

Newsletter

September 2017

Partners in Aid

Enduring, Capable Communities

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Simones

The annual Bright Luncheon is on again!

It's always a fabulous day out at Simone's of Bright, raising funds for the ABWU in Kolkata. Bright is glorious in the springtime and this event is not to be missed if you're in the area.

This year the luncheon will be held on Monday 30 October. Cost will be \$30.

Further details of the lunch can be found by contacting Joy Handley at:
partnersinaid@gmail.com

We'd like to take this opportunity to again publicly thank and acknowledge Patrizia who has closed Simones but is adamant that the luncheon must go on! This will be the 18th year that Patrizia Simone & family have run the luncheon, which always raises much needed funds for the girls at the ABWU. Thank you Patrizia!



It's almost Christmas! We have some gift ideas detailed below that might help sort out your Christmas shopping list.

Partners in Aid 2017 AGM

November 11, 2017, 10 am to 4 pm.
Level 10, Freshwater Place, Southbank
Keep an eye out for more information on how you can come to celebrate our year's achievements.

Very good results for the Child Sponsorship program at SEDS in India



Lyn Pickering – Sponsorship Co-ordinator

Over recent weeks, letters have gone out to sponsors with photos of their students receiving a new set of clothes. After being contacted some years ago with a request to recognise a birthday OR Christmas for students, Manil and I agreed to have one present each year, to be given out at SEDS in late December or January at the monthly activity for students. This system has worked well for a long time, and the gift of clothing, remains acceptable to the families of the students.

School reports have been released for the Year 10 students, with very good results overall. Sravani scored 9.7, and Netravathi 8.3 from the same school. The Mandal (or zone) has 8 secondary schools i.e. from Year 6 -10 where our students attend. I found the results for Sravani and Netravathi especially rewarding as the secondary school these two girls attended, has never enjoyed this type of academic success since the commencement of

the sponsorship scheme in 1995. Credit is due to the newer and inspirational teachers who have come to their school, however there has been a noticeable higher academic success rate throughout the Mandal at the others schools also. Six of the seventeen Year 10 students passed all other subjects, but failed the Maths exam only. They have been able to re-sit this exam, with results due out later in the year. The majority of our students complete their sponsored studies at the end of Year 10 with a small number of exceptions.

Last year five students were given the opportunity to continue to Year 11 with support. Their results were mixed, with three students continuing to Year 12 this year. All other level reports have been slowly coming in and will be sent out later this year. The Government are planning a new computer system for entering results for all student levels. We hope this will assist them and us in the future with the earlier release of reports.

Girls, particularly have been the higher scorers, however there are many more girls currently on the sponsorship program. In the past year we have taken in more boys, due in part to requests by CEO



Manil at SEDS, and the need to allow all students the opportunity to attend school. Sponsors will still retain the right to request a girl or boy.

My sincere thanks are sent to all our sponsors who continue to give the students the gift of an education. Your support is much appreciated.

To potential new sponsors – please consider sponsoring a child – in your name, for a family member, or do this as a friendship or work group. The rewards for the students are very obvious, but you might enjoy the experience as well. Contact me if you would like to know more at email - lipicker@bigpond.net.au

News just in - - SIX students, re-sat the Maths exam, and all but one have now received their Year 10 PASS Certificate A fantastic result for our Year 10 students.

*As per our policies, images of children appear with permission of their guardian.



Sinangpad Healthy Village Project

Dr Cecily Neil – Project Director

In their Healthy Village Project, the Sinangpad Association focuses on enabling communities to themselves reduce the health risks in their village. Although small grants are made to fund the purchase of materials to help families construct sanitary toilets, pig pens etc., the Project emphasis is on mobilizing human resources, rather than just providing infrastructure.

However, Sinangpad Association has been delighted to recently receive funding from Rotary Club Hawthorn to implement the construction of a much-needed toilet in the elementary school in Pantikian community, which is a recent participant in the Healthy Village Project. This School Toilet Project will run in parallel to the ongoing Healthy Village Project.



The road to Pantikian



Discussions regarding the proposed school toilet (Dr Neil & local villagers)

Keep in Touch

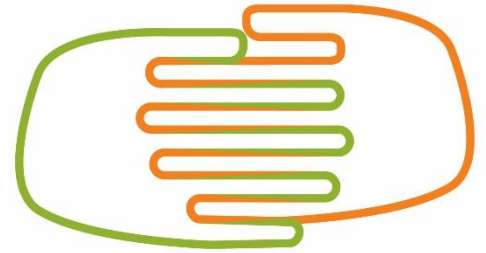
 www.partnersinaid.org.au

 [@PartnersinAid](https://twitter.com/PartnersinAid)

 [Partners in Aid](https://www.facebook.com/PartnersinAid)

 admin@partnersinaid.org.au

*Images have been provided by Dr Neil following her most recent project visit.



