

Partners in Aid

Enduring, Capable Communities

Partners in Aid Ltd
ABN 50 006 946 550

PO Box 42, Narre Warren LPO
VIC 3805 Australia

Phone: 03 9704 6315
Email: admin@partnersinaid.org.au
Web: www.partnersinaid.org.au

Chair's Report 2015 AGM

Amanda Stone – Chair – November 2015

Partners in Aid was formed in 1962 to provide support for struggling rural communities in India and Bangladesh. Following a Strategic Review in 2014 and the development of our first Strategic Plan in 2015, we re-affirmed our guiding principles and values:

- A Vision of enduring and capable communities
- A Mission to improve living standards, capacity and resilience in developing communities with a focus on the Indian sub-continent. To fund and facilitate social and environment projects and child education sponsorship with local partners.
- Values of Integrity, Dignity and Effectiveness.

These values underpin the way we have worked as an organisation since 1962, a volunteer-run organisation with minimal overheads, working in partnership with NGOs in India, Bangladesh and the Philippines to build the capacity of local communities. Our members, donors and supporters have stated over many years that these are the values which they share and are the reason they support our work and that of our partners.

The development of a Strategic Plan this year has identified our priorities as an organisation in a

changing philanthropic environment, and will ensure that we adapt and change as needed over the next 5 years.

We want to document the proud history of Partners in Aid and capture the stories of those long term members, donors and board members who have built the organisation. We will improve our use of technology both internally but also to communicate with existing and potential donors and supporters. We will develop a Volunteer Strategy and develop a volunteer base to both extend the capability of the organisation, but also to include those who are interested in Partners in Aid's activities and wish to be involved in a less formal way. We will develop new sources of funds through establishing a Fundraising Committee, comprising both board and volunteer members.

The board worked hard, donating many hours over weekends to crystallise our priorities, our goals and actions in the development of the Strategic Plan and I would like to thank them for their commitment to a task which was not always an easy process.

Partners in Aid has continued to support projects in India, Bangladesh and the Philippines this year. There have been monitoring and evaluation visits to all projects this year and much has been learned in consultation with our partners about the effectiveness



ACFID CODE

of each project. Project directors will report separately on the achievements of each project as well as what has been learned. I want to acknowledge the workload of all our board members who take responsibility for projects, liaising with and supporting partners, monitoring the use of Partners in Aid funds and evaluating the effectiveness of the projects, reporting to the board with frank and fearless advice, visiting projects (self-funded) and liaising with donors directly in the case of child sponsorship programmes, many hours of unseen administration and PR work. Thank you to Lyn Pickering and Anne Marie Maltby for effectively managing the enormous workload of child sponsorship projects in India; to Glenys Hughes who has persisted with significant communication challenges in the Philippines to finally manage a visit this year followed by a magnificent, informative board report; and to Graham Moore who picked up management of the Bangladesh project from Mary Dunne and wasted no time in visiting the project to understand how our funds are being used first hand and to learn about where this could be more effective.

Partners in Aid has no paid employees so all administrative and governance work is conducted by the board. We could not support our partners without the reliability of our Treasurer Andrea Pickering, our Communications specialist Kristin Aitken, and Secretary Graham Moore. All these roles take many hours and great persistence in ensuring the wheels of the organisations tick over smoothly, that we meet all our regulatory and compliance obligations and we maintain good governance on behalf of our members and donors. Thank you all.

Sadly today two board members have decided to stand down. Phil McMillan joined Partners in Aid two years

ago and has brought a fresh new perspective to our board discussions, challenging perceptions and opening up new ways of thinking about how we operate. Thank you Phil for your contribution and we hope you will continue to be involved in Partners in Aid in a less formal capacity.

Glenys Hughes has been a long term board member, taking responsibility for the Sinangpad project in the Philippines, and liaising between that project and the board despite many difficulties with communications technology. Glenys has provided sound thinking, broad experience and a grounding perspective. Above all she has a strong commitment to the mission and values of Partners in Aid which she has reminded us of when discussions become complex. I wish to pay tribute to Glenys and thank her for her significant contribution over many years.

