

FutureGenerations

Newsletter - Autumn 2011

Empowering Communities to Shape Their Futures

Future Generations and the Future Generations Graduate School specialize in “Empowering Communities to Shape Their Futures.” From Afghanistan to West Virginia, communities have successes from which to build a better future. Our staff and Master’s Degree alumni enable communities to identify their strengths, leverage their existing resources, and partner with governments and organizations to meet local priorities.

This process of empowerment promises more lasting results because communities take ownership of the solutions and learn skills to adapt to changing situations. It links the volunteer energy of community action groups with the enabling support of government and the technical support and networks of external partners.

This newsletter features empowered communities in diverse contexts and the volunteers and partners who make these achievements possible. We hope you enjoy these stories and ask you to visit us online at future.org and future.edu and on facebook to receive regular updates and learn alongside us.

Also, please look for an upcoming book to be released by Oxford University Press this fall. *Empowerment on an Unstable Planet: From Seeds of Human Energy with a Scale of Global Change* is coauthored by our former President and current faculty member Daniel Taylor.

Jason Calder
Interim President
*Future Generations &
Future Generations
Graduate School*

Research Director
Engaging People in Peace



With the help of a local youth group known as La Difference, the people of Cite Soleil, Haiti have organized massive street cleanup campaigns. See page 4 for more successes from Haiti identified by two students of the incoming class of the Graduate School.

Contents:

Dean’s Corner

Students Learning with Haitian Communities

Afghanistan Partnerships in Rural Education

China, Local Wisdom for Nature Conservation

India, Tribal Women Collect Data and Save Lives

Peruvian Women Leaders Strengthen Bonds

West Virginians Volunteer 6,000 Hours



Dean's Corner

In October, our fourth class of Master's Degree candidates will join faculty in Nepal for the Term IV residential. Following the presentation of their two-year community research projects, they will graduate at ceremonies in Kathmandu.

With the Graduate School's new Director of Alumni Continuing Education, our alumni, now from 26 countries, will have new opportunities to dialogue and network with peers. Most recently, alumni from Uganda, Canada, and the United States participated in a graduate school promotional video that will be available for distribution in October.

We also just admitted 27 students into the next class, which begins January 2012. From 17 countries, this class is not only geographically diverse, but includes candidates with varied careers, including community mobilization officers, relief workers, a police force community outreach representative, member of parliament, and public lands forester.

Our students and alumni share a vocation to build the capacity of communities and strengthen partnerships to meet local priorities. Students seek out our program because it is uniquely designed to serve their on-the-job learning needs as community development practitioners.

We invite you to learn more and are always happy to help answer any questions.



Mike Rechlin,
Dean
Future Generations Graduate School

Student Spotlight: Guyana

Rohan Sagar has a goal to unite the ethnic groups of Guyana through music. As an ethnomusicologist and founder of the Harpy Eagle Music Foundation, Rohan uses music education to promote cross-cultural dialogue and reinforce cultural values among youth. As Music Coordinator for the Ministry of Education in Guyana, he integrates folk music into the curriculum of ten regional high school choirs.

Rohan's Master's Degree practicum (thesis) addresses issues of racial tension and solutions through empowerment that uses music to affirm ethnic identities and values. Rohan's research concludes that the loss of musical heritage among ethnic groups often engenders a loss of cultural identity and self-esteem. Intercultural dialogue and music education allow communities to discover shared values and seek more peaceful resolutions to their conflicts.

Through dialogue during the M.A. program's one-month residentials, Rohan seeks out the musical traditions of other cultures. While in Cusco, Peru he discovered many similarities in the traditional music of the Quechua and the Amerindians of Guyana. "My conversations with people in Cusco," he said, "defined a future direction and focus for my studies."

