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December 20, 2021

Dear Friends,

Greetings from all of us at IPM! This coming Wednesday the IPM Family will gather together one last time this year to express our gratitude for all we have collectively made possible in 2021. Folks from Cleveland to India, El Salvador to Saint Louis, Kenya and beyond, consistently reach across the *zoomiverse* to accompany our Project Partners and international colleagues in their life-changing work during a deepening pandemic that continues to inextricably alter all our lives.

As I have written often since our lives were so radically interrupted in early 2020, times like these have the undeniable capacity to make one feel despondent and disconnected. But IPM's varied on-line programming, like our weekly Virtual Forums and our still evolving Virtual Immersion Experience Programs (VIEP), keep us connected to one another and united in our shared mission to nurture justice, peace, and hope in the world—especially at this festive time of the year.

This holiday season, I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge the vital role you play in the life of IPM. Your consistent and generous support makes our work possible. You may have joined us for a virtual program, spoken to your friends &/or faith community about the transformational effort of our Partners, kept IPM in your prayers & meditation practices, and/or dug deep in a spirit of sacrificial giving to help us make it through these unprecedented times. Please know that each & every effort has been deeply appreciated, reminding us of the two-way-street relationships between donors & friends, colleagues & Partners that our founders envisioned almost five decades ago.

The recent special edition of *Connections* highlighted just some of the good that IPM continues to nurture in our world. Our transformative efforts alongside IPM's Project Partners continue to be augmented by expanded in-person and on-line programming, special funding, and emergency material donations. **I hope you will pay special attention to the important ways, highlighted throughout this mailing, that demonstrate how your support makes a real, tangible difference in the lives of our Partners and the communities they call home.**

The last two years have been unlike virtually anything IPM has ever experienced. The pandemic has produced unimaginable challenges for our Project Partners, Regional Offices & Fellows, and Immersion Experience Programs. In the midst of this tumult, IPM has rededicated itself to the founding principles of partnership & transformational learning that are the hallmarks of our mission. Each challenge confronted creates an opportunity to reaffirm the special role IPM continues to play in the world.

~ continued on back ~



COVID-19 knows no borders — but neither does hope, love, and solidarity. As families and children across South Asia face devastating heartbreak and loss, the only way through is together. Pictured above are some of the ways IPM Project Partners are trying to make life better with health camps, food distribution, and school bags for children. These bags are often the only asset the children have which they can call their own. A large number of children haven't attended school for a long time and don't have the privilege of internet for online learning. The bags hold school books to practice what they have learned so far.

None of what we have accomplished would have been possible without the active engagement and impact of countless volunteers and donor-friends. Your consistent generosity provides a genuine sense of hope and the essential financial support that enables IPM to respond proactively and nimbly in unprecedented times.

With this mailing we are pleased to announce that through the extraordinary generosity of Grace Weber’s surviving family and the Sheffler Family Foundation, we have received \$50,000 in new commitments for our year-end appeal. Please consider what you can do to match this generous commitment to IPM by December 31st.

We look forward to our continued partnership together and wish you joy & peace, light, & love this Holiday Season!

Faithfully Yours,

Joseph F. Cistone
Chief Executive Officer

Nurturing Hope, Light, and Love in Unprecedented Times

As we look forward to the hope and promise of 2022, we know that together with your support, real, tangible, human progress is being made every day in the marginalized communities where IPM Project Partners live and work. Your gift to IPM’s Annual Fund, whether designated to a specific IPM Project Partner or to our *Where Needed Most, Children, Women, Youth General Funds*, will be used in support of IPM’s mission through accompaniment, funding, regional and international gatherings, technical assistance & training, and other vital programmatic areas.

It is with deep and humble gratitude that we invite your continued partnership as we strive to cultivate a more just, inclusive, and peace-filled world.

“The disproportionate vulnerability of women, children, youth, and communities to the COVID-19 pandemic is not surprising. Since before COVID-19 we lived in a world where injustice accentuated in specific populations, gender and places. Which produced a diversity of effects, in terms of economy, health, education, mental care, relationships, and security for the most vulnerable worldwide. The pandemic made all these life components even more unstable for the majorities. Thank you for all that you continue to make possible for IPM and our inspiring Project Partners during such critical times!”

~ Adela Zayas, IPM Director of International Partnerships & Programs



With IPM support, IPM Project Partner *Riete Farm* in Bondo, KENYA provided educational training to 100 farmers on sustainable farming issues and agricultural practices to mitigate low production and poverty reduction elevated by the pandemic.



Implementing a garden model in Nindirí, NICARAGUA, IPM Project Partner *CEPROSI*, a women’s collective with archaeological practices, promotes diversity, efficiency, resilience, recycling, synergies, joint creation and exchange of knowledge that sustains livelihoods in the face of the health and environmental crisis.



Members of IPM Regional Staff and Salvadoran Partners *ACACCPAMU/Musas Creativas, IDES, and Nutravida* engage in Multi-lateral Project Partner sharing with the aim of exchanging knowledge and experiences to improve and support their individual work related to community organizing, education, food sovereignty, micro-enterprise initiatives, and sustainability.



Developed in response to the global pandemic, IPM’s new Virtual Immersion Experience Programs and weekly Virtual Forums have expanded our transformational learning opportunities and a better understanding of IPM’s work to promote gender & racial equity, environmental & migration justice, and multi-faith collaboration.