REFUGEE PROJECTS UPDATE: 2000+ and counting

KAKUMA

A year ago the 30,000 refugees in the Kakuma Refugee Camp in northwest Kenya often had to barter away part of their meager food rations for enough fuel to cook the remainder. SCI's goal was to reach 500 refugee families in 1995. Instead we reached nearly 2000 families in Kakuma and over 200 in Dadaab! Thanks to SCI's generous donors, roughly 1/3 of the Kakuma refugees now have solar cookers and instructions in their use. Our goal for 1996 is that the rest of Kakuma families will be reached, including several thousand new refugees from Somalia. We continue to scramble to keep up with the demand for more cookers and workshops.

Twenty-three refugee women in Kakuma volunteered for extra training to teach their neighbors. Now, nearly a year later, most are still active, each holding 1-day workshops for up to eight women each week. These instructors report that they and the women they teach are grateful to save scarce fuel and also love the lack of smoke and soot. The project in Kakuma, now run almost entirely by refugees themselves, continues under the able direction of Gladys N., solar cook, trainer, and herself a refugee. As we go to press, an external, independent evaluation, funded by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, is gathering more detailed data on the frequency of use and actual fuel savings among Kakuma solar cooks.

Gladys reports that for Moslem refugees the solar cooker is especially helpful during Ramadan, allowing them to cook during the day-

Continued on page 2

Augustine Gift Accelerates East Africa Activities

SCI gratefully announces receipt of $50,000 from Douglas Augustine to accelerate the dissemination of solar cooking in East Africa.

"What a wonderful holiday surprise," notes President Collentine. "Our regular budget each year is planned down to the penny. This gift empowers SCI to respond more quickly to new opportunities unfolding in East Africa."

Indeed, it has already begun to help:

- SCI was able to participate in a seminar on household energy issues in refugee camps for East African refugee organizations at the headquarters of United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi.
- We were able to send Dr. Barbara Knudson to UNESCO in Paris at their invitation to discuss a new solar cooking promotion project.

Continued on page 3
President’s Corner
John Collentine, President

Welcome to 1996. SCI anticipates many good things happening to help broadcast the good news of solar cookers. It wouldn’t be right to look ahead without taking a brief look at what a great year 1995 was under the leadership of Clark Shimeall. Thanks, Clark, from all of us.

The highlight of a year with many bright spots has to be the success of our first refugee project in Kakuma Refugee Camp. Its success attracted the attention of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. They reviewed our operation at Kakuma and made a glowing report with the recommendation that SCI should be encouraged to set up solar cooking projects in other refugee camps.

This recommendation opened the door for negotiations with GTZ, a German development organization working in Dadaab Refugee Camp. We sent a team there to train their extension workers for the solar cooking project just now getting underway.

The success of the panel solar cooker, CooKit, has attracted much interest on the part of organizations working in other camps. SCI’s unique expertise, quality products and services are being requested. Thanks to the efforts of Jay Campbell and Barbara Knudson the CooKit is now also being manufactured in Nairobi, Kenya.

The response to the Solar Cooker Review has been very enthusiastic, thanks to IMPACT Publications in Oregon and also Tom Sponheim, who also designed the first Worldwide Web page on solar cooking. In 1995 we exhibited at the Beijing Conference for Women, participated in international seminars on women and the environment, created SCI’s ORDER OF EXCELLENCE and much more.

The activities of 1995 would not have been possible without the tremendous support of all of you and the efforts of our volunteers. I wish I could thank you all personally. SCI’s strength is you members, our volunteers, and a dedicated staff.

Think how wonderful it has been to participate in a mission that will impact the world and future generations. Offer this same opportunity to your relatives, friends, and neighbors. Tell them the good news of SCI and ask them to join our grass roots effort to benefit people and environments. Recycle this newsletter, give out our brochures, and gain the pleasure of seeing their enthusiastic response. Make a late New Years resolution to give this opportunity to at least one other person, so they can share our excitement in 1996 and years to come.

SCI depends on its friends, thanks to all of you.

Refugee Project Update continued

light hours for their meals after sunset. She also reports that the larger CooKits, produced for the larger, extended families in the camp, appear to work well.

DADAAB

Dadaab is a cluster of three refugee camps, and here, too, the 100,000 refugees are eager to earn solar cookers (see New Refugee Project, p. 3 of previous Review). Under the powerful equatorial sun even on cloudy days food can be at least partly cooked. It can then be quickly finished over fire and still save time and a few precious sticks of wood.

GTZ RESCUE-Dadaab, a development agency funded by the German government, also features fuel efficient cook stoves and fireless “haybox” cookers. The introduction of solar cookers is just getting underway, now that a short rainy season is past.

Amina Abdalla, Deputy Field Coordinator of GTZ-RESCUE – Dadaab reports, “Awareness campaigns were in October initiated to the general public as project staff gained confidence as solar cooks... A lot of interest was generated... The staff were forced to do demonstrations even during their off days.”

People can earn cookers without cash by planting and nurturing 25 tree seedlings for three months or by working in other camp projects for 5 days. A total of 213 solar cookers were disseminated so far: 68 to potential trainers, 73 for those who worked 5 days, 55 who already met the tree requirements (469 others are still nurturing their trees), and a few were purchased by various refugee agency staff.

Amina reports that so far, unusually cloudy weather these past months has been the main problem. Three CooKits were reported damaged by rain, and a few plastic bags have had to be replaced. Some refugees have complained about the stringent requirements to earn solar cookers, but Amina notes that “for most energy saving devices promoted by RESCUE the [requirement of] exchange commodities together with stringent training requirements show a positive relationship with utilization.”

One refugee, Dhubo I.A., wrote, “If I tell what is solar (cooking) it is golden because everything I cook is without using wood. Before this cooking solar I used to find wood from the forest, in fact many times I met bandits. Now no rape, killing or bites (from) snakes and scorpions. I cannot finish thanking you brothers and sisters. Maybe I assist you one day like you are assisting me. Thanks a lot.”

