

2010

*UNITED SIKHS  
USA ANNUAL REPORT*



**UNITED  
SIKHS**

*Recognize the Human Race as One*

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS

Dear Sadh Sangat ji,

**Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji ki Fateh!**

In genuine humbleness, we, the team of UNITED SIKHS would like to share with you our success stories for the year 2010. Please accept this as a token of thankfulness because without the support of the Gurdwara sahib, the Sangat and above all Waheguru, we wouldn't be blessed with such an immensely fulfilling year.

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*The biggest waves start with the smallest ripples  
in the water. Be the one to drop the pebble that  
starts the ripple which creates the wave!*

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Without your generous contributions of time, money, and spirit, the work we do could not get done.

**Each of your individual ripples in the water helped create a wave of change this year! But the work is never over, the battle never won, and we need your help to keep going!**

We urge you to keep the current strong; don't let the tide change – donate today to help us continue our vital and important work throughout the world.

You can help those affected by crises around the world each year by making a financial gift to UNITED SIKHS. With your assistance we can provide immediate relief and support to those in need. Call 1 - 646 – 688 - 3525 for more information. Internet users can make a secure online contribution by visiting <http://unitedsikhs.org/donate.php> . If you wish to designate your donation to a specific cause please do so at the time of your donation.

## ABOUT US

UNITED SIKHS is a UN-affiliated, international non-profit, non-governmental, humanitarian relief, human development and advocacy organization, aimed at empowering those in need, especially disadvantaged and minority communities across the world.

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 GOALS

### *International Civil and Human Rights Advocacy (ICHRA)*

- *Protect and Safeguard our Civil and Human Rights by providing assistance*

### Humanitarian Aid

- Fight against Hunger, Deprivation and Provide Disaster relief

### Educare

- Educate and Empower

## 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 active



## ICHRA (INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS)

- Assisted a Sikh family from Afghanistan (a surviving widow and daughter) after the Taliban had killed their husband and father in immigrating to Canada. Rehabilitated 24 families who were also threatened by the Taliban in Pakistan.



Taliban' Victims (Sikh Mother and Daughter)

- In Japan, UNITED SIKHS was pivotal in obtaining the release of Bharpoor Singh from prison while he awaits a decision on his asylum application.
- Right to Turban continues in Europe!! UNITED SIKHS filed a claim against France in the United Nations in December 2008 and are awaiting results soon. This has a direct impact on the 9500+ Sikh families living in France.
- UNITED SIKHS filed a lawsuit against a school in Belgium to protect a Sikh child's right to wear their dastaar. The result of this lawsuit will impacts approximately 600+ Sikh families.
- UNITED SIKHS Australia is currently working with the Tasmanian Police to implement the Kirpan card into their policies and procedures manual, and with the Western Australia police to formalize the Sikh Turban as acceptable headgear for practicing Sikhs.

- Safeguarded the rights of Sikhs to wear their kirpans at a major California University and working with a national Testing Center to provide a formal accommodation for Sikhs.
- Campaigns highlighting the most critical issues of Sikhs like sikh census, bullying prevention, equal employment opportunity commissions, education and awareness training with law enforcement.
- Filed formal complaint with EEOC regarding a TSA agent's right to wear the kara and Investigations pending regarding formal complaints filed with TSA regarding the mistreatment of the Dastaar at airports.



UNITED SIKHS Projects Lead Pushpinder Singh presenting to TSA employees



Pawanjit Singh and Pushpinder Singh

- 1st 2010 Sikh Summit where over 30 lawmakers approached with concerns that most affect the Sikh community by 60 community leaders. and the 3rd Global Sikh Civil Rights Conference held.
- Launched the global ***“Protect Our Identity”*** campaign.



## SIKH AID PROJECTS

- The overwhelming support of the Sikh community for UNITED SIKHS Haiti Relief Efforts earned us a mention in President Barack Obama's speech at the National Prayer Breakfast earlier this year.
- PANJAB FLOODS- Assisted flood-affected families of Pir Sabaq, Gandaree and Dagoona in Resalpure. ( total of 15 villages helped). Provided food items for flood victims seeking refuge in Gurdwara Panja Sahib.Gave cash aid to 50 rural families in 16 villages in India that *had suffered from farmer suicides*.



Displaced Families at Gurdwara Panja Sahib



Farmer-suicide widow receives her RAF

- UNITED SIKHS-Kenya is installing a water pump that will cater drinking water to over 5000 residents of the Nyanza district, and setting up medical camps to supply medicine to hundreds of underprivileged Kenyan adults and children in Buru-Buru and Kyole
- UNITED SIKHS-UK served Langar to passengers stranded at London Heathrow Airport due to the volcanic ash cloud.

## EDUCARE (EDUCATION & HEALTHCARE) & EMPOWERMENT

- Community partner and sub-grantee on Project RICE (Reaching Immigrants through Community Empowerment) for diabetes prevention and education work in the South Asian community in New York as part of the NYU School of Medicine Prevention Research Center.
- Researched needs of youth members of Richmond Hill as part of the grant for the Advocates for Community Youth (ACY) project by Partnerships for After-School Education (PASE)
- UNITED SIKHS UK assisted international students by signposting them to existing services which they may need, such as accommodation services, job seekers, health services etc.
- Conducted diabetes and healthy lifestyle classes as part of “Yes You Can Defy Diabetes” supported by the New York State Health Foundation, The New York State Diabetes Campaign, Faith Fights Diabetes.
- Represented the community at the National Community Committee, one of the guiding committees of the Prevention Research Center (PRC) program of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
- Supported and Conducted youth camps such as the West Coast Sikhi Camp, Khoj retreat (CA), Miri Piri Camp in Michigan.
- Became member of the Queens Cancer Action Council (as part of Queens Library Healthlink) to increase awareness and education .
- 210 STARAE scholarships to Sikh children from low income groups in India

- Learning Value Series: workshops for excellence in all fields – students wrote poetry and sold peace cards for New Year in Delhi, India to raise funds for scholarships to children in Punjab.
- Various ongoing projects including but not limited to homework help, diabetic prevention and education, screening for BP, cholesterol, BMI, glucose and the like.

We humbly request you to continue giving us your love and support to help us achieve and fulfill our vital and important work throughout the world.

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**Please donate generously to UNITED SIKHS!**

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