Partners in Aid has continued to focus strongly on meeting our obligations to our members, donors, partners and the regulatory bodies to which we are accountable during the year.

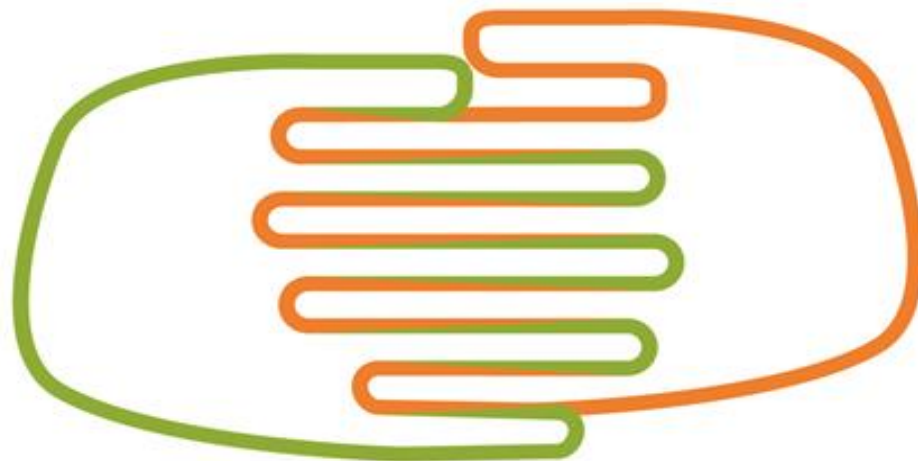
As members of ACFID (Australian Council for International Development), we adhere fully to the ACFID Code of Conduct and this year have updated and improved our policies to more fully meet the ACFID Code. Both ACFID and Partners in Aid have focused on Child Protection policies this year and we are mindful that much of our work involves contact with children. We have instituted a clear, strong Child Protection Policy, communicated to our partners, and a Child Protection Code of Conduct which must be signed and agreed to by all board members and

volunteers. A Working with Children Check has been a requirement for board members and volunteers for some time.

We have updated our website to ensure that anyone with a complaint about Partners in Aid or concerned about a breach of the ACFID Code of Conduct knows how to lodge a complaint and who to contact. In the past year there has been no complaint lodged nor have any child protection issues been raised.

The process of developing a Strategic Plan identified one thing for us – that Partners in Aid does what it does well. We work in partnership with reputable NGOs in India, Bangladesh and the Philippines to build capacity, empower local people and improve livelihoods. We practise integrity – we do what we say and we account for that. And we operate efficiently and effectively- more than 90% of donations go directly to projects on the ground and our donors can see that.

I would like to thank the board for their hard work and perseverance in a period of change and their commitment to continuing the great work of Partners in Aid. Thank you too to our members and our donors without whom we would not exist. And thank you to outgoing board members Glenys and Philip for your contribution.



Partners in Aid

Enduring, Capable Communities



The All Bengal Women's Union provides for under-privileged girls and women in Kolkata. The ABWU provides clothes, food, counseling and education to the girls and women, and encourages them to become self-reliant socially-responsible citizens. The following update comes from Anne-Marie Maltby, ABWU project coordinator.

Joy has just left ABWU after a visit of several days in late January. She left Australia with a lengthy list of things to talk about and will have been very busy with lots of meetings and admin and a day as the Chief Guest and Prize Giver at the ABWU Annual Sports Day. She will be back with lots of news, reports and updates at the end of February and we'll be sending out reports for sponsors and have lots more info for you in the next newsletter.

The only recent news is that ABWU are extremely pleased that we have been able to continue funding for karate training which, as has been discussed before, has been found to improve both the physical and mental wellbeing of the girls. Together with the life skills training that we also fund, they are getting a lot of value out of these activities. I'm reminded of how important they are when I read some of the recent case histories of new girls who need sponsoring. Two sisters were brought in because their violent and alcoholic father had killed their mother with a rock to the head. Another two were brought in after their father abandoned them and their mother was admitted to a mental institution. It's hard to imagine the trauma that these girls have suffered and it is pretty obvious why we want to help ABWU look after them.

