

A YEAR IN REVIEW

Work Locally
Think Globally

UNITED SIKHS Annual Report for 2006



UNITED
SIKHS

Recognize the Human Race as One

North America

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Dedication

As we reach the milestone of our 7th anniversary, we recognize that this has been accomplished by standing on the many stepping-stones of success laid by people in our history. We also recognize that accomplishing this goal requires an agency with a vision and passion. And it requires a staff and volunteers with tremendous passion, dedication, and professionalism.

All great accomplishments come at great expense. That's true for every UNITED SIKHS volunteer every day. The UNITED SIKHS family has paid, and continues to pay, great costs for what we do. But our passion keeps us to the task.

This special 7th anniversary edition of our annual report is dedicated to those most familiar with those costs:

the UNITED SIKHS volunteers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice every family member makes by giving up their time with their family lives to take part in the endeavor to assist in disaster affected areas or to stand up for the rights of people.

We honor your lives and efforts you put in.



Sikhs in Poonch (Kashmir-India) receiving blankets in the severe harsh winters after the Asian Earthquake took place in 2006

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Introduction

About UNITED SIKHS

UNITED SIKHS is an international not-for-profit human development organisation aimed at empowering those in need, especially disadvantaged and minority communities across the world. UNITED SIKHS is registered: as a non-profit tax exempt organization pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Inland Revenue Code in the US; as a Registered Charity in England and Wales under the Charities Act 1993, Charity Number 111 2055; under the Societies Registration Act 1860 in Panjab and under the French Association Law 1901.

Our History

UNITED SIKHS began in 1999 when a group of Sikhs from the New York metropolitan area banded together to assist in the socio-economic development of immigrant communities in Queens, New York.

Today, UNITED SIKHS is a grass-roots organization with chapters in America, Asia and Europe that pursue projects for the spiritual, social and economic empowerment of underprivileged and minority communities.

Our Mission

To transform underprivileged and minority communities and individuals into informed and vibrant members of society through civic, educational and personal development programs, by fostering active participation in social and economic activity.

We at UNITED SIKHS believe that the development of enlightened and progressive societies can be made possible by socially conscious groups of people who make a commitment to develop and direct human potential. Our work, efforts and achievements stand as a testament to our faith in this vision.

Accordingly, UNITED SIKHS has sought to fulfill its mission not only by informing, educating and uplifting fellow beings but also by participating in cross-cultural and social dialogues to ensure that the promises and benefits of democracy are realized by all.

UNITED SIKHS is also an avenue for networking between like-minded organisations to establish and nurture meaningful projects and dialogues - whether social, cultural or spiritual- to promote harmony, understanding and reciprocity in our villages, towns and cities.

To achieve its objectives, UNITED SIKHS also participates in coalitions that share a common vision based on the belief that there is no greater endeavour than to serve, empower and uplift fellow beings. The core of our philosophy is an unwavering commitment to civic service and social progress on behalf of the common good.

MESSAGE

UNITED SIKHS has experienced explosive growth and massive change in the past decade, but one abiding principle has remained constant: our unshakable belief that every human can and should be able to achieve their God-given potential to the fullest. One person can make a difference, and they do so every day in UNITED SIKHS world.

UNITED SIKHS is an organization that believes in people. It's an organization that still places people at the non-negotiable center and focus of our mission. Our success is not measured in terms of the amount of food we have delivered or the bricks and mortar we have laid, or by standing for the rights of minorities, but rather by the positive and sustainable impact made on individual and community livelihoods as a result of our partnerships with them. There can never be a higher fulfillment than that which ennobles the human spirit and brings dignity and justice to those who live at the social margins of justice of our world.

Volunteers Making A Difference:

At UNITED SIKHS we have volunteers who are professionals in different fields and they not only make difference in their professional fields but their work towards humanity is recognized.



- [UNITED SIKHS Director Honored as an "Outstanding Asian American in Business"](#)
Navneet Singh, UNITED SIKHS' Director of Empowerment and Education, was recently honored by the Asian American Business Development Center (AABDC) as one of the "Outstanding 50 Asian Americans in Business".

