

The ASAPROSAR Newsletter



September 2009

News from ASAPROSAR!

Thank you to everyone who read our first newsletter. We love to hear from you so please email any suggestions or comments to us! If you would like to see a topic covered in the newsletter, let us know! Don't forget to check out our new web site!

www.asaprosar.org



Why Gold?

When visiting ASAPROSAR or viewing photos of staff and volunteers you will notice a lot of gold shirts... why gold?

The gold shirt came to symbolize ASAPROSAR during the Salvadoran civil war. Dr. Vicky Guzman was meeting with leaders from the warring left and right. Dr. Vicky explained to the group that her workers in the rural villages were being interfered with, threatened and sometimes harmed. Dr.

Vicky explained that she and her workers were helping the neediest Salvadorans regardless of which side they were on and she needed to insure their safety. Both sides agreed to honor a color identification that represented her group and their work but the color could not be one of any of the political parties in the country. A gold/bright yellow color was chosen so that they could clearly be identified in the jungle and hills of western El Salvador.

Even today when volunteers arrive at the ASAPROSAR office to participate in a work trip they are given a gold shirt. The color represents hope and is a testament to those who fought through the war without bearing arms.

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"I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver" - Maya Angelou



Give Women Credit!

The idea of microcredit is not a new one but in recent years has begun to be seen as a hand-up to those living in poverty. The United Nations declared 2005 International Year of Microcredit. Microcredit is a way to spur entrepreneurship, generate income and in many cases exit poverty. Women are playing a greater role in these innovative financial services largely due to Dr. Muhammad Yunus and the microfinance organization he founded, Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, with women as 97% of its borrowers.

Why focus on women in microfinance? As Nicholas Kristof states in his article *The Women's Crusade* recently published in the New York Times Magazine, it is the dirty

little secret for global poverty, that men are unwise spenders. Kristof goes on to say that in the developing world the poorest families spend 10 times more on alcohol, prostitution, candy, sugary drinks and lavish meals than on education. When assets are placed in the hands of women more money is likely to be spent on nutrition, education and housing which in turn leads to healthier children and families.

The New York Times

[The Women's Crusade - NYTimes.com](#)

Source: www.nytimes.com

The liberation of women could help solve many of the world's problems, from poverty to child mortality to terrorism.

ASAPROSAR has been engaged in microfinance since 1993 when it created the Fondo de Apoyo (Support Fund) as a financial credit structure, through a project financed by the "Inter-American Foundation". In 1994 it became the Microcredit Development Program, which promoted and financially supported the micro-enterprise sector of western El Salvador. This population usually has no access to the formal financial system. With the help of ASAPROSAR, the people are engaged in the development of productive activities in the subsistence sector. Since 2002 the Microcredit Development Program... [Read More!](#)



Magicians Without Borders

Magicians Without Borders performs magic shows for children in refugee camps, orphanages and hospitals around the world - often in war torn places where love, laughter and magic are desperately needed. Magicians Without Borders began when Tom Verner, a professor of Psychology, was traveling through Eastern Europe in 2001 and did some magic shows in the refugee camps of Kosovo and Macedonia. The shows were so well received

that Tom decided to take a leave from his teaching and perform full time.

Tom and his wife Janet, along with other magicians and theater teachers travel to El Salvador every three months where they perform for children in the countryside and are teaching magic and theater skills to the children in the ASAPROSAR's Barefoot Angels program. Magicians Without Borders sponsors a week-long Magic, Theater and Art Camp for these children who live in grinding poverty surrounded by brutal gang violence. These young magicians have already begun to perform in orphanages, hospitals and disaster areas in El Salvador. One day some of them may travel with Tom and Janet to bring magic and laughter to other poor children in other parts of the world... [Read More!](#)



What makes a Leader?

Leadership is a journey of discovery. A leader is a person at his or her best who is willing to transform something for the better and to develop potential in others. An effective leader has to possess passion, values, vision, creativity and the ability to communicate. ASAPROSAR is working with youth in the Barefoot Angels program to develop these leadership characteristics in the boys and girls of Santa Ana, El

Salvador. For information on how you can help ASAPROSAR develop the leaders of tomorrow please [email us](#). To read more about the fundamentals of ASAPROSAR's leadership program within the Barefoot Angels [click here](#).

iGive.com

If you are making online purchases why not help ASAPROSAR at the same time? Go to iGive.com search ASAPROSAR and follow the steps. A percentage of your purchase will be donated to ASAPROSAR.

Our Mission

The mission of ASAPROSAR is to work with the neediest families in El Salvador to improve their quality of life. ASAPROSAR empowers the poor through health care, youth leadership training, environmental and nutritional education, micro-credit, and community development. Priority is given to children, youth and women in rural and marginalized urban settings.

ASAPROSAR

Salvadoran Association for Rural Health

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