

Helping People

One Drop At A Time



Project Update From USA

October 23, 2005

Dear Friends,

As some of you know, Mike and I are leaving on October 31st for a month long trip to India. Some of you know more than others about our plans so we thought we would give you all a little bit of background about our project before we leave.

Mike was in the Peace Corps some "30-something" years ago and lived in Kolar India for two years. While he was there he ran a workshop to repair well blasting equipment that was used by fellow Peace Corps volunteers to drill and then blast (yes dynamite) wells primarily for agricultural use. They also drilled a few bore wells for personal drinking water in remote villages. When he visited India last June he investigated the current water situation in the town where he lived and was very upset by what he saw. All of the shallow wells that supply most households are dry. Most townspeople must bring their jugs and buckets to be filled from a tanker truck that comes to their neighborhoods from the town's deep well. This water is used for drinking, cooking and bathing and is not potable. It is expensive for people to boil the water so most skip this step which leads to a whole host of health problems.



Adopt A Family: \$ 25
(Donation of one water filter to a needy family who is unable to purchase a filter)

Adopt A School: \$ 100
(Donation of two water filters to a school accompanied by a clean water education program)

Adopt A Village Partnership: \$ 2,500
(Donation of up to 60 filters to a needy village, subsidy of up to 30 filters purchased by villagers, soap & educational program for village children, community steward for one year)

Make Checks Payable to:

**South Asia Pure Water Initiative, Inc.
2832 Whitney Avenue,
Hamden CT 06518 USA**

When Mike returned from his trip last year he thought about the problem a great deal and did a lot of research. He discovered an inexpensive water filter that was developed in Canada. In June he spent four days in Calgary at a seminar learning how to make the filters and implement a program to build and distribute them. The filters are being used with much success in many developing countries around the world. We hope to start a program in the town of Kolar India (which is in the southern part of the country near the city of Bangalore) to make these filters and distribute them to the poor

As many of you know I am a member of the Rotary Club of Hamden. We received a very generous grant from the McKenzie Foundation to start this water filter program. We have e-mailed many Rotary clubs in the Bangalore area where we will be and have had positive responses from four of them. One of the people who responded was the district governor last year. We hope to make several presentations of the filter technology at Rotary meetings and develop some long lasting relationships. Rotary offers some matching grants when clubs from different countries work together, so we hope we can find a club that shares our enthusiasm with this project.

We have also made some contacts with another non-profit organization, the DHAN Foundation, which is located in Southern India who train people to make these same water filters we are interested in producing. When we first arrive in India we will travel to see them. They are currently building us a mold which we will purchase in order to make filters. The DHAN Foundation has been contacted by the Indian government to start a rain harvesting project in Kolar (where we will be) and have scheduled a meeting with us to see if we can collaborate on our projects. We are very excited about the prospects!

We are not sure what twists and turns this venture will take and how much we will be able to accomplish in one month but we are both so very excited. We have a goal of producing 15,000 filters in the next 5 years. That would bring potable water to 225,000 people! We hope to be able to e-mail you from India and give you some updates. This will be my first visit to India so you may get some of my first impressions about that part of the world as well.



We have attached a PDF file that contains a power point presentation that Mike's daughter, Carrie, helped to produce. It will give you some background about the water problems in India and also about the filter that we will produce. We will use this to make our presentations to Rotary clubs in India.

I hope this has given you a little background about how this program came to be and what we hope to accomplish. Keep tuned!

Thanks to most of you who have already been so very supportive of our efforts.

See you in December!

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Taste The Healthy Difference