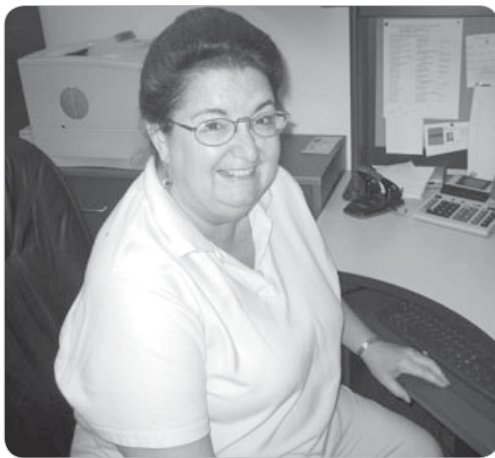



PARTNERS
a newsletter for our supporters and friends

Summer 2010

Sandra's Corner



Once you actually start working on a major transition, with dreams, goals, and timelines, it is amazing how many things come up that affect the major goal. As the transition team started working through the issues surrounding the search and transition to a new Executive Director, it became clear that some decisions had to be made about our staff and the board.

I am very pleased to tell you that Naomi Staruch is now Managing Director of LPGM. Naomi is a charter board member and has given tirelessly (at least that's how it looked) to the organization. Last fall when our office manager accepted a wonderful new job,

Naomi graciously stepped in to hold us together as we started the search process. She has done a terrific job with our projects, financial reporting, and the relocation of our office. She likes coming to work here each day enough to stay on a long-term basis. What a gift for the new Executive Director – and for us!

Our board has been in place for several years and we have begun hitting our term limits. Shelly Franz and Pastor Dave Olson, both charter board members, are scheduled to go off the board this year. This has been very unsettling as we need their collective memory and perspective to inform the coming changes. However, it forced us to look at LPGM and the work we do. It has been determined that we need eight new board members – in the next 6-9 months – to carry out the mission of the organization. So now we have a second search committee working on board recruitment and strength. Dave Dynneson and I are co-chairing this effort and would appreciate any thoughts, ideas, names or just conversation from our constituents. Call the office anytime to leave a message for Dave or me. One of us will get back to you as soon as possible.

And, on the way to all of that, it became necessary to tweak our mission statement!

The Board of Directors appointed a search committee that has been busy working toward the goal of hiring a new executive leader. Job descriptions have been written, applications have been received, and by the time you read this we anticipate interviewing candidates. An aggressive plan seeks to have the new Executive Director in place by mid-September. Betty Olson will remain on staff as Project Education India Administrator. Gordy Olson will become Founding Director. Both will work part-time as they enjoy more retirement-type activities.

Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry is a movement that engages individuals and communities in transformational partnerships across the globe. Centered in faith and dedicated to service, LPGM is called to action by sharing resources and hope.

Thanks for your support – please keep us in your prayers as we make decisions that will directly affect the work and future of LPGM!

**LPGM's
Board of Directors**

Sandra Anderson, *Board Chair*

James Donicht, *Vice Chair*

Amy Swenson, *Secretary*

Melissa Steen, *Treasurer*

Dave Dynneson

Shelly Franz

Herb Morgenthaler

Betty Olson

The Rev. David Olson

Michael Smith

Verne Winter

Gordon Olson, *Executive Director, Ex Officio*

The Rev. James Gonia, *ELCA Liaison*



From a Sponsor: An “Ah Ha” Moment

We read with interest and admiration the recently posted LPGM Newsletter. We were particularly moved by “Sandra’s Corner.” We are proud to be an ever-so-small part of the LPGM effort by sponsoring a beautiful young lady in India. We have not, however, communicated with her or otherwise “introduced” ourselves with,

say, a photo. Sandra’s Corner gave us pause and made us realize that we may actually be important to this young lady; it also made me remember how important she is to us. A note and perhaps a photo (including our awesome dog, of course!) will soon be on its way. Thank you for making a difference!

We still hope to turn our list from one of children waiting for a sponsor to one of sponsors waiting for a child. Are you feeling called to share your story with someone who could sponsor a child? There are still 50 children who are praying for a sponsor.

India Trip – January 2011

It has been a couple years since LPGM hosted a group trip to India. We are now in the planning stages for January 2011 and you are invited! You can plan on being gone for approximately two weeks. The cost will

be approximately \$3,000, dependent upon airline costs and foreign currency exchange. Please send a message to office@lutheranpartners.org or call 612.823.5058 if you are interested.



Sponsorship Blitz Very Successful

We asked for your assistance and we got it! Folks we call champions, at ten partner churches in Illinois, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin, shared their own story about sponsoring a child through Project Education India in April and May.

At last count, 120 children were sponsored! Not knowing what to expect with this event, we have been overwhelmed by the response.

Go Paperless!

