

# a child's right

every child has a right to clean water



**Annual Report**

**2007**

## Message from the Director

*"The water crisis these children face is very real and extremely dangerous..."*

**More than 12,000 children provided clean and safe drinking water in 2007!** That is a wonderful way to start out our recap of last year, to be sure. On behalf of our staff, volunteers, and the staff and children at the sites we serve, I would like to say thank you to all of our supporters for making this such a successful year providing support to so many children in need.

Our mission is straightforward: to change the lives and improve the health of vulnerable children around the world by providing clean, safe, purified water. With the help of our volunteers- who contributed countless hours in the US and overseas to implement our work, and our supporters- who raised more than \$170,000 primarily through their own networks, we were able to effectively and directly impact thousands of children in rescue homes, orphanages, street shelters, schools, and even a Buddhist nunnery! The water crisis these children face is very real and extremely dangerous. Unclean water poses a serious health and development risk to children in institutional settings, and our volunteers and supporters spoke very loudly through their contributions and technical support that we would ensure that many of these children would no longer have to worry about one of the greatest dangers they face in the environments in which they live. Clean and safe water changes lives, plain and simple.

International relief work is a tricky arena to navigate. There is a lot of room for misguided giving on behalf of charitable organizations and a tremendous amount of room for failure in setting up sustainable practices. Working with high-end water filtration and purification equipment in impoverished and underdeveloped settings is certainly no exception and it requires constant diligence, attention, training, monitoring, maintenance and in-country support to be successful. Otherwise, the water provided becomes questionable, and therefore should be considered unsafe, and the equipment installed simply, and sadly, becomes very expensive wall art!

Our goals for 2007 centered most specifically on sustainability. That is, once the sites are selected after an intensive survey of needs and water quality issues, once the systems are transported and installed, and once the primary teams leave the site, how can those systems function properly on a daily basis with virtually no interruptions and consistently provide potable water to all of the children at each site? With this question guiding all of our practices and policies for every project we undertook in 2007, our success rate is now measured on longevity first, number of children impacted second. I am happy to report that we have had a very successful year on both accounts.

Thank you for your support of our work and your assistance helping us serve more than 12,000 vulnerable children last year. Our goals are lofty but entirely realistic with your support. We look forward to an amazing 2008 where we project we will assist more than 20,000 children in 5 countries! We look forward to pursuing this goal with you.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric Stowe".

Eric Stowe  
Executive Director

# safe water for children in need

## Clean Water Crisis for Kids

Of the 3 million people who die every year due to waterborne diseases caused by unclean water, 90% are children under the age of 5. That equals out to nearly 4,000 children dying every day from waterborne diseases. This is assuredly one of the biggest threats to children the world over and as such the push to provide clean and safe drinking water to children in need is of paramount importance.

There are several terrific organizations focusing on clean water and hygiene education in developing countries. The majority of these organizations primarily concentrate on community development and perform most of their work focused on access to water in rural locations. We do not. Although our end goals are similar, our methodologies and target population are different.

A Child's Right was established to focus on purifying existing contaminated water for children living in orphanages, rescue homes and street shelters as well as those attending schools and visiting children's hospitals in impoverished urban and semi-urban areas in underdeveloped countries. This population remains severely underserved and overlooked in the global water field. As such our mission revolves solely around these children and improving their lives through relatively simple provisions and education.

## Our Values

A Child's Right believes that all children, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, gender or location, should be and can be afforded the most essential of needs to improve their lives and ensure their healthy development.

## Our Vision

ACR believes that every child has a right to clean water. Our vision is to be the premier international charitable organization focused on the provision of purified water for urban and peri-urban institutional settings with high concentrations of at risk children.

We accomplish this through installation of water purification systems along with education in hygiene and system maintenance to maximize effectiveness and sustainability.

## Our Mission

To change the lives and improve the health of vulnerable children around the world by providing clean, safe, purified water.

## Project Overview

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## Organization

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# nepal



Khachoe Chakyil Ling Nunnery - Kathmandu



Florida Intl Boarding School - Mahendranagar



Namaste Children's House - Pokhara



Maiti Nepal - Kathmandu

**40,000 children die every year in Nepal due to water-borne diseases.** Our focus on Nepal stems from this reality. Targeting institutional settings in 3 of Nepal's largest cities, ACR was able to immediately and directly impact the lives of thousands of children.

In February ACR came with more than \$10,000 in donated medical supplies and 10 full water purification systems targeting children in institutional environments. ACR brought four different teams of volunteers and staff: two medical teams and two water purification teams. ACR installed systems at 8 sites throughout the country.

