



# PARTNERS IN AID

JUNE - AUGUST  
NEWSLETTER 2021

## Our end of financial year appeal is upon us.

This year we are focusing our fundraising efforts on telling the story of the Sinangpad Healthy Village Project, paying close attention to the need to fund the building of toilets throughout the Kalinga Province.

We will be using our social media channels, Facebook and Instagram, to tell the story of our partnership with the Sinangpad Association. By using these channels, we hope to steadily build more supporters for the project, and ultimately for Partners in Aid.

Working with our Fundraising and Marketing Committee to develop the end of financial year campaign has given me an opportunity to reflect on our partnership with the Sinangpad Association. You can read about the history of our relationship in the Philippines update.

We are also pleased to announce that Partners in Aid has started to support another project. Working with an organisation called YGro in Sri Lanka, Partners in Aid will support sustainable dairy farming initiatives to help alleviate poverty. The project focuses on empowering women-led households in the north-west of the country.

You can read more about this new, 12-month partnership in the Sri Lanka update.

Since our last newsletter, the situation in India has worsened with COVID-19 spreading at an alarming rate. Our thoughts are with all of our partners, particularly those in our SEDS and ABWU programs.

We encourage you to continue to support our programs, especially as we end this financial year.

Warmest wishes,  
Cecily Neil and the Board

[admin@partnersinaid.org.au](mailto:admin@partnersinaid.org.au)

### THIS ISSUE:

Page 02-03  
Donation  
Opportunities

Page 04 - 9  
Project Updates

Page 10  
Other ways to  
support Partners  
in Aid



# HOW TO GIVE

## HOW TO GIVE:

Because Partners in Aid has no paid staff, our overheads are very low. This means nearly all the money donated goes directly to our partner organisations. All donations are tax deductible. There are a number of ways you can support Partners in Aid projects, including making a general donation, making a donation directly to one of our projects, buying items from one of our partners or leaving a gift in your will. You can donate by:

- Leaving a bequest
- Direct Bank Transfer
- Cheque
- Online at [My Cause](#) or [GiveNow](#)
- Purchase from our [Goodwill Wine](#) Partners

## BEQUESTS

A gift in your will, no matter what size will make a significant difference to the work of Partners in Aid. You can bequest cash, a percentage of your estate or a residuary gift. All bequests are welcome and there are no fees. We use bequests to assist with the continual development and improvements of all our programs. We recommend that you seek professional advice from your solicitor or financial advisor in planning a bequest. For more information or a confidential conversation please contact Cecily or Lyn on 03 9704 6315 or e-mail [admin@partnersinaid.org.au](mailto:admin@partnersinaid.org.au).

## BANK TRANSFER OR CHEQUE

Details to donate through bank transfer or cheque can be found on the next page. Please ensure that bank transfers have the details of your name and the direction of your donation.

If forwarding a cheque, fill in the newsletter page or write a note with name and direction of your donation or email [admin@partnersinaid.org.au](mailto:admin@partnersinaid.org.au) to advise your payment and where you would like it allocated.

## ONLINE AT MY CAUSE / GIVENOW

You can make a one off or regular tax-deductible donation through platform My Cause or Give Now (click links below)

- [My Cause](#)
- [Give Now](#)

## GOODWILL WINE PARTNERSHIP

You can also 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. You can order individual bottles or corporate and personal gift packs. Order your wines or buy gift vouchers by [placing your order here and support Partners in Aid](#).

# HOW TO GIVE:

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

\$

I would like to make a specific donation to one of the below projects (please indicate which project)

## Bangladesh: Symbiosis Bangladesh

- \$10 could buy school stationary for 1 week
- \$30 could buy tailoring supplies
- \$200 could buy a sewing machine

\$

## India: SEDS Sustainable Agriculture Project

- \$10 could buy 1000 Fish fingerlings to stock tanks
- \$50 could employ a SEDS staff member for 1 month
- \$200 could hire a tractor for 1 week

\$

## Philippines: Sinangpad Healthy Village Project

- \$35 could buy materials to enable a family to build a household sanitary toilet
- \$50 could buy health training for communities

\$

## CHILD SPONSORSHIP

I would like to begin/continue to sponsor a child at SEDS / All Bengal Women's Union  
Cost is \$260 per child per year, + optional annual gift \$20

\$

## MEMBERSHIP

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

\$ 25

## BANK TRANSFER & CHEQUE

Total amount enclosed (donations and child sponsorship):

EFT details: Partners in Aid, BSB/Acct: 033686/162354, with your surname as reference. Please email [admin@partnersinaid.org.au](mailto:admin@partnersinaid.org.au) to arrange a receipt and confirm where you would like the donation directed. If paying by cheque, please make it out to Partners in Aid, and post 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 or more are tax deductible (a receipt will be issued).