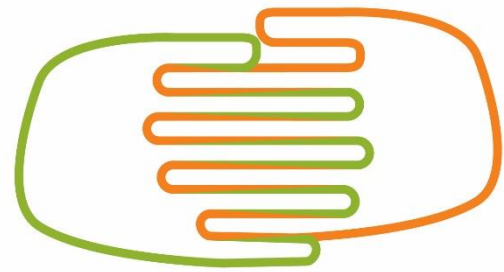
Partners in Aid

On a more positive note, long-term ABWU resident Mita Das was recently married. You will have read about her in previous newsletters.

Thank you to all our sponsors and we look forward to having a bit more to report next time.



Figure 1 Mita Das in her wedding dress.



Partners in Aid

The annual Bayles World Food Day dinner was held this year in February. It was again a resounding success, and our board member Lyn has written about the fun that was had.

World Food Day report

Lyn Pickering (SEDS child sponsorship coordinator)

A lovely balmy evening and good company– what more could you ask? The first time for many years when we haven't had rain on the day. We had 64 adults and 12 young people enjoy a relaxing evening under the stars. The night was almost cancelled due to injuries for both of our hosts, but they were determined to carry on, and did this with plenty of family support.

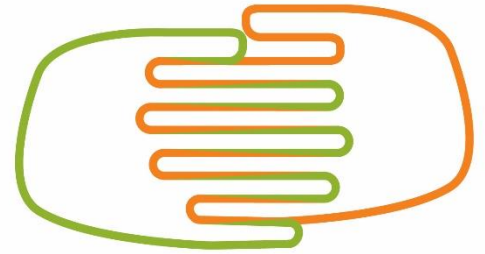
The food as always was wonderful and thanks must go to Andrea and Geoff Pickering who open their home and farm each year for this fundraising activity.

We are fortunate to have friends and family who can help with the planning, set up and running of the evening, and they were thanked on the night.

The final tally is still growing, but we have raised in excess of \$8,000.

THANK YOU to those who came on the night to make it the success it was, and to those who though unable to attend also sent in donations. Your support is appreciated by us, but more importantly it means that we can continue with the good work of Partners in Aid.

Please consider joining us next year. Look for the date in our December newsletter.



Report from Graham Moore, Symbiosis project coordinator.

This month I decided to relate to you an insight into how the project reporting of the Bangladesh projects work. Considering our core values of Integrity, Dignity and Effectiveness, I believe it is important for you to have the utmost confidence in how our partnerships work so that you feel confident to tell your friends, workmates and family about our work and encourage them to consider becoming supporters of projects. More than 90% of donations are spent directly on the projects in the the partner's country rather than administration or staff costs in Australia. This compares very favourably with all other International aid NGOs who report similar 'headline' percentages, but when you read the fine print often includes staff salaries and material purchases in Australia. .

Jamuna River Sandbar (Char) Peoples Development Project (JRDP)

The JRDP project works mainly through facilitating

Partners in Aid

groups of women in the community develop capacity to better their family's lives. Usually, when they form a group they cannot even write their own name. The training your donations support covers not only literacy and numeracy, but also leadership, financial management, awareness of people's rights under law, environmental responsibility, health and reproductive education.

Each quarter Partners in Aid receives a report on the progress of our agreement that governs the spending of your donations against agreed targets. The JRDP has around 40 targets. An example of one from the December 2015 quarter report can be seen in Table 1 below.

Each report also includes an example of a success story. From this quarter's report I relay the story of Jamila. As you read this story keep in mind that it covers almost a decade of struggle and underlines the importance of long term support for community development.