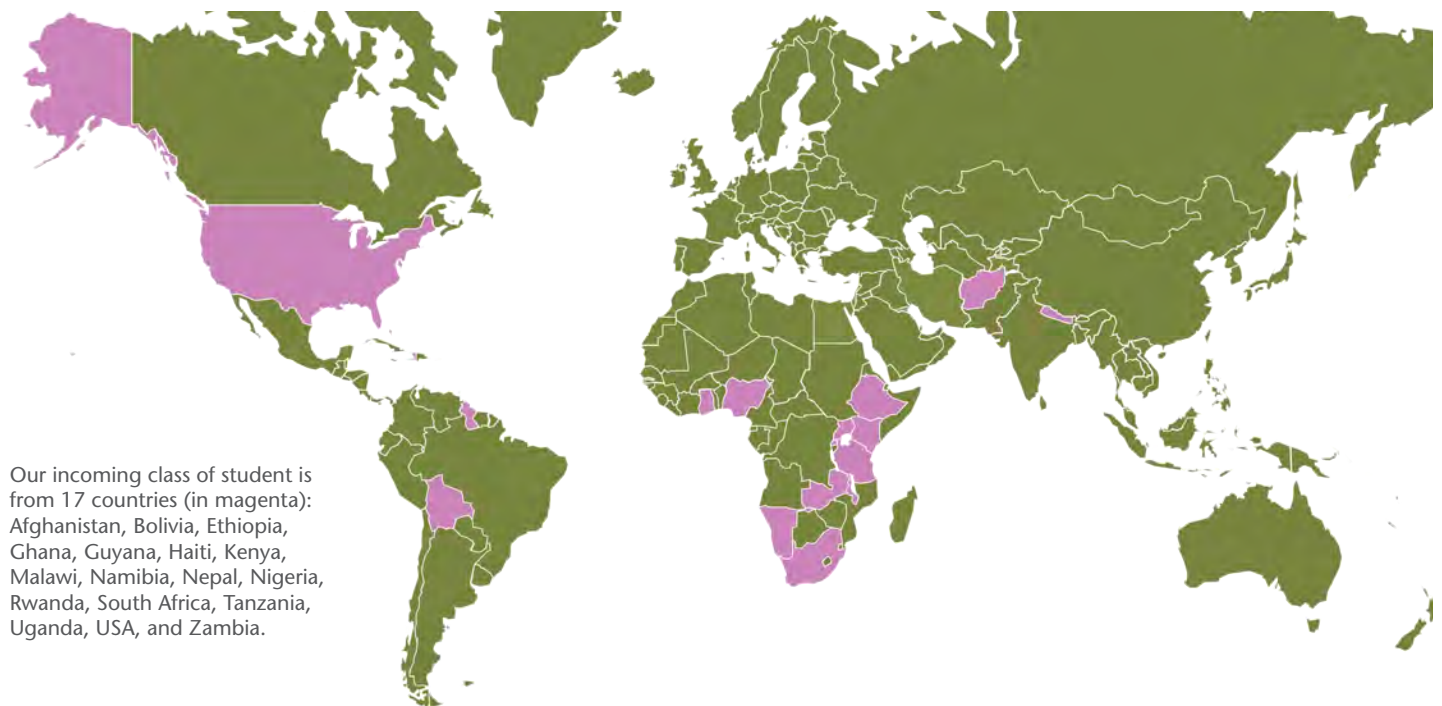
In July, Rohan received a Guyana Cultural Association Folk Festival Award for his work to promote traditional music among Guyana's youth.

Visit www.future.edu/ to read his posts on the Guyana Community Scholars blog.

Educational Partner Highlights

During the Term IV October residential in Nepal, graduate students will be visiting ANSAB—the Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources. ANSAB is known for its community-based, enterprised-oriented solutions for linking conservation with economic development. Here, students will learn techniques to conduct resource inventories, develop sustainable harvest plans, and devise strategies in micro-enterprise development. Dr. Bhishma Subedi, ANSAB Executive Director, recently joined the Graduate School faculty.

Country Locations of Incoming Class of 2013



Incoming Students (Class of 2013) Learn With Haitian Communities

On the outskirts of Port Au Prince, Master's candidate Sabina Carlson has discovered strong social cohesion in Cite Soleil. While Cite Soleil is known as one of the most impoverished and dangerous communities in the Western Hemisphere, Sabina said when she first entered the city, she "did not see the bullet-hole sheet metal and gangsters that everyone described, but a thriving rural community."

The residents of Cite Soleil have organized their energies to transform their neighborhoods. After the 2010 earthquake, a volunteer fisherman's cooperative cleaned the beaches and provided residents with drinking water. La Difference, a youth group, organized block crews to clean up massive loads of trash. In 1992, banana farmers reclaimed their sugar plantations from a large company, replanted food crops, and formed an organic agricultural cooperative.

