



June 1, 2010

Dear friends,

Over five years have passed since we began building mutually educational relationships between volunteers, classrooms, and communities around the world. When we first created our website, it helped a handful of grassroots schools in India represent their needs to a global audience. Today, we provide a platform for over seventy “Partner” organizations in more than twenty different countries, and we are pleased to announce the launch of our new website and to report on our continued positive growth.

Our core mission remains fundamentally sustainable and cost-effective: we connect grassroots health, educational, and environmental organizations with volunteers, donors, and classrooms that can learn from and support their work. Our new website enables us to actualize this vision in a way that is dramatically more streamlined and user-friendly than the previous version: funded by a single generous donor, the new site allows our international Partners and volunteers to create and edit their own profiles, share stories, multimedia, and teaching resources, and search for each other based on skills and needs. We are thrilled about these developments, and we are confident that our increasingly dynamic website will be the foundation of our future.

It is equally exciting to report that 2009 was a year of unprecedented growth in at least three categories: total revenue, funds we provided to our Partners, and grants we offered to empower volunteers and classrooms to use our network (see graphs on other side). We raised over \$108,000 in 2009—nearly a forty percent increase from our total revenue in 2008—and we are on track to double this number in 2010. We continue to honor the requests of donors who wish for their contributions to be directed towards specific Omprakash Partners, and we used about sixty percent (\$68,000) of our 2009 revenue in this fashion—channeling the generosity of our donors directly towards scholarships, teacher salaries, and administrative expenses at educational projects in India, Peru, Uganda, Afghanistan, and beyond. In addition to providing this direct support to our Partners, we strengthened our broader network by granting twenty-five percent (\$27,000) of our 2009 revenue to classrooms and individuals through our Volunteer Grant and Seed Grant programs. These programs helped recipients from locations as diverse as Maine, California, and Ireland to serve our international Partners—either by volunteering directly, or by initiating service projects in their home communities.

These monetary figures indicate some of our success, but it is crucial to recall that our essential purpose—offering a free website that facilitates communication, collaboration, and mutual learning between diverse social actors around the world—requires virtually zero overhead spending. Since none of us receive financial compensation for our work, our administrative expenses in the past year—with the exception of the one-time cost of our new website—amounted to well under one-percent of our total revenue. Meanwhile, over seventy thousand unique visitors used our website to learn about the inspiring work of our Partners, and several hundred went on to plan and execute their own volunteer trips and service projects. We are proud to provide the spark for such a wide range of cross-cultural interactions, and we are confident that the achievement of this basic mission can and will continue without being dependent upon the generosity of our donors.

As we look toward the future, we hope to continue expanding our grant programs and providing our Partners with strategic financial support. In addition, we hope to hire at least one paid employee to manage the ongoing growth of our network. Please visit the “Donate” page of our website if you are interested in supporting any of these initiatives. However, please keep in mind that the most powerful way to support our mission is simply to share it with others. We are confident that Omprakash will continue to offer people a unique opportunity to actualize their commitment to global service and citizenship, and we thank you for your ongoing participation in this effort.

Sincerely,

The Omprakash Team

Co-Directors: Steve Le, Ashley Moore, and Willy Oppenheim
Advisory Board: Gordon Guthrie, Kelly Rula, Nick Smith, and Elliott Wright

