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May 2011



**Dear Friends of SiKanda,**

*For over a year, SiKanda has been collaborating with the recyclers of the municipal landfill in Oaxaca. During this time we have been able to accomplish many things, thanks to the enthusiasm of our volunteers and your help. We would like to thank you for all of your support since the inception of the project.*

*We all know that there are people who make a living from the trash that we produce daily. Our relationship with these recyclers, however, stops when the garbage departs with our waste. In the city we do not see the trash, nor the people, that work every day to survive on what we throw away.*

*The fundamental purpose of our organization is to reduce this inequality and apathy. SiKanda seeks to show schools, institutions, businesses, and other forums the difficult reality in which the recyclers live. But first, we are striving to show society that these recyclers can transform their own reality. When they have educational alternatives, their income and health can improve. We are demonstrating to society that help, such as yours, does generate sustainable development and increases the self-esteem of marginalized individuals, families and communities.*

*SiKanda places emphasis on the first word in the title of our organization, “Solidarity”. There is no miraculous solution to combat poverty; but collaboration is fundamental in improving the quality of life of the recyclers. Our keystone program, “Windows of Opportunity for Waste”, has empowered the recyclers to improve their lives through education in worm composting techniques, ecological house construction and general healthcare.*

*After one year of activity, we have partnered with over 150 recyclers and see the impact:*

- *15 families and 2 public elementary schools operating worm compost units;*
- *1 house, recycling 5,000 tetrapak packages and 1,500 plastic bottles;*
- *144 people working with gloves and boots to protect themselves from accidents;*
- *8,000 people reached through awareness workshops and educational sessions*

*Most importantly, we have woven bonds of trust that have restored the dignity of those who live and work with trash. These bonds are SiKanda’s main capital, a human capital that is worth the effort to protect and nurture.*

*Thank you again for your continuing support, for your confidence in SiKanda’s work and for the committed efforts of our volunteers. We enjoy the opportunity to share with you in more detail a breakdown of our projects, accomplishments and our current financial report.*

*With all of our appreciation, on behalf of SiKanda and the recyclers of Oaxaca, Mexico,*

**Aurelia Annino and José Carlos León Vargas**

Founders

Solidaridad Internacional Kanda - SiKanda

# WHAT IS SOLIDARIDAD INTERNACIONAL KANDA?

Solidaridad Internacional Kanda (SiKanda) is a non-profit organization that seeks to facilitate and manage participatory processes of balanced and sustainable development in order to improve the quality of life of marginalized communities in Mexico and other countries.

“Kanda” means “Movement” in Mixtec, an indigenous language spoken in Mexico. As our name suggests Solidaridad Internacional Kanda seeks to create an International Movement of Solidarity and Cooperation. SiKanda believes that only through solidarity we can successfully fight poverty and promote social justice.



## WHY OAXACA?

Despite being the most biodiverse and culturally diverse state in Mexico, Oaxaca is the 2nd poorest state, and ranks 2nd to last in health in Mexico.



## OUR PROGRAM

**Windows of Opportunity for Waste** is a program working to improve the lives of recyclers in Oaxaca's landfill. It addresses the problems that the recyclers feel are most pressing in their community through 3 distinct projects targeting:

- **Health:** Reduction of Sanitary Hazards
- **Income:** Worm Composting - “Worm Power”
- **Integration:** Ecological Leadership and Social Justice



## Who We Help

- 160 individuals (55 Women, 45 Men, 36 Children and 24 adolescents) who classify, and then sell recyclables in the Oaxaca landfill (recyclers)
- Ages: 6-87





# REDUCTION OF SANITARY HAZARDS



The **Reduction of Sanitary Hazards Project** targets the recyclers' health problems on two fronts: providing sanitary housing and adequate work equipment.

## CONTEXT

- Families typically invest 40% of their income in health-related expenses.
- Work-related injuries are frequent due to the nature of the work and the lack of safety equipment such as face masks, work boots, gloves, and protective clothing.
- 30% of families live in highly deteriorated housing made from cardboard, laminate and other objects found in the landfill.
- Frequent health problems include skin abrasions, respiratory infections, rashes, and cancers.