Gladys, Coordinator in Kakuma, and initial trainer in Dadaab returned to Dadaab in January for follow-up coaching with the refugee women extension workers who will be training others. She noted work of solar cooking is spreading fast and she was often welcomed by chants of "sola-sola."

All who have contributed to SCI can be proud to have made possible the strong beginnings of these two pilot projects. Our 1996 goal is about 4000 more families in Kakuma and at least 2000 families in Dadaab. We also hope to begin at least one new project. We are working with the United Nations High Commission on Refugees to explore new projects in other countries hosting large numbers of refugees. With your help, we’ll do it!
New Water Pasteurization Indicator

Water contaminated by disease organisms is safe to drink after it has been heated to pasteurizing temperatures, 65°C (150°F). Boiling is not necessary.

Retired engineer Roland Saye, USA, has developed a new, simple indicator to know when contaminated water has been heated enough. SAF-WAT is a small, round, bimetal disk which snaps when heated to 65°C/150°F. It is made of stainless steel and housed in a protective frame which aids resetting.

It is easily reset before each use by pressing with a finger, and it can be reused indefinitely. It should give a lifetime of service to campers, hikers, back packers, and anyone living in survival conditions where safe water is not assured.

The new SAF-WAT joins SCI’s polycarbonate tube WAPI to aid people who must heat water for safe drinking. Both are available from SCI (see order blank on page 15). Both tell at a glance whether the water was heated enough to be pasteurized, even if the sun has set and the water is now cool. And both the SAF-WAT and WAPI are handy to use with solar cookers, but can be used with any heat source.

You did it!

Donations to the matching challenge by Barbara Kerr for the Sherry Cole Fund EXCEEDED the $43,000 goal. A million thanks to all who made it possible. Your generous support gives us the courage to forge ahead.

There are many ways to help your favorite charities besides giving cash out of pocket. The following are just a few:

- Friend-raise – encourage those who share your concerns to become members.
- Name your favorite charities as beneficiaries on a life insurance policy, in your will and in living trusts.
- Organize solar cooking demonstrations for public events, youth groups, or friends in your home.
- Give solar cookers, solar cookbooks, 1 year of SCI’s newsletter, gift memberships in SCI as great gifts.
- Fund(d)-raise – Your group or community can raise money for SCI, be listed in our newsletter AND have fun, too.
- Give what you won’t miss, such as tax refunds. Gifts of appreciated property; stocks and real estate often provide tax benefits.

Solar Cooker Review

The Solar Cooker Review is published three times a year to provide news from around the world on solar cookers, their many uses, and efforts to disseminate them. It includes both news briefs and longer interviews and articles about researchers, field program leaders, advocates and plain solar cooks.

Solar Cookers Review is sent to all SCI members. A donation makes you a member.

Subscription for non-members in USA and Canada is $10 per year. Single copies are available to selected libraries and institutions overseas.

MOVING? Please let us know your new address. You’ll save SCI $1 US to pay for your returned newsletter and to re-send it. For more information: SCI, 1724 11th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 USA.

We welcome reports and commentary related to solar cookers for possible inclusion. These may be edited for clarity or space. Please cite sources for data where possible.

Send your ideas or suggestions for topics to SCI REVIEW, 1724 11th St., Sacramento, CA 95814 USA.

This publication emerged from two Solar Cookers International (SCI) Newsletter and the Solar Box Journal of Solar Box Cookers Northwest (SBCN). Tom Sponheim, who was editor of the latter, continues as editor for special in-depth articles and interviews. Solar Cookers International (SCI) is mostly, and SBCN entirely, a volunteer organization.

Both are nonprofit groups and the mission of both is to spread the use of solar cookers to benefit people and environments worldwide.

SCI:
- is an international clearinghouse for information on solar cooking devices, uses and dissemination
- provides training and develops educational materials
- consults on the adaptation of devices and cooking methods to local conditions
- facilitates regional collaboration among 500 independent groups that promote solar cooking, through conferences, periodicals and electronic media
- rarely funds or manages solar cooking projects in the field, except for occasional research and/or as pilot demonstration projects.

SCI support comes mostly from individual donations, other sources are sales of cookers and education materials and from private foundations. We have no government funds.

SCI’s goal by the Year 2000 is that 2,400 million people will be aware of solar cookers and at least one percent, 24 million, will be using solar cookers. This will save 3.2 million tons of firewood per year, reduce emissions of millions of tons of carbon dioxide per year, improve health and relieve heavy burdens caused by growing fuel shortages in many arid parts of the world.

Augustine Gift continued from page 1

- We have been able to assist the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in planning another project to start within months.

We also hope to explore possible projects in Tanzania. Mr. Augustine has long had a keen interest in the potential for solar cooking in Tanzania, where he lived for some years. He believes that country’s residents and also the many thousands of refugees there could benefit. He has also initiated cottage industries in both Tanzania and Zambia. His great generosity will touch the lives of many thousands in East Africa.
The 3rd International Conference on Solar Cookers Use and Technology
Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science (Deemed University)
Coimbatore 641 043, Tamil Nadu, India
January 6-10, 1997
Co-sponsored by Solar Cookers International, Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources- New Delhi, Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency-Madras, and Indian Institute of Technology – New Delhi

This conference is a forum for individuals who recognize that solar cooking can play an important role in the quality of life on Earth in the coming decades. The 3rd International Conference, building on the first two, will continue the exchange of new discoveries and developments in both technology and dissemination. Participants will include leaders of solar cooking field programs, researchers, environmentalists, nutritionists, engineers, educators, health professionals, relief workers and appropriate technologists.

Avinashilingam Institute for Home Sciences and Higher Education for Women, Deemed University, will host the conference. This institute has conducted research related to solar cookers for many years, and its contributions to world literature on solar cookers include unique nutritional studies.

Nearly one-third of humanity sometimes lacks fuel for cooking, with serious nutritional and health consequences. According to U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization some 2,400 million people are expected to face acute fuelwood shortages by the end of the century. Solar cooking is a sustainable technology with potential to alleviate the growing problem. It can easily pasteurize water and reduce air pollution.

