

Add Your Light Projects

Newsletter of the Add Your Light Charitable Foundation (www.addyourlight.org)

"you do whatever you can about the misery that's in front of you... add your light to the sum of light" (from the movie, "The Year of Living Dangerously")

Dear Friends of Add Your Light,

It's been busy as usual, with a trip to the Dominican Republic (D.R.) in June and several projects continuing full tilt all summer. And the fall season is going to be even busier! I'll be giving three slide presentations in Calgary and one in Vancouver during the month of September, and then heading off to the D.R. in October.

I am very grateful for the support of the new Board members. We held a very animated, intense AGM in July, and it is wonderful for me to be able to share the ups and downs of managing this organization with them. Thank you to all of the Board members for the various roles that you have taken on!

Several people have encouraged us to develop a realistic salary structure for people doing more than small tasks for Add Your Light. At the moment, this pertains only to me, but as we grow, we may need to hire a book-keeper, etc. There are several reasons for this shift in policy. First, if I need to be replaced someday, my replacement will surely need to be paid a reasonable wage. Secondly, by not taking a wage for project supervision or administration work, Add Your Light may be unwittingly making other charities look bad in comparison, and this is not fair. Thirdly, I am at the point where I do need to be earning something for this work, so the timing is right.

Therefore, you as donors need to know that the Board will be making decisions every six months or so about my salary, based on current nonprofit salary scales, and taking into consideration the funds available and project requirements. I believe there is enough abundance out there in the world that we can continue to do good work while paying employees!

Read on about all the projects, because there has been a lot of good news, and if there were obstacles, well, we've done our best to learn from them and turn them into good news too!

Your support continues to be the foundation of our work. If you can make a donation before my next trip in October, that would be greatly appreciated! Until the next newsletter, gracias! Jan

You are helping this young woman, Yudelkis, achieve her dream to be a teacher!



OUR FINANCIAL WISHLIST:

BioSand Filter Training Video: to finalize and professionalize the video in English and Spanish formats, we need \$16,000 CAD (\$14,250 USD). (see pg 3)

LED/solar project: to help the new NGO start up a microcredit scheme for selling lighting systems, we need \$16,800 CAD (\$15,000 USD). We are waiting for news from the Wild Rose Foundation to see if our matching grant application has been approved. We have the funds for 100 systems, but are aiming at installing 300 systems over a nine month period. (see pg 3)

Puerto Rico a Pie Orphanage: We are very grateful that the orphanage expenses have been covered up until about March! However, even a small medical emergency there can be very expensive, so if the orphanage is in your heart, donations are always gratefully accepted. In November, we will start a campaign specifically for the 2007 orphanage expenses. (see pg 4)

Our new website at

www.addyourlight.org is really beautiful! Thanks go to Adrian Lee of Bytezone in Calgary for his design work.

New federal tax laws allow you to donate securities such as public company shares, mutual fund units, bonds, etc. without being taxed on capital gains. Add Your Light has a brokerage account set up at CIBC Wood-Gundy, so we're ready if this kind of donation appeals to you!!

THE NEW DOMINICAN NGO, AGREGA TU LUZ, IS NOW OFFICIAL! Over the past few months, the advantages of forming a Dominican NGO have become numerous. First and foremost, the major purpose of Add Your Light's existence is to assist others to discover their own innate capacity to help themselves. So it makes a lot of sense that **seven Dominicans from Dajabón** would organize and start doing projects on their own. By getting official status as an NGO, however, they also become eligible to apply for funds, such as the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives operated by the Canadian Embassy. Also, as an NGO, they are eligible to obtain waivers on customs duty, so they should be able to bring in solar panels, etc., duty free. The NGO Board of Directors met with me in June, and it was exciting to hear the enthusiasm in their voices as they spoke of their dreams for their community.

They will gradually start some projects independently. However, outside groups, whether Add Your Light, Rotary, or others, will be welcome to work in partnership with Agrega Tu Luz. These kinds of synergistic efforts can pave the way to some exciting work being done and great friendships being formed! (By the way, "NGO" simply means non-governmental organization.)



His only birthday wish at the age of 13 was to be able to "walk like a man". Ariel was born with extremely short, bowed legs, and had to use a wheelchair at all times. He is an excellent student but his physical disability was really holding him back. His mother made the decision that he would have his wish, despite their economic circumstances. She raised funds from various sources, and **Ariel** has had several leg-lengthening and straightening surgeries in Cuba. Your funds went towards one of their flights to Cuba. Recently, we went to visit him in the community of Aviación and were thrilled to see him up, walking on crutches. By now, he's probably walking on his own. Congratulations, Ariel! You are one brave young man!!

