



Hi there,

We are pleased to present You the seventh Newsletter with the global planning for 2007. Furthermore we would like to hand You some examples on how we intend to help, themes that came up in the last two months during several conversations with interested people.

In the next twelve months, several computer programmers will be working hard to build the Network's Information Archive and Website. In the next Newsletters we will present the design, structure and contents of the Website and from there on we will inform You about newly released items upon availability.

Bye for now! All the best, have a good time!

Kind Regards,

Peter Maas

Email: peter.maas@helping-people.net

PS: feel free to forward our Newsletters to Your Friends and Family. When forwarding the Email message, please include **subscribe-newsletter@helping-people.net** in the CC-field of the message, so that we can add the Emailaddress(es) to our Mailinglist.



Photo: Edwin Karganila, www.flickr.com

This Issue:

Global Planning for 2007
Helping and being helped
Who knows what is needed?
Common good

Newsletter

[Subscribe](#)
[Unsubscribe](#)

Participant

[New](#)
[Update](#)
[Remove](#)
[Contact Request](#)

Contact

Peter Maas

Post:

P.O. Box 825
NL-4600 AV Bergen op Zoom
The Netherlands

E-Mail:

info@helping-people.net

Internet:

www.helping-people.net

Editorial

Peter Maas

info@helping-people.net

Design, Art Direction

Grafikwerkstatt
Sabine Jung
www.sabinejung.com

Next Issue

February 2007



Global Planning for 2007

Infrastructure

The major issues to work on are the development of the Website, Internet Portal, the Information Archive and the communication infrastructure. They are essential for all other activities to be executed. Participants will get a personal email address and security access to the Network's computers and archives.

Definition & Exploration

The strategist team is going to define the Network's "Constitution" and first contacts will be made with worldwide aid organizations. Many internal meetings will have to take place to define the course

of action and we will start to make a map of the world regarding needed help. Experts from the "field" will be invited to tell us about the problems of and in aid projects. Best-practice solutions will be sought for all those problems.

Organization

The organization of the Headquarters is to be set up and for all roles participants have to be found and instructed. At some point in time we will introduce a central location for meetings, storage of documentation and a place to work for the Headquarter teams.

Public Relations

At the end of 2007, the public relations team will setup a campaign to announce the Network worldwide. Through media coverage the Network's intentions will be published and explained. The newsletter will be sent to other networks of interested people. In Q4 we will also do first try-outs for public meetings, where interested people are invited to participate in a public discussion about "what help they think the world needs".

This newsletter will continue to report about all new developments.



Photo: Edwin Karganila, www.flickr.com



Helping and being helped and vice versa at the same time

Last month I had several conversations with some interested people explaining the intentions of the Helping People Network. During one of those conversations, I noticed a man, sitting a few tables away in the restaurant, who was overhearing our conversation, so I decided to invite him to the conversation. I was explaining the many roles that participants can play from their own home and that the information exchange takes place through the Network's Internet Portal. These were retired people, not raised using a computer, however very interested and eager to learn to use it. The unknown man, also retired, told us he was computer literate and offers other retired people to learn to work with the computer and the Internet. He invited them to visit him at his home. He likes

doing it and, having two people over at his house, would help him overcome his loneliness after his wife had died a year ago.

Does it occur to You how many people are being helped in this case?

1. Helping People Network: there were two people, interested to participate in the Network, however not knowing how to use a computer;
2. Two interest participants: helped by the unknown man, showing then how to use the computer;
3. The unknown man is being helped by having two people over at his house, overcoming his loneliness and;
4. I can concentrate on other activities, because the unknown man is taking over tutoring the two how to work with the computer.



Photo: David Eldridge, www.flickr.com

Conclusion

Helping someone may cause You to be helped Yourself. Yes, it's that simple. Is this a new idea? No. Then why don't we help more often?



Foto: David Eldridge, www.flickr.com



Who knows best what is needed?

At the end of 2004 the Asian continent was struck by a giant tsunami. We all have seen the reports on TV. Many people and animals died or were wounded. Children lost parents and vice versa. In a few seconds the catastrophe made people lose everything they owned and traumatized many survivors. Large aid organizations rushed in to take care of the wounded and sick, fed them and built tent camps. In one word: terrible!