<p>1.6 Financial audit of 18 primary groups (2 times per group per year)</p> <p><i>Table 1 JRDP targets</i></p>	<p>8 primary groups know their financial status, who maintains their books of accounts properly and there are transparency and accountability in financial management.10 groups are week</p>
<p>1.7 Activity based discussion meeting with 45 sustainable groups (2 meetings per group per month)</p>	<p>25 Sustainable groups are able do the planned activities. 20 groups need assistance from SB staff.</p>

Jamila, 37, lives at Judapara of subdistrict Kazipur in Sirajgonj. Judapara is a sandbar area where most of the people are very poor, road communication is very rough. When people want to travel to a health service they have to go a long distance. River erosion of her land is another natural threat, so people living here are facing a lot of problems. During the rainy season, floods destroy their crops; in summer crops yield poorly due to lack of water in the sandy soils. Jamila's husband Hafijul Hoque is a farmer. They have one son.

Jamila had no institutional education; it was difficult to bear the expenses of her family. Her husband's income was not enough to meet the family's needs. They were suffering a lot financially. They have a small piece agricultural land, but the production does not meet their nutritional needs, and one day a flood will erode it away forcing them to search for new land.

However, Jamila was thinking to seek work to earn extra income to contribute to her family. At this moment, JRDP project staff were conducting a survey at Judapara village. Jamila was selected for functional education according to needs-based criteria. Through functional education, she learned to read, write and do simple arithmetic. After completion of functional education, she became a member of a savings group called "Pubali Women's Savings Group" on 06.03.2006. She began to save gradually, total group savings is BDT 92,626; her personal savings is BDT 4,850. Every week, she saves BDT 10.

Jamila received technical training on sewing with a 2 month course from JRDP

office. She learned to sew 12 items of family clothing from patterns she copied into her workbook. Then she took a loan of BDT 2,000 and bought a sewing machine. She was doing tailoring activities in her house. She collected orders from her local community. Her gross daily income is about BDT 120-150 before expenses. Gradually she refunded her loan through instalments. She is contributing to her child's educational expenses from her income. Her aim is to increase the capital and extend her business. She is grateful to Symbiosis for the opportunity provided to develop her capacity and to the mutual support of Pubali Women's savings group.



Figure 2 Jamila sits proudly with her sewing machine.

Basic Technical Training and Low Skilled Jobs Information Program (TTIS) - Sewing

A second story comes from the TTIS project we support in Mymensingh. It is about Mrs Chaina. Because her family already had some income generating activities, she did not qualify for totally subsidised training but had to pay a small fee. Including people like Mrs Chaina in the TTIS classes provides an opportunity for other participants from very poor families to develop networks and begin to learn how income generating activities work from a practical viewpoint.

Mrs. Chaina, 32, was born in Bagerhata, Jamlpur, an area that is famous for handicraft. She was married off at an early age and that's why she could not continue higher study. Her husband is a grocery shop keeper who worked hard to earn and maintain the family. Her husband also worked in other's fields as a day labourer besides his grocery business. Chaina also collects and sells firewood to earn some extra income for her family but still it was not enough for their family where she has two sons and two daughters. Her elder son is 12 and younger one is 9 years old; both are going to school. Another two children are so little. As her family income was not enough to continue education and meet family expense she wanted to find a way to



Figure 3 Women in the TTIS Sewing course learning to copy dressmaking patterns.

solve the problem. One day she talked with a group member of Symbiosis in Jamlpur and she advised her to enrol in the sewing class in the TTIS training centre. After that she met with Selina Akter of Symbiosis and was admitted into the sewing training course with a small fee. She learned 25 items of cloth making in just 3 months course. After completion of her training she began to take orders from customers for sewing their cloths. At the beginning she had no sewing machine of her own. Soon she realised that to earn more money she needs to buy a sewing machine and that's why she talked about it with her husband. Her husband could see it was a sound investment so committed some of the family savings to buy a sewing machine.

Chaina said that “I wanted to learn sewing which I could not do at that time as I was married off in an early age, But now my dream has come true and with the sewing & firewood selling income we able to continue my children's education and maintain my family better than before”.