The Rotary Club of Calgary Chinook understands the power of partnership.

As some of you will remember, this particular Rotary Club has been working hand-in-hand on projects with Add Your Light and our Dominican partners for several years. Sometimes Add Your Light was heavily financially involved, and the Chinook Club contributed towards a specific part of the project (eg. the building of the orphanage). Sometimes Add Your Light was not financially involved at all, but Jan acted as an "intermediary", helping the Rotary partners in both countries with translation, accounting, reporting, etc. The **Wild Rose Foundation of Alberta** has also co-financed several of the Rotary-sponsored projects, and everyone has appreciated their valuable contribution.

The bottom line is that we have **cooperated to achieve results** that none of us could have imagined nor accomplished on our own. We would like to acknowledge the following members of the Rotary Club of Calgary Chinook who have personally visited and assisted the projects in the Dominican Republic and Cuba: Norman Myden and his wife, Barbara, Norm Moro and his wife, Lorraine, Fred Jessie, Harry Nazarchuk, Neil Beatty, Dave Saunders and his wife, Phyllis, and Jack Leuw (who has volunteered extensively to help the LED/solar project). In addition, many other Chinook Rotarians have personally donated to the projects, over and above their contributions through their Club. Thank you to all of you!

PROJECTS THAT THE ROTARY CLUB OF CALGARY CHINOOK HAS SUPPORTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ADD YOUR LIGHT:

- donated hens for the chicken business at the orphanage in Montecristi
- helped build the orphanage at Puerto Rico a Pie
- adult literacy project in Esperanza
- 200 family latrines in Esperanza
- sent a shipping container full of medical supplies & computers
- the first training workshop for Biosand filter technicians in the D.R.
- 600 Biosand filter installations in Dajabon province
- equipment for a Nursing Home for seniors
- reforestation project in Dajabon province
- 200 LED/solar lighting systems, Dajabon
- Biosand filter project, Holguin, Cuba
- donation towards our new Nissan truck



Dave & Phyllis Saunders with friends, Don and Lois Zver, visited the Cuba Biosand filter project in March.

Watch for the new Community Action Centre in Dajabon!

As Fundacion Agregate Tu Luz, the Dominican NGO, becomes official and our cooperative projects grow, the need for a “home” for all this work has become urgent. For the past four years, all of the Biosand facilitator courses have taken place on José Rivas’s patio, with up to twenty people constantly in and out of his bathroom and kitchen. Many of the LED/solar lighting components have been stored in his old shed. These projects have matured to the point where they need to be operated out of a proper indoor facility with a classroom and storage area. The new NGO needs an office and meeting space.

Add Your Light wanted to raise these funds for its namesake, Agregate Tu Luz, but as a Canadian charity, we are not legally allowed to use donated funds to build facilities for the use of overseas NGOs. However, Rotary operates under different rules, and the **Rotary Club of Calgary Chinook** has offered to raise the funds for this facility. Their members understand the common vision towards which we are all working. The Dominicans are already calling it their “Centro de Accion Comunitario”. We are very grateful to the Chinook Rotarians for the fundraising efforts they are about to embark on, and we hope that several of the Rotarians who visited in February will ask their own Clubs to contribute funds. **Goal: \$51,000 CAD**

Abel & sister trying out a switch for their new LED lights!



PURE WATER FOR THE WORLD ASKED US TO TRAIN DAVID STANLEY for their projects in the Honduras and Haiti. We had only two days before his flight to the Honduras, so we fast-forwarded him through a review of both filter manufacture and the facilitator’s course. Hopefully, this is just the start of an influx of trainees from Latin American countries, with the new Center being the training hub.

Piper Perrault from California was a great help to the Haiti filter project, translating materials, preparing the communities, and teaching. Thank you, Piper!! **Sara Lucena** of Spain has been employed by Robert Hildreth in Puerto Plata to perform an overall evaluation of the Biosand program and to develop teaching materials to help communities prepare for the introduction of filter programs. Welcome, Sara!! **Rick Castiglione** of Cielo Pictures, Inc., will be flying back to the D.R. with me in October to finish the Biosand training video and also film a training video for the LED/solar project! We are very grateful to Rick for his incredible support of Add Your Light!!