## IMPACT

**More than 5,000 vulnerable children benefitted from our work.** By partnering with reliable, reputable and sustainable organizations on the ground, we were able to provide clean water to 3 of the largest orphanages in Nepal, the largest rescue shelter for women and children rescued from the sex trade in the region, the largest Buddhist nunnery in the country, as well as 3 schools and a hospice facility. Each site is able to provide clean water to the children at all times during hours of operation.

At least one of the sites has documented a decrease in dysentery and diarrheal illnesses from 12 times per year prior to our installation down to 1 time per year post-installation.

Partners: Children's Home, Florida International Boarding School, Khachoe Chakyil Ling Nunnery, Maiti Nepal, Namaste Children's House, Nepal Children's Organization (NCO), Shree Machchindra School, Tal Barahi Secondary School

Volunteers: Chelsea Bekker, Tom Collins, George Flanigan, Tammy Newman, Karen Nilsen, Harvey Stowe, Lewis Whitaker

Project Cost: \$31,340.67

Results: 10 sites with more than 5,000 children provided safe drinking water.

# china

China's state run environmental agency stated in 2006 that 90% of all urban water supplies were contaminated with organic waste. ACR's water quality tests support this data and we actually found 100% of our testing conducted at the 11 recipient orphanages to be contaminated with harmful bacteriological waste.

In June, September and December, ACR worked with 10 state run orphanages and 1 privately run orphanage in Chongqing, Hebei, Hubei and Jiangxi Provinces. Working with National, Provincial and local governmental offices, as well as a prominent NGO (Half the Sky) we were able to gain unfettered access to these sites and install 11 purification systems.

Between October and December, ACR received accreditation and approval by the government to target orphanages in every pocket of the country, we hired a full time China Director of Operations to oversee our expansion in the country and opened our offices in Beijing preparing ourselves for a massive undertaking targeting more than 450 orphanages set to begin in 2008.

## IMPACT

More than 3,000 children living in China's orphanages benefitted from this work. The babies at each site now are provided formula made with our purified water and the older children are given our water throughout the day ensuring their healthy development.

Partners: China Association of Social Workers, Chongqing City Orphanage, Daming Orphanage, Fengcheng Orphanage, Fuling Orphanage, Fuzhou City Orphanage, Gao An Orphanage, Half the Sky, Harmony Outreach, Huangshi City Orphanage, Nanchang City Orphanage, Qianjing District Orphanage, Wuhan City Orphanage, Xiushan County Orphanage

Volunteers: George Flanigan, Andy Johnson, John O'Daniel, Leane Welsh, Jon Yanasak

Project Cost: \$38,050.80

Results: 11 sites with more than 3,000 orphaned children provided safe drinking water.



Chongqing Orphanage - Chongqing Municipality



Fuzhou Orphanage - Jiangxi Province



Daming Orphanage - Hebei Province



Xiushan Orphanage - Chongqing Municipality

# cambodia



Sunrise Children's Village, Phnom Penh



Sunrise Children's Village - Siem Reap



Cambodian Children's Fund - Phnom Penh



M'Lop Tapang Center for Street Children  
Sihanoukeville

**Less than one third of Cambodians have access to clean water and water-borne disease is a leading cause of child mortality- roughly 130 of every 1000 Cambodian children under five years of age dies from water-borne diseases.** Cambodia is a perfect location for our efforts as 50% of the population is under the age of 15; when coupled with the endemic poverty of the country and the horrible water quality this leads to an abundance of sites with high concentrations of at-risk children and unsafe water.

In November, ACR set out to work on our first large scale project in Cambodia. Focusing on three of the largest cities in the country, we were able to align our work with three leading child welfare organizations in the country: Cambodian Children's Fund- assisting children living in the Steung Meachey garbage dumps of Phnom Penh; Sunrise Children's Village- operating two of the most reputable orphanages in the country; and M'Lop Tapang Center for Street Children- the largest shelter for street children of its kind in Cambodia.

## IMPACT

**More than 1,000 orphaned and impoverished children benefitted from our Cambodia project.** The children at Cambodian Children's Fund now use our water for all their daily consumption and also for their families living in the garbage dump. The street children of M'Lop Tapang now have daily access to clean water from morning until night.

Partners: Cambodian Children's Fund, M'Lop Tapang Center for Street Children, Sunrise Children's Village

Volunteers: Terry Adams, Doug Graves

Project Cost: \$18,028.08

Results: 5 sites with more than 1,000 children provided clean and safe drinking water.