Sabina has immersed herself as a community facilitator in Cite Soleil. One of her biggest challenges is communicating with the international aid agencies. She said, "I have sat by the wharfs of Cite Soleil with fisherman imagining a hundred roads to achieve our dreams and goals, but none of these seem to cross paths with where the international community wants

to take this country." Through this M.A. program, she hopes to "learn from others' experiences, to ensure," she says, "that I am walking with my community on the road it chooses in the most respectful and productive way."

Delphine Bedu works in Port Au Prince for GrassRoots United as the community development coordinator. Even though she was born in France, her Haitian community habitually greets her with a friendly, "Bonswa Delphine" (good evening), making her feel at home.

In her work, she serves as a link between GrassRoots United and community action groups in Port Au Prince. During her first year in Port Au Prince, she organized a neighborhood meeting, bringing together all of the volunteer groups. Together, they formed the Clercine Street Committee.

The M.A. program, she believes, will equip her with a larger set of tools to promote community empowerment. These are also skills that she hopes to share with the disaster relief community that she has been a part of since she first volunteered with communities following the Tsunami in Thailand.

Afghanistan Partnerships in Rural Education



Class is in session—outdoors. Thirty teachers from three high schools in Khogyani District developed a hands-on curriculum that uses new orchards to teach horticultural skills and environmental awareness to 2,000 students.

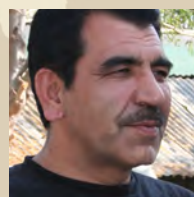
Three high schools in Khogyani District of Nangarhar Province are blossoming with orchards. Each school partners with farmers and government to plan, design, and manage their own horticultural learning centers.

These hands-on learning centers prepare youth for jobs in horticulture and help farmers increase outputs on their own farms. Schools take responsibility for the planning of their orchards, which may include almonds, apricots, pears, cherries, and ornamentals. Two schools have expanded into crops like saffron, which may be a viable alternative to poppies.

Faculty, the staff of Khogyani District's Education and Agricultural Departments, and Community Development Councils (CDCs) are actively involved. More than 120 youth and community members have volunteered. While equipment was used to level the land and construct deep wells for irrigation, volunteers planted trees and created additional plots for ornamentals and vegetables.

In June 2011, 30 faculty designed an environmental curriculum that will use these orchards to help 2,000 students understand local ecology and the benefits of tree planting and habitat protection.

Farmers show great interest in the program. Farmer Juma Gul says, "I am happy to see trees in schools. This will be a farmers', students' and community centre where we will all share progressive thoughts for the future."



Ajmal Shirzai, Country Director
Future Generations Afghanistan

*M.A. Candidate, Future Generations
Graduate School*

Volunteer Spotlight

Students learn the value of volunteerism in school. An environmental stewardship program involves students in cleaning their school grounds and villages. The students also have excellent role models, like principal, Mr. Allah Nazar of MalikYark Hotak High School, who enjoys volunteering alongside teachers and students.

Principal Nazar lived as refugee in Peshawar and returned to Afghanistan with great motivation to join students and teachers in all kinds of volunteer projects.

When the recently established school orchard needed water, he voluntarily hauled water for the newly planted trees until the new irrigation canal could be completed. To him, the new orchard and horticultural training center makes his school blossom. He comments, “I know my dream came true so I am glad to work voluntarily day and night to flourish my school and encourage students to do so.”



School principal, Mr. Allah Nazar, volunteers with students as part of a regular school ground upkeep activity to bury trash.

Partner Highlights

Two government agencies make horticultural learning centers in Nangarhar Province a success. Mr. Wahed of the Khogyani District Agricultural Department and Mr. Fazal Rahman of Khogani’s Education Department initiated the idea, reached out to Future Generations Afghanistan, negotiated with donors, and mobilized community support.

At a recent project event, Mr. Abdul Wahed commented, “I am confident of the project’s success and consider it a sign of tripartite linkages in the social life of this community.”

Mr. Fazal Rahman is well known for his tireless and innovative efforts to provide educational services for his community, characteristics that have earned him respect even throughout insecure areas. When the horticultural project was approved, he distributed sweets among the community, saying “I am happy for those who are busy with their education and for those providing this benefit to others.”

