

Canada India Village Aid

Fostering self-help and economic innovation in rural India



Summer 2012

Battling for Livelihoods for the Poor and Against Corruption ... CIVAI's Role

by John Harriss

Only a few years ago India was generally seen as the archetypal poor developing country. But how times have changed! President Obama, on his 2010 visit to India, spoke of the country as an 'emerged' rather than an 'emerging' power, and it is by now very well known that the Indian economy has been growing faster than all other major economies apart from that of China. We are getting used to the idea that the economic centre of gravity of the world is fast shifting to Asia.

But it is less well known that in the course of the past decade the government of India has been devoting a large share of its greatly increased tax revenues to some truly massive programs for the improvement of living standards across the population. The most notable of these is the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme**, set up as a result of an Act of Parliament passed in 2005, that now gives rural households in all the districts of the country the right to up to one hundred days of employment in government funded public works each year.

Studies in six North Indian states have shown that the number of days of employment generated per rural household through the Scheme ranged from 77 in the best case to 22 in the least good; and in the best case (that of the state of Rajasthan) the participation of women was as high as 71 per cent. The employment scheme has been making a vital contribution to changing gender relations, and to greater gender equity; and in general it has had a positive impact in raising rural wages. Perhaps most important of all, the Scheme has led to increased awareness amongst



Gathering biometric data: more than 200 million people thus far

poor people of their rights as citizens of India.

Now this Act is being followed up with legislation that is intended to provide food security for all—though how this is to be done remains controversial. Hitherto India has had a system of ration shops called the Public Distribution System (the PDS), intended to supply basic commodities, especially rice and wheat, at controlled prices, principally for poor people. In those states where the system has been made to work well (especially in South India), it has had a very positive effect on the well-being of the poor. In other states, however, it has not done much for them—partly because of massive leakage of funds through corruption.

So one point of view expressed in the current debates over food security holds that it will be best for the government to transfer money directly to poor people, rather than trying to supply foodstuffs to them. Such transfers of money are expected to become possible once every citizen of India has a unique identification number, linked to biometric data—under a special program called the **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)**. This is being implemented under the authority of one of India's most successful software entrepreneurs, Nandan Nilekani, one of the founders of the iconic IT

company called Infosys. So far more than 200 million people have been given unique identification numbers.

These vitally important schemes for improving the livelihoods of the poorest Indians have come into being as the government has responded to pressure from groups within Indian civil society. Probably the most significant of these is the Right to Food Campaign, first set up in 2001 in the context of the existence of famine in parts of Rajasthan.

What the campaigners did was to bring a case against the Government of India through public interest litigation, finally leading Supreme Court judges to order government to use food grains stored in its granaries for the relief of want. The campaigners went on to put pressure on the government to institute a national employment guarantee, and they are now very active in the debates over how best to achieve food security.

Another very important civil society campaign has been over citizens' right to information. The Right to Information Act, passed in 2005, is now being used very creatively by civil society activists to monitor the way in which governments implement the important schemes intended to improve poor people's livelihoods. There is no doubt at all that the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is having a positive

impact in many parts of the country—but there is equally no doubt that massive amounts of money intended for poor people through the Scheme are being siphoned off through corruption.

A civil society organization called the **Right to Employment and Information Campaign**, through the work of its volunteers, conducted an audit in 2009 of the implementation of the Employment Guarantee Scheme in Rajasthan—which, as we have seen, is the state which has had perhaps the best record, certainly in North India, in making the Scheme work. The volunteers, making use of the Right to Information Act, inspected the records—and showed that roughly a third of the funds intended for material purchases for the Scheme, amounting to millions of dollars, were being used to line the pockets of a long chain of people, stretching from elected local council officials, through local civil servants, right up to top bureaucrats of one or two of the districts of Rajasthan.

So telling were the findings of the volunteers' audit that they prompted the local officials to form an organization themselves, in order to prevent the civil society audit going any further. The officials even blocked roads to press their case against those they labelled “interfering busybodies.” Regrettably, the state government eventually gave into them. The incident goes to show both how serious is the leakage of funds intended for the benefit of poor people, and how difficult the struggle against corruption is when so many politicians and local officials are implicated.

