



FALL 1988

A Newsletter of  
**The Institute of  
Cultural Affairs**  
serving the West/Southwest

# Initiatives

CONCERNED WITH THE HUMAN FACTOR IN WORLD DEVELOPMENT

## AFRICAN HEALTH PROGRAMS REVISITED

*Following are excerpts from a report by Linda Barnes, an ICA staff member. Linda is an RN and certified midwife and writes from the perspective of her interest in health.*

### EGYPT

Anyone who has ever driven south from Cairo to the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA) projects in Bayad El Arab cannot help but be acutely aware of the impact water has on survival of the African continent. The absoluteness of the desert against the thin, ruler-straight line of green that accompanies the River Nile and the irrigated land caused me to reflect on my own dependence on water. For the villagers of Bayad El Arab and the seven villages where the ICA has projects, desert reclamation and agro-industry have been part of the ongoing war. Impressed as I was with the issues surrounding water, my purpose for visiting the

Bayad El Arab villages was to document the ICA work in primary health care and family planning. Perhaps the one aspect of this work that impressed me most was the dedication of the village women to improve the quality of life in these seven scattered, remote and traditional villages along the Nile. There are now 29 village "health caretakers" (all but a few being illiterate) who have been trained and are practicing their skills in simple first aid and preventive health care. The introduction of family planning (referred to as child spacing in Egypt) has been pioneered by the ICA in Egypt where the dialogue between the Islamic and deeply traditional view of women must be incorporated with great sensitivity into the concern for improving the health of women and children through reducing the number and frequency of births.

### KENYA

My return to Kenya after a

seven year absence was something of a coming home, having earlier spent 12 years with our ICA work there. A visit to the Kabiro Health Outpost reminded me of the real harambee spirit of Kenya at its best. The former staff house in Kabiro has been transformed into a thriving primary school and the health outpost provides daily clinics, health education, and family planning. The constellation of activities underline the story created during the Kawangware Human Development consultation in 1975 that Kawangware is the place of hope for a large population. Kenya is not without issues, particularly those of health in the expanding urban slum areas surrounding Nairobi, and it is in primary health care focused on the urban that the ICA is now concentrating its efforts with the assistance of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation which is supporting some of the ICA family planning programming in Africa. In July, the ICA along with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities co-sponsored a four-day symposium on issues of women's health and family planning in the urban slum areas. The ICA in Kenya is one of the non-government organizations that is pioneering in this focus on the health problems in the urban areas.

### IVORY COAST

Having never spent any length of time in West Africa I was "as a tourist." The color, the music, the markets, the dress were dazzling to my senses and I could have spent all my days in the market

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*ICA West serves a broad spectrum of organizations and communities. The following is a look at some of the programs which have been completed in the past quarter.*

### **MOUNTAINVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

*Yakima, WA*

A planning event for staff and parent volunteers of an elementary school concerned with involving staff and parents in building the culture of the school and in participatory decision making.

### **PLUMAS CORPORATION**

*Plumas County, CA*

A series of three economic development forums for county citizens and a Facilitation Methods course for agency and college leadership, all with a focus on strategies for diversification of the logging based economy.

### **UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM PROJECT**

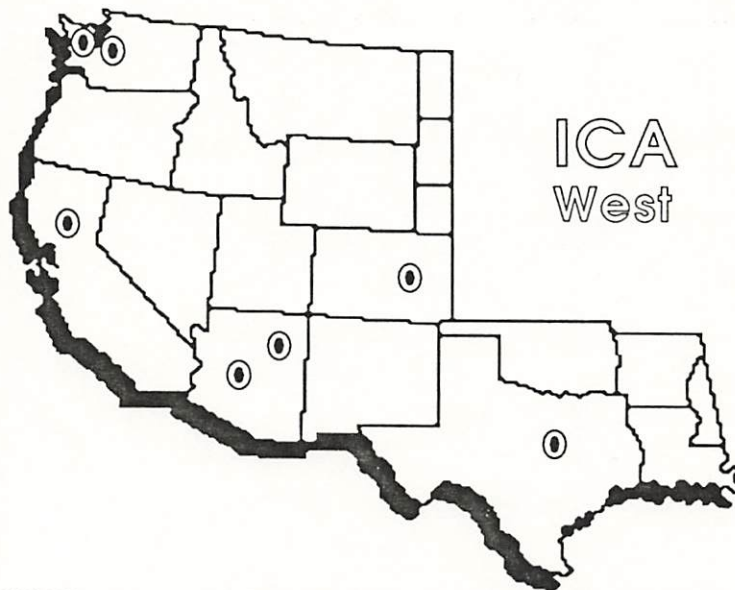
*Phoenix, AZ*

A visioning session for members of a new, small foundation which is contracting with ICA staff to update and revise ICA's global academy curriculum for use in universities.

### **PROJECT LEAD**

*Austin, TX*

A four-day training session for public school administrators from across the State of Texas, covering Facilitation Methods Levels One and Two.



### **HOPi AGENCIES**

*Polacca, AZ*

A workshop which brought together several agencies to create an integrated plan for serving the disabled in the Hopi Communities.

### **VALLEY OF THE SUN RELIGIOUS SCIENCE CENTER**

*Phoenix, AZ*

A strategic planning event to develop a five-year vision and a consensus upon common directions for the church.