TOTAL

\$



# PHILIPPINES: SINANGPAD HEALTHY VILLAGE PROJECT

PROJECT DIRECTOR: DR CECILY NEIL

**Dr Cecily Neil, Sinangpad Health Village Project Director and Chairperson of Partners in Aid reflects on a long, strong partnership with the Sinangpad Association in the Philippines Kalinga Province.**

I first met Val Pis-o, a key figure in the Sinangpad Association which implements the Sinangpad Healthy Village Project, just after I had joined an AusAID-funded project in the Philippines. I was at a project meeting when a voice behind me demanded: "When are you going to come to Kalinga?" I turned to see Val, then the Kalingan AusAID Community Development Officer. That was 17 years ago – and I still have the pleasure of visiting her regularly.

Val is a quiet achiever. It didn't take long before I realised she was one of the project's best Community Development Officers. During the three and half years of the AusAID project, Val and the team of health workers and NGO representatives with whom she worked, helped residents of many villages, through training and managing small grants for health-related activities, to reduce environmental risks to their health.

When the AusAID project ended, Val and her colleagues tried to continue the various initiatives. However, as often happens with large bilateral projects, when the funding ends, so do the many of the initiatives implemented by the project. So, about 13 years ago, I was delighted when, following a major donation, Partners in Aid agreed to support the Sinangpad Association and to fund the Sinangpad Healthy Village Project. The project has now spread to more than 60 villages and helped to reduce the prevalence of food, water-born and vector-borne diseases by helping villagers build sanitary toilets, improved drainage, waste disposal facilities and pig pens. Funding a project like the Healthy Village Project over a relatively long period of time, expanding its reach, and improving strategies by constantly learning from experience, is what sets Partners in Aid apart from many other NGOs – we establish long-term relationships with in-country partners so they can make significant, sustainable behavioural changes in the area in which they work.



"AS LOCALS,  
VAL AND HER  
TEAM EMPLOY  
GREAT  
CULTURAL  
SENSITIVITY IN  
THEIR WORK."

Dr Cecily Neil



### **Pig Freedom Day**

As locals, Val and her team employ great cultural sensitivity in their work. An example of this cultural sensitive is Pig Freedom Day. Pigs, a source of food and income, traditionally roam the village freely. Roasted Pig is an important part of ceremonial feasts, so pigs can also have spiritual significance. In one village, the residents were worried about penning their pigs in case it would upset the spirits. Finally, they came up with the idea of penning pigs but instituting Pig Freedom Day: once a month pigs are allowed to roam the village. Now, keeping the pigs mainly penned has decreased the incidence of skin infections and parasites that can affect children who play in an area where pigs roam.

### **The Impact of COVID-19**

Last year the Sinangpad Healthy Village Project slowed as COVID-19 spread across the globe. Most of the villages were locked down to slow the spread. This meant that the Sinangpad Association has not been able to visit the villages. Construction of sanitary toilets has also slowed as cement has become increasingly difficult, and at one stage impossible, to attain. Most of the Sinangpad Association members are health workers, so they have been working on the frontline during the pandemic. This has led to some of the workers and their families, including Val's, contracting COVID-19. Fortunately, Val and her family are now fully recovered. As soon as the pandemic is over the Sinangpad Association will be back in the villages delivering training programs and helping to provide materials that will enable residents to construct simple infrastructure that will make healthier behaviour possible. In particular, it will be helping to eliminate open defecation, village-by-village, providing the materials that will enable all households, with some supervision, to construct their own sanitary toilet.



"THE VILLAGE  
CAME UP WITH  
PIG FREEDOM  
DAY WHERE  
ONCE A  
MONTH PIGS  
ARE ALLOWED  
TO ROAM THE  
VILLAGE."

Dr Cecily Neil



# BANGLADESH: SYMBIOSIS PROJECT

PROJECT DIRECTOR: DR ROGER HUGHES,  
SUPPORTED BY JACQUIE O'BRIEN

**Partners in Aid works with Symbiosis in Bangladesh on two projects which aim to build the capacity, resilience and socio-economic status of impoverished communities. The Bangladesh Technical Training and Information Support (TTIS) Program provides vocational training in sewing, with the majority of participants being women. The Jamuna River Development Project (JRDP) aims to help communities living on islands in the Jamuna River through education, improved literacy, micro-finance and health projects.**

Partners in Aid's main Bangladesh project on the Jamuna River appears to have escaped the worst of COVID-19, but like all of Bangladesh, it is in week six of a total lockdown. The same, unfortunately, cannot be said for our other project that focuses on textile training. While it is hard to get exact details of the number on the full impact of COVID-19 in the country, the infection rate appears to be dropping.

