



Annual Report 2011

January, 2012

Dear friends,

It is a pleasure to report that in 2011—our seventh year of operation—we achieved numerous successes in our mission to build mutually beneficial relationships between international grassroots social projects and an audience of volunteers, donors, and classrooms that can learn from and support their work. Our network now includes 164 health, educational, and environmental projects in 35 countries, and we have helped connect these ‘Partner’ organizations with over a thousand volunteers, over a million dollars in donations, and countless opportunities for dialogue and learning through our website’s rich repository of user-generated stories, media, and resources. As always, we are enormously grateful to the diverse community of donors, students, volunteers, and project leaders that share our vision and support our work.

The number of organizations applying to join our network continues to swell, and in 2011 we were excited to accept over 40 new Partners from locations as diverse as Cameroon and Cambodia. Meanwhile, our base of volunteers, donors, and students also continues to expand: our network now hosts over 4,000 registered volunteers; over 15,000 unique visitors use our online platform per month, and during the past year we enabled 53 different Partners to receive a total of over \$500,000 of donations from over 1,400 different donors. Our allocation of these funds has helped support projects ranging from inner-city education in Argentina to the development of water infrastructure in Uganda.



The generous support of our donors also allowed us to expand our grant offerings in 2011. Our Volunteer Grant program empowered 29 exceptional individuals from America, Canada, Scotland, Romania, Australia, and India to serve and learn with Omprakash Partners in 14 different countries for periods ranging from three to twelve months in duration. Our strategic investments in these individuals aim to power the future growth of our network, and some of these investments have already started to pay off through grant recipients' fundraising, outreach, and educational efforts. To complement our Volunteer Grant, we also expanded our Photopals Camera Grant: an initiative offering cameras to volunteers who pledge to teach photography at locations within the Omprakash network and then work to facilitate cross-cultural dialogue through sharing of multimedia.

Perhaps most significantly, 2011 also marked the launch of our Partner Sustainability Grant: a new opportunity for Omprakash to offer strategic support to Partners that propose entrepreneurial projects to generate revenue and lessen donor dependency. This effort to target and incubate new social enterprises around the world represents an exciting new direction for Omprakash, and we were pleased to offer the inaugural grant to two Partners whose budding small businesses will help fund the expansion of their social impact.

Alongside these new and improved program offerings, we also planned and executed the distribution of over 80,000 recycled children's books within our network of educational Partners in India. These books were donated to Omprakash by an American organization called Worldwide Book Drive, and we funded their delivery to our Partners and associated projects for a final cost of roughly 12 cents per book.

Our efficient management model allows us to operate with no office, no full-time employees, and no fees levied upon any users, and we are proud to report that administrative costs in 2011 amounted to only 5% of our total expenses. In an effort to help us cover these costs for the year ahead, the Dalio Family Foundation kindly offered in late 2011 to match up to \$15,000 worth of donations to Omprakash before the year's end. It is wonderful to announce that we met and surpassed this goal through a fall fundraising effort that included a former volunteer's biking over 1,000 miles, a benefit event in San Francisco, and many inspiring acts of generosity from within our growing community of supporters.

As we look ahead to 2012, we remain humbled by the challenges ahead, exhilarated by the diverse possibilities for our continued growth, and grateful for the human relationships that are at the heart of what we do.

Happy New Year!

The Omprakash Team