Map of Afghanistan



Nangarhar Province



Research Notes

Future Generations Afghanistan has joined the Future Generations Graduate School in an applied research project that seeks to learn from Afghanistan’s most resilient and peaceful communities. The project partners with an Afghan steering committee, has trained an Afghan research team, and has received support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, AREU, and the United States Institute of Peace.

Breakthrough Idea: The Pendeba Program trains village volunteers from within protected areas to link conservation with health and livelihoods

In China, Local Wisdom for Nature Conservation



Photo by Qi Yun

Within the Four Great Rivers region of southeastern Tibet, the black-and-white snub-nosed monkey, *Pygathrix (Rhinopithecus) bieti*, lives between 3,000 and 4,300 meters, higher than any other nonhuman primate. Future Generations has trained more than 500 Pendeba volunteers in the Four Great Rivers region to improve village health and livelihoods in concert with nature conservation.

In rural China, you see beautiful forests with old trees and abundant lakes. These are called “fengshui” in some places, “forbidden mountains,” or “sacred lakes.” Villagers believe that they must protect these sites or they will lose their prosperity, and disaster will befall the entire village. Hence, local people have protected these lands for thousands of years, long before China established its first protected area in 1956.

Today, more than 18 million people live within or surrounding China’s 2,500 protected areas. Unfortunately, poverty rates are high in these areas, with more than 10 million people living below China’s poverty line of \$188 USD per year. This poverty causes frequent conflicts, requiring many nature preserves to be guarded by police.

In May 2011, at the first China Forum for Nature, the managers of more than 150 of China’s nature preserves convened to discuss strategies for involving communities in conservation management and improving opportunities for sustainable rural livelihoods.

One innovation comes from 20 years of managing protected areas in the Tibet Autonomous Region with the active involvement of local people. The Pendeba Program, initiated with support from Future Generations in 1994, trains village volunteers as conservation stewards and community service workers. Pendebas, Tibetan for “workers who benefit the village,” learn skills in primary health, ecotourism, and animal husbandry and then bring these benefits back to their villages.

At the Forum, many of China’s nature preserve managers expressed interest in adapting the Pendeba Program to better link rural livelihoods and health with biodiversity conservation. Future Generations China works to expand this success to five more protected areas across China.



Guangchun Lei,
Country Director
Future Generations China

Volunteer Spotlight

Sonam Tsering volunteers as a “Pendebea” village leader of Enba Village of the Qomolangma (Everest) National Nature Preserve. He first participated in Pendebea training in 2004 and said it has been of great help and quite practical. “It particularly enhanced my leadership skills and my knowledge of family planning, mother-child health care, and environmental conservation,” he said.

After the training, Sonam organized his village to focus on health, secure their drinking water, and improve sanitation. He said, “Firstly, we did not separate the drinking water for humans and livestock....After the training, I mobilized many villagers to protect our water source and promote

knowledge in public sanitation and environmental conservation at the village assembly.” Sonam remarks on how clean his village is; he is quite pleased that more than 90% of families have improved their latrines with concrete floors.

Sonam continues to seek community input on other projects. His village now plans to establish a daycare for children during the busy farming seasons of Spring and Fall. “Enba Village is close to the National Road No.318,” he says, “and the children who are not looked after could easily face danger.” Also, he looks forward to tree planting, greenhouse, animal husbandry projects.



Partner Spotlight

In Hunan Province of South-Central China, Future Generations China partners with a county government to strengthen rural livelihoods in the Yuan River National Wetland Park. The Yuan River, a tributary of the Yangtze, provides habitat for thousands of native plants and animals, including the endangered Qiusha Duck (Chinese Merganser). To better integrate the management of the wetland protected area with community-led development, the Taoyuan Government partners with Future Generations China to transform the county as a “Model Eco Community.”

A local organization, known as the “Future Generations Taoyuan Nature Conservation and Sustainable Use Association,” will learn the skills to develop a community-based ecotourism program and manage a community outreach center that will serve as a preschool, health clinic, training center, library, and community gathering place. Support for this partnership comes from the International Community Foundation.

China Program Areas



Indian Tribal Women Collecting Data and Saving Lives



Women's Action Groups in remote tribal villages of Arunachal Pradesh learn skills to keep local health records, create village maps, and implement workplans.