## OUR IMPACT



NUTRITION	HOUSING	COLLABORATION	WORK SAFETY
<p>In March 2010, an agreement was signed with the DIF (Mexico's National Agency for Family Development) to <b>reduce the cost</b> of food provisions <b>by 75%</b>.</p>	<p>The <b>1st TetraPak House</b> was built in August 2010 for Don Andrés, an 86-year-old recycler, with help from national and international volunteers.</p>	<p>Construction businesses, civil society and a state government pledged to <b>fund 7 eco-houses</b> during a fundraising event for SiKanda's projects in February 2011.</p>	<p><b>69 recyclers</b> received packages of <b>11 face masks</b> and <b>2 pairs of gloves</b> in March 2011.</p>



# WORM POWER



The **Worm Power Project** aims to diversify the income of the recyclers through the production and sale of organic fertilizer.

The project has also expanded into the sale of plants the recyclers have cultivated using this fertilizer.



## CONTEXT

- A recycler's income is based on what is collected. If trash does not reach the landfill, due to Oaxaca's political climate or if a recycler falls ill and cannot work, he or she will not get paid.
- In a normal day a recycler collects from the landfill 80kg of plastic, 10kg of cardboard, 5kg of aluminum, and 2 kg of other metals, reselling them for an average daily income of \$2.50 USD.
- A recycler works an average of 10 hours daily, 7 days a week.



## OUR IMPACT

EDUCATION	PRODUCTION	MARKETING	INCOME
2 elementary schools and 15 families were trained in vermiculture and started worm compost units. (3 families started in April and 12 in August 2010).	Families had their 1st harvest of fertilizer in October 2010. 2 Families set up a tree nursery in the landfill to sell plants.	A child of one of the beneficiaries designed the logo for the marketing of the fertilizer.	To date, 960 kilograms of fertilizer have been sold, giving the beneficiaries an extra \$1500 USD of income.



# ECOLOGICAL LEADERSHIP & SOCIAL JUSTICE



The **Ecological Leadership & Social Justice Project** makes connections between the recyclers and other sectors of society to fight prejudices and give them a voice in the public debate.



## OUR IMPACT

## CONTEXT

- Due to years of discrimination, many of the recyclers are ashamed of their work.
- 60% of our beneficiaries are women who also experience gender discrimination.
- The children from the landfill suffer a high dropout rate and many experience discrimination from their classmates because of their parents' profession.

INTERNATIONAL EXPOSURE	CIVIL EMPOWERMENT	FIGHTING STIGMA	AWARENESS
SiKanda's documentary "Pepenadores: Living Off Trash" was a finalist of the <b>Oaxaca International Independent Film Festival</b> in September 2010 and part of the <b>Ambulante Film Festival</b> in 2011.	Members of the Union of Pepenadores Guieniza met with the <b>Mayor of Oaxaca</b> , March 2011.	SiKanda and representatives from the Union of Pepenadores Guieniza were <b>interviewed on TV Azteca</b> about the major benefit their work has on the environment and society.	<b>Over 8,000</b> individuals have attended talks and have seen SiKanda's documentary in Oaxaca, and internationally in schools and cultural centers.

## PARTNER WITH US

### DONATE

Go to our website at [www.si-kanda.org](http://www.si-kanda.org) and click the Donate button on the main page to make a secure online donation using paypal.



If you would like to make a wire transfer donation here are the details:

Solidaridad Internacional Kanda A.C  
Bank Account No: 0629051135  
BANCO MERCANTIL DEL NORTE, S.A.  
Sucursal : 3503  
Address: H. Escuela Naval Militar 119,  
Colonia Reforma, 68050, Oaxaca de  
Juárez, Oaxaca, México.  
CLABE: 072-610-00629051135-2  
SWIFT: MENOMXMT

### ORGANIZE AN EVENT

Contact a musical group for a concert, a restaurant for a dinner, an office for a meeting or a sports team to compete in SiKanda's name. Organize a lottery in the name of solidarity.

Choose a project that you would like to sponsor and contact us for informational material!

