



MADRE

Fall 2012

www.madre.org

From the Executive Director

YIFAT SUSSKIND

Dear Friend,

Now is the season when we are reminded to be thankful. Yet there's so much to give thanks for all throughout the year.

I know it doesn't always feel that way. Sometimes, it seems like there's just bad news everywhere: poverty, war, disaster. It's easy to become overwhelmed.

But I'm never discouraged because I see with **my own eyes** all the good we accomplish when we work together with you. I witness the power of your support and the impact that grows and grows as it ripples out to women and families globally.

So when I count my blessings, at this time of year and all year long, I'm deeply grateful for you. I'm grateful for the strength and hope you give to me and to our sister organizations worldwide.

Your gifts make it possible for women in Iraq to find shelter from violence. Your backing gives women farmers in Sudan the tools to end hunger. And through MADRE, your solidarity with women's rights activists makes this world a safer, better place for all of us.

So thank you! We've devoted this edition of *MADRE Speaks* to saying thanks to you. We can never say it enough, but it's a start.

Thank you always,



Your Support in Action...

COLOMBIA



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Yifat with young dancers at Taller de Vida, our sister organization in Colombia. With your support, we provide former child soldiers and children uprooted by war with trauma counseling, art therapy and recreational programs. It was inspiring to see these young people flourish through Taller de Vida's programs!

Visit us at www.madre.org/highlights to see all the accomplishments that you made possible!



KENYA

© Womankind Kenya

Thanks to your generosity, MADRE was able to provide food to hungry families during the famine in east Africa.

AFGHANISTAN



© MADRE



© Sunita Viswanath

With your support, MADRE has launched a new partnership with Afghan midwives, who provide life-saving care to women and newborns. Sunita Viswanath, a MADRE friend, met with the midwives in Afghanistan and delivered prenatal vitamins and safe birth supplies donated by MADRE supporters.

Thank You to MADRE Members!

FROM OUR SISTERS

When Hurricane Sandy tore through our community, we worried about the most vulnerable people, who are still homeless, more than two years after the earthquake. We knew that their tents would not protect them from the storm.

But our friends at MADRE were there for us. And they told us about you. Thanks to you, we were able to give families emergency food and water.

It's hard to predict when disasters will strike. But we know that we can count on you to help us face them head-on when they do.

Your gifts give us strength to face our worst fears. Thank you for all that you do to support us through MADRE.



Malva Villard-Appolon
KOFVIV (Haiti)



Vote for Malva!

Malva Villard-Appolon, a co-founder of KOFVIV, has been recognized by CNN as one of their Heroes of the Year! This honors her work to help rape survivors in Haiti get the care and counseling they need.

Help Malva and KOFVIV win \$250,000 for their life-saving work by voting online! You can vote up to 10 times a day! Visit www.madre.org/malva to find out how.

In Haweeja, here in Iraq, children are being born with birth defects and cancers. Their homes are downstream from a US military munitions dump. Mothers suspect that toxic contamination caused their children's severe disabilities and sickness.

I've been there, and I spoke to one local leader who said, "We just want the world to know what is happening here." I talked to a mother, holding her paralyzed daughter, who said, "We have been forgotten."

Thanks to MADRE, I was able to say: "There are people who will send help and demand justice." I told them about all the MADRE members who have not forgotten them, who have formed a Haweeja Action Team.

Thank you for standing with us!



Yanar Mohammed
The Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq

It's not too late to join the Haweeja Action Team. Visit www.madre.org/actionteam to find out more.



I write this to you as a friend, one who truly understands that we must protect the earth and everything it gives us.

For me, that's easy to remember, for I am here on the North Atlantic coast of Nicaragua, in the forests and lagoons, among our plants and animals, every day. But you are probably in a building, not even made of wood. That tells me that your understanding and commitment to our work with MADRE comes from deep within your

heart. And that's what makes you a true friend to our people and our efforts.

Protecting water is not just useful and good, but it is also a sacred responsibility. I am very grateful to you for supporting mother earth with us.

Thank you,



Rose Cunningham,
Wangki Tangni
(Nicaragua)

A Special Thank You from Vivian Stromberg



Vivian Stromberg, now MADRE's Senior Advisor, was our Executive Director for nearly 20 years. She wrote this special message to honor the community of longtime members who have propelled our work.

Can you believe that MADRE is nearly 30 years old?

There's so much to look back on, so much that we have accomplished together with women and families worldwide. In my mind, there's one thing that stands out. It's the support of devoted members like you, the backbone of MADRE.

You've been with us for the long haul, and for that, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. People like you are the reason MADRE stays strong. People like Clare and Blanche, whose lifetime fight for justice and whose longtime support of MADRE brings us every day closer to the world we want.

Your commitment to social justice makes human rights a reality for all. Thank you.

With all my love,




Supporter Spotlight:

Clare Coss and Blanche Wiesen Cook have been long-time friends to MADRE and to our sisters worldwide. To Clare, to Blanche and to all of our supporters—thank you.

Including MADRE in your will is simple and powerful, and guarantees your continued support for women's human rights for generations to come. Please call us at (212) 627-0444 for more information.

Natalia Caruso, MADRE Program Director, Thanks You

I thought I couldn't be more passionate about the work we do for women's rights—until I had my daughter. Now, the thought of my precious child living without clean water, without food or basic rights adds to my dedication in a way that I didn't know was possible.

I am so grateful that my daughter will have strong, brave women to look up to and to learn from. Like Stella in Colombia, who offers warmth and mentorship to former child soldiers seeking to rebuild their lives. And Lucy in Kenya, who provides young girls with an education and a chance to live their dreams. And like Amina in Palestine, who helps mothers give birth in peace and joy.

The work of our sister organizations worldwide means so much to me, and none of it could happen without you. Because of you, our movement for global women's human rights grows stronger every day. I know the world my daughter will see as a young woman will be a better one through our shared efforts.

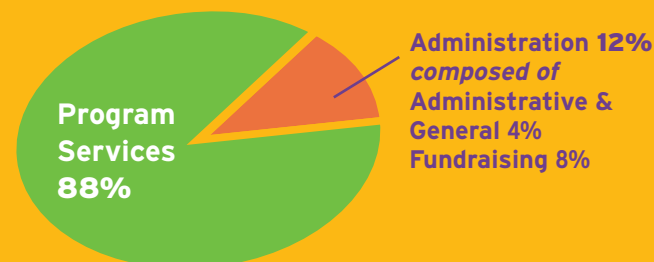
Thank you for your friendship, for supporting the work of our sisters, and for helping create a bright future for my daughter and for all our children. Thank you,

Natalia



MADRE Expenses 2011

88% of your donations directly support life-saving programs



Becoming a MADRE Lifeline is a secure, hassle-free way to give on a monthly, recurring basis, ensuring that MADRE's programs remain strong and vibrant without writing another check. To learn more, visit www.madre.org/lifeline.