For more information:
3rd Int’l Conference on Solar Cookers
c/o Chancellor Dr. Rajammal Devadas
Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science
and Higher Education for Women (Deemed University)
Coimbatore – 641 043, Tamil Nadu, INDIA
Fax no. 0422 438 786 telephone no. 0422 440 140

MEMORIALS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED
from Charles A. Willis in memory of Marjorie R. Green and Gwynne Smith in memory of George and Gertrude Prosser
Mrs. H. Kroesen and Bev Blum in memory of Imogene H. Alexieff

ANNOUNCEMENT AND FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS:
Second Latin American/Caribbean Conference on Solar Cookers Use and Technology
PLANNED FOR 1997

The University of Cuenca and Colegio Benigno Malo have offered to host this conference for the Latin America/Caribbean Region Network (RECOBOL), possibly in May of 1997. The date will be finalized soon. Professor Rodrigo Carpio, Director of Fundacion Inti Uma, has made extensive arrangements for housing, communications and related events such as tours. Languages of the conference will be Spanish and English.

FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS
People interested in presenting papers, discussions, workshops, audio-visual materials, photographs and/or exhibits on solar cookers devices, uses, or field projects at the 2nd Latin American/Caribbean Conference are invited to send an abstract of 1 page or less by 30 November 1996 to SCI, 1724 11th St., Sacramento, CA 95814 USA.

| Please send more information about the conference. |
| I wish to present: (send a separate sheet for each) |
| a paper a discussion a workshop |
| a display/photographs audiovisual materials |
| on the subject of: |
| Solar cooker devices |
| Uses of solar cookers |
| Cultural, nutritional, economic issues of solar cooking |
| Dissemination strategies, teaching resources |
| Other: |

TITLE of presentation or exhibit

| Name |
| Your title |
| Organization |
| Address |
| City |
| Country |
| Telephone |
| FAX |
| e-mail |

ABSTRACT: (1 page or less)
Anuncio y Primer Solicitud de Documentos
Segunda Conferencia Latino-Americana/Caribe sobre
Uso y Tecnología de Estufas Solares
SE PLANEA PARA 1997

La Universidad de Cuenca y Colegio Benigno Malo ofrecen la Conferencia Regional Latino-Americana/Caribe (RECONSOL), posiblemente vendrá en Mayo de 1997. La fecha se dará a conocer pronto. Profesor Rodrigo Carpio, Director Fundador de Inti Uma a hecho extensivos arreglos para alojamiento, comunicación y eventos relacionados a turismo. La conferencia será en Español e Inglés.

Primer Solicitud de Documentos
Personas interesadas en presentar documentación, discursos, talleres, material audio-visual, fotos y exhibición de material fotográfico para demostración de estufas solares, su uso, o proyecto, se les invita enviar resumen de una página o menos antes de Noviembre 30, 1996.

Por favor envíe información de la conferencia.

Deseo presentar: (envíe una página separada por cada materia)

- un documento
- un discurso
- un taller
- una exhibición/fotografía
- material audio-visual

sujeto a:

- objetos de estufas solares
- uso de estufas solares
- cocina cultural, nutritiva y económica con estufas solares
- desinfección estratégica y recursos de enseñanza
- otro

Título de presentación o exhibición

Nombre

Titulo

Organización

Dirección

Ciudad

País

Teléfono

FAX

E-mail

Abstracto: (una página o menos)

RECONSOL

SCI patrocina la primera Conferencia Regional de Latino-América/Caribe en Honduras en 1993. Esa junta formó la Red Latino-Americana de Cocinas y Hornos Solares (RECONSOL), y Ing. Pedro Serrano Rodríguez fue elegido Coordinador Regional. Pedro periódicamente manda el periódico RECONSOL, a 40 o más jefes de estufas solares por todo Latino América. Para más información:

Pedro Serrano R.,
Santa Laura
440-Con-Con-V Region
Chile
FAX 56-32-813-229

NEWS FLASH

SCI is preparing for new projects in Zimbabwe and in a refugee camp in Ethiopia. Details in the next issue of the REVIEW.

ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

"He plants trees to benefit another generation."
Caccilius Statius, 220-168 B.C.
Growth Through Volunteers

by Bev Blum, Executive Director

For 1996 programs SCI has recruited over 50 people willing to pledge 4 hours per month to take responsibility for specific tasks. To coordinate this rich store of talent and commitment we have expanded our management team with a cadre of volunteers. Expanding the work of SCI's core of 4 paid staff, we salute the following new Program Coordinators:

FIELD PROGRAMS
Jay Campbell
Jay, an aerospace engineer, has designed and adapted several award-winning solar cooker devices for specific regions in North, Central and South America. Jay was a key pioneer consultant for SCI's pilot refugee project in Kakuma, and has also consulted for international development groups in several other countries.

FIELD PARTNERSHIPS
Dr. Barbara Knudson
Barbara, a Professor Emeritus at the International Institute of the University of Minnesota and professor at Walden University, helped launch the Kenya Network and was the other key pioneer coordinator of SCI's pilot refugee project in Kakuma. She has consulted extensively with U.N. agencies and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to develop new solar cooker projects.

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK
Dr. Norge Jerome
From the Caribbean nation of Grenada, Norge is a Professor Emeritus at the University of Kansas School of Medicine, and former president of the international Association of Women in Development (AWID). Norge has worked extensively with women's networks worldwide and she helped launch the Kenyan Network.

ADVOCACY
Edie Farwell and Linda Helm Krapf
Edie, an executive with an electronic communications group, IGC, did field research on a pioneer solar cooker project in the Indian Himalayas.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE
Dr. Bob Metcalf and Clark Shimeall
Bob, a microbiologist at California State University and an original founder of SCI, has provided consultation for United Nations agencies and international development groups in over a dozen countries. Bob was the SCI coordinator of training for the new refugee project in Dadaab.

Clark, President Emeritus, has helped introduce solar cooking in Mexico and Guatemala, helped launch the Latin American/Caribbean Network, and participated in the first Kenyan Network activities.