# thailand

**Overcrowded and overburdened by pollution and population, Bangkok and its neighboring city of Pattaya have seen a dramatic decrease in urban water quality.**

Although many cities frequently use state-of-the-art water treatment facilities, water at the tap remains unsafe due to poor distribution techniques and antiquated plumbing.

In November, ACR teamed up with the Father Ray Foundation in the coastal city of Pattaya. Aside from running the largest private orphanage in the country, they also run a school for the blind, a school for the disabled, a vocational school, a street shelter and several outreach projects targeting vulnerable children. We were also fortunate to partner with the largest orphanage in the country, the Phayathai Babies Home in Bangkok, which is overseen by Thailand's Department of Public Welfare. Both sites are some of the most seasoned and well accomplished safe havens for children in Thailand.

## IMPACT

**More than 2,000 children in 2 of Thailand's largest cities now have safe water.** The Father Ray Foundation is now able to provide bottled and sealed water to all of its project sites in Pattaya- impacting more than 1,500 children daily! The Phayathai Babies Home is now able to provide clean water to all of the children in their 19 on-site buildings. Watching the staff at that site prepare hundreds of bottles of infant formula made with our clean water was rewarding beyond words!

Partners: Department of Public Welfare, Father Ray Foundation, Pattaya Orphanage, Pattaya School for the Blind, Phayathai Babies' Home

Volunteers: Terry Adams, George Flanigan, Doug Graves

Project Cost: \$8,020.05

Results: 2 sites with more than 2,000 children provided clean and safe water.



Pattaya School for the Blind - Pattaya



Phayathai Babies' Home - Bangkok



Father Ray Foundation - Pattaya





Baby bottles waiting to be filled with our water!

# work overview

**WATER ANALYSIS**

Organization: A Child's Right

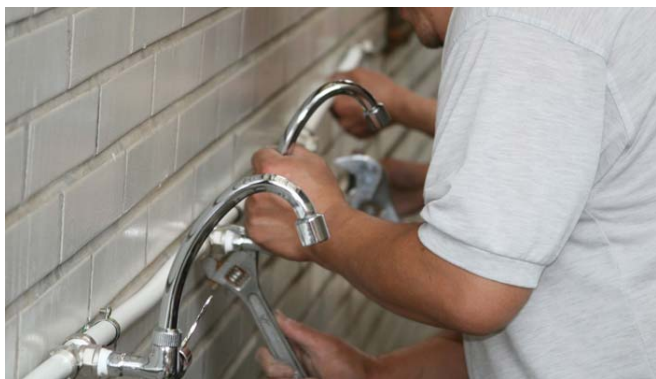
| PARAMETERS |             |             |                    |               |                    |                       |            |         |              |              |                         |                          |
|------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------|---------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
|            | As<br>(ppb) | F<br>(mg/L) | Turbidity<br>(ntu) | NO3<br>(mg/L) | Hardness<br>(mg/L) | Conductivity<br>uS/cm | TDS<br>ppm | pH      | Mn<br>(mg/L) | Cl<br>(mg/L) | E. Coli<br>(col/100 mL) | Coliform<br>(col/100 mL) |
| 0          | 0           | 0.35        | 0.72               | 0.06          | 18                 | 125                   | 70         | 8.66    | 0.004        | 7.2          | 0                       | 40                       |
| 15         | 0           | 0.30        | 115.30             | 0.06          | 70                 | 18                    | 0          | 6.68    | 0.006        | 7.2          | 0                       | 60                       |
| 10         | 0           | 0.20        | 33.60              | 0.06          | 36                 | 168                   | 100        | 6.78    | 0.028        | 4.8          | 20                      | 420                      |
| 3          | 50          | 1.5         | 5                  | 50            | 200                | 500                   | 800        | 6.5-8.5 | 0.1          | 250          | 0                       | 0                        |

Parameter Exceeds Chinese Standard

Providing clean water to thousands of children is a huge undertaking, but only a small piece of the overall work we do. We fully believe that without a routine and systematic approach to each aspect of our work, the water purification systems cannot be sustainable. From logistical planning, installation methodology and post-installation oversight, each area requires extensive attention and diligence to ensure the quality and safety of the water provided as well as the longevity of each system installed. In 2007 we spent a great deal of time focusing on sustainable models of development within our organization and with our partners overseas.