June 27, 2006



- [UNITED SIKHS Executive receives 'Home Town Hero' award for outstanding service to Humanity](#)
Amritpaul Singh, who has lived and worked in the USA, for almost 23 years, was recently given the 'Home Town Hero' award by the parade committee of City of Fremont, CA

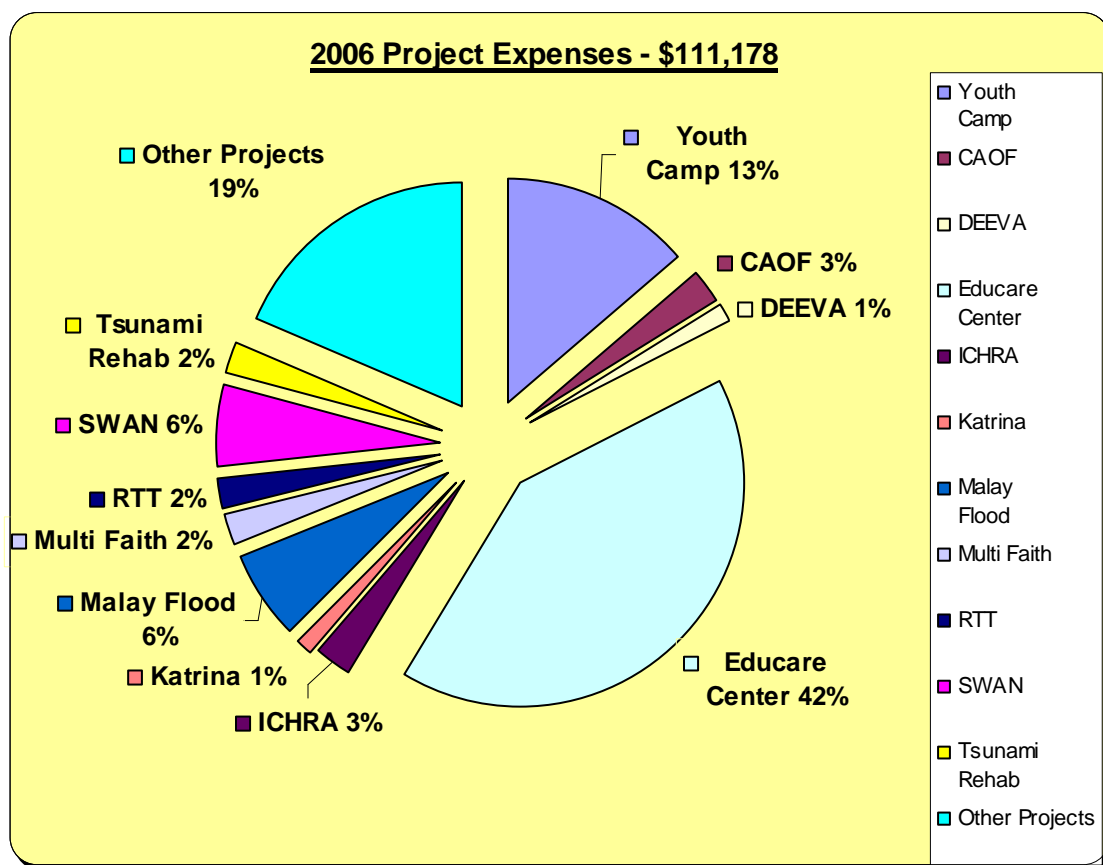
July 8, 2006

Project Expenses

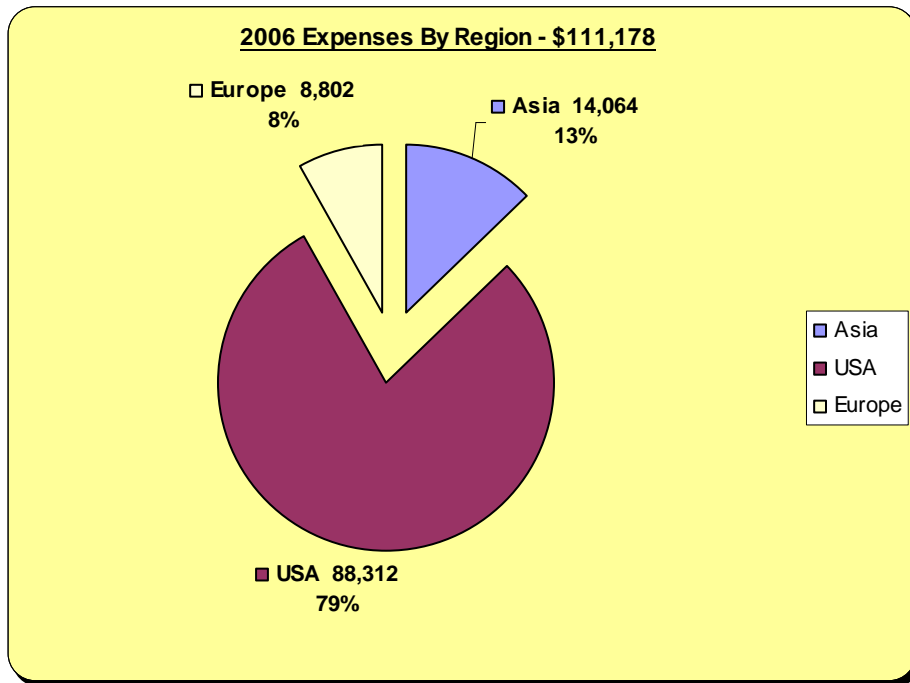
Fleming and Associates, CPA, PC, are our financial accountants. Joann Fleming is our accountant. The information has been compiled from the books and records of UNITED SIKHS. Fleming and Associates are located at 275 Water Street #1, New York, NY 10038.