Continued on next page
Continued from previous page

RESEARCH
Dr. Mahnaz Saremi
From Iran, Mahnaz holds a degree in agricultural development, does consulting for NGOs, and has conducted solar cooking workshops in several countries.

This outstanding team joins our fine core of paid staff:

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES
Patt Hull
Before joining our staff Patt was an active volunteer, promoting solar cooking in the USA and also among Guatemalan refugees in Mexico.

RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
Kevin Coyle
Kevin’s prior experience as an editor, journalist and traveler in Asia and Latin America have enriched SCI, as have his Spanish language skills. Kevin has helped build SCI’s membership from a few hundred to over a thousand, increasing our donor support from $25,000 to $150,000 in a few short years. Both he and Patt have answered thousands of requests for information.

OFFICE COORDINATOR
Maria Conedy
Our newest staff, Maria has lived for extended periods overseas in the Philippines and India. She is learning the ropes of processing our mail orders and helping keep the rest of us organized. She too is fluent in Spanish.

COORDINATOR OF KAKUMA PROJECT
Gladys N.
A social worker by training, Gladys has skillfully coordinated a staff of 28 fellow refugees who teach their neighbors to solar cook through weekly workshops and home visits.

CALENDAR
April 13, 1996 SCI Board meeting, Sacramento, CA
June 3 - 14, 1996 Global Summit on Urban Development (Habitat II), Istanbul, Turkey. SCI will have an exhibit. If you’ll be there and can help please notify SCI office.
July 1-3, 1996 Solar Cooking Workshop, Solar Energy International, PO Box 715, Carbondale, CO, USA. Tel. 970-963-8855, fax 970-963-8866, email: sci@solarenergy.org
July 13, 1996 SCI Board meeting, teleconference
September 5-8, 1996 Seventh International Assoc for Women in Dev. Forum in Washington, DC, USA. AWID, 1060 Litton Reaves Hall, Virginia Tech., Blacksburg, VA 24061 USA. tel 703-231-3765, fax 703-231-6741
September (date to be announced) UNESCO World Solar Summit, Harare, Zimbabwe
October 7-9 SCI Annual Meeting and Board Planning Meeting, Sacramento, CA, USA.
January 6-9, 1997 3rd International Conference on Solar Cookers Use, Technology and Dissemination, Coimbatore, India. For info: SCI, 1724 11th St., Sac’to, CA 95814 USA
May 1997 2nd Latin America/Caribbean Conference on Solar Cookers Technology, Use and Dissemination, Cuenca, Ecuador. For information: SCI, 1724 11th St., Sac’to, CA 95814 USA

QUOTABLE QUOTE
• A WorldWatch Magazine, v.9,#1, Jan/Feb. 1996 article on “Power Shock, the Next Energy Revolution,” mentions solar cookers in use in Pakistan and India. Author Chris Flavin notes, “The new technologies will make it possible to decentralize power generation, even down to the household level, harness the world’s most abundant energy resources – solar energy and wind power....”
News You Send

THE AMERICAS

CANADA
Craig Shearer of Solar Freedom International is testing a solar oven in Costa Rica that folds down very compactly. He also is working on prototypes for other solar devices including grain roasters, soil sterilizers, water distiller.

After training at the Pincher Creek Community Development and Information Centre two participants in the Canada World Youth Exchange built and demonstrated a solar cooker in Uruguay.

COLUMBIA
Jesus Gomez, with APROTEC, promotes solar cookers in southern Colombia with FUNDACION PROPAL, a non-governmental organization.

DOMINICA, CARIBBEAN
Dave Maize, working with PLENTY International, held a teachers workshop.

HAITI
The Bryants from USA sent 57 solar cookers to Cap Haitien where Payot Jacques is giving solar cooking workshops.

USA
Information on solar cookers is included in The Thrasher Research Fund booklet, Resource Guide to Innovative Health Solutions. The booklet addresses solutions to child health problems in the developing world.

AFRICA

ERITREA
Peace Corps Director Martin Shapiro, is planning for all incoming volunteers to be trained in solar cooking.

IVORY COAST
Peggy Wilber from USA brought a CooKit to Abidjan for Susan Craig. Susan writes that she likes its portability, but notes the weather is good for solar cooking only January through May. Other times sunny weather is unpredictable.

MOROCCO
Abdelati Lahbek won a prize for a solar cooker at an Invention Fair.

RWANDA
The Association pour le Developpement Local is planning workshops and seminars for building and using solar cookers. "Thank you for your publications. Please keep us on your mail list.”

SENEGAL
The Groupement des Jeunes Artisans de Mout are building solar cookers for households in the region of Thies.

SOUTH AFRICA
"I could write a book regarding my experiences of people's reactions to solar cooking ... At home we cook for guests as much as possible at least one or two components of a meal by the sun... The concept fits well with other aspects of solar power... (such as) solar panels for water heating for a 200 litre tank and ... a photo voltaic system.” Reverend Don H. Wittich, Christ Church Mayfair and St. Anthony’s Vrededorp.

UGANDA
The Sustainable Environment Development Agency (SEDA) is planning to introduce solar cookers to several military barracks. Julius Arinaitwe notes, “The biggest single factor contributing to deforestation in Uganda today is undoubtedly the need for cooking fuel.”
EUROPE

FINLAND
Regarding the last issue's note on Ari Lampinen from Finland, he forwards a couple of corrections: "Technology for Life Chairman is Claus Montonen. He adds, "(P)eople mostly use dead branches...but seldom a whole tree" in Nepal, where Technology for Life promotes solar cookers.

NETHERLANDS
Boy Scouts from around the world who attended the 1995 International Jamboree had a chance to try using solar CooKits produced with SCI's help by a Dutch company, Invention Promotion, and also to sample foods solar cooked in a variety of cooker types.

SPAIN Sunseed Desert Technology in Almeria installed nine cookers, and has a goal for 100 more, in Tanzania. The box-type cookers are made of adobe and insulated with tightly bound bundles of dried grass. They have reflective lining, a booster reflector and polyester top cover. An instruction manual has many sketches for construction. Sunseed Desert Technology, Apdo 9, 04270, Sorbas, Almeria, Spain.