For ten years, more than 90 women's groups have been recording the births, deaths, and illnesses in their villages. These basic demographic and health records have become trusted and accurate sources of data used by government agencies. Most importantly, women's groups use this data to implement workplans and continue improving health.

Data shows decreasing maternal and child deaths as well as increased immunization rates, and increased usage of family planning options.

In recent months, women's groups in three remote sites with no prior access to formal health services have learned this method of community record keeping. In addition, women from these three new sites are learning to be Village Welfare Workers and have participated in exposure visits to learn from other successful women's groups.

Over the years, Future Generations Arunachal has found that camaraderie among women helps to sustain their enthusiasm as volunteers. One tragic incident at a recent training program shows this level of mutual support.

The child of a Village Welfare Worker fell suddenly ill and died while the mother was attending a Future Generations training program. While the workshop was over, other participants from many distant villages stayed with the mother and traveled with her all the way to her home many hours away. It was a tragedy nobody could foresee. Losing a child is an irreparable loss, but the solidarity that the women showed for one another was exemplary.

Nalong Mize, Executive Director
Future Generations Arunachal



Volunteer Spotlight

Future Generations Arunachal is powered by the enthusiasm of hundreds of volunteers. In the Apatani Valley, a proposed World Heritage Site and known for its centuries old sustainable aquaculture practices, Mr. Hibu Tatu and Mr. Punyo Chada have volunteered with Future Generations Arunachal since it was founded in 1997. These two government school teachers have volunteered many hours to implement community workplans based on local priorities in health, education, conservation, and income generation.

This past year, they volunteered for a “village home-stay” ecotourism pilot project. They prepared their homes to accommodate guests who want to experience traditional Apatani life. Other community members are invited to learn from this example of a village home-stay and join a network of organized households available to host guests. Also, as part of the project, an ecotourism itinerary has been charted. Community members mapped a trekking route using GPS and surveyed the flora and fauna along the route.



Volunteer, Mr. Punyo Chada, stands with a Village Welfare Worker, and women’s action groups of the Apatani Valley.

Research Notes

In the last ten years, Future Generations Arunachal has developed the capacity of three regional sites to serve as “Learning and Doing Centers.” These “classrooms without walls” are showcases for women’s empowerment and integrated community development. With funds from the Rapidan Foundation, the organization is learning how to improve and expand its training methods to scale up this same process of empowerment in three new sites with no prior access to government services.

Partner Spotlight

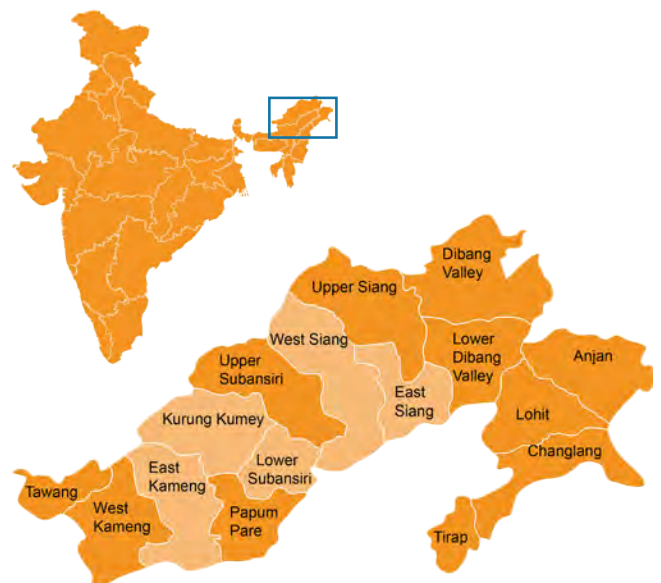
The Government of Arunachal Pradesh introduced Public Private Partnerships (PPP) in 2006 as part of the larger strategy of the India Rural Health Mission to improve primary health through more direct involvement of communities.

Near the mouth of the Brahmaputra River in the town of Sille, the government partners with Future Generations Arunachal to improve the curative care and community outreach of a primary health center that serves six major rural villages and a growing migrant population of more than 10,000 people.

Future Generations Arunachal co-manages the primary health care center with the active participation of a “patient welfare committee,” a locally nominated group of volunteers who participate in the day-to-day management of the center, thus increasing community oversight and accountability.