For more detailed informational report, please send email to finance@unitedsikhs.org

High level Project Expenses summary for the year 2006 financial review is as follows:



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M i l e s t o n e s

- 🎯 **1999:** Initiated as an organization that catered to health and education related projects under Sikh-Aid
- 🎯 **2000:** Initiated health and educational literacy camps in New York
- 🎯 **2001:** Started the Advocacy campaign in USA after 9/11 to educate the American community on Sikhism. After 9/11 a number of Sikhs became prime targets of discrimination because of their attire. Advocacy was the demand
- 🎯 **2002:** Expanded our projects to New Jersey, USA, Washington DC and to California.
- 🎯 **2003:** Added the Multifaith component to UNITED SIKHS as it serves as an important arm to educate the religious, governmental and non-governmental bodies on identity of Sikhs and how important it is for a Sikhs to preserve their identity
- 🎯 **2004-2005:** Expanded to Asia (Panjab), United Kingdom and France. Expanded Sikh-Aid to cater to natural disasters such as Tsunami, Katrina and the Asian Earthquake.
- 🎯 **2006:** Advanced the Advocacy chapter and UNITED SIKHS is one of the leading Sikh Advocacy organizations through out USA and Europe. Year 2006-2007 is committed to the Right to Turban Campaign

Core Portfolios

1) International Civil and Human Rights Advocacy (ICHRA)

ICHRA helps advance the economic, social and spiritual empowerment of minorities and other marginalized groups and individuals in need, regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, social status, age or ability. We achieve this by protecting and enforcing the civil and human rights of minorities and marginalized groups in the Americas, Europe and Asian.

Right to Turban

UNITED SIKHS advocated the rights of Sikhs living in France to be allowed to wear their turbans.

Since September 11, the world has been gripped by fear such that many minority communities, including the Sikh community, have suffered a backlash through mis-information and ignorance. Sikhs due to their unique appearance have since been a target of hate and bias crime and discrimination. Every week, UNITED SIKHS receives reports from Sikh adults and children who are victims of race/biased/hate crimes and from those being denied their rights to practice their religion. A Sikh's right to wear his articles of faith has been challenged in schools, the workplace, Prisons and other public places. Sikhs suffer increased harassment at airports because they wear the Turban. UNITED SIKHS provides advice, counsel and legal representation to those whose legal rights are being denied by errant and misinformed authorities and the public. A critical aspect of UNITED SIKHS' advocacy work is to create an awareness of the issues amongst authorities and the public through talks, seminars and multifaith events.

Today the remit of the RTT campaign covers the Right To Turban issue in any country where Sikhs are denied their right to wear their Turban. If you, or anyone you know, have been denied the right to wear his/her turban, please do not hesitate to contact a UNITED SIKHS office nearest to you.



UNITED SIKHS Bulletins

[French Turban Campaign Continues in Earnest as More Sikh Students Face Expulsion](#)

Jasmeet Singh, one of four French-Sikh schoolboys excluded from school in September for refusing to remove their Turbans, will face a disciplinary hearing on Tuesday 21st November.

November 18, 2006

[Sikhs Lobby MEPs Against Turban Ban After Refusing to Remove Kirpan to Enter EU Parliament](#)

Sikhs remained in high spirits as they continued to lobby their Members of European Parliament (MEPs) after they were prevented from entering the European parliament for refusing to remove their Kirpan.

June 2, 2006

[UNITED SIKHS Helps 8 year old French Sikh Schoolboy Fight Pressure to 'Integrate' by Cutting his Hair](#)

UNITED SIKHS has successfully intervened to ensure that 8 year-old French schoolboy, Harjeet Singh, is able to wear his Rimaal (handkerchief on his top-knot) to his elementary school, after his father was told by the principal that...