First and foremost, we rely heavily on our partner organizations in the countries we work in. These partners, often NGOs working on behalf of children in their geographical area, are responsible for assisting with front end logistics, overseeing water quality testing, hiring of local staff to support our teams, and providing routine and substantive updates. We require a high level of interaction and some costs to be born by the partner organizations to foster a greater sense of ownership and responsibility for each system we install.



Our volunteers, most of whom are specialists in the fields of water, sanitation or hygiene, have been critical to our success this year. We never undertake any project without several specialists working with us at any installation site. The counsel and technical advice given to us this year has streamlined our processes exponentially and has ultimately resulted in better, more efficient and sustainable work practices as well as better water quality resulting from successful and innovative changes to our water systems.



This year we have been able to hire full time staff in China as well as open our own office in the country to enable less reliance upon volunteers and more intensive in country support for every system. This model will be emulated in both Nepal and Cambodia in 2008. Our goal is to provide full time support in every country we work in as well as secondary support through our partner organizations in those countries and tertiary support from the onsite staff, whom we directly train. This tri-level safety approach is absolutely necessary for sustainability and tremendously successful. When coupled with top-tier purification equipment, reliable spare parts and provisions, and routine water testing and maintenance, we are always aware of the efficacy and integrity of the water we provide.



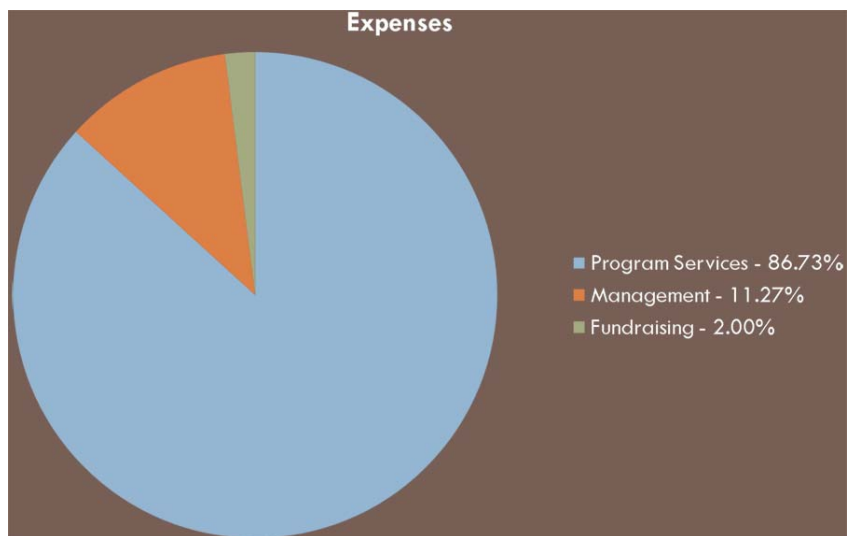
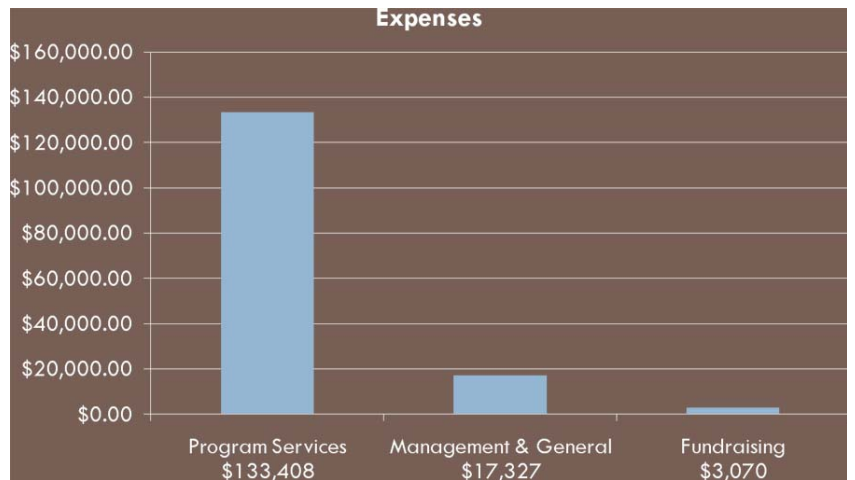
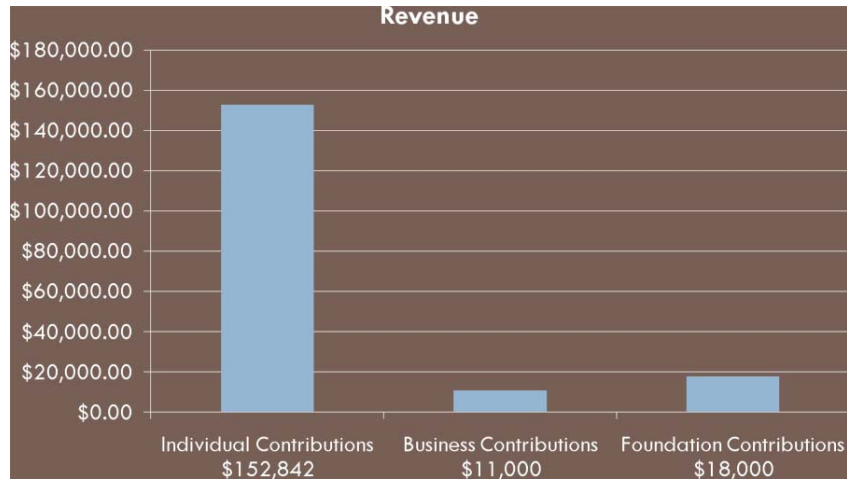
# financials