Floods ravage Jamuna River

Graham Moore - Project Director

Partners in Aid

The Bangladesh Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre on 16th August was reporting flood levels within a few centimetres of the record floods in 1998. On the 17th, the website was not operational.

In 1998, at this water level, 68% of the total land area of Bangladesh was inundated. There was no escape. While we do not have first-hand reports from the Jamuna River Development Project, which is supported by Partners in Aid, it is inevitable that all the community groups we support will be severely affected and will need our ongoing support when the floodwaters recede.

This photo, courtesy of the [Daily Star newspaper](#), gives a glimpse of what life may be like in the villages where our women's groups operate.



Source: <http://zeemapsimages.s3.amazonaws.com/41e85f6de5ba60fa724252a4088c2508-Sirajganj-flood-wb.jpg>

A short video showing the breadth of the impact can be seen at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1eLEnZO8MA>

Please keep your support for the project coming in. Anyone wishing to sponsor a women's self-help group can contact me at: symbiosis@partnersinaid.org.au I'd love to hear from our supporters.



AUSTRALIAN
COUNCIL
FOR
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

This is to certify that

Partners in Aid

is a signatory to the

ACFID Code of Conduct

and is committed to full adherence to its requirements,

These good practices ensure transparency and accountability, improve international development effectiveness and increase stakeholder trust.

Compliance reporting requirements have been met for the year ending

30 June 2016

Ms Clare Petre

Chair of ACFID Code of Conduct Committee

26 June 2017

Partners in Aid recently received our ACFID Code of Conduct certificate. Compliance is an onerous task but one we take seriously. It ensures our supporters know we are transparent, recognized, and that if there is a problem (not that there ever would be!), there is someone to turn to.

ACFID unites Australia's non-government and international development organisations to strengthen their collective impact against poverty. The Code of Conduct, and our adherence to that, ensures best practice across the board. From policies to procedures to reporting, Partners in Aid is dedicated to ensuring your support achieves maximum impact.

The Board has worked very hard on again meeting this milestone. We'd like to particularly thank Amanda Stone, our previous Chair, for all her hard work. More recently, our current Chair Dr Cecily Neil and our Secretary Dr Graham Moore have undertaken more work with the assistance of the Board.

ABWU

We were delighted to receive the following letters from two of our sponsors – it's feedback like this that make our commitment more meaningful and helps us to continue.



A Letter from a Sponsor #1

Dear Lyn, Ian, Joy and all the wonderful staff at Partners in Aid,

It has been my privilege to be a sponsor of various girls at ABWU for about 25 years.

While the staff often thank the donors, who are of course vital, I would like to share with you my great appreciation for the great work that you all do so selflessly.

As one of the smaller NGOs, you keep us informed as to all the work that is carried out for the individuals as well as the communities to which you are committed. All this from the actual places, which you visit at your own expense to bring us accurate updates, with photos.

The work done by ABWU is so important, as anyone who has seen the movie *Lion* will be cognisant of the plight of so many hundreds of thousands of children, who exist on the streets of Calcutta. They are not only poor, abandoned, hungry and lonely but are at risk of terrible exploitation.

By contrast ABWU provides a safe and loving environment for girls, together with an education to stem the flow of poverty. They gain a stable home and self-confidence and independence. My visit there in 1994 had a great impact on me, mainly for the love that was evident between the girls and the staff, which is beyond price!

The diligence and total commitment of all the staff at Partners in Aid are to be praised, and I, personally would like to give you my heartfelt thanks for all the years of dedicated service you have given. It is nothing short of AMAZING! Thank you so much to each and every one of you.

With warmest regards,

Heather

P.S. I wish I lived nearer so that I could meet all of you!

A Letter from a Sponsor #2

Dear Joy and Anne-Marie,

Thank-you for your letter regarding Sabana.

I am pleased that Sabana has been accepted into the Hospitality Training School and yes, I will be happy to continue to sponsor her for the next 2 – 3 years – that is if I survive that time – I’m 87 years old and realise one’s time can come along at any time.

Yes Joy, I have been with the charity for 55 years when it was under Len Reid with “For Those Who Have Less”. I can remember our first girl – Geetharani at the Madurai Childrens Home in South India. I guess she is a grand-mother by now.

This also reflects on the wonderful work you have done Joy, over the many years and the many, many girls that owe their lives and well-being to you.