April 10, 2006

[UNITED SIKHS SUES FRENCH GOVT OVER TURBAN BAN](#)

The French Supreme Court will consider today if UNITED SIKHS and Shingara Mann Singh should be allowed to challenge a government circular...

March 02, 2006

Civil and Human Rights Awareness and Advocacy

UNITED SIKHS works with likeminded organizations to promote and protect civil and human rights through awareness and advocacy. We do this by setting up and/or participating in consultative forums to facilitate a dialogue between beneficiaries and governmental and non-governmental organizations at local, national and international levels. The American Sikh Consultative Forum (ASCF) is an example of such an effort. The ASCF highlights Sikh issues, interalia, in the field of civil and human rights, employment, education, law enforcement, and commercial and public enterprise so that Sikh Americans may enjoy the rights and bear the responsibilities of being good American citizens.

ASCF uses the following processes to achieve the above -

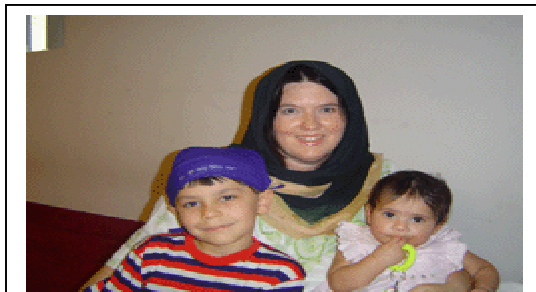
INFORM to diagnose the external and internal environments

ENGAGE to agree the overall goals and desired outcomes

PARTICIPATE to create and select strategies to be deployed

EMPOWER to allocate resources to achieve the Forums goals

UNITED SIKHS Bulletins



Linda Singh, with her children

Parent Power: Sikh Mother Tackles Illegal Question by Education Board

September 13, 2006

Linda Singh, mother of five, sought help from various organizations last month when she noticed that the Carteret Board of Education were asking an unlawful question...

FIRST SIKH LEGAL CLINIC STARTED IN NYC

The first free legal clinic for NY Sikhs, to educate them about their legal rights and how the law affects their lives, was held last month.

Jun 10, 2006

Sikh Mother Tackles Illegal Question by Education Board

Linda Singh, mother of five, sought help from various organizations last month when she noticed that the Carteret Board of Education were asking an unlawful question.

Sep 13, 2006

[Hate/Race Crime/Incident](#)

The increase in unpredictable and indiscriminate terrorist acts around the world since 9/11 in the US and the London bombings in July 2005 has had severe implications for the global community, not least Sikhs and other minority communities, who have faced a sharp increase in hate-related crimes and incidents.

In response to this, UNITED SIKHS has undertaken to collate data on hate crimes and incidents against Sikhs to ensure that justice is properly served. UNITED SIKHS works in North America and in partnership with other organizations in the UK to raise awareness of hate-related incidents and crimes, and to promote the practice of reporting such incidents.

Please help us by reporting all such incidents, no matter how insignificant you may feel they were. Please also ensure that you do report hate-related incidents to the police, as they can only act if they are made aware of such incidents. For further information about what a hate-related incident or crime is, and what to do in such circumstances, please read our leaflet entitled "What is a Hate Crime?". This leaflet can be found at the bottom of the hate crime reporting forms.

PLEASE USE THE CORRECT FORM FOR YOUR REGION, AND PLEASE ENSURE YOU ARE REPORTING A HATE-RELATED INCIDENT/CRIME. We are currently creating forms to deal with other types of discrimination including employment issues, gender issues etc.



UNITED SIKHS Bulletins

[UNITED SIKHS Meet Police Officials to Pursue Case of Sikh Man Attacked in Bias Incident on the Day Manhattan Plane Crash Killed Yankee Pitcher](#)

UNITED SIKHS International Civil and Human Rights Advocacy Directorate met police officials in New York towards the end of December to pursue the case of Avtar Singh Dhanjal.

December 30, 2006

[Sikhs urging action on faith hate](#)

Sikhs in Britain have called for the government to break down faith-hate crimes into different religious groups....

November 7, 2006

[Rights Under The Criminal Justice System \(e.g. rights of prisoners and victims\)](#)

Most of our work on prisoners' and victims' rights is in ensuring that fundamental human rights

of victims and prisoners are upheld. For e.g. we bring lawsuits on behalf of prisoners so that their loss of liberty in prison is not equated with a loss of a right to practice their faith.

We seek to assist victims of crimes, who are especially vulnerable for e.g. victims of domestic violence, child abuse and hate or race crime or incidents. We are in the process of setting up telephone help-lines and face-to-face counseling services to ensure that victims can receive help expeditiously.