Figure 4 Mrs Chaina sewing clothes to sell to support her children's education.

THANK YOU TO GLENYS HUGHES

Lyn Pickering (SEDS child sponsorship coordinator)

Glenys has been a valuable member of the team for over 20 years and we cannot thank her enough for her time and effort.

She hosted many dinners for Board members in the city over the years of her involvement, and was supportive of all other fund raising activities.

Glenys, with her husband Roger, hosted a dinner for Nepal in the city, and supported other dinners with visiting people from Vietnam, India and Bangladesh. They also hosted some fundraising theatre evenings at their home which were always a fun event.

Other areas Glenys helped were:

- Sinangpad Healthy Village Project;
- Tin shakes on street corners in Dandenong;
- Annual Dinner dances in Dandenong; and
- Annual dinners at Bayles.

Being involved for a period of 20 + years, Ian and I have come to value the time that both she and Roger have given Partners in Aid over many years, and along with that, we have become good friends with like-minded people and that has been one of the bonuses of our association.

**Thank
You!**

ACFID CODE OF CONDUCT

The ACFID Code of Conduct is a voluntary, self-regulatory sector code of good practice that aims to improve international development outcomes and increase stakeholder trust by enhancing transparency and accountability of signatory organisations. Partners in Aid is committed to the Code, of which we are a signatory and have been for many years.

If you feel Partners in Aid has breached the ACFID Code of conduct you can visit <http://www.acfid.asn.au/code-of-conduct/complaints> to make a complaint directly to ACFID.



COMPLAINTS POLICY

All complaints should be addressed to the Board Chair and will be treated seriously, acknowledged promptly and resolved within 2 months.

Keep in Touch	
	www.partnersinaid.org.au
	@PartnersinAid
	Partners in Aid

WORKPLACE GIVING

Partners in Aid is registered with CAF Australia, the Charities Aid Foundation. CAF is a not-for-profit “dedicated to getting the best for charities and their donors”. They facilitate workplace giving programmes for some of the largest organisations in Australia. If you work for anyone from Australia Post, JB Were, Queensland Police Service, REA Group, Shell Development, Staples, Suncorp Insurance, Medibank, NAB, Qantas, Stockland, Thiess, Toyota and more, you can nominate Partners in Aid as a beneficiary of your workplace giving dollars.

CAF is about to undergo a name change to Good2Give. You can read more about the organization at these links: <http://www.cafaustralia.org.au/about-us/> and <http://www.good2give.org.au/workplace-giving/>

GOODWILL WINE

As we have noted in earlier newsletters, you can now enjoy quality wine and support Partners in Aid projects at the same time.

We have joined Goodwill Wine, who offer high quality wines at excellent prices. For every case of wine sold, a proportion goes directly to Partners in Aid, with no overhead costs.

Goodwill Wine has been established to support charities and not-for-profit organisations.

For further details go to <http://www.goodwillwine.com.au/charities/partners-in-aid> – you can order wines or buy gift vouchers.

Partners in Aid Donation Form



Partners in Aid

Donations

I would like to make a general donation to Partners in Aid

I would like to make a donation to (circle/note where applicable):

ABWU (orphan trip/sewing supplies/books/project support)

SEDS (stationery/school bag/check-up/sewing machines/project support)

Symbiosis Bangladesh (stationery/garden/teacher/project support)

Child Sponsorship

I would like to begin/continue (please circle) to sponsor a child at ABWU/SEDS (Please circle and note in the box number of children you would like to sponsor)

Please tick the appropriate payment box:

3 months = \$60

6 months = \$120

12 months = \$240

Total amount enclosed

\$

(donations and child sponsorship)

If paying by EFT please email admin@partnersinaid.org.au for bank account details. If paying by cheque, make it out to Partners in Aid and send to PO Box 42, Narre Warren LPO, VIC 3805

Name for receipt: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email (for internal use and occasional updates): _____

Gifts of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible (receipt will be issued)

Thank you for your support