FRANCE Roger Bernard, whose "upside-down salad bowl" cooker led to SCI's CooKit, has done it again. He turned THAT idea upside down to make a table-top cooker with the reflectors underneath! Roger Bernard, ALEDES, Université Lyon I, F 69622 Villeurbanne, France.

ASIA AND PACIFIC

AFGHANISTAN
For over a decade SERVE, a private church group, distributed about 10,000 solar cookers to Afghan refugees in Pakistan. The refugees have now gone home. Do they take solar cooking home with them and is it useful for them there? SERVE reports that 750 solar ovens recently taken to Kabul were all sold instantly! (See Tom Sponheim interview, p. 12)

CHINA
"Season's greetings from China. I would like to express my appreciation to SCI for information on solar cooker development..." Liu Hongpeng, Renewable Energy Division, State Economic and Trade Commission, Beijing.

The Beijing Ninglian Company produces concentrating solar cookers made of reinforced fiberglass with a steel frame and aluminum film reflector. Executive Director Xu Xiao Dong reports it takes only 4-5 minutes to boil a kilogram of water.

JAPAN
Yasuko Torii's 4-year-old granddaughter does not call her "obaachan" (grandmother). She calls her "solar cook." Torii is proud that she has not used her regular oven for more than a year. Instead she cooks in her bedroom using the sunlight that streams through her window in the early morning. "Even though much of Japan is so far north, many places on the east coast get enough sunshine year round to tap domestically," she says.

SAUDI ARABIA
Each year Greg Moncada, a teacher at the International School in Riyadh has his students build solar box cookers and they then hold an annual solar oven cook-off. Winners earn ribbons and magazine subscriptions. He adds, "I am inspired by your periodical and the actions it promotes."

KOREA
Song Myung-keun, Editor of Darakwon, Inc, publisher of English language study materials, uses the Solar Cooking Archive on Internet in their textbooks.

PHILIPPINES
Antonio Calibad, teacher at Simeon Suan National Memorial High School in Mindoro is also the Advisor of the school's UNESCO Club. Its members built a solar cooker and cooked rice, eggs and other foods. Peace Corps Volunteer James Suttle has displayed solar cookers at local fairs and given a workshop on solar cooking.
Organizational Members of S.C.I.

Categories for group memberships from the USA and Canada are $40, $100, $500, $1000, and $5000. Memberships from outside U.S. and Canada begin at $US10 and/or in-kind exchange of reports and information specifically related to solar cooking and other household uses of solar energy – together with a request for membership. Cash gifts from outside the U.S. can be by Mastercard, VISA Card or a check through a U.S. bank. THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

Africa Tree Center Support Group Ayase, Kamagawa JAPAN
Akita JPL’s Alternative Energy Research Center ERITREA
Appalachian Science Public Interest Livingston KY USA
Applied Engineering Albuquerque NM USA
Ashton Foundation USA
Augustine Foundation Edan Prairie MN USA
Avinashilingam Institute/Deemed University Coimbatore INDIA
Bio-Science Port Orchard WA USA
Blue Ox Associates Berkeley CA USA
Bright Earth Ballarat TX USA
CTBI Chiagamai THAILAND
CENRAD Badan NIGERIA
CENSOLAR/PROGENS Sevilla SPAIN
CINVESTAR Merida, Yucatan MEXICO
California Cedar Products Co. Stockholm CA USA
Cell Tech Kalmath Falls OR USA
Cent.Ecologic Albert Schweitzer Neuchatel SWITZERLAND
Cent.-American Solar Energy Proj Fairfax VA USA
Centre for Rural Technology Kathmandu NEPAL
Chevron Corporation Sacramento, CA USA
Christian Renewal Center Silverton OR USA
Christian Women’s Fellowship Clarkson WA USA
Church of Jesus Latter Day Saints Welfare Fund UT USA
Comité Cusqueño Sobre El TerritoMovil MAR LA HAITI
Community Fund, Greater Memphis Memphis TN USA
Computer Graphic Design Stockton CA USA
Concept Communications Mill Valley CA USA
Consortium for Sustainable Energy Long Valley NJ USA
Convivial Design, Inc San Francisco CA USA
Cooperative An’N At Man Archeivos,Port-Au-Prince HAITI
Craft Co-op of the Northwest Seattle WA USA
Diocese of Erie Erie PA USA
Earlham Dept. of Environ. Studies, Sonoma State Univ. Rohnert Park, CA USA
Ecology Action Willits CA USA
Economics for Everybody Escenidido CA USA
El Rancho Middle School Anaheim CA USA
Enterprises Trading Corp. Miami FL USA
Estadis Solares Dominicanos Santo Domingo DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
First Christian Church Hemet CA USA
First Christian Church CFW Belénning WA USA
Forum Secretariat Energy Div. Suva FIJI
Friends of Cibolo Wilderness Boerne TX USA
Genesis Foundation Warwick RI USA
Global Environmental Project Inst. Ketchum ID USA
Grand Solar Inc. Honolulu HI USA
Grupo de Estudios Ambientales Mexico City DF MEXICO
Hands for Peacekeeping Shonanmachi WA USA
Hanover Consumer Cooperative Hanover NH USA
Healing Grace Sanctuary CS-59 Shelburne Falls MA USA
Honarytory Consul of Madagascar Vienna VNA USA
Horizontes Nueves, Julian CA USA
Homos Solares-Ambas Californias San Diego CA USA
IMPACT Publications Medford OR USA
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If All that Reach Could Touch Carbondale CO USA
Int. Christian Ministries Kofske TEKILA
Jukes & Doris Stein Foundation Beverly Hills CA USA
Ken Energy Rud NORWAY
Kamali Institute for Rural Dev. Kathmandu NEPAL
Kerr-Cole Enterprises Tempe AZ USA
Kestrel Solar Research Inc Gainesville FL USA
Land Ethic Action Foundation El Bosque, Rio Negro ARGENTINA
Manitou Institute Crestone CO USA
Minn. Assn Family & Consumer Sci. Maple Grove MN USA
Mission Opportunities Short Term Ann Arbor MI USA
Nat’l Center for Approp. Technol. Butte MT USA
Native Daughters of Golden West. Taquitz Parlor #333 Hemet CA USA
Near East Foundation Ouara encompass MOROCCO
New Melleray Abbey Peosta IA USA
Northern Services/Sturgis Town Div Discovery Bay, St. Ann JAMAICA
Omo-moto Kamesen-ai, Kyotoshu JAPAN
Ourseble Farm Arkansas WI USA
Outreach Committee, Episcopal Church of St. Mary San Francisco CA USA
PBI Engineering, Inc Milpitas CA USA
Parkway Central Middle School Chesterfield MO USA
Partners in Mission Denver CO USA
Peace Place Eugene OR USA
Peninsinepeople St. Paul MN USA
Plenty El Sobrante CA USA
R.E.M. Engineering Pasadena CA USA
Reedley Rotary Club Reedley CA USA
Reforma Training Center Tarlac PHILIPPINES
River Park Garden Club Sacramento CA USA
Rotary of Stockton Stockton CA USA
S.U.N. Inc. Miami FL USA
SAIC Oakland CA USA
Sacramento Municipal Utility District Sacramento CA USA
SoElectric Redwood City, CA USA
Santorno Family Charitable Trust Carmichael CA USA
Science Club, Gladstone High School Anthony NM USA
Senioract of Southern Nevada Las Vegas NV USA
Sol de Vida Guadalup Costa RICA
Solar Design Service Winsted CT USA
Solar Energy International Carbondale CO USA
Star Rands Eagle Point OR USA
Students of Stratford Rd School Plainview NY USA
Sunlight Works Sedona AZ USA
Suncountry Sacramento CA USA
Synopsis Lodeve FRANCE
Technology For Life Jyvaskyla FINLAND
The Alabama Conservancy Birmingham AL USA
The Blue Parrot Seattle WA USA
The Earth Shop Lantham NY USA
The Setzer Foundation Sacramento CA USA
Thomas & Donna Stone Foundation Dearfield IL USA
Trace Engineering Co. Arlington WA USA
Tuckers Toys Victoria, British Columbia, CANADA
Vermont Partnership Health,Educ. Easex Jd VT USA
Vineyard Christian Fellowship Garden Grove CA USA
Waljoh Foundation Santa Rosa CAUSA
WellSpring Renewal Center Philo CA USA
White Mountain Library Rock Springs Wy USA
Winterwood Natural Foods Sussex, New Brunswick CANADA
Wiring, Inc. Skokie IL USA
Women’s Fellowship, Congregational Christian Church Yakima WA USA
World Christian Relief Fund McCreary AR USA
SACRAMENTO VOLUNTEERS ORGANIZE
by Barbara Jodry