[Minorities and Indigenous Rights](#)

Violations of human rights against minority and indigenous peoples continue to be a common occurrence. In 1992, the General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, the only United Nations instrument which addresses the special rights of minorities in a separate United Nations document. The establishment, in 1995, of the United Nations Working Group on Minorities, is another important achievement to date

Many such people have limited ability or means to challenge the discriminations and violations of human rights which they suffer, so it remains important for UNITED SIKHS to continue helping such people by raising awareness of the avenues of protection available and the possibilities of attaining one's rights.

UNITED SIKHS works to raise awareness of the plight of minorities across the world, specifically those who are suffering because of their religious convictions, or because they belong to a minority ethnic group. We make our knowledge of such minorities available to the societies in which minorities are currently suffering, and aim to educate the wider public about their plight to help improve their treatment. It is hoped that the two-pronged approach of educating the general public of minority issues, and providing minorities with means of challenging the problems they face, will lead to the full acceptance of minority and indigenous people by the world community.

UNITED SIKHS Bulletins

[Illinois Fitness Instructor secure his Right to Wear a Turban at Work](#)

UNITED SIKHS successfully intervened to ensure that a fitness instructor, Harmeet Singh, was able to wear his Turban at work after he was told by his employer last month that he would have to remove his Turban, a required article of the Sikh faith.
April 10, 2006

[SIKH POSTAL WORKER SECURES RIGHT TO WEAR TURBAN](#)

A United States postal worker, who was initially told by his employer that he would not be allowed to wear his Turban...
May 10, 2006

[US university reviews rules over Sikh student's rights](#)

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and the religious group United Sikhs protested Garcha's arrest, saying the kirpan isn't a weapon but an ornamental..
January 16, 2006

2) Sikh Aid

In 2003, UNITED SIKHS established GHANAIA (Giving Humanitarian Aid Necessities and Assistance Impartially to All) as an international relief effort to provide non-partisan aid and assistance to victims in disaster situations. GHANAIA is providing much needed aid during the aftermath of the Tsunami in South Asia, and has expanded to include blood and health drives.

[GHANAIA Asian Earthquake Relief](#)

More than 80,000 people are feared dead, many still lying in rubble, thousands injured and millions made homeless after a severe earthquake hit areas of Pakistan, India and Afghanistan early on 8 October.

The epicentre of the quake, which measured 7.6 on the Richter scale, was some 90 kilometres north of Pakistan's capital city Islamabad. Several remote villages have been completely reduced to rubble and countless others have been severely damaged. Aid agencies are facing difficulty getting to the remotest areas by road and air transport is in short supply. The cold weather in the highlands and the imminent winter has made the survivors vulnerable to the elements.

UNITED SIKHS volunteers assisted by nearby communities have arrived at the scene of the disaster, to provide high-altitude tents, woollen blankets and other supplies and to run langgar (community kitchen) camps on the Pakistani and Indian side of the affected areas.

For more information please see:

<http://unitedsikhs.org/asianearthquake/>

UNITED SIKHS Bulletins

[UNITED SIKHS COLLABORATES WITH NGOS FOR REHAB OF ASIAN QUAKE SURVIVORS](#)

UNITED SIKHS has collaborated with an Austrian relief agency, the Seventh Day Adventists and Guru Nanak Relief Camp to provide shelter homes...

May 10, 2006

GHANAIA Katrina Hurricane Relief

Thousands were dead and the entire city of New Orleans is under water, amongst other cities, after Hurricane Katrina hit the south-eastern United States in what is being called one of the worst and most expensive natural disasters in American history. The police, armed guards, and medical professionals are struggling to provide essential services with hundreds of thousands of people homeless, displaced and or injured.

UNITED SIKHS started the GHANAIA Katrina Hurricane Relief project and worked together with US authorities to gather resources and build a team of volunteers, including medical professionals, who will aid the refugees in Louisiana. We need your support, through time, effort and money, to make this project successful.

For the work done and for more information see: <http://unitedsikhs.org/katrina/>



UNITED SIKHS volunteers with the Response Team

UNITED SIKHS Rescue Team Recovers Sikh Scriptures from Submerged New Orleans Gurdwara

Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji, the Sikh Scriptures and eternal Guru of the Sikhs, was recovered yesterday from the submerged New Orleans Gurdwara (Sikh place of worship) after a rescue operation spanning 22 hours by a team of UNITED SIKHS volunteers led by rescue experts.

