



PARTNERS IN AID

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER
NEWSLETTER 2021

Thank you for your generous support !

Our annual end of financial year appeal raised more than \$24,000. This is an excellent result, especially in these challenging times.

We appreciate every donation. Each donation supports our partners and gives all of us optimism and enthusiasm for the work our partners are currently able to do, and the work that they plan to resume as soon as the pandemic permits.

While we have seen ongoing support for all of our projects, this year's appeal included an increased amount donated to general donations. General donations are critical because they enable the Board to send funding to any of the projects that may need increased support.

COVID-19 continues to be a challenge for all of our partners, many of whom have had their usual work paused while their respective countries fight to contain the virus.

In speaking to each of our partners, however, there is a sense of optimism for the future. People like you have continued to support them and that provides a tremendous boost to their confidence and morale.

So, from the Board and from our partners, thank you for your continued support.

Warmest wishes,
Cecily Neil and the Board

admin@partnersinaid.org.au

'If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito'

Dalai Lama XIV



SYMBIOSIS

THIS ISSUE:

Page 02-03
Donation
Opportunities

Page 04 - 7
Project Updates

Page 8
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

SPECIFIC OR GENERAL DONATIONS:

If you prefer to donate to a specific project sponsored by Partners in Aid, this is best done by bank transfer or cheque. Please include a note with the cheque, a reference note with your bank transfer or follow-up with an email in the case of a bank transfer, indicating the project you would like your donation to go to, so we can be sure that it contributes to the particular cause you would like it to support. General donations can be referenced as 'general'.

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.

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 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) - Note specific donations are best done by bank transfer or cheque.

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.

For donations for a specific project please also include a note with the cheque, a reference note with the bank transfer identifying the project name, or follow-up with an email indicating the project, so we can be sure that it contributes to the particular project you want to support. You can email admin@partnersinaid.org.au to arrange a receipt. If paying by cheque, please make it out to Partners in Aid, and post to PO Box 42, Narre Warren LPO, VIC 3805

TOTAL

\$

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).



PHILIPPINES: SINANGPAD HEALTHY VILLAGE PROJECT

PROJECT DIRECTOR: DR CECILY NEIL

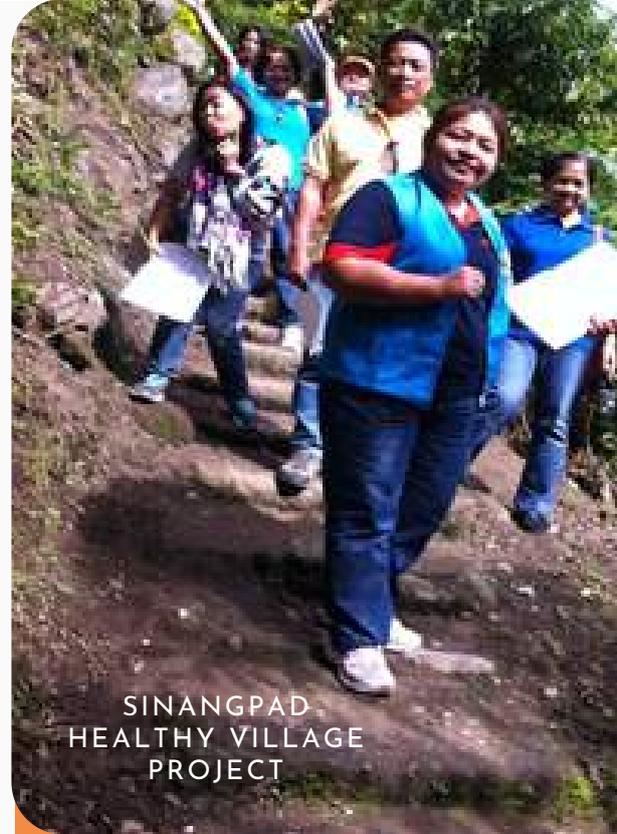
Dr Cecily Neil, Sinangpad Health Village Project Director and Chairperson of Partners in Aid reflects on a long, strong partnership with the Sinangpad Association in the Philippines Kalinga Province.

Very little is currently happening with the Sinangpad Healthy Village Project in Kalinga – the province is still coping with COVID-19, and a number of the key members of the Sinangpad Association are medical staff, doing great work on the frontline.