Nearly 4500 hours were donated by over 100 volunteers for SCI during 1995, many of them in our headquarters city, Sacramento. More than 1000 hours at the California State Fair provided solar cooking demonstrations and information to 70,000 fair goers.

The work of SCI's 4 paid workers is multiplied many times by volunteers who assemble, pack and ship cookers; help respond to mail; help write, typeset and process bulk mailings such as this newsletter; test new cooker ideas and develop related ideas (see for example Roland Saye's new water pasteurization indicator), fill speaking engagements, and recruit new members to support SCI's programs. They have also designated the last Saturday of each month as a workday at SCI. Activities are just now accelerating as another six-month solar cooking season begins in California.

In 1995 Sacramento volunteers formed a local chapter of SCI to keep local solar cooks in touch with each other, expand local use of the new panel cooker, and continue to assist the international organization. This CORE group hopes to develop a community model for similar groups elsewhere.

FIRST IN NEW SERIES

The following essay is the first of a series we plan to run on ways solar cooking relates to specific other topics—trees and wood supplies, health, nutrition, air pollution, environment, women's issues, climates, and more.

If you have written or know of good essays along these lines, we'd greatly appreciate receiving a copy, and will gladly credit your contribution. Please cite sources for data where possible. Send your ideas or suggestions for topics to SCI REVIEW, 1724 11th St., Sacramento, CA 95814 USA.

Dreams in Smoke: Women and Solar Cooking
by Elaine Imus, Paragonah, Utah, USA

For want of a fire, a meal was lost.
For want of a meal, a child was lost.
For want of a child, a woman was lost.
For want of a woman, a family was lost.
For want of a family, a town was lost.
For want of a town, a country was lost.

In the United States we complain of never having enough time — little realizing that this is the same complaint all over the world!

Women have traditionally been, and will continue to be, the binding force of families, the care givers. Their efforts create the workers and the statesmen of the next generation.

When most of a woman's day is spent gathering firewood and preparing meals, there is little time left for nurturing the children.

The introduction of solar cookers may, at first, appear counter to an existing culture. But what is a "solar" cooker but a different means of using heat? Heat from a wood fire still comes from the sun. It merely goes through a different storage process: from sun to leaf to tree to fire. The solar cooker cuts out the intervening steps: from sun to cooker.

By using solar cookers, women regain the time to instill in their children the history and customs of their culture; thus strengthening the community. There is increased time for vegetable growing or for making traditional crafts.

With her increased presence, the man of the family is more free to perform his family tasks and his community duties. His standing is improved because he has this time and her support at home.

Human culture is a dynamic of interactions, seemingly static but moving forward by degrees. The lessons of past generations are intertwined with the thoughts of the new generation to build a solid base for the future. Women and their unique care giving role in the family, serve as the key and the balance for the future.

While a woman tends a cook fire, she is less available to her children's questions for she must be on constant guard lest the food burn, the fire die or flare out of control. The younger children must be kept away lest they become burned. Her health is impaired by inhaling the smoke and ash, as is the health of a baby carried on her back or hip.

The solar cooker frees a woman to be with her family, working with them not just for them. A woman dreams of better lives for her children, her family. Gathering wood and then watching it go up in smoke, can burn away a woman's dreams.