Thursday, 08 September 2005

UNITED SIKHS Bulletins



Remedy supplies being delivered

[REMEDY Supplies Much Needed Medical Supplies for Katrina Survivors](#)

The Mount Sinai Hospital REMEDY project partnered with UNITED SIKHS and provided much needed medical supplies to shelters housing hurricane survivors in Baton Rouge recently.

December 11, 2005

[UNITED SIKHS Joins Efforts to Build a Coalition for Katrina Recovery Efforts](#)

UNITED SIKHS attended a meeting in February to build a coalition of organizations to run a recovery and renewal program in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina. The meeting was an interactive planning session to discover common ground...
April 10, 2006



GHANAIA Indonesian Earthquake Relief

More than 4500 people are feared dead and more than 100,000 have been injured and made homeless on 27 May 2006 by the earthquake that hit the ancient city of Yogyakarta and Bantul on the island of Java in Indonesia. The earthquake, which measured 6.2, flattened buildings south of the city of Yogyakarta.

Families spent the night outdoors after losing their homes, while a series of aftershocks added to people's fears. The area struck by the quake is densely-populated. The Indonesian Red Cross

estimates some 200,000 people fled their homes after it hit early on Saturday morning.

UNITED SIKHS has responded by sending its response team with emergency supplies to the affected areas. http://unitedsikhs.org/indonesian_earthquake/

UNITED SIKHS Bulletins

[INDON QUAKE: UNITED SIKHS SUPPLIES FOOD AND CLOTHING TO VILLAGE CHILDREN](#)

The UNITED SIKHS relief team has begun delivery of emergency supplies to villagers affected by the earthquake, especially children, who were in desperate need of milk and clothes.

June 02, 2006

[UNITED SIKHS Responds to Indonesian Earthquake](#)

The UNITED SIKHS emergency response team will arrive in Indonesia tomorrow to provide relief material to survivors of the earthquake, which struck the island of Java, Indonesia killing over 4500 people

May 28, 2006

[GHANAIA Malaysian Flood Relief](#)

With nearly 100,000 people displaced, 9 deaths and these numbers continually rising, Malaysia is in need of emergency disaster relief following the worst floods the region has witnessed in 37 years. Malaysian weathermen warned the floods, which hit the southern states, could spread to the central and northeastern parts of the country if the unusually heavy monsoon rains persisted

The floods were the result of unusually heavy seasonal rain, and the state of Johor, in the South of Peninsular Malaysia, has been particularly badly affected. The displaced have been housed in 296 centres and emergency supplies and disaster relief teams have been working to help those affected.

UNITED SIKHS has responded by sending its response team to the region, locating its base camp at the Sikh Gurdwara in Muar. The team is working with Mercy Malaysia, a relief organisation which was at the centre of Tsunami relief work in Aceh two years ago. The team will continue to assess the situation and provide emergency supplies and disaster relief as needed.



UNITED SIKHS Bulletins

[Local Residents, Flood Survivors and Relief Agencies Rally Round to Support Flood-Affected Malays](#)

Malaysians have once again been showing their amazing hospitality and kindness as local residents, flood survivors...

December 30, 2006

[UNITED SIKHS Launches Malaysian Flood Relief Programme](#)

Floods, caused by torrential rains, swept hundreds of villages and towns in Southern Peninsular Malaysia last Thursday.

Monday 25, 2006

3)Empowerment

UNITED SIKHS believes in empowering individuals and groups to help them attain their full potential and become active participants in society. Empowerment occurs largely through education, training and community development projects. UNITED SIKHS aims to encourage people to participate in the decision-making processes in their local community as well as taking their place in the international arena.

OTHER EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVES



- [CAOF and Sarb Loh Camps](#): At a Dallas Sikh youth camp last week, professional storyteller Roop Singh and UNITED SIKHS' youth empowerment programmes co-ordinator, Ravinderpal Singh, disproved the Shavian phrase that 'England and America were two countries divided by a common language'

Photo Taken at the Camp Michigan in 2006



- [Role Models](#) : In all aspects of life - Faith, Sports, Industry and Education, we look to role models to chart our lives. UNITED SIKHS projects seek to create and use role models to help empower all age groups especially the youths. Role Models is programme under which we run projects and initiatives to highlight the achievements of the select to inspire the majority. For the year 2006 Monty Panesar was selected as a role-model.
- [Sikh Education Foundation](#) : Every year, Sikhs graduate from Oxbridge and Ivy League universities and go on to enjoy distinguished careers. However, the Sikh community has not tapped this rich scholastic resource to meet its challenges. Many more bright Sikh students do not make it to these prestigious universities due to lack of funds. This has been due to two main reasons: Firstly, the Sikh community at large has limited access to these scholars and secondly, the scholars do not know how they could serve the Sikh community's needs. The Sikh Education Foundation had a natural birth in 2006. The time was right to set up an educational fund to engage Sikh graduates from prestigious universities at a time when the Sikh community faced challenges to their identity. To meet the needs of our advocacy, humanitarian relief and human development projects, UNITED SIKHS set up the Sikh Education Foundation to reach out to the 'brains' of the community.