Meanwhile, **700 filters** are crossing the border from Dajabon into Haiti in the next 3 weeks (lead Rotary: Calgary South), and large filter projects also continue in Esperanza (lead: High River), Santiago (lead: Calgary West), Jarabacoa (R.C. of Red Deer East, Medicine Hat Sunrise and Medicine Hat Saamis) and in St. Marc, Haiti (lead: Calgary Chinook). Again, the Wild Rose Foundation is involved in almost all of these projects, and Jan is assisting with translation, accounting issues, etc. The **Cuba Biosand** project is slowly happening, as they manage to obtain materials and make one filter a day. What they lack in access to materials, they make up for in enthusiasm!

ADD YOUR LIGHT TO THE SUM OF LIGHT



José Rivas teaches David Stanley how to wash sand for filters.

Cindy McArthur is now our product

manager for the LED/solar project. We sincerely thank a Calgary couple who funded 100 systems, and we ask for your help with donations for another 200 systems. We have applied to the **Wild Rose Foundation** for matching funds. Beneficiaries will pay the full price over two years. We will pay Ariel Cepeda to install the systems, and then **Agregate Tu Luz** will be given the right to collect the payments from the beneficiaries. At the end of ten months, Agregate Tu Luz should have enough money collected to order 100 more systems (if the peso doesn’t devalue). The beneficiaries value more what they pay for, and their payments will hopefully make the project sustainable. We thank **Ross Hay and Pete Verhyde** for their recent technical support of this project!



Irina, Solangel and Juan Carlos planting seeds in the demonstration garden.

We went ahead with a horticulture project designed by students from the La Loyola Agricultural Collegiate. Solangel Rivas, Irina Toribio, Juan Carlos Garcia, Jonathan Ogando, and Madelene Contreras are working hard to grow **organic vegetables and fruits using drip irrigation.** We thank Benito Toribio for the donation of land for the project! La Loyola is a private secondary school that specializes in agriculture and prepares students for university entrance. The goal of this project is to demonstrate to the community how to grow their own food, because too many Dominicans have stopped this practice and now buy produce at inflated prices. This practical experience, designed by the students themselves, will be invaluable for their future careers. There will be a lot of positive spin-offs for the \$1000 investment. We hope some Alberta or Saskatchewan farmers will fund the project & invite the students to visit Canada!

The Alberta Centennial Charitable Society has sent \$7300 to Jose Rivas for the building of another rural classroom. Add Your Light is involved as an intermediary, to assist with translation, etc., as required. We are grateful to the efforts of the ACCS Board and the donations of their supporters, because the Dominicans so badly need schools, and Add Your Light cannot possibly achieve so many goals alone! Gracias, ACCS!

Thanks to Piper for her help with the Biosand project in Haiti!



Cristian had a high fever from pneumonia at age three, affecting the nerves to his ears. Since he could no longer hear, he never learned to speak. Jan met him by chance in June, and knew we were meant to resolve this problem. Add Your Light co-funded a hearing aid, along with a German audiology clinic. This week, Christian receives his hearing aid! Thank you for giving this sweet little boy a renewed life!

It's back to school at the orphanage too! The little ones are starting their classes again in the classrooms at the orphanage, with children from the community joining them. Raquel and Yamelfi are starting secondary school in Nagua this year, and Yudelkis, Selenia, and Rebeca are continuing in university. The orphanage was visited by two groups in June. One was from the Christian Centre "Oasis de Bendicion" in Augusta, Georgia, led by Maria Del Valle. The other group was from the Community Christian Church in Boston, led by Pastors Jose and Sarai Encarnacion. They stayed right at the orphanage, working and playing with the kids.

Email communications are about to improve dramatically, thanks to a recommendation by publishing coach, Daphne Gray-Grant, of Vancouver. You will be able to subscribe or unsubscribe via the website to receive this newsletter electronically through a service called Constant Contact. This will allow us to communicate much more easily with you!

We are grateful for the many gifts they brought to the orphanage, and we hope they



will continue to partner with Add Your Light sponsors to support the staff and children, both financially and emotionally. Although we have general expenses covered for the next few months, the smallest emergency can disrupt this fragile security, so your donations are always appreciated. Thank you!

Jan is a medical doctor with specialist certification in *Community Medicine* & a *Masters in Health Care & Epidemiology*. To make a tax-deductible donation, see the enclosed donation form, or contact Jan directly. Jan's email is jan@addyourlight.org & her fax is 403-670-0163. See www.addyourlight.org.

Pictures are more fun than school!