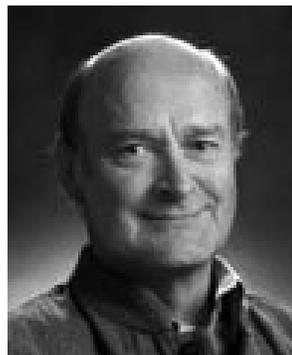
Now that the Indian economy is doing so well, and that India's government is intervening so extensively to bring greater welfare to the people, it might be thought that there is no longer a role for an organization such as CIVA, which has for many years raised money in Canada to support Indian NGOs that work with and for poor people.

We believe, however, that there remains a very important role for us relatively privileged people here: supporting Indian civil society groups



directly involved in bringing pressures to bear on government, attempting to ensure that it fulfills its obligations to deliver on citizens' economic and social rights (such as the rights to food and to employment); and in supporting brave groups battling the corruption that diverts so much of the resources intended for the poor into other pockets. This is the work that CIVA has now taken up. ■

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77% of all reported bribe demands in India are related to the avoidance of harm, including securing the timely delivery of a service which is actually a right of a person (such as clearing customs or having a telephone line installed) and receiving payment for services already rendered. Only 12% of bribe demands were for gaining a personal or business advantage (including exercising influence with or over another government official, receiving inappropriate favorable treatment or winning new business).
—Worthview

Contribute Knowledge As Well As Money: CIVA's New Initiative

by Ashok Kotwal

It is inevitable that as time rolls on, circumstances change and our priorities change in turn. At our last fund raising dinner, we announced a new initiative in collaboration with the Liu Institute of Global Issues at UBC, and my purpose here is to clarify what this new initiative is all about.

In a nutshell, it is this: the poor in India face many challenges that cannot be met simply by sending them money. The focus of our new initiative is to facilitate the use of expertise available here in Canada to solve some daunting problems in rural India. CIVA would like to become a bridge between Indian NGOs working at the grassroots level in rural India, who would bring us the problems, and Canadian experts (at UBC to begin with), who would try to solve them.

Different types of problems demand attention. Some are purely technological; for example, coming up with an efficient wood burning stove or an inexpensive water purifier. Some need objective analysis: the facts and fiction about GM technology. Some require mass education, as in the area of nutrition and hygiene. Some are socio-economic: How do we improve the attendance of teachers in rural schools?

We propose to work on problems where the needs of the local communities, as perceived by our Indian NGO partners, can be matched with expertise to which we have ready access.

Our choice in the immediate future is to tackle the problem of corruption. Funds allocated for rural projects and poverty alleviation never reach the targeted recipients; the local bureaucracy siphons them off. If we can help bring about improvements in the design of the delivery system for government services and programs in a way that would mitigate corruption, we would

reap huge social returns on our effort and money.

For a long time now, many donor agencies, including CIVA, have raised funds to build local public facilities such as schools and health clinics. These efforts are very worthwhile, as the local NGOs fill in for the local governments that are derelict in their responsibilities. However, a complementary effort to curb corruption would greatly increase the number of schools and health clinics, since government allocations presently frittered away would actually create such assets.

Consider the issue of delivering food subsidy to the poor across the country through the public distribution system (PDS). This massive program costs the government about 1% of GDP. In a nutshell, the program entails a central government agency (the Food Corporation of India, or FCI) to procure rice and wheat (and also sugar and kerosene) and sell them through specially licensed fair price shops (FPS) at about half of the market prices.

It goes almost without saying that there is a tremendous incentive for shopkeepers to divert the goods to the open market and make huge profits. This leakage, added to the inefficiencies in the government-operated storage and transportation systems, adds up to a colossal waste. It has been estimated that for transferring every Rs. 1 of food subsidy to an eligible recipient, the government spends upward of Rs. 3.60.

What is worse, 70% of those for whom this subsidy is intended never receive it. In short, a well-intentioned program has managed to gobble up resources without delivering much in terms of intended benefits. In fact, it has generated a corrupt lobby of fair-price shops and other intermediaries for whom this program has become a gravy train. Inevitably, such a lobby has opposed any efforts to change the system.

