters such as flood, wind or landslide damage. This will provide for food, shelter, medicine, clothing, and other needs in the event of such catastrophic events.

### SAFP Student Internship Program

In partnership with the Association of Universities and Colleges Canada, Canada Corps (financially supported through CIDA), and King's University College, SAFP accepted two students for a four-month internship in India. This involved researching participatory models and local governance issues with SAFP partners, in the context of SAFP's sustainable development/anti-poverty programs. In another partnership with King's University College, ten Community Service Project interns (Social Justice and Peace Studies) assisted with an International Development Week photo display, and organized a selection of SAFP beneficiary stories/narratives for future publication. SAFP is associated with the Centre for Social Concern at King's, and collaborates on various projects of mutual concern.

**SAFP India Annual General Meeting** was held February 14 & 15. Attending from SAFP Canada were President Lois Côté and Executive Director Lesley Porter. Workshops were held on Good Governance and on Child Labour, the former examining the significant roles of NGOs and civil society in governance, and the latter explaining Indian Child Labour Law as it applies to the exploitative use of children in the workforce.

A message from  
**Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath**  
 President of SAFP India



Our life should be our message...

When British journalists asked Gandhi for a message, his reply was "my life is my message". Gandhi's life was a commitment for the people who stood on the margins of the society and he could very well say that he was quite successful in proposing the cause of the poor should be the main agenda of any nation or institution. He was willing to walk the talk. Through each annual report, SAFP is sending a message to the readers and the message we want to communicate this year is that we are sharpening our efforts to empower the diocesan social service societies to serve God's poor in a most meaningful way. We do it through seminars, workshops, discussions, training etc. Some of the themes that we took up during the past year were women empowerment, good governance, child labor, violence against women etc. We have also reached out to families to help them to change the dynamics earning their income by suggesting to make some shifts in identifying and implementing income generating activities.

The main goal of the organization continues to be helping people to regain their human dignity: this is being done by creating more opportunities to discuss among themselves about their life situations and helping them to take decisions for their lives. We see a big change in the attitudes of our coordinators and animators who are trying to understand this dimension of development and growing towards the same. One needs to believe in people before one can initiate any kind of development.

As we are completing another year of our ministry in assisting the people to take charge of their lives, we are only happy to say that we continue to be faithful to the dream of Msgr Augustine Kandathil who always believed that the poor deserves the best. Our heartfelt gratitude to every one for accompanying in our journey.

areas of operation in India

Andhra Pradesh  
 Chattisgarh  
 Goa  
 Gujarat  
 Karnataka  
 Kerala  
 Madhya Pradesh  
 Maharashtra  
 Orissa  
 Tamil Nadu  
 West Bengal

### Aiswaryagram

SAFP India's headquarters and agricultural training and research centre is at Aiswaryagram (meaning "place of perfect contentment") near Cochin, Kerala in southern India.

[www.aiswaryagram.org](http://www.aiswaryagram.org)

## SAFP Canada's Board of Directors 2006-2007

### Voting members

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### Non-Voting members

Ms. Lesley Porter	Executive Director
Mr. David Stratton, Q.C.	Alberta Representative
Mr. David Butler	Student Representative

### Our sincere thanks to...

- The trustees, staff and volunteers of SAFP India
- Over 12,000 generous donors
- Dedicated volunteers including: Board members, individuals (daily, weekly, monthly), Community Living London (CLL), seminarians from St. Peter's Seminary, and regional representatives
- Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
- The Canadian High Commission, Delhi, India
- Canoffer Society of Alberta
- King's University College, University of Western Ontario
- Ontario Council for International Cooperation (OCIC)
- RAYJON Sharecare of Sarnia, Inc.
- St. Peter's Seminary
- Solidarity in Action (SIA)
- The Roman Catholic Diocese of London
- Third World Support Services, Inc. (TWSS)
- Centre For Social Concern
- Tides Canada Foundation
- Wellington West Capital, Inc.

## Save A Family Plan

*partnering with the poor for a just world*

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