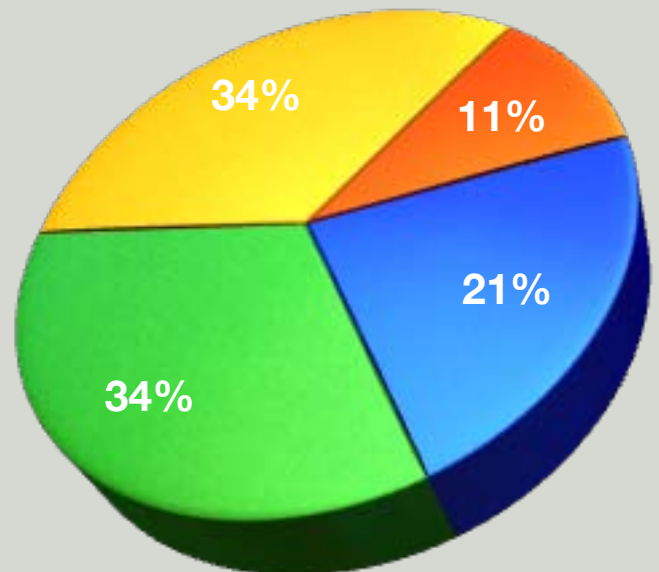
### VOLUNTEER

We always need help to support SiKanda's effort. If you have free time, even if it is a few hours per week, please contact us at: [info@si-kanda.org](mailto:info@si-kanda.org)



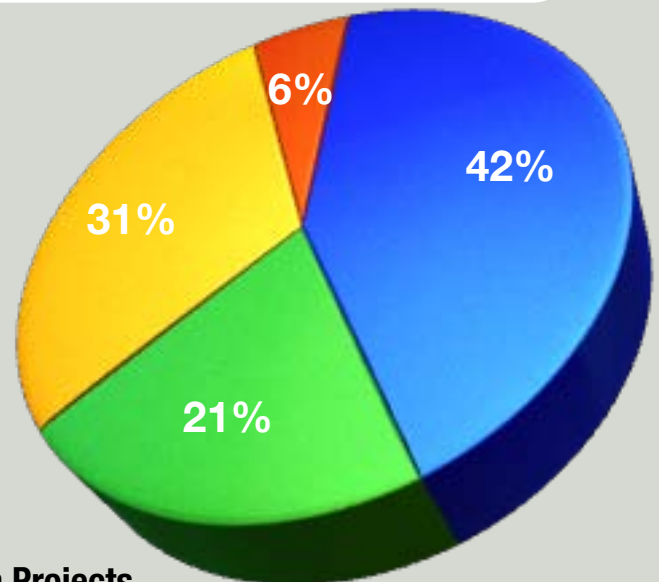
# 2010 FINANCES

## REVENUE SOURCES



- Businesses
- Foundations
- Individual Donors
- In-Kind Services/Volunteering

## HOW WE USE YOUR SUPPORT



- Health Projects
- Alternative Economics and Food Security Projects
- Integration and Awareness Projects
- Administrative Costs

**SiKanda has non-profit status: Donations are tax deductible in Mexico**



## COMMENDATIONS & AWARDS

- SiKanda and ByoEarth's (Guatemala) project Worms-4-Change was accepted into the Unreasonable Institute, a highly competitive social enterprise incubator in the US. Worms-4-Change brings worm composting as an alternative income source to impoverished communities in Southern Mexico and Guatemala.
- SiKanda was granted observer status at UN Conference on Climate Change in 2010.
- SiKanda was the principle Mexican organizer for Rajmohan Gandhi's Voyage of Dialogue and Discovery, a 15-nation tour he took as President of Initiatives of Change, an international NGO.



### "TRANSFORMING TRASH" T&T

Thanks to this project, children of marginalized schools will learn techniques for sorting trash, worm-composting and setting up vegetable gardens at their schools to improve their nutrition and health.

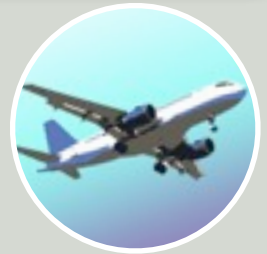
**T&T** promotes worm-composting among families living in the landfill, fostering better nutrition and the sale of plants as a new source of revenue.

**T&T** uses worm-composting as the engine of environmentally-friendly and healthy practices.

### DID YOU KNOW ?

When **90 recyclers** work for one year, they **reduce CO2 emissions equivalent to 186 flights** of 3.5 hours between London and Rome.

Their work also creates space in the landfill, which **saves** the municipal government **\$40,000 USD** each **month**.



[www.twitter.com/sikanda\\_oaxaca](http://www.twitter.com/sikanda_oaxaca)



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