### **STRESS AND PAIN CLINIC**

*Phoenix, AZ*

An annual update of a plan for the staff of a Phoenix clinic that specializes in recovery from chronic pain & stress-related disorders through health evaluation, education and support for people moving toward optimal health.

### **PROJECT BRIDGE**

*Phoenix, AZ*

A strategic planning session which focused on the question of how the Hispanic Community and Phoenix United Way can work together more effectively.

### **FOSTER CARE TRAINERS**

*Bellingham, WA*

A Facilitation Methods Course for the Division of Children and Family Services of the State of Washington, to better equip the Foster Care training unit (staff and foster care parents) to meet their growing challenge.

### **TEEN CHALLENGE AND PAK**

*Phoenix, AZ*

A planning event for a collaborative program being developed to meet the need for preventive drug and substance abuse programs for youth.

### **READATHON FOR MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS**

*Denver, CO*

A discussion guide for grade school teachers whose classes participated in the Readathon. The discussion method taught in Facilitation Methods Level One was used to help the children reflect together on their experience.



Spending the night alone (although in close proximity to your friends) in the coastal wilderness of Olympic National Park is an experience 12-year-olds don't forget. Woven into a story of transition from childhood to youth, such an event can be an authentic Rite of Passage experience.

What if the Junior High years were seen as a Rite of Passage time period rather than "those difficult years"? This is the hope for the three-year program evolving from several programs which ICA has had for children and youth for a number of years. A month long camping trip for children who have completed 6th grade initiates the program. The seventh and eight grade residential program in Bothell, Washington focuses on staff and

youth as co-learners where tasks, decisions, ventures and leadership are shared. Finally during the ninth grade there is an opportunity to spend six months in another culture.

Youth from the Western States, Canada, the Philippines and Jamaica attended the 6th grade camping trip this summer. Three 9th graders are spending six months in Caracas, Venezuela in the ICA staff residence. They will return to school in Bothell for the second semester and earn their first semester credits by making presentations and preparing reports.

It is hoped that these experiences and programs will provide the grist for Rite of Passage experiences and programs that can be used throughout society.



**PARTNERSHIPS FOR A COMMON FUTURE**

Creative dialogue and practical implementation will be the special feature of the Mexico conference, Our Common Future. Highlighted at the conference will be two and a half days of work in think-tanks.

The thinktanks will be a time for working through collaborative projects, doing special workshops and sharing training designs.

Participants will choose from a broad range of thinktanks. A sampling of the thinktank options which are currently on the

schedule are:

- A regional development project for Mexico.
- An Organizational Technologies Academy.
- An integrated curriculum for a university environment.

Over 500 people from around the world have registered for the conference which will be held November 12-17, 1988 in Oaxtepec, Mexico. If you have not yet registered there is still time! Contact your local ICA office for more information.

**MACHAKOS**



**GAME GUIDE TRAINING**

If you have had the opportunity to play the Machakos Village Development Simulation Game you are probably aware that there have been many steps in its development. The initiation of Game Guide Training Seminars signals the opportunity for use of the Machakos Game beyond the ICA Network.

This innovative development education tool is available to interested individuals and organizations through the ICA West office in Houston, Texas. For more information please contact Susan Wegner, 1955 Portsmouth Street, Houston, Texas 77098, (713) 522-7933.



Learning how to explore a culture different from your own and being able to respond effectively within the context of your own life is the theme of "The Space Between". This highly successful program was initiated in Peru and is now also offered in India.

Community workdays, living in a village, exploring ancient civilizations, visits with key government and private sector leaders, are all a part of this guided intercultural experience.

You can learn more about how to participate in this fascinating program by contacting your nearest ICA office.

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places. In Cote d'Ivoire the ICA work in family planning is integrated into the comprehensive primary health care scheme which has been demonstrated in the Brobo Sousprefecture and will now, at the invitation of the government and with the support of UNICEF and the Hewlett Foundation, be replicated in a neighboring sousprefecture. Our work in primary health care in Cote d'Ivoire provides a testing

ground for building-in replicability and self-sufficiency which is critical in looking toward primary health care for all by the year 2000.

Africa today is surely a continent existing in the shadow of potential disaster as seen in the chronic problems of starvation, the dependence on foreign aid, and the unrelenting burden placed upon women. Those who are prophets of doom are in rich territory as they travel through

the morass of political and economic disasters that Africa has both inherited and fostered during this century.

Yet Africa at this moment in history harbors a zeal for the future that is equally unrelenting. I came away from my return with a sense of hope, not the hope I had in 1968 when I spent my first year in Kenya, but with hope that is born of hard lessons learned by all of us who have been part of the ICA work in Africa.

## The ICA

The Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA) is a global network linking 18 major centers and over 50 offices in research, training and demonstration of global responsibility in the local community and workplace. Within the multitude of programs the ICA is doing, there is a common thread -- the desire to release the creativity of people that allows them to shape their own destiny.

INITIATIVES is a quarterly publication of the ICA serving the western/southwestern United States. Contributions of \$35 or more entitle you to membership and are needed to support the programs and projects of the ICA. Send your tax-deductible contribution to the Institute office nearest you.

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