

SOLUTIONS

Save A Mother Newsletter

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SOLUTIONS Staff

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Donate, volunteer, or get involved with Save A Mother:

www.save-a-mother.org/get-involved



Every day, over 160 women die in India from pregnancy and complications of child birth.

Save A Mother programs educate women about pregnancy, nutrition, immunization, delivery and care of the child. Save A Mother has a complementary benefit in saving the child also.

Please check out our video on YouTube for more information

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=okzRubIaSt8>



NEWS FROM THE GROUND

Reported by Shiban Ganju

I visited our project in Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh and attended two training sessions in our oldest training block, Shahgarh and in the newest, Sereni. I was overwhelmed by the eager participants: our village women. They are smart, inquisitive, and open to new information. Our lively discussions ranged from hand washing to menstrual ailments. Their candor was a revelation and the transformation of activists that has taken place in Shahgarh in the past 18 months - since we started there - is encouraging.

We crossed our target of training 400 new health activists in 2009 by November. December trainees will be an added bonus. Over 1,000 women have attended training sessions in 2009 and 412 have been designated as health activists. We have loftier targets for 2010.

We have expanded to a new district. Our team of trainers went to Babina, Jhansi and trained over 20 women. We are attempting to replicate our program there. We will also launch our program in Azamgarh on 6th January, 2010. Starting this month we are for the first time expanding our work to another state, Karnataka. Our trainers will conduct their first training in Chikbalapur, Karnataka. Our training books are currently being translated into Kannada. Mr Kamalkar Hallambi, Ex-Director of the Rural Literacy Mission of Karnataka will lead this program.

We are evolving into a health literacy organization with maternal mortality as our entry point into a community. Recognizing our potential to promote health literacy, our program is getting noticed. The Ministry of Health has asked us to participate in a national health literacy program through a national health portal. The Ministry of Health will own and manage the portal with private-public partnership. We have already started on this project and in the next few months we will see the launch of the national program to spread health literacy.

A Solution From High Up in the Himalayas

Contributed by Ravi Grover

Set up in 1966 by Sir Edmund Hillary, one hospital set high in the Himalayas and staffed and run totally by local Sherpas, provides desperately needed, affordable health care. Read on...

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/8346359.stm

STARTING AN AWARENESS SITE:

4 important rules

By Mariya Nikiforova

So, you read the newsletter, bought the T-shirt, and came to the fund-raiser... but you feel as if you could do so much more to help your charity of choice! I was in your shoes over two years ago, when the usual avenues of giving back to my community were simply not enough. That's when I decided to create my own website so that I may be able to attract attention and funding, inspire similarly-minded individuals, and ultimately help a great cause. Starting a website can be a wonderful experience of self-discovery and personal growth, but as I learned very early on, you have to venture out of your comfort zone to really get what you want. Before you dive into your mission of saving the world through online activism, you should get familiar with the following rules:

- **Terminology and Languages:** Learn to understand both the terminology and programming languages (at least to some extent) so that you may be able to perform maintenance without seeking professional help. As a rule of thumb, you want to be comfortable with the use of HTML tags. Other languages that are common for start-up websites are CSS, PHP, and Java.
- **Hosting:** Find hosting that best reflects your space needs and financial situation. A web host is a server where your website's directories, files, graphics, etc. reside. Should you go with paid or free hosting? This depends largely on how media-rich you plan to make the site. Are you going to be including a lot of high-resolution images, videos, music? Remember, only get as much space as you know you need.
- **Site Name:** Choose a specific name that reflects your purpose, or perhaps a name that has a special meaning to you. The goal here is to create a relevant and consistent message for your users, as well as to make your site easily indexable on the major search engines.
- **Organization:** Use a seamless and intuitive layout with a clear indication of the main areas of your site. Generally, it's important to include an About page and a Contact page, so that your users are not confused by your intentions or validity.

The above tips are fairly simple to follow, but are guaranteed to save you the headache down the road. If you are ready to become an online activist through starting your own awareness site, take the time to learn and understand the necessary components of such an undertaking. Be patient and you will succeed!

About the Author: Mariya Nikiforova is an SEM/PPC Associate with isoTree LLC, a search engine marketing and consulting firm. Mariya is passionate about non-profit work, and participates in her community through various organizations and activities, such as Habitat for Humanity, YMCA Adult Basic Literacy Education, and an awareness website she started 2 years ago, called PledgeForMoms.org. The website is tailored to encourage the online community to take part in raising awareness about maternal mortality, gender inequality, and the suffering of girls and women across the globe. Ultimately, she hopes to start her own non-profit organization after completing business school. Mariya believes that change can take place with the small actions of many people, and hopes that her contributions to charities will help make a difference in this world.

Possible Solutions to Reducing Infant Mortality

Contributed by Hemant Kashyap

Infant mortality is linked to the well-being of the mother. Social ties, social support systems, and access to health care throughout pregnancy play a crucial role in reducing infant mortality.

Read on...

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/27/us/27infant.html?_r=1