A 2011 performance review shows that health indicators have improved dramatically, including no malarial deaths in three years, and the Sille PHC now serves as a statewide model and training center for primary health. In July 2011, the Arunachal government awarded Future Generations two more Public Private Partnership contracts to extend its training and community-based management innovations to the Lower Subansiri and West Kameng districts.

Program Areas in Arunachal Pradesh, India



Peruvian Women Leaders Strengthen Bonds



Rosi, a Woman Leader trained by Future Generations in the Between Us (Women) project in rural Cusco, uses one of the flipcharts produced by Future Generations to teach a new mother how to maintain exclusive breastfeeding. This photo, by staff Carmen Pfuyo-Cahuantico, won a top-ten prize in the World Breastfeeding Week 2011 Photo Contest sponsored by WABA (World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action).

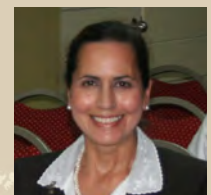
Every month, 72 women from 28 Andean villages of rural Cusco meet to learn basic skills in maternal, neonatal, and child health. They share stories of their own childbearing experiences and use these stories as “health text books.” As part of the Between Us (Women) project, these women return to their villages to share their knowledge with mothers.

As part of the training workshops, Women Leaders learn to partner with health centers, which are often a one- to five-hour walk from the village. However, distance is not the only obstacle. This summer a young mother died shortly after giving birth in a village only ten minutes from the Urcos Health Center. In this case, social and cultural barriers prevented the mother and her family from believing that the health center was available and would be welcoming to her.

Through these women’s workshops, women also become empowered to initiate community projects to improve health. They recently formed an Association of Women Leaders to better coordinate projects and share lessons across villages.

One Woman Leader, Juana Estrada, started a soccer team to forge closer bonds between mothers and teach them health skills. Soccer games provide a space where the women can share common concerns like droughts and floods. One major success was Juana’s involvement in promoting a village relocation plan to the government.

Laura C. Altobelli, MPH, DrPH,
Country Director
Future Generations Peru



Volunteer Spotlight

Casimiro Huaraya-Mendoza is one of 700 volunteer community health agents (CHAs) in Cusco, Peru. He is president of the Association of CHAs of Pitumarca district and a member of CLAS, (Community Association for the Administration of Health).

In the past, Casimiro's family slept in a one-bedroom house. Their patio was full of garbage due to the lack of municipal garbage collection. Smoke from the open-fire cookstove filled the air, and their kitchen lacked a sink and also housed the family's chickens. Casimiro's fellow community members faced similar situations.

Casimiro partners with the municipal government and primary health center to improve his district's health and living conditions. He was the first CHA in Pitumarca to create a model kitchen with an improved cookstove and refrigerator made from local materials. His home is now an observational site for hundreds of visitors who have replicated the model.

CHAs like Casimiro were instrumental in gaining Pitumarca national recognition in both 2009 and 2011 as the award winner for "BEST PRACTICE IN PUBLIC MANAGEMENT" in the category of Maternal-Child Nutrition.