There is one more year to run of the current round of our (three year) projects in Bangladesh. Over the years that we have worked with Symbiosis Bangladesh, we have seen it develop into a strong organisation that has been able to weather the current viral crisis.

Partners in Aid has a philosophy that once a partner organization we have been supporting has the capacity to bring about long-term, sustained change without our support, we can step out of those projects in favour of building up the support and capacity of other projects and partners. It looks like we are reaching the point where Symbiosis Bangladesh has evolved into a strong organisation with multiple sources of external funding. We would like to hear from our donors to the Bangladesh projects about your views on where we go next with these two projects.



## LET US KNOW

Email Roger and Jacquie  
and let us know your  
thoughts on where to next  
for our Bangladesh  
program support  
[admin@partnersinaid.org.au](mailto:admin@partnersinaid.org.au)

# INDIA: SEDS PROJECTS

PROJECT DIRECTOR: AMANDA STONE

**SEDS was founded in 1980 by Rajen Joshua and Manil Jayasena as a grassroots development NGO, motivated by the desire to help communities in the drought-prone area of Ananthapur District in Andhra Pradesh. Partners in Aid has funded the de-silting of 3-4 tanks each year since 1992, and has recently been able to fund an innovative Low Carbon Funding project, enabling poor farmers to trade carbon credits on the world market, as well as a tailoring project providing life skills to village women.**

## **SEDS Tank Desilting**

As we watch the public health crisis unfolding in India, our thoughts have been with our partners at SEDS and the communities they work with. With the region in lockdown once more until at least the end of May, and mistrust and confusion rife, it is a very difficult time for these communities. Despite this, the important work of tank desilting continued until the recent lockdown, with 2 key tanks desilted in late March and early April at Cherukur and Budipalli. Best of all, good rains are forecast this year. In fact, shortly after a 3000 cubic metre tank was excavated at Cherukur, welcome rains came and filled the tank. Thirty-seven farmers participated in this project, contributing half the funds and benefitting from the increased water table the tank will provide.

The slightly larger 3300 cubic metre tank at Budepalli had to accommodate several mature trees which will enjoy the extra water when the tank fills. Some 46 farmers were involved in the Budepalli tank desilting, and excavated 1000 loads of silt to go back on farms, enriching the soil. The scale and labour intensity of this work is seen in the volumes of silt removed. With no other sources of funding, Partners in Aid's investment in the tank desilting program remains one of the most valued in our partnership with SEDS.



## PROJECT IMPACT

"Partners in Aid's investment in the tank desilting program remains one of the most valued in our partnership with SEDS."

Amanda Stone

# INDIA: SEDS CHILD EDUCATION PROGRAM

PROJECT DIRECTOR: LYN PICKERING

**The SEDS child education sponsorship program was set up in late 1994. Sponsorship of a child's education covers expenses including books, uniforms, shoes, school fees, monthly visits to SEDS for cultural and sporting activities, and health checks.**

At the time of writing this update, I was happy to report that the students, from 5 to 16 years of age, had returned to school. The school year was extended to the end of June so students could catch up on studies and sit their exams. We were worried that many students would not return to school because they would begin working in the agricultural fields. Fortunately, most did return to school, with only a small number starting work.

If COVID has taught us anything, however, it is how quickly things can change. SEDS CEO Mrs Manil Joshua has told me that the schools have closed again. So too has the SEDs office and other businesses, and overnight curfews are in place. Vaccinations are being administered in the villages for people over 45 years and SEDS staff in this category have received their first vaccine.

During 20 visits to India since 1994, I have been privileged to visit hospitals in Bangalore and larger towns. I have met many doctors, specialists, dentists, and other care workers who have run health care camps in villages in all areas of medicine. The poorer communities of India, however, rarely have access to good hospital and healthcare, but many doctors that we have met during our visits often provide care for free so they can help keep their local communities safe.

We are lucky to live in a country like Australia where access to healthcare is a given and standards of care are very high. Our students have access to high quality education and we, as parents can help them choose the best education pathway. Keep India in your thoughts and your prayers. If you have family and friends in other countries, like we do, I know you will be thinking of them too.

I hope that by my next update, I can share good news about the situation in India. Thank you to our child education sponsors. I like to hope that my next news either via our newsletter, or to the many SEDS sponsors separately, will see more positive outcomes for everyone.



## PROJECT IMPACT

Since 1995, your support has helped more than 650 students to go to school.