Because of a solar cooker, a woman has a dream.
Because of a dream, a child had a future.
Because of a future, a family grew strong.
Because of a strong family, a town grew strong.
Because of a strong town, a country grew prosperous.

NEW E-MAIL FORUM FOR SOLAR COOKERS

Edie Farwell at IGC has made it possible for solar cooker enthusiasts to now receive and discuss ideas with others through your e-mail account: just send this e-mail message:

To: majordomo@apc.org
Subject: subscribe solarcooking-L

There does not need to be any text in the body of this message. Your e-mail account will tell you when there are messages.
Continuing War in Afghanistan Intensifies Demand for Solar Cookers

an interview for SCR with Steven Brown of SERVE
by Tom Sponheim

Solar Cooker Review: How long have you been involved with the project?

Steven Brown: I first came to work with SERVE in February 1991 following completion of a research project in England on Solar Ovens for the "Two Thirds World" and some time working in India. I spent eight months here on practical development of the portable ovens and worked on making production more efficient. In 1992, I was invited back to head up the project and have been doing that since January 1993.

"One day the rush of people wanting ovens was so great that they broke down the gate to the compound!"

SCR: How has your project changed since the "hot war" in Afghanistan is over now?

SB: First of all I must make it clear that the war in Afghanistan is not over! There is still civil war and the fighting in the capital, Kabul, is probably worse than ever before. The withdrawal of Russian forces in 1989 led to the setting up of an interim government still supported from Russia. This fell in April 1992 and the civil war has escalated since then. However, the downfall of Najibullah's government in '92 has meant that it is now possible for us to work inside Afghanistan, whereas before we were restricted to working with Afghan refugees in the camps in Pakistan.

The project was set up in 1985 as a relief project to help refugees. The opening of Afghanistan is giving us the opportunity to make it into a sustainable development project inside the country. Whereas solar ovens were made by refugees in our own workshop and sold at a subsidized price, we are now endeavouring to get local businesses in Afghanistan to take on production of ovens and make a profit from them. We are still in the early stages of this process, but we know the market is there, and the manufacturing skills required and materials are now completely "appropriate" for the situation we are in.

We have been concentrating our work since 1993 on Afghanistan itself. Many refugees have returned anyway, although there are often new influxes depending on the situation in Kabul. We have tended to manufacture the ovens in Peshawar, Pakistan, which is relatively stable, and transport them into Afghanistan by truck. Our sales and education teams accompany the trucks and carry out the distributions.

The majority of sales of portable ovens have been in Kabul, where in many ways the need is greatest. There has been no electricity or gas in Kabul for over 2 years now, diesel and fuel wood are very expensive, and there is little access to wood, unlike the rural areas. We have huge demand in Kabul, and people accept the ovens and learn to use them very quickly.

SCR: How are the cookers received by the Afghans?

SB: Each time we go to Kabul we come back with a waiting list of families wanting solar ovens. On our last trip in

The key to the success

Solar products that we or others produce MUST be appropriate (i.e., using local materials, local skills, and be culturally appropriate [ovens must cook local food!]).

Ongoing education and awareness raising running parallel to production and distribution of solar products. People must be made aware of issues like energy resources, deforestation, health and nutrition, the economic sense of using solar, as well as being taught thoroughly how to use and maintain the products they buy. We start education with school children where we have a regular curriculum in the schools in Jalalabad.

Well-trained, responsible, committed, well-motivated and enthusiastic local staff who are the front line and face of the project.

Good long term technical advisors to the project while it is in the phase of not yet being fully sustainable within its own culture. These people should be culturally aware and sensitive, and if possible learn the language in which the project operates.

Steven Brown
January we took 780 ovens with us. They were sold out in five days! We sold them all from our office compound to people who had previously put their names on a list, and one day the rush of people wanting ovens was so great that they broke down the gate to the compound!

"I was encouraged to hear of a blind lady using her solar oven to scratch out a living baking bread to sell."

I was encouraged to hear of a blind lady using her solar oven to scratch out a living baking bread to sell. I have heard of several families in the refugee camps using their solar ovens in the same way.

Last year we carried out a project in a camp for Internally Displaced Families in Afghanistan. This was in a rock desert with very little other fuel, and the land around was heavily mined resulting in many injuries and deaths of those foraging for fuel. We used a low cost design of oven that required construction to be carried out by the families themselves using traditional mud brick building techniques. The cooperation of the families was excellent and 5700 ovens were installed and training in their use completed in seven weeks. These proved to work well throughout the summer, although many families had little food to cook anyway and relied on "naan" from a camp bakery. Many families used the ovens for boiling water for tea. We also saw these ovens being improved and turned into portable ovens by local carpenters.

SCR: What sort of changes have you made in construction materials since your project has been in progress?

SB: The basic materials have remained the same for the portable ovens, i.e., timber frame, sheet steel outer casing, scrap aluminum printing plates for inside liner, 3mm window glass. Fiberglass casing was tried and proved too expensive and difficult to maintain quality. We built 1000 ovens from imported polypropylene flueboard but this proved extremely difficult to assemble with the tooling we have available, and was stuck in customs for a long time. These experiences have convinced us that we MUST use locally available materials that only require local tooling and skills.

We have tried several other materials to check their performance, particularly with glazings, but the advantages of availability and price of the simple materials we use always outweigh the slight improvements in efficiency.

We have developed the fixed low cost oven I mentioned earlier, with mud brick casing and straw as an insulator, and proved that it works well in the environment we operate in. Most of the changes we have made to improve efficiency of operation have been in design (shape) and construction techniques rather than materials.

SCR: Do you have statistics on oven usage and attitudes?

SB: We try to keep statistics, but working with a predominantly refugee population does not make this easy. It is very difficult to do follow-up on sales, as people move so frequently and camps do not have logical addressing systems! We have sold approximately 8900 portable solar ovens and 5700 fixed ovens to date. We sold 6500 of the portable ovens to refugees in Pakistan, but many of these will have been taken back by returning refugee families.

Our educated guess using what information we can get from teams visiting the camps is that about 50 to 60% of ovens are used regularly. In Kabul the figure is almost certainly higher purely due to the economic and fuel situation the people face there.