Best wishes, Coral



Image sourced from Google Images 29/08/2017

Christmas Gifts and Donations

This Christmas why not consider making a donation to one of our projects as an alternative to buying a traditional gift for family or friends? You'll be making a very positive difference to the lives and prospects of disadvantaged and vulnerable people, while avoiding the shopping hustle and bustle and queuing for a parking space too!



You can also make a general project donation if you prefer, or set up a child sponsorship at ABWU or SEDS. A general donation will be used in supporting any of our projects needing funds at the time of your donation.

We are happy to provide a gift certificate on request; please email us if you would like to arrange a gift.

Here are some ideas for each of our project areas.

Sinangpad, Philippines

Any donation towards helping communities make their village environments healthier through:

- ❖ Training villagers in community health development and facilitating their planning to create a healthier village
- ❖ Mentoring villagers implementing plans to make their village healthier
- ❖ In some cases, providing funding for materials necessary to enable villagers to construct simple infrastructure such as toilets and pig pens to reduce health risks, especially to children.

Symbiosis, Bangladesh

- ❖ Writing materials and books for school \$15 per set
- ❖ Kitchen garden materials \$50
- ❖ Super Kris Kringle – sponsor women's self-help group (\$500/year for a group of 20)

ABWU

Any donation towards:

- ❖ The orphans' holiday fund
- ❖ Sewing supplies
- ❖ School text books

SEDS

- ❖ \$15 provides a fruit tree for the Low Carbon Farm orchards
- ❖ \$50 provides fish fingerlings for the full water tanks
- ❖ \$240 to sponsor a Low Carbon Farming group for one year

Any donation towards:

- ❖ Medical fund for students

Complaints Policy

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



Partners in Aid is proud to be registered with the ACNC, a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct, and registered with Consumer Affairs Victoria. Whilst compliance is an onerous task for a volunteer organisation, we are committed to maintaining transparency, in which you can be confident your funds are going to where they are needed most – to those in India, Bangladesh and the Philippines.



ACFID CODE

ACFID Code of Conduct

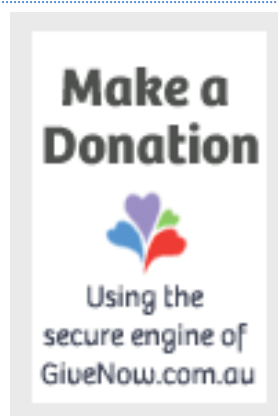
The ACFID Code of Conduct is a voluntary, self-regulatory sector code of good practice that aims to improve international development outcomes and increase stakeholder trust by enhancing transparency and accountability of signatory organisations. Partners in Aid is committed to the Code, of which we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



Membership is only \$25 a year, and goes a long way in our administrative costs, ensuring donated funds go to the projects not postage stamps!! Membership also entitles you to vote at our AGM, or nominate a proxy.

Please contact us if you're interested in taking on a membership.



GiveNow is an initiative of the Our Community Foundation, a not-for-profit program established through the financial support of www.ourcommunity.com.au and Westpac. Their manifesto is:

"You have the power to make a difference, to build a better community, to shape our country, our world."

Partners in Aid is registered with them, which means you can make a donation using their secure, online portal at this link:

<https://www.givenow.com.au/partnersinaid>

As we have noted in earlier newsletters, you can enjoy quality wine and support Partners in Aid projects at the same time. For every case of wine sold, a proportion goes directly to Partners in Aid, with no overhead costs.

For further detail, go to:

<http://www.goodwillwine.com.au/charities/partners-in-aid>

You can order wines or buy gift vouchers.



You can make a donation to Partners in Aid through PayPal. You can select a specific item, such as fish fingerlings for tanks in India, or a general donation. Making a general donation gives the Board of Partners in Aid the greatest flexibility in using your contribution. Please use the comment field in the Paypal form if you would like your general donation to go to a project or item not listed on our donation page, at this link:

<http://partnersinaid.org.au/how-to-help/>

PayPal™

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/self-defense training support)

\$

SEDS (stationery/health check-up/bee hives/fruit trees/fish fingerlings)

\$

Symbiosis Bangladesh (stationery/garden/sewing machine/women's group support)

\$

Sinangpad Healthy Village Project (toilets, vegetable patches, community health)

\$

Child Sponsorship

I would like to begin/continue (please circle) to sponsor a child at ABWU/SEDS (Cost is \$260 per child per year, + optional annual gift \$20)

___ children

x

\$260/280

=

\$

Membership

I would like to begin/continue (please circle) to be a member of Partners in Aid

\$ 25

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

Please help us spread the word about Partners in Aid by passing this newsletter on to family, friends and colleagues once you have read it.

Thank you.