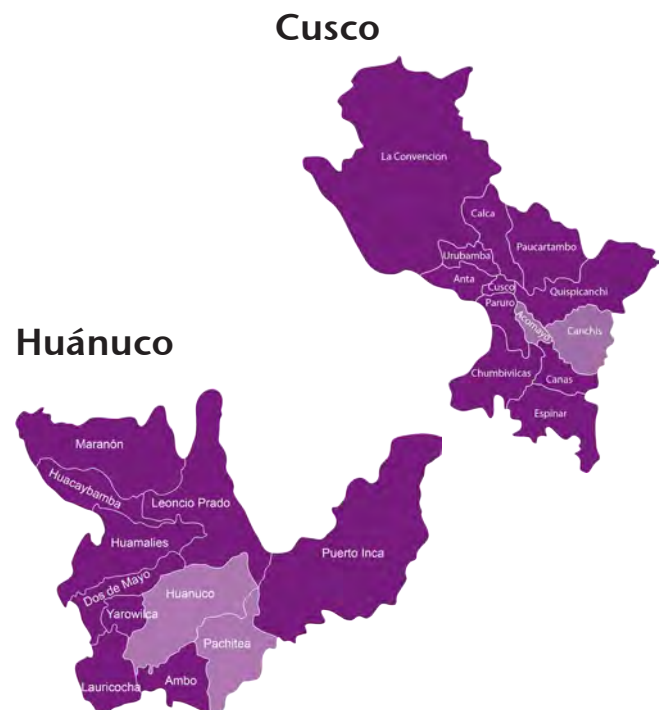
Partner Spotlight

The Nutrition Research Institution (IIN), a World Health Organization Collaborating Center on Research and Training in Infant and Child Nutrition, is a project partner in the *Health in the Hands of Women* (MAM) Project. In late 2010 and early 2011, IIN worked with Future Generations Peru to design and conduct the baseline assessment of the MAM Project via a survey of households with children less than two years of age. Further collaborations with IIN will include formative research on child health and nutrition practices, and on household surveys for the project's mid-term and final evaluations.

Research Notes

Future Generations Peru continues to learn more effective training methods to empower women with the skills to save lives and utilize existing services. The "Sharing Pregnancy Histories" method of training illiterate women in health grew out of a pilot project of Future Generations Afghanistan and is also being piloted in India. In Peru, Engender Health supports a pilot of the training method in Cusco; USAID's Child Survival and Health Grants program funds the *Health in the Hands of Women* project, a four-year program to expand the training method to 230 communities in rural Huánuco.

Program Areas in Peru



West Virginians Volunteer 6,000 Hours



In fire department computer centers across West Virginia, computer mentors lead self-paced classes for adults and organize technology camps for youth.

West Virginia fire department and rescue squad volunteers are quick to respond to emergencies. In one year, these first responders have volunteered more than 6,000 hours to get their communities up to speed with broadband internet. They have partnered with us to set up 30 public computer centers, and given their time to transport and assemble equipment, run cabling and electricity, paint rooms, install carpet and monitor computer use.

Our entire staff is moved by the creativity of our partners and the 59 computer mentors that we've learned alongside during the last year.

This summer, three volunteer fire departments organized technology day camps for youth. Sixteen youth in third-fifth grades joined our staff and local computer mentors for one-week camps to increase their computer skills and get creative

with technology. Activities gave youth opportunities to use digital photo and video cameras and learn new software. Youth also got more familiar with computers by taking a one apart and rebuilding it. The best news was that the kids were allowed to keep the computers they had built.

Another group of computer mentors responded to local interest in desktop publishing and started a special class. Another fire department computer center hosts after school programs. Across the state, opportunities are expanding as people go back to school with online classes and expand their employment options.

LeeAnn Shreve,
Director of Operations
WV Broadband Opportunities Program



Volunteer Spotlight

Although Adam Balasis grew up in Florida, his West Virginia roots run deep in McDowell County. Balasis' grandfather emigrated from Greece to make a fresh start in the town of Kimball, which was founded 100 years ago as a railroad maintenance center to serve the booming coal industry.

Adam remembers making many childhood visits to Kimball and visiting the family restaurant, Ya'Sou, a Greek-American restaurant meaning "To your health," which has been a staple in Kimball since 1945.



Adam relocated to West Virginia in 2010 and almost immediately joined the Kimball Volunteer Fire Department, where his family has a long history of volunteerism.

Volunteering is a passion that Adam holds dear, stating that he continues to volunteer because he "loves doing something without the expectation of something in return" and enjoys meeting other like-minded individuals.

Adam serves as the computer mentor for the public computer center at the Kimball fire department and was instrumental in developing a creative partnership with the WV Department of Homeland Security to locate a trailer to house the new computer center.