A well-known actress from the West had her wellness holiday on Sri Lanka at that time. Seeing all the suffering people and lost children, looking for their parents, she decided "I HAVE to do something! What can I do for those poor children?"

"Well, what can You do for children without parents: build an orphanage!" considered our actress. "Of course. That's it, that's what I'm going to organize!"

One day later, without any doubt in her mind, she traveled back home and started calling all her friends and relatives, wealthy people she knew from her work, and talked to everybody she could think of, to collect funds for the orphanage.



Photo: David Eldridge, www.flickr.com

At that time all over the world, many fund raising TV campaigns were started and a tremendous amount of money was collected. Our actress was invited to tell about her project and 1,5 million Euros were assigned to her project. With this kind of budget, it shouldn't be difficult to successfully accomplish this project.

As she was not experienced organizing a project of this magnitude, she engaged an experienced project manager to plan, organize and lead it. So a group

of construction workers, an architect, plumbers, electricians, etc. was formed to travel to Sri Lanka. In the meantime an array of containers with building materials, tools and machinery was sent on its way to the building site.

Due to the chaos on Sri Lanka it was very hard to get a permission for a building site, so after arrival, the group of workers had to wait, before being allowed to start to build the orphanage. Three full weeks! Furthermore there was a problem getting the containers



from the harbour to the building site, because all available trucks on the island were assigned to other aid projects, so before all the containers arrived four weeks had passed.

Building activities finished after eight weeks, working around the clock. Motivation was very high, but several construction workers, not accustomed to the humid hot weather got sick and needed care themselves.

After three months the orphanage was officially opened during a ceremony with international guests and local officials. At last the orphans could be moved in, helped and cared for...

"But, where are all those orphans I saw right after the tsunami catastrophe?" Some local officials

were consulted and one of them was explained that it was custom that, when in a family the parents died, the children would be taken care of by the other members of the family and/or close neighbours.

Half the money was spent, but only a few orphans were there to be helped. "This was not what we planned!" The actress was disappointed, but there was still money available. The local official she talked to, advised her a hospital would be very helpful.

Another two months passed until the construction workers finished converting the orphanage into a hospital and medical goods and nurses/doctors were up-and-running. End good, all good! Many people could be helped after all: mission completed!

Conclusion

How could this have happened? Well...

1. the actress, with all here good intentions, forgot to ask local people what would be the best way to help and
2. due to the fact that it took about three months to complete the construction of the orphanage, most children had already been taken care off.

Helping People Network local representatives know the local situation best and will be able to tell us what is needed first. Furthermore, they will have the contacts to local officials and get around formalities quicker and will also be able to organize transport sooner than "new" and foreign people.

The local representative would probably have advised the actress to bring in tents and medical goods and nurses/doctors first and then afterwards construction workers could be flown in to build new houses.





Common good

What is common good? What do You do if You work for the common good? Well, Your activity should benefit all people (involved). It means You serve the interests of all people in the community. You will most probably only do this if You are a philanthropist, feel the need to help others or see the advantage for Yourself as well.

Professor John Nash, an American mathematician from the 1950's, first defined that the most economic and profitable activities are those that benefit Yourself AND, at the same time, benefit the others involved as well.

If everybody would see that helping others would benefit themselves as well, the world would

look quite differently today. Wars would never take place, because they don't benefit all people involved at all. The common good would not be served. Unfortunately not all people see it that way.

It takes quite long before large parts of communities see the common good as beneficial for themselves. During the 1950's and 60's, a social security system was developed in the West to financially support the sick, disabled and unemployed people and education was provided free. Most people felt socially secure and understood they had to contribute, because the "return on investment" was very clear.

But in that period the economy was very strong and unemployment was rare. Now that the economy weakens, many more people need financial support due to unemployment. The increased cost of helping all those newly needing people is too high and benefits from the social security system are substantially downsized....

Quite curious, don't You think? In times when need for help is growing, financial support is decreased and ever more restricted!

Conclusion

Therefor one must conclude that a social security system, that is solely based on providing financial support, is not sustainable. Institutionally organized "common good" should **also and especially** encompass non-financial support.

Helping People Network mediates in all non-commercial help requests from the so-called "third world countries" as well as from the West, East, South and North. That is what we do for the sustainable common good!