Indian poverty is self-perpetuating. The malnourished and undereducated do badly in the job market, and the poor remain trapped in poverty. A consumption subsidy to the poor is not

just an act of charity but is essential in a country like India, and this simple fact is not lost on either the policy makers or the elite. There is thus a vigorous debate underway about how to improve the system of delivering food subsidy to the poor. A couple of states (Tamilnadu and Chattisgarh) have tried to reform the existing system. Some other states are talking about experimenting with alternate systems such as cash transfer.

In the meantime, the Indian central government has announced that it will issue a unique identity number to each citizen of India containing that individual's biometric information. Moreover, it is envisaged that a UID account will be linked to a bank account. The idea is to establish a direct link between an individual and a central government office, bypassing local bureaucracy. There have been proposals to use the UID system to substitute cash transfer for food subsidies. In principle, cash transfers would be more efficient than the present system, but may give rise to problems that we are not aware of yet. Many people also suspect that the poor will not succeed in putting the cash to productive use. Indeed, a fierce debate is raging in India at present.

What can CIVA do in this situation? We believe some experimentation will shed more light on the subject. Social scientists at UBC have extensive experience of working in India and are also tuned in to the ongoing debate. Similarly, CIVA works with an Indian partner (Pragati Abhiyan) which is keen on finding answers to the questions that have surfaced in this debate on the reform of the public distribution system. CIVA could facilitate setting up an experiment with cash transfers in Nashik where Pragati Abhiyan is active. This could be done by piggybacking on a government pilot project designed to test cash transfers through a UID-based system.

Although the government survey is meant to test its equipment and administrative set-up, UBC social scientists could use this opportunity to assess how

the rural poor are benefiting from it and to suggest how the system could be improved. Given the scale of the food subsidy budget, if the research project results in enhancing the actual benefits to the poor by even 5%, it would far exceed any possible good done by building a few schools and health clinics in those few places.

Interestingly, policymakers themselves have begun to lose faith in the ability of their local bureaucracy to deliver public services without corruption.

Here are three examples:

- The Government of Rajasthan has asked our partner **Seva Mandir** to monitor implementation of NREGA schemes in the tribal areas of the State.

- Similarly, the Government of Maharashtra has enlisted our partner **Pragati Abhiyan** to improve the working of the NREGA scheme there. Pragati Abhiyan is also engaged in a strong advocacy effort with the help of some CIVA members to shape the National Food Security Bill that has just been tabled in the parliament so that the subsidy intended for the poor actually reaches them.

- **Rashtra Seva Dal** helped set up training camps, with CIVA's help, for Dalit women in Bihar to inform them about their legal rights, and to instruct them in effective methods to demand those rights.

Corruption is just the single major example of systemic problems that could be mitigated by applying research tools to real problems on the ground. There are many such problems that cannot be solved by just throwing money at them. In these cases, our efforts are likely to be most effective if we draw on Canada's best resource—expertise.

I would like to emphasize that our new initiative is a complement rather than a substitute to the type of projects we have undertaken over years. We would like to continue to encourage innovative projects like residential schools for migratory communities, agricultural extension work in arid areas, rebuilding village schools washed away in floods, decontamination of

ground water, and so on.

Over the past decade CIVA's own financial endowment has shrunk to an all-time low. To be able to continue our work, we need your support more than ever before. Please consider renewed support for our efforts! ■

The Right to Food

*by Milind Kandlikar,
Ashok Kotwal, and
Hisham Zerriffi*

Researchers at the Liu Institute for Global Issues will be working to answer important questions on food security in India, thanks to a grant from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

India has the largest group of food insecure people in the world. A large proportion of the population in India faces a chronic inability to access basic food, and hunger is widespread; 80% of India's population of 1.2 billion lives on less than 2 dollars a day.

India is also home to a large number of the world's energy poor; 855 million people rely on the burning of traditional biomass (for example, garbage, waste, and wood) for cooking, and 400 million have no access to electricity. New uses of biomass energy may be a way to meet rural energy needs and promote local economic development, thus impacting food security at the local level.

Understanding the causes of food insecurity in India and working to reduce it will have a large impact on global food security. Over the next three years, Liu Institute researchers will work to answer important questions on food security in India, thanks to a \$345,000 grant from the IDRC and cooperation with CIVA's partners in India.

The project has two themes: access to food and food subsidy, and the relationship between biofuels, agricultural productivity, and food security.

There is a large biomass resource base in India which is inefficiently used for household cooking and under-util-

ized for electricity—a critical problem given the vast number of energy poor in India.

Recently a number of companies have found ways of using agricultural residues (straw, silage, and animal slurry) to provide cooking fuels and electricity on a commercial basis.

Commercialization of this resource would represent a major shift in the use of biomass for energy in rural India, which until recently has been focussed on direct burning of self-collected biomass in households.

The consequences could be very far-reaching—from re-allocation of labour and materials, possible new sources of farm income, changes in food availability and prices, to changes in household energy practices.

These effects will impact local food security, whether positively or negatively, yet they have not been studied at the local level.

Prof. Hisham Zerriffi will study the potential for agricultural residue based bioenergy production, the impact that widespread commercialization of agricultural residues will have on productivity, and how these changes affect local food security, particularly for the poor.

The partnership will advance the Institute's mandate to bridge academe, policy and practice, and leverage our existing efforts on Food Security—which include a collaboration with the Canadian International Development Agency, the Asian Development Bank, and CIVA.

Researchers will work with Canadian and Indian universities, and development agencies working in India, partnering on outreach and communications activities as well as research. ■

Many Little Things...

by Drew Stewart, Co-Chair

“Many little things done in many little places by many little people will change the face of the world.” We believe the impracticality of grand solutions does not preclude the validity of small ones, affecting thousands or tens of thousands of people. Enough effective small schemes, aimed not at temporary relief but at changing the lives of people permanently, will renew society, perhaps most of all by removing the sense of hopelessness and awakening the initiative among the poor themselves.

These words were written in the 1980s by CIVA co-founder George Woodcock. At that time, as Woodcock reported back to his fellow CIVA board members, some forty percent of Indians lived below the national poverty line.

Since then there have been many big changes in India. It is now an economic superpower, with technological prowess stretching from car manufacturing to software, and growth rates exceeding 8% a year. But it is also true that many little things have remained the same.

Today, according to UN data, forty-two percent of the population lives below the international poverty line of US\$1.25 per day. So CIVA remains relevant in our goal of supporting “enough effective small schemes.”

But how does one know if a parti-



Drew with daughter Ella

cular scheme, project, or initiative is truly “effective”? In a world of scarcity, how can one know the best ways to use limited resources to fulfill such goals as educating children and creating access to health care in rural areas?

Effectiveness is not only the elephant in the room during any conversation about development or aid, it is the source of the cynicism many people feel when asked for a donation to support supposed “good work.”

In at least partial pursuit of answering this dilemma of ‘effectiveness’ in development, my wife and fellow board member Sophie Low-Beer and I took a joint sabbatical from the CIVA board: I pursued an MSc in Development Management at the London School of Economics, while Sophie studied at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Our year away in London was very productive, as we came home with three new things: a new baby boy, Max (born only three days after Sophie completed her final exams!); two new certificates saying that we had learned a few new tricks; and renewed confidence that CIVA’s goal of supporting many small effective schemes remains relevant and worthy three decades after the organization’s inception.

We also learned about the enormous potential that academic research has to make these small projects realize their fullest efficacy. Big, complex questions such as “Are small governments more conducive to poverty alleviation?” or

“Are more open trade policies better for the poor?” contain a multitude of factors and are, therefore, prone to a multitude of answers.

But researchers do possess the tools to focus in on smaller questions. Through random controlled trials and pilot projects, researchers can measure the effectiveness of many small interventions, such as: “*What are the best ways to*

combat teacher absenteeism in India?” or “*What are the best tools in fighting petty bureaucratic corruption in India?*”

Such information can be invaluable to our Indian NGO partners at they struggle to improve local health, education, and social justice.

This is why I am so excited by CIVA’s new partnership with UBC. CIVA occupies a unique position, having built up strong relationships with many innovative Indian NGOs over the past three decades. These groups have specific research questions that need answering. CIVA, through its board members, has strong relationships with both of the major universities in the Lower Mainland.

By connecting local faculty and graduate students with our longtime Indian NGO partners, we hope to improve the effectiveness of the many little projects, schemes, and initiatives done in the name of improving the welfare of India’s rural poor.

The wonderful thing about this new CIVA/UBC partnership is that it doesn’t demand an outlay of funds; CIVA simply acts as a conduit between researchers and Indian charities.

In short, it is a costless opportunity to leverage our relationships in the local academic community and, working with our Indian NGO partners, to improve the effectiveness of the many small schemes we fund, while fulfilling our goal of “changing the lives of people permanently.” ■

Project Report: FERRY

by *Prafulla Kumar Chakravarti,*
President

2010-11 saw several innovations in FERRY's training programmes. Chief among these was the introduction of two new courses which reflect the changing socioeconomic scenario of rural Bengal.

The rapid increase in Information Technology (IT) related communications, which has brought about a veritable revolution in Indian cities, has not left rural India unaffected. Much has been written about the ways in which inexpensive mobile telephony has not only brought hitherto marginalized regions and communities into relatively close contact with the socioeconomic mainstream, but has also changed the social and economic dynamics within these communities and regions.

For example, the many benefits that accrued to fisherfolk with the introduction of mobile telephony in the coastal regions of Kerala became the subject of a classic and oft-cited study. In West Bengal too, mobile phones have played a vital role in providing crucial information to the right individual/community at the right time, which has enabled that individual or community to make more informed and invariably better choices—be these choices primarily social (e.g.. Which *mela* has the better *jatra*?, or economic (e.g. Which market is offering the best price for *arhar daal*?).

Another important change has been the steady decline in the prices of personal computers (PCs) and peripherals, enabling relatively small businesses and traders to invest in PCs and printers, both in cities as well as in semi-rural areas. Internet connectivity—often brought about as a result of mobile telephony—has also spread significantly, especially in the last three to four years.

All these developments have translated into a situation where the target group of FERRY's training programmes, namely economically backward



young women and men of rural Bengal, use mobile phones (even though not all possess a mobile phone of their own) and are familiar with computers (even if this is a source of mystery and wonder to some). More importantly perhaps, there has been a growing demand for training courses related to both mobile phones and computers.

Informal surveys have revealed that there are likely to be income-earning possibilities in both instances, and this led FERRY to introduce its first ever courses in Mobile Phone Repair and Maintenance (Khanyan) and Computer Applications (Rampurhat). In both instances, the focus, as in all FERRY's training programmes, was on the practical and the local. Thus, for mobile phones, the focus was on the repair and maintenance of mobile telephone sets, while the computer course focussed primarily on basic computer applications. Suffice it to say here that the response to both courses was overwhelmingly positive.

FERRY also introduced a third new course in the year under review: Power Tiller Repair and Maintenance in Baidyapur. Power tillers, variously called "two-wheel tractors" or "walking tractors" and sometimes "agricultural rotary tillers", are widely used in agriculture, and also (when attached to a van) as a cheap means of transportation across India. There are hundreds of

such machines in and around our project sites, both in Baidyapur and Khanyan; but the number of mechanics who can repair and maintain these power tillers is much smaller than the demand. In fact, quite a few trainees of the course have already started working in the trade.

In mid-November 2010, FERRY received an e-mail from **Paromita Mondal**, an employee of Infosys Technologies based in Chandigarh. She wanted to know if FERRY was interested in availing of her services as a volunteer for six months under a scheme whereby employees of Infosys could devote themselves full-time to social work. Naturally FERRY welcomed her proposal. After the usual formalities were completed, Smt Mondal joined as FERRY's first sponsored volunteer in January 2011.

As a trained IT professional, Smt Mondal's contribution to FERRY's first ever course in computer applications was invaluable; and it is thanks largely to her that we now have a brand-new website designed so as to be both interactive and user-friendly. (Check out ferrybengal.blogspot.ca.)

FERRY would like to place on record its gratitude to its overseas project partners, the Deutsch-Indische Gesellschaft (DIG) e.V., Germany, and Canada India Village Aid (CIVA), Canada. Particular thanks are due to Sri Barendra Kumar Mallick, President of the Wuppertal branch of the DIG e.V., whose support is a constant source of encouragement to all at FERRY, and Smt Inge Boie, an old friend and Honorary Member of FERRY, whose interest in and enthusiasm for the foundation's activities continue to inspire new generations of members.

Thanks are also due to Dr Sophie Low-Beer and Sri Drew Stewart of CIVA, whose active involvement in and encouragement of FERRY continues to enthuse and inspire FERRY members in carrying on the activities of the foundation. ■

Project Report: CHIRAG—24 years

by VK Madhavan

The vision of the Central Himalayan Rural Action Group (Chirag) is to be a catalyst for the creation of a society rooted firmly in the principles of dignity, justice and solidarity. Chirag's mission is to improve the quality of life of rural people—especially the poor and women—in the Central Himalaya.

We try to do this through interventions in health, education and natural resource management, and by providing access to diversified livelihood options. We promote the sustainable ownership and management of common resources by the community.

For several years now, we have wondered whether the changes we have witnessed in the micro-climate are a temporary blip, or an indicator of a long-term change. In other words, is climate change a real and present danger?

The annual (average) cumulative rainfall for Nainital district between 1901 and 2000 was 1,072 mm. In September 2010 alone we received 416 mm, half of it on one day. In August it became clear that we were witness to a particularly wet spell, and the onslaught in September exposed the frailty of our infrastructure and more importantly, caused loss of life, livestock, homes and agricultural fields.

Is climate change real? We don't know. We can anticipate what may happen and prepare for it and for the rest just accept that there are limits to our knowledge at this point of time.

The flash floods, landslides and the force of water seeking to forge new paths led to traditional water mills being washed away; modern construction's underbelly being exposed in the form of deep fissures and cracks in floors, walls and ceilings in homes; homes being buried under mud; and terraces of homesteads and agricultural fields simply collapsing. Several of our teams volunteered for one day each week through the month of October in

the homes of families unable to repair the damage on their own, helping to remove rubble and to repair walls.

Two new initiatives from preceding years have commenced demonstrating results. Interestingly, both are results of collaboration. The effort to recharge thirty springs using the principles of hydro-geology, with technical guidance from ACWADAM in Pune, thus far seems to justify our belief that springs can indeed be recharged through such action. The search for employment opportunities for young people from the area and our partnership with B2R has led to over 100 young people being employed in the area. More than half of these are women.

Who would have predicted a few years ago that we would have a cadre of barefoot geologists amidst us, or that confident young women from our villages would walk each day to work with computers?

After two decades of varied efforts to improve rural livelihoods—access to micro-credit, animal husbandry, agriculture, value-addition in fruits, micro-enterprises, and market access—we have launched a new rural livelihood strategy, one that builds on the experiences of the past but with poor women producers at the centre.

In the coming years, we shall be creating institutions of poor women producers at the village level, with another institution owned by them at the federal level to provide them with access to common services. In addition to investing in the capacity of women to manage their own institutions, Chirag shall focus on providing women with diversified livelihood choices and the requisite skills and inputs to adopt them.

There is a growing sense that the space for voluntary action is actually diminishing. Historically, one of the responses of the state in such times has been to inhibit access to resources. We

will need to diversify our support base—with multiple institutions, individual donors, and a greater proportion of our funds from within the country.

The coming year promises to be a significant landmark. It will mark twenty-five years of operations—an opportune moment to look back, take stock and plan for the future. ■

CIVA Board member Essop Mia notes:

Over the years CIVA money has supported Chirag's health programs, as well as development initiatives for Chirag itself, promoting internal revitalization. What's next for our long partnership?

One project that we have discussed with them is the teaching of mathematics. What would CIVA do for such a project? We would assist in implementation, providing connections to programs in Canada which offer technical information and delivery assistance. This wouldn't cost CIVA much money, but it would allow us to make a difference.

One of the biggest educational problems in rural schools is the lack of trained teachers—this helps to address that lack. CIVA's role would not be to support Chirag's school, which provides successful replacement of state services. Instead, we would support aspects of Chirag's programming that seek to make the state more accountable, and to advocate for full implementation of mandated services.

Another idea we've discussed concerns Chirag's reforestation programs in Kumaon. The idea would be to generate revenue through selling carbon offsets to polluters through the carbon exchange program.

This kind of program mobilizes existing infrastructures to generate more capital for the community. It helps them to deal with their own needs through the mobilization of their own assets.

Just as CIVA wants to promote innovative programming that takes advantage of new opportunities within our partners, we ourselves must change. Stay tuned to see what comes next! ■

FOR JUDY BROWN

Eulogy by Sarah McAlpine

9 October 2011

Judy and I were friends for over 50 years and I will miss her greatly, as will so many others. Our children are the same ages—I am Roger's godmother, and Judy was Jessica's.

Judy loved people. Most of all she loved her family: her three wonderful children, Malcolm, Sarah, and Roger, who cared for her from near and far, and her adored grandchildren Lewis, Lucia, James, and Sophie, who gave her such joy and pride in their accomplishments. But she also had a huge extended family of friends, among whom she numbered all the board members of CIVA over the years.

She loved simple things: camping at Hornby, hiking in the mountains, walking with dogs. Judy was totally natural. What you saw was what you got.

She hated self-promotion, phoniness, and pomposity, and she could see through them all. She loved to chuckle at herself or her situation even when it wasn't perfect. She often chose not to look at the negative side of things, no matter how bad they were. She was never judgmental and hated conflict, and would walk away from an unpleasant situation rather than be confrontational.

Although life wasn't always easy for her, Judy had a joyful love of life. Her positive approach and her recognition of what was important around her made her always cheerful and full of laughter.

Judy was a willing and enthusiastic volunteer in many areas. She met **George Woodcock** at UBC, where she took his courses, as I did, and we were both conscripted from the beginning into George and Inge's shared causes.

The first of these was the **Tibetan Refugee Aid Society**, created to help the Dalai Lama and Tibetan refugees resettle in India after China invaded. This is when Judy's lifelong admiration of



Judy with Hamish

the Dalai Lama began, along with her love of Buddhist teachings. Many a dismal Sunday was spent at the Vancouver Flea Market raising funds for Tibetan schools and hospitals.

Then came Canada India Village Aid. Judy was a Board member for thirty years, participating in our book sales, garden parties, dinners and project proposals to foster the self-development of tribal peoples, especially women and children, in rural villages. Her loyalty and commitment were highly valued.

Judy loved to sing, first in the Vancouver Bach Choir, and then church choirs in Nelson and in North Vancouver.

Judy's kind and gentle nature especially drew children and animals to her. Our dog Hamish (seen above with Judy) loved her dearly, and when she came to our house recently for Annie and Andre's rehearsal dinner, Hamish never left her side. When I visited her at the Hospice with Hamish, he rested his head on her hand and gazed at her with his big brown eyes full of love.

I have so many memories of times with Judy: the Chilcotin, Pender Island, bridge games, skits we put on where we thought we were the cleverest of women, Sarah's wedding in our garden, Roger and Renate's wedding in Sydney, dog walks on rivers and beaches.

One favourite memory is of a mock trial we held many years ago when our dog had a showdown with Judy's rooster. A trial was held, and the heavily bandaged combatants, both stalwartly defended by superb counsel, were found equally guilty—and then the party began.

The only part of life Judy could never be positive about was going to doctors and being in hospitals. I, and I'm sure her family, are very grateful to Dr. Paul Sugar for arranging for Judy to have a bed in palliative care, and then the North Van Hospice, where she was as comfortable and well cared for as possible, although Judy could not find anything good about it.

Judy was generous to a fault with those she loved—always kind and thoughtful, an example to us all. Judy knew how to love as a mother, a grandmother, and a friend. She gave from her heart, not only to those she knew but to countless strangers in Tibet and rural India.

Old friends are the best and the hardest to lose. Bless you, Judy, wherever you are! I send you love and hugs.

Tony Phillips said it best: "Judy was an angel, and she will be in good company." ■

Donations may be made in Judy's memory to the Vancouver Bach Choir or to CIVA.

Thank You...

... to our loyal supporters, volunteers, and donors. We have attempted to make this list inclusive through July 2012; please advise us of any errors, duplications, or omissions.

Mark Adrian
Sadru Ahmed
Zinat M. Akhtar
Ashok Aklujkar
Albert Friedland Foundation
Evan and Ingrid Alderson
Shobana Ananth
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Yolande Anderson
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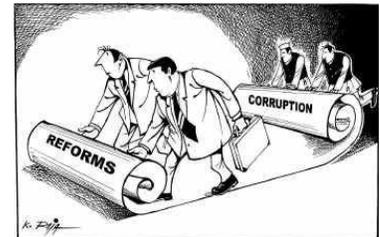
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