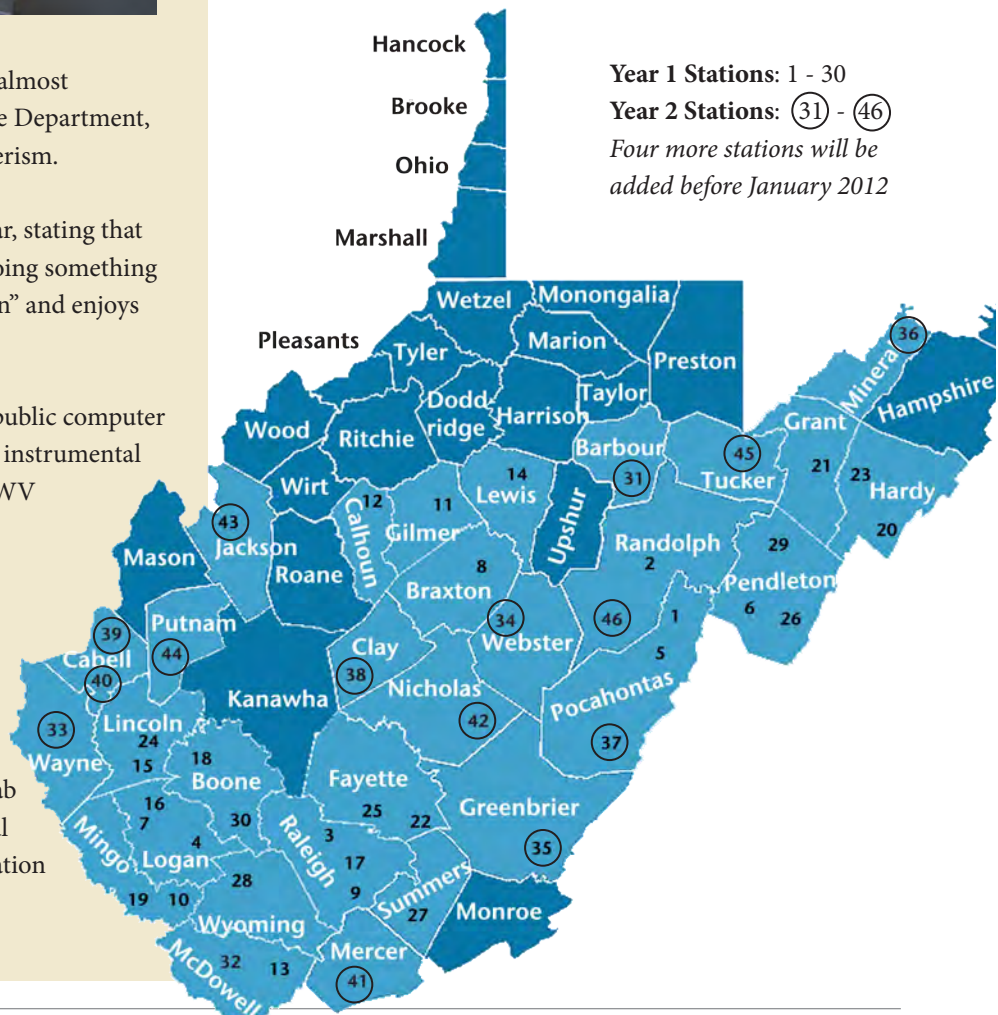
Adam says the computer center is already benefitting the community. It is allowing residents to meet others in the community that they may not have otherwise met because of social and racial differences. He says, "the lab creates commonality, it puts everyone on equal footing and allows them to have 'safe' socialization with a unifying influence."

Meet our Partner: Mission WV

MissionWV (missionwv.org) was founded in 1997 as a catalyst for community asset building and partnership development. With support from the Appalachian Regional Commission, the organization established 52 computer centers within faith-based institutions, a model upon which our program is based. Mission WV also runs a program that builds the confidence and skills of at-risk youth by teaching them to build their own computers from scratch.

As a partner, Mission WV brings significant knowledge and skills in teaching computer basics. They also provide more advanced skills training through an e-commerce academy. In addition, Mission WV provides Future Generations with a supply of used computers that we refurbish and make available to low-income families.

Map of Computer Center Locations



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Communities in Action



Photos top to bottom, left to right



Mixed Sources

Product group from well-managed forests, controlled sources and recycled wood or fiber

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China: In the Everest region of Tibet, the Pendeba Society led a series of training programs in hospitality and culinary skills to help families benefit from tourism and increase their incomes.

Afghanistan: In Nangarhar Province, a community development council received a block grant from the National Solidarity Program and organized volunteers to build a retaining wall that protects fields from floods.

Peru: Health staff learn new strategies to move beyond curative care to prevention. Health personnel use some visual aids to explain the Seed-Scale process for partnering more effectively with communities.

Uganda: Alumna of the Future Generations Graduate School, Joy Bongyereiere co-founded an organization that engages rural farmers, indigenous Pygmies, and other minority groups in projects to alleviate poverty and promote conservation.