While we are waiting for the project activities to resume, I thought I would take the opportunity to write a little about the Province of Kalinga. The province is divided into 8 municipalities, which encompass 152 barangays (communities). While some of these communities have up to 300 households, most are smaller, with around 100-150 households living there. Currently, just under half these communities have been, or are still, participating in the Sinangpad Healthy Village Project.

The western part of the province is mountainous, with steep slopes and sharp peaks. It is incredibly beautiful, although sometimes it is a challenge not to keep one’s eyes squeezed shut – the much of the road network in the mountainous areas consists of narrow, winding dirt roads with a very steep drop a long way down on one side. Landslides are also a problem in the typhoon season.

The economy is agricultural, the main crops being rice and corn. Rice is the staple food in the Filipino diet, and considered an essential part of any meal. While modern farming methods are adopted on the Kalingan flatlands, in the mountains some native rice is still grown by traditional methods. Extensive rice terraces exist in places, some of which form a cultural landscape that has evolved over a period that can be traced back over two millennia.



VACCINE SNAPSHOT SEPTEMBER

India

Home to the Partners in Aid supported Social Education and Development Society including the SEDS child sponsorship program.

-Total vaccine doses administered:
615,540,527

-Current status: COVID-19 infections are decreasing

-Estimated percent of population vaccinated: 22.5%

Philippines

Home to Partners in Aid supported Sinangpad Healthy Villages Project in Kalinga.

-Total vaccine doses administered:
31,433,450

-Current status: COVID-19 infections are at their peak

-Estimated percent of population vaccinated: 14.5%



When Sinangpad first started working in remote villages – nearly 20 years ago – some of these communities were very isolated and a few required the Sinangpad members to spend the whole day walking into them from the nearest point on the road.

I remember walking with them once (on a much shorter trip) and the women burst into singing the most beautiful local songs as they walked. Today, vehicular access has improved, although it is still often necessary to transport construction materials for toilets and other infrastructure by foot from the road – either up steep slopes or across bridges – some of which are still swinging bridges.

A number of tribes and sub-tribes – descended from a strong warrior-culture – make up the Kalingan population. In the past, our project activities have been occasionally delayed by disputes breaking out between different tribal groups, however these are now rare and not very serious. Their warrior culture, together with the mountainous terrain, has enabled the Kalingan tribes to resist attempted occupation by the Spaniards, Japanese and Americans, and they take pride in retaining elements of their traditional culture – although fortunately head-hunting is no longer practised.

More regrettably, body tattooing, once important for indicating the valour of a male warrior on the battlefield and for enhancing the beauty of a women in the eyes of the beholder, is a slowly dying art. Kalinga was once famous for its body art, tattoos having important social and cultural symbolism. Many of the older Kalingans still have beautiful tattoo art covering much of their body.

The people of Kalinga are very hospitable and generous. I am surprised just how much I miss not being able to make my usual annual visit there. My thoughts are with them as they battle the current pandemic.

To our Partners in Aid members who have supported the Sinangpad Healthy Villages Project, thank you for your ongoing commitment.



**SINANGPAD
HEALTHY VILLAGE
PROJECT**

**VACCINE SNAPSHOT
SEPTEMBER**

Bangladesh

Home to Partners in Aid supported projects The Bangladesh Technical Training and Information Support Program and The Jamuna River Development Project

-Total vaccine doses administered:
24,218,796

-Current status: COVID-19 infections are decreasing

-Estimated percent of population vaccinated: 7.6%

Sri Lanka

Home to Partners in Aid’s latest supported Sustainable Dairy Farming project

-Total vaccine doses administered:
18,719,417

-Current status: COVID-19 infections are increasing

-Estimated percent of population vaccinated: 42.9%

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.

Below is special story about Lucky. Lucky's life was not so lucky. Lucky lives in a slum of Kathgola Area of Mymensingh Sub-district of Mymensingh Division. She is 35 years old and married. Her husband works as a chef in local hotel. His name is Azizul Haque. Lucky's father was a farmer and he could not provide good support for the family. Also she has other 2 sisters and 2 brothers. Therefore, when Lucky was reading in Class VIII she got married with Azizul Haque.