We continue to make a request for you to join our on-line subscriber list if at all possible. We can communicate with you in an efficient manner – you choose what items to receive:

- (1) E-Newsletter/3 or 4 each year
- (2) Child Sponsor E-News/1-3 each year
- (3) LPGM Special Events/Occasionally
- (4) First Responder/When there is an immediate financial need
- (5) Travel Related Opportunities/Occasionally

If you join the subscriber list, we will no longer send you these items via post which will help us be good stewards of our resources.

To join, visit www.lutheranpartners.org and click on the JOIN OUR MAILING LIST tab.

OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, September 23

4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

122 West Franklin Avenue

NEW Suite 319, Minneapolis

No RSVP necessary



No Party with a Twist

A very creative family in the Twin Cities had been holding an annual grand party for years. There were themes, invitations, RSVPs, party clothes, decorations, food and beverage. The merrymaking was all for the purpose of raising money for various charities. These parties have been very successful raising nearly \$140,000 in ten years.

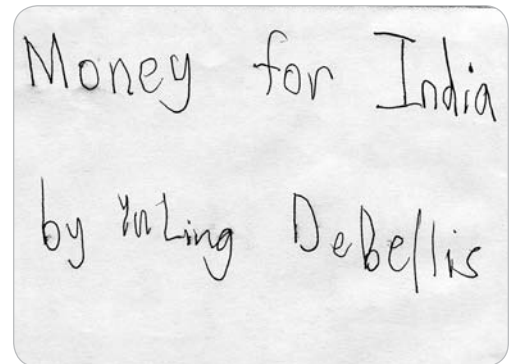
In 2009, amidst the recession and tough economic times, Fay and Robert DeBellis changed their minds about the annual party. They threw a NO PARTY WITH A TWIST. There were still invitations but there was no gathering, no need for new clothes, no food or beverage. The "invites" requested that "guests" contribute to the 100+ Library Project in south India (coordinated by LPGM). They raised a total of \$10,584! As one observer noted, "That's a lot of library books!"

Thanks to Fay and Robert and Yu Ling for their creative fundraising technique – with a twist.

Young Yu Ling DeBellis is developing a real philanthropic heart. She saved a portion of her allowance in 2009 for the kids in India. Her mother wrote a check on her behalf for \$50.00 as a contribution toward the India Library Project!



DeBellis Family



Envelope Note

Central African Republic Video

A nine (9) minute video, telling the story of the new Emmanuel Health Center in the Central African Republic, is now available. You can watch the video on our website <http://lutheranpartners.org/africa/gallo-health-clinic/> (www.lutheranpartners.org; LPGM Projects tab; under Africa & Middle East choose Emmanuel Health Center). Contact

us for more information or if you would like a copy of the video to share with your congregation or group.

As this newsletter went to press we received dozens of photographs of the first days of the functioning health center. In the first week, ten babies were born in a safe environment!

Many other people are seeking health care and counseling at the center. Praise God for bringing all the partners together to make this dream come true!

Photos below are of the Emmanuel Health Center in the Central African Republic.





NO ONE CAN DO MISSION ALONE!

From Executive Director, Gordon Olson

Companion Synod Partnerships



Within our name, Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry, one defining word stands out. We believe partnership is a key to effective ministry.

As the body of Christ is made up of many parts, each one having a special gift and job to do, so is the company of partners who do global ministry. LPGM programs and projects require more than one organization and many people working together. No one can do mission alone.

The uniqueness of LPGM is the network of partners and the way mission is done through those partner relationships. Betty and I recently visited four ELCA synod assemblies, each with a global companion that is also an LPGM partner:

- Eastern North Dakota - Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic
- Minneapolis Area – The Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria
- Northern Illinois - Arcot Lutheran Church, India
- Western North Dakota - Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic

“With diminishing mission resources at the national and synod levels, we all must work together, each adding what we can, to build global relationships and expand our ministries to the world.”

At these synod gatherings, there was evidence of renewed interest and passion for mission within the general business of the meetings and in discussion with individuals.

A healthy concept of partnership requires an understanding that we cannot go it alone. So we each find a way to contribute to make things happen. The synods work through ELCA guidelines to support various projects and build congregation-to-congregation relationships. LPGM often assists with communication, money transfers, networking and generating enthusiasm.

With diminishing mission resources at the national and synods levels, we all must work together, each adding what we can, to build global relationships and expand our ministries to the world. LPGM’s call to this mix is to create and strengthen partnerships. We do this with great anticipation and enthusiasm. When all partners work in harmony, the church will be stronger, lives will be improved and God’s kingdom will reach beyond the horizon. We are grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this great movement.

Congregational Partner Opportunities

LPGM can connect your congregation to an outreach opportunity. You will make a good investment, create and build relationships and know exactly where your money is going.