**We have been very fortunate with our supporters and their tenacity and dedication to our work.** Many of our donors have also become volunteers both at home and abroad. Their support has been a tremendous boost to our technical work, outreach, and certainly our ability to fully fund each project and ensure its long term success.

We spent a considerable amount of time in 2007 focusing our attention on building up our individual donors and community base. Rather than seek out grants and business funding, we intentionally concentrated our funding efforts on building a base of supporters at the individual level who would carry out our message to family, friends, and their own community members- effectively creating a viral network to reach individuals and communities we would otherwise be unable to access. This model is time consuming and often frenetic but absolutely necessary for long term growth as no organization can rely too heavily on foundation and business granting.

Our two major business and foundation donations came unsolicited and were tremendous additions to our project scope- allowing us to expand our work and impact many more children.

2007 was a stellar year for our programs and the children we serve due to our donors and their support of the work we do. 2008 will see equal time spent on individual, business and foundation support for our work in an attempt to nearly double the number of children we look to assist through our projects.



*a child's right is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization, Tax ID #56-2600599. Gifts are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law. For more information on our financials, our 990 Tax Returns may be viewed on our website at [www.a-childs-right.org](http://www.a-childs-right.org). Select "About" and then select "Financials".*

*a child's right's end of year net assets were \$32,472*

# donors

ACR extends its warmest thanks to our donors and appreciates the distinct honor of having been chosen as a recipient for such support and kindness. Our work directly impacts the lives of thousands of children every year and none of our success in 2007 and goals for 2008 would be possible without the support of every person and organization listed below.

## **Above \$10,000**

Gibson Foundation, Inc  
Dion and George Russell  
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## **\$5000 - \$9999**

Anonymous

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# upcoming

2008 is set to be an amazing second year of full operations. ACR will be working in Nepal, Ethiopia, Cambodia, Colombia and China.

Our project in **Nepal** will focus on expansion of our existing work and further outreach to schools focusing on provisions of clean water systems as well as incorporating hygiene education. ACR will be working extensively with Rotary International on this project.

Our project in **Ethiopia** will target several orphanages in the capital city as well as a clinic for HIV/AIDS patients (for both children and adults). This project will be undertaken collaboratively with World Wide Orphans and a few NGOs currently working on behalf of children in and around Addis Ababa.

Our **Cambodia** project will focus on expanding our work on behalf of the children living and working in Phnom Penh's garbage dump as well as expanding our focus to target schools in Phnom Penh. ACR will be working with the Cambodian Children's Fund as well as other NGOs in the area.

Our project in **Colombia** will target a rescue shelter and several children's hospitals in Bogota. With the support of local NGOs and hospitals, this project will be a tremendous success.

Lastly, our **China** project is going to be a massive one, indeed. We are launching a 5 year project targeting more than 450 of China's orphanages with the goal of providing every institutionalized orphan in the country potable water! During 2008 we will install more than 50 systems in some of China's poorest provinces. Our office in China is eager to move forward.

With your help, we look forward to providing more children life's most essential of needs: clean and safe drinking water! Thank you for your support and for making our work so successful and sustainable!

A young girl with dark hair, wearing a dark beanie with a white stripe and a white jacket over a dark blue shirt, is looking intently at a stream of water flowing from a brass faucet. She is holding her hands under the water, and the water is splashing around her. The background is a textured, reddish-brown wall. The overall scene is brightly lit, suggesting an outdoor or well-lit indoor setting.

a child's right

every child has a right to clean water

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