## SRI LANKA: SUSTAINABLE DAIRY FARMING PROJECT

PROJECT DIRECTORS: DR ROGER HUGHES & JACQUIE O'BRIEN

**This project empowers war widows and female-headed households economically through sustainable dairy farming initiatives, with the long-term goal of contributing to the ending the cycle of poverty in Sri Lanka.**

For the next 12 months, Partners in Aid will be supporting a project with Y Gro to work with female dairy farmers, including war widows, so they can earn a decent income and support the education of their children. The project will support 25 dairy farmers by providing selected farmers with cross-breed cows and cow nutrition and aiding in the construction of sheds. The dairy farmers under the program are also connected with government veterinary and animal production health entities to get the veterinary and other relevant services they need for their dairy farms. The project will strengthen the existing initiative of Y Gro in the Koppay and Neerveli villages in the Jaffna district.

We have just signed the agreement with Y Gro, and thanks to a generous donation facilitated by Roger Hughes, we have transferred the first financial support to the project. In the next newsletter, we will bring you more details about how the project is helping the women of the region build sustainable livelihoods through dairy farming.



### PLANNED IMPACT

25 female-headed households will be supported through sustainable dairy farming initiatives.



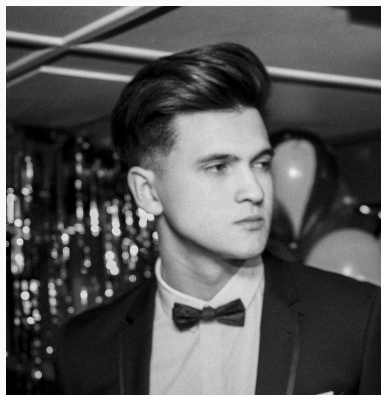
## MEET OUR MARKETING VOLUNTEERS



### **Manet Jagers**

Manet is a recent RMIT graduate and freelance graphic designer, she is passionate about art, social issues and people, all of which are contributing reasons why she enjoys volunteering with Partners in Aid.

*It's rewarding to work with a small group, trying to accomplish big goals, and everyone has something special to bring to the table.*



### **Kiril Dimovski**

Kiril is an emerging marketing professional currently completing his undergraduate degree. His specialist areas include marketing campaign development, social media engagement and brand ambassador relations.

*Working as a Digital Marketing Intern with Partners in Aid provides me great levels of satisfaction knowing my contribution and efforts will enhance the lives of people across the globe.*



### **James Phillpot Schneider**

James is a young and passionate individual that loves marketing and helping others. James enjoys photography and has an interest in video production and media.

*I have loved every minute spent as a volunteer with Partners in Aid as it has allowed me to apply my skills to help make a difference. In addition to this I have been given the privilege to work alongside a highly dedicated and experienced team of volunteers. This experience has helped me grow as a person and is one I will never forget.*



## OTHER FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

As the COVID-19 restrictions ease across the country, we encourage our supporters and members to undertake their own fundraising activities.

Please contact us at [admin@partnersinaid.com.au](mailto:admin@partnersinaid.com.au) if you have any ideas and we can see how we can support you. Some ideas include:

- Virtual trivia
- Dinners or morning teas at home
- Making a donation.

## OIL PAINTING LIMITED OFFER

We currently have a limited offer from our board member Roger Hughes who is offering to paint oil portraits of our sponsored children. If you would like an oil painting of your sponsored child please contact us at [admin@partnersinaid.com.au](mailto:admin@partnersinaid.com.au) or e-mail Roger directly at [Wongarra@hotmail.com](mailto:Wongarra@hotmail.com) to request your oil painting.

We ask that you make a donation (however much you'd like) to Partners in Aid in exchange for the oil painting.

## ACFID



ACFID  
CODE

### ACFID CODE OF CONDUCT

#### Complaints Policy

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

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.

### WHO IS ACFID?

The Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) unites Australia's non-government aid and international development organisations to strengthen their collective impact against poverty. Their vision is of a world where gross inequality within societies and between nations is reversed and extreme poverty is eradicated. Partners in Aid is proud to be associated with such an organization, the peak body for the not-for-profit aid and development sector in Australia.

PHONE: 03 9704 6315  
WEB: [WWW.PARTNERSINAID.ORG.AU](http://WWW.PARTNERSINAID.ORG.AU)  
EMAIL: [ADMIN@PARTNERSINAID.ORG.AU](mailto:ADMIN@PARTNERSINAID.ORG.AU)

PARTNERS IN AID LTD  
ABN 50 006 946 550

PO BOX 42, NARRE WARREN LPO  
VIC 3805 AUSTRALIA