- A congregation in North Dakota has given a generous gift to build an HIV/AIDS treatment and counseling center in the Central African Republic.
- A young businessman from a Lutheran congregation is committed to raising funds to build an entire elementary school in India.
- A group of ten young people and five adults are traveling to India this summer for a transformational experience relating to children
- A congregation in Wisconsin is taking a giant leap by sending a group to Argentina to work with a mission congregation in a poor neighborhood outside of Buenos Aires.



- A congregation in Illinois plans to give a significant amount from their capital funds for a need in India.

Is your congregation ready to take a step in partnership with us that will revitalize your mission program? Perhaps these examples will inspire you to take a baby step or a giant step, but stepping out in faith is what God is calling you to do! If you have an idea, let us know so we can help you transform your dream into reality.



Special Contributions to LPGM received through June 30, 2010

We encourage you to consider investing in global outreach as you remember or honor a loved one.

In Memory of...

BILL BLISS

given by Sandra & George Anderson; David Bliss; Lois & Bob Dokken; Audrey & Richard Dronen; C.E. & L.A. Erlandson; Muriel & Curtis Hansen; Marilyn Kesler; Gudrun & Rolf Giere; Judith Mattison; Jack Lower; Jeanette Murphy; Betty Lou & Ronald Nelson; Betty & Gordon Olson; George & Bobbi Roesler; Roger Shimada; Naomi & Steven Staruch; Anne & Doug Westby

CLAIRE CORRENTY

given by Sandra & George Anderson

DORIS ERICKSON

given by Marilyn & Kent Christensen

RALPH JONDAHL

given by Susan & David Lindvall

ERLING ROVICK

given by Betty & Gordon Olson

RALPH SCHJELDAHL

given by Katie & Kris Layon

EVELYN TERPSTRA

given by Katie Piehl & Rich Knowlton

ELISABETH ZAMA & JOSEPHINE MBAKA

given by Sarah & Noel Larsen Tade

In Honor of...

TESHA DISTAD

given by David Distad

LYNNE HELBERG

given by John & Kristen Helberg

MARY ANN MATSON'S BIRTHDAY

given by Phyllis Brynstad

RUTH & TOM MOEN'S 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

given by Hub Nelson

BETTY & GORDON OLSON

given by Phyllis Brynstad

KRIS TOSTENGARD-MICHEL'S ORDINATION

given by Jean Johansson

GREAT GRANDSON

given by Ardell & Dennis Rettmann

If we have omitted any gifts by mistake, please contact us so that we can correct the error in our next newsletter.

New Office

Standing in the doorway to our new office, this is what you see. We didn't have to move far and for that we are grateful to the Minnesota Church Center staff who helped us expand and reorganize just two floors away. Building on a firm foundation, this move has poised LPGM for the future.



Our new address is:

Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry
122 West Franklin Avenue, **Suite 319**
Minneapolis MN 55404

All other contact points remain the same:
612.823.5058

office@lutheranpartners.org
www.lutheranpartners.org

If you are reading this in the printed version, you can view the new wall in full color online: <http://lutheranpartners.org/about-lpgm/lpgm-newsletters/>. The wall is the same beautiful red color as our general brochure. Better yet – come to our open house or visit us anytime!

Coming soon: a new way to help Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry

As you may know, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is launching a new charitable grant program and benefit of membership called Thrivent ChoiceSM. Choice DollarsSM will be designated to some Thrivent Financial members when that portion of the program launches this summer. Thrivent Financial member eligibility will be based on fraternal benefit society product ownership and Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership, and helping direct Choice DollarsSM will be subject



Thrivent Financial for Lutherans[®]

to the Terms and Conditions of the Thrivent ChoiceSM program.

As always, LPGM is grateful for your consideration when you make charitable

giving plans. If you are a Thrivent Financial member who is eligible to direct Choice DollarsSM (watch your mail for details from Thrivent Financial this summer), we ask you to consider LPGM in your choice.



LUTHERAN PARTNERS IN GLOBAL MINISTRY

122 West Franklin Ave, Suite 319
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404

Phone: 612.823.5058
Email: office@lutheranpartners.org
Website: www.lutheranpartners.org

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Connecting and Encouraging through Faith

Celebrating 15 years!

On May 31, 1995, Betty and Gordon Olson and five friends created Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry by adopting the Articles of Incorporation pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 317A, Minnesota Statutes. The Secretary of the State officially filed this document on July 10, 1995. LPGM is fifteen!

We feel a bit like a teenager, no longer a child, not yet an adult. And yet we have done a great deal of “growing up” in recent years. Like a fine cheese, it is our prayer to get better as we age and so we look forward to the future.

Sitting around the dining room table at the Olson home, we can honestly say we had no idea where God was leading us. But we can say with conviction that God was – and is – leading us. We are so grateful for your support - contributions, prayers, encouragement and love - which has made this milestone a reality. We look forward to many more years of partnership in Jesus’ name!

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