In her marriage's first year Lucky's life was going well and after one year she gave birth to their first daughter. After some days later Lucky's husband got sick and could not work for many days. In the meantime Lucky had so many debts because she had to feed the entire family. Lucky was thinking of something to do by herself so that she can earn money. One of Lucky's friends advised her to learn sewing and her friend told her that she can help her learn sewing. By maintaining all family's daily chores Lucky started to learn sewing and after 2 months later she learned sewing completely. Symbiosis provided the initial training to Lucky.

Lucky also bought a sewing machine in that time and started to do sewing works from home. By seeing her sewing qualities many of her neighbours started to give order her for sew their cloths. She started to earn some money. Gradually Lucky's situation was improving. Lucky's sewing capacity was not only remaining in her neighbourhood but also it reached to a NGO named BRAC. BRAC listed her as one of their beneficiary and sent her to ICDCM for block batik training. After successfully completed training Lucky got business grant from BRAC and she started her own clothing business. Her monthly income has now become Tk. 23000-24000. Lucky thinks every women like her should learn vocational training and one day this training will change their life.



SYMBIOSIS



LUCKY, 2021



SYMBIOSIS



SYMBIOSIS PROJECT- DISCONTINUING

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

The Board of Partners in Aid has decided not to undertake any new project in Bangladesh after our present projects with Symbiosis expire mid-next year, 2022, (with the present payment, plus Sept 2021 and March 2022 payments, still to come). It is a decision that has demanded a lot of thought and been developing for a couple of years, although it might have been reached earlier if not for the present virus sweeping the world. Our partnership with Symbiosis Bangladesh has been a long one.

There were a number of reasons behind our Board's decision. First and foremost, the philosophy of PIA is to help small organisations establish themselves. Symbiosis Bangladesh has certainly achieved this goal. It has numerous donors from other international NGOs, funding a number of different projects that successfully help participants to bring about sustainable changes to their lives. Lucky is just one such participant for whom Symbiosis provided an opportunity to escape for grinding poverty. whose life changes.

Additionally, the PIA Board feels that an important element in our partnership with other NGOs is regular visits by our Project Coordinators to the project sites. Political and environmental upheavals in Bangladesh have prevented this over the last few years, although the pandemic permitting Roger, PIA Project Coordinator still hopes to make one final visit before the two projects PIA has funded are phased out.

We would like to stress that we really admire the development work that Symbiosis has undertaken throughout the last years and wish them every success in their continuing efforts to improve the quality of the lives of the many families they help.

We thank all our donors who have supported their projects over the years. Your support has been deeply appreciated.

"WE REALLY
ADMIRE THE
DEVELOPMENT
WORK THAT
SYMBIOSIS HAS
UNDERTAKEN
THROUGHOUT
THE LAST
YEARS AND
WISH THEM
EVERY
SUCCESS"

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.

I want to say a BIG THANK YOU to our sponsors who have continued to support this program through some very difficult and trying times. Since the beginning of the pandemic, there has been much disruption to the lives of people everywhere.

In India, like much of the world, students have attended school only when allowed by public health orders. Fortunately, our sponsored students have had the opportunity to visit the SEDS campus for a number of the monthly activities in between lockdowns. The students have received their new school clothes, books, bags, shoes and their once yearly gift of a new set of clothes.

The Indian Government has for the second academic year promoted the students to the next level, with some exams for Year 10 and above carried out where possible. The academic year normally starts in India in July with the long summer holiday period prior to that. With delayed starts, and discontinuation of classes due to outbreaks these past two years has resulted in missed class time. We don't know the exact impact of missed class time, but we do know it will have some sort of impact later on.

School classes returned for the new year on 16 August. All students and staff are required to wear a mask. The Indian Government has mandated that all teachers be vaccinated and the SEDS staff believe that this will give the parents a sense of protection for their children.

We have had a good number of sponsored students return for the new school year. Follow up checks will be made by SEDS staff for students who have not yet returned to school. There may have been some reluctance to send the children back to school by parents. While it is challenging times for students everywhere, particularly in India, the fact that sponsored students are returning is great thing and one that should be celebrated.

Thank you again to everyone who has continued to support our SED students.



PRINCIPAL AND BALAJI FROM SEDS.



SECONDARY STUDENTS FROM YEAR 6-10



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 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 or e-mail Roger directly at 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

Complaints Policy

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

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.

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
EMAIL: ADMIN@PARTNERSINAID.ORG.AU

PARTNERS IN AID LTD
ABN 50 006 946 550

PO BOX 42, NARRE WARREN LPO
VIC 3805 AUSTRALIA