• [STARAE](#) : STARAE (Scholarships as a Tool for Accelerating Rural Academic Excellence) was set up to give star bright village school going children the opportunity to study in private schools. In this way, they would be provided with a study environment which would give them the maximum chances of working to their highest potential. The need for such a scheme was evident to UNITED SIKHS volunteers on a visit to Panjab as they saw that government schools were clearly not providing adequate support for certain students showing high potential due to a

lack of funds, facilities and even teaching staff. Teacher absenteeism has hit an all-time high in Panjab in recent years and continues to be a serious problem there.

- Educational Training Programs: At UNITED SIKHS we are dedicated to creating awareness through education, training and motivation which are both the tools and the result of our work. We understand that through awareness our volunteers and the communities they serve will become self-sufficient to create sustainable, prosperous, and happy multicultural and multifaith communities. Currently trainings are offered to external and internal UNITED SIKHS members, volunteers and staff and is open to all. The training programs are geared in the form of workshops on writing, photography, self development, motivation techniques, conflict resolution, time management, positive use of the media, advanced writing and more



[UNITED SIKHS OXFORD UNIVERSITY TRAVEL AID](#) : This is an empowerment project aimed at uplifting minority communities through an English language and mentoring programme. Under the UNITED SIKHS Oxford University Travel Aid English Language Teaching Programme, tertiary level students as well as primary school going village children are taught English by undergraduates of Oxford University, coming to

India through Oxford University's registered charity - TravelAid. UNITED SIKHS volunteers are also members of this teaching team.

4) Community and Multifaith Awareness

The grounding principle of UNITED SIKHS' Multifaith work is "if you don't see God in all, you don't see God at all". The organization is committed to working with other faiths and traditions, to advance a just and peaceful world. UNITED SIKHS is an active participant in international dialogue on multifaith issues, and specifically strives to improve the understanding and treatment of minority religions, traditions and beliefs.

By the very nature of its inception, UNITED SIKHS is also able to provide expert insight into the Sikh religion. We therefore use our expertise to raise awareness of Sikhism through seminars, lectures and innovative methods. Essentially the aim is to help employers, law enforcement officers, public officials and anybody else understand the religion and break down barriers faced by Sikhs, by showing that they can fully participate in all avenues of daily life.

Faith Awareness

UNITED SIKHS recognizes that most of its challenges in advocating minority rights stem from the lack awareness of the culture and religions of minorities. We have responded to this challenge by proactively engaging in mainstream and minority community and multi-faith awareness projects.

We believe that communities should not stop at merely tolerating one another but that communities should understand each other. This understanding will come about if each community does not stand in judgment of another. Instead one community should try to understand and accept the beliefs and practices of the other. The answer does not lie in how one community views the practices of another community but in understanding or accepting how the other community views itself.

UNITED SIKHS Bulletins



- [Promote Diversity Celebrate Difference: NYC Multifaith Forum on Religious Identity](#)

Prejudice breeds when diversity and difference is not celebrated. This was the resounding message delivered to 150 participants at the Multifath forum on Identity in New York city.

November 9, 2006



- [UNITED SIKHS JOINS FAITH GROUPS AND SURVIVORS A MEMORIAL AT GROUND ZERO](#)

In the spirit of unity after 9/11, UNITED SIKHS participated in planting on 10th Sept 2006. The tree that was planted is the Survivor Tree of Oklahoma City that remained standing on September 21, 2006.



- [UNITED SIKHS Joins National Faith Leaders to Mark 9/11 with NY UNITY Walk](#)

National leaders of a number of faiths and communities stood shoulder to shoulder in a Unity Walk in New York City, to mark the 5th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks...

September 21, 2006

[UN Multifaith Events](#)

UNITED SIKHS participates in the Multifaith events at UNITED NATIONS.



- [UNITED SIKHS PARTICIPATES AT THE 59th DPI/NGO CONFERENCE AT THE UN CHURCH OF RELIGIONS](#)

UNITED SIKHS participated, with various faith traditions represented at the UN, in the 59th DPI/NGO Conference at the UN Church of World Religions on 7th Sept 2006.