SCR: What are your plans for the future?

SB: Already for 1996 we've sold over 780 portable ovens! We just heard yesterday that we have got $50,000 from the UN to use in Kabul for making 2800 intermediate-level ovens. This is a cross between the hole in the ground low cost oven and the portable oven. The team tested one in Kabul last week and were very pleased with its performance.

SCR: How can interested readers help your project?

SB: We are interested in hearing about similar projects in other parts of the world. We don't want to be re-inventing the wheel! Any information about materials, particularly training and educational materials which are relevant to our situation and that could be used with our Afghan workers, would be useful.

The project does rely to an extent on outside funding still. Our aim is to become a resource to local businesses by developing new appropriate solar products, and providing training. This requires outside funding for the moment, so any donations would be gratefully received.

In the USA checks can be sent earmarked for the SERVE Solar Project, payable to Operation Mobilization, POB 444, Tyrone, GA 30290-0444.

In Britain make checks payable to Christian International Refugee Mission, P.O.Box 694, Rhyl, Clwyd LL18 1JU, North Wales.

Or, transfer funds directly to SERVE, account no. 113-13-65126-051, Grindlays Bank, Mall Road, Peshawar Cantt. 25000, NWFP, Pakistan.

Steven Brown can be contacted at

SERVE Solar Project
P.O. Box 477
Peshawar, N.W.F.P.
Email: pwr@serve!solar@sdnpk.undp.org
HOW TO MEASURE A SOLAR COOKER?

SCI's Research Committee solicits suggestions for guidelines to measure and compare solar cookers. It will prepare a draft for discussion at the 3rd International Conference next year in Coimbatore, India (see article elsewhere). Volunteer Research Coordinator Dr. Mahnaz Saremi invites your ideas.

We hope these discussions will lead to minimum guidelines for evaluating the wide variety of household solar cooker devices and provide simple means for comparing specific performance features, such as the following. Since most solar cooking devices are simple perhaps a few standardized criteria can be too.

CONVENIENCE: Needs little or no attention during cooking OR spells out how often adjustments are needed (such as turning to track the sun) during a cooking period. If movable, easy to move, easy to store? Easy to repair?

SAFETY: Incapable of starting an accidental fire inside or outside the cooker. Breakable glass includes warning where small children may be at risk. In the case of concentrator cookers, no risk for accidentally blinding eyes or burning hands from exposure to the focal point.

HEAT/COOKING CAPACITY: Heats a specified amount of water such as one liter to boil in specified time such as one or two hours midday when the sun is at least halfway up (45 degrees above the horizon). It should cook a meal for at least a small family. Maybe minimum standards would be set at cooking a meal for one person?

DURABILITY: Estimated length of time it should last with regular use. Indicates expected durability under various weather conditions, and/or guides for protecting it when weather may damage it.

WIND STABILITY: Is reasonably stable in wind "as is" or includes instructions to make it so (for example placing rocks in specified places).

INSTRUCTIONS: Gives clear guides for estimated length of cooking time and variables that influence cooking time (food quantity, wind, etc.)

Please send comments to SCI, Attn. Dr. M. Saremi.

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

Draft of standard measures and testing procedures for technical research on solar cookers (for discussion at the 3rd International Conference in January, 1996.) Rosalyn Rappaport forwards a suggestion she uses in Gambia of comparing two cookers using whistling teakettles with equal amounts of water. All suggestions are welcome.

Catalog of SCI Materials

Purchases support solar cooking education worldwide.

Publications

PLANS:

How to make, use and understand solar cookers, 8th ed. English, French, Spanish. 40-page booklet with many illustrations. Instructions to build two types of working solar cookers from cardboard and suggested alternate materials. Recipes and new section for teachers. Same low price $5

COOKBOOKS:

Cooking with Sunshine, the lazy cook's guide, I.Anderson and R.Palkovic $10
Eleanor's Solar Cookbook, E.Shimeall $10
Solar Cooking primer, H. Kofalk $12
Solar Box Cooking, favorite recipes from solar boxers. Sac'to Municipal Util. Dist $.5
Solar Cooking Naturally, guide by $12

LEADERS GUIDE: Illustrated Solar Cooking, 47-page guide for community-based education on solar cooking, inc. language-free diagrams. Supplement to plans, How to Make... $5

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS:

Advances in solar cooking: Proceedings of International Conferences on Solar Cookers Use and Technology
1st Int.Conf., June 19-20, 1992, Univ.of the Pacific, Stockton, CA, USA. 27 papers and 5 panel discussions, ed. by Edwin Pejack. 158 pages $15
2nd Int.Conf., July 12-15,1994, ed. by Shyam S. Nandwani $15

NEWSLETTER

Solar Cooker Review
3x/year, SCI membership or $10

VIDEOS

A Bright Future, 9 min. solar cooking benefits around the world. VHS(USA)/PAL/SECAM $20

SERVICES:

Site-specific consultation and training on solar cooking potential, specific devices and setting up solar cooking projects for disaster groups and refugees. By special arrangement.
Cooking Supplies

FOLDABLE SOLAR BOX 3-pot cooker. Pre-foiled cardboard with polyester window and handy carry case. Assembles in minutes. 4 kilos/ 9 lb., 57x67x22 cm/ 23x27x9" assembled. $58

COMPACT COOKIT 1-pot panel cooker, convenient for yard, camping. Life-saving for emergencies, 1 pound, folds flat to 13"x13"x2". Use with black, covered pan (not included). $15

BLACK POT 3-quart/liter ceramic on steel, with lid $10

WATER PASTEURIZATION INDICATORS
Know if water for drinking has been heated enough to be pasteurized (free of disease germs). Both types are reusable, durable for camping and emergencies, and can be used with solar cookers or other heat sources.

WAPI Special soy wax in polycarbonate tube 3"x1/2". $3

SAF-WAT Bimetal disk in plastic frame, 1-1/4" diameter $3

SCI ORDER FORM
Purchases support solar cooking education worldwide.

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SUBTOTