

Latest press... Maya Shahani, SAGE Foundation

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It feels so good to see the SAGE family swell to this huge number. A warm welcome to all of you. I am posting a brief outline of what SAGE is all about so that you could then decide where you would like to participate.

SAGE Foundation is a non profit organization. It focuses on educating under-resourced children and providing skills training to their families for creating extraordinary lives. Having adopted major slums and over 100 villages SAGE is part of the Clinton Global Initiative and received recognition by President Clinton for its project of setting up a model village in India which could be replicated in any part of the globe. This will be done in partnership with Mike Handcock's Rock Your Life and will be called the Rock Your Life SAGE Village. SAGE hopes to transform the world, one village at a time.

The model village will have a school with a holistic approach to learning, and a crafts centre for reviving the traditional arts and crafts of India. Alternative forms of energy like solar and wind energy, converting used cooking oil into bio diesel, providing clean drinking water, addressing health issues, organic farming, vermiculture, providing cellular phones to villagers and digital learning will be the key features of this village.

The Rock Your Life Tours will bring tourists on a regular basis from all over the globe to help in the SAGE villages. The first tour will begin in November and there is a huge interest already generated in these tours.

SAGE has connected with PATT Foundation, Times Foundation and various Banks and Companies to mitigate global warming through tree plantations. .

SAGE has also partnered with Ed Glouckman of Global Carbon Exchange to make companies carbon neutral. Revenues generated from this will go towards the development of the Rock Your Life SAGE Villages.

Global Dialogue Foundation has initiated a dialogue with the WCA Family for global shipment of used goods to underdeveloped countries. They are currently working towards sending the first container load to the Rock Your Life SAGE village and another for Wild Life Conservation in Ranthambore. The first 40 ft container will be fitted out as a medical center and housed permanently in the model Rock Your Life SAGE village. It is expected to arrive in October.

The Global Dialogue Foundation is also hosting the Windows of The World Exhibition to be held in late September in Melbourne Square. This will showcase products made by the traditional artisans of the SAGE villages so as to create a world market for SAGE products. Giant Television Screens will be hooked up globally for this mega event. Through Live Darshan SAGE will be hooking up products displayed at the Prince of Wales Museum with the Windows of the World Exhibition. Pauline Crosbie of BumbleBee Factory will co ordinate the whole event. This will put SAGE on the Global Map.

An inverter donated by Mike Handcock to one village classroom helped children in giving online exams, which they could not have given otherwise. This motivated other corporates to donate and most of the surrounding villages are now being electrified.

Companies like Extraordinary Ones and individuals like Satty Singh of UK have pledged to feed a child in India for every meal sold in the UK. This will relate to SAGE feeding over 1000 children every day with the help of the Mid Day Meals scheme.

Buy1Give1 has helped the slums adopted by SAGE in a major way and has promised to help in the SAGE Villages by connecting with companies globally.

The SAGE Team is working on bringing the "Speakers of the Secret " to India in December 2009. 10% of the sales proceeds of seminars, books and CD's will go to SAGE Foundation towards the village development project. SAGE is looking for corporate sponsors for this event. With the Times Group as their media partners, the sponsors will get major visibility in the print and electronic media. We are also looking for airline and hospitality partners. The speakers confirmed are John Assaraf, Mike Dooley, Marci Schimof and Janet Attwood.

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