September 21, 2006



- [UNITED SIKHS Co-Sponsors Interfaith Prayer to Mark Opening of 61st UN General Assembly](#)

Religious leaders representing up to 30 faith traditions from all over the world attended an interfaith prayer service on Sept 12th to mark the opening of the 61st United Nations General Assembly.

Community Awareness

UNITED SIKHS recognizes that a global community can only live in harmony and trust if there is mutual awareness and understanding between the component communities. In order to achieve our Mission Statement, we run Community awareness programmes, which showcase the diversity practised by different communities.

UNITED SIKHS Bulletins

[UNITED SIKHS JOINS NATIONAL FAITH LEADERS TO MARK 9/11 WITH NY 'UNITY WALK'](#)

In the spirit of unity - Muslim, Hindu, Jewish, Christian, Buddhist, Shinto and Sikh, leaders will guide participants on a 3-mile "Unity Walk" on Monday, September 11th in New York City...September 02, 2006



[Sikhs Showcase their Diversity at NYC Mayor's Immigrant History Week](#)

New York Sikhs celebrated their colourful immigrant history on April 22nd during Mayor Bloomberg's annual Immigration Week Celebrations...

May 10, 2006.

The event was entitled "Americans in Turbans: An Inside Look at NYC Sikhs" and included a photographic exhibition of Sikh immigrants; a display of historical and religious Sikh artefacts; a screening of Sikh films, as well as a Gatka demonstration, finishing with a Kirtan program. Stacy Stecko, a representative from the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs commented: "In my experience this is one of the most successful events in Immigration History Week."

5) Community Service

SWAN (Sikh With A Need)

The SWAN project was born when UNITED SIKHS read Partap Singh's appeal asking for help because his life in Peru had become unbearable as he and his family tried to defend their Sikh identity. Post 9/11 he could not earn his livelihood as a Meditation teacher and tourist guide because he was referred to as 'Ben Laden'. His son was refused admission to school because he wore a headcovering. UNITED SIKHS responded by making inquiries about Partap Singh's situation in Peru and launched a public appeal to the Sikh community to donate towards helping Partap Singh overcome his difficulties. The Public's response was overwhelming and UNITED SIKHS felt that such help should be made available to other needy Sikhs under the SWAN project.

UNITED SIKHS Bulletins



[Valencia Sikhs Thank Donors for Emergency Gurdwara Appeal](#)

The sangat of the Guru Nanak Association Gurdwara in Valencia, moved into their new Gurdwara last Saturday in time for the Sikh religious festival of Bandi Cchod. The sangat of the Guru Nanak Association Gurdwara in Valencia, moved into their new Gurdwara last Saturday in time for the Sikh religious festival of Bandi Cchod. UNITED SIKHS raised €4794 in response to the Community Voice, issued over a week ago. UNITED SIKHS launched the appeal to help the community meet the urgency and since the objective has been met, the appeal has been closed.

October 28, 2006



[An Appeal: Two Bright Sikh Scholars from Panjab Need your Support](#)

Satpreet Singh and Harmanjit Singh have written technical research papers which have been accepted for international conferences in Houston and Prague , respectively. September 12, 2006

[DEEVA](#) (Drug Eradication Through Education, Vigilance and Awareness)

A) PREVENTIVE PROGRAMMES

PLAY: Providing Lively Activities for Youths

AIM:

- i) To build and run recreation centers in villages, schools and colleges to give youths an outlet of expression; and
- ii) To provide mentoring to youths.

BACKGROUND

There is a dire shortage of healthy recreational facilities in villages and educational institutions resulting in the youths turning to cable television and drugs for pleasure.

A project paper has been prepared which details the setting up of a pilot PLAY activity centre. This centre will house games, sporting and counselling facilities that will be managed by a trained sports facilitator/counsellor.

B) Drug Detoxification and Rehabilitation Centres

D’CARE:Detoxification and Counselling as a Rehabilitation

Effort

UNITED SIKHS is currently looking at a number of successful centers with views to inviting them to set up a pilot center.



[Anti - Drug Campaign | Drug War in Punjab : Keeping Punjab Clean](#)

80% of Punjabi youth takes drugs. The drug problem came to notice only few years ago. The spark was present since past many years...

December 10, 2006



[UNITED SIKHS collaborates with SikhGiving.Com and Aapna Punjab for a Drugs Awareness Campaign in Amritsar](#)

SikhGiving.com will be taking up the project of tackling the drug menace in Punjab. The Sikh Giving sewadars noticed the huge problem of drugs on their recent visit to the villages in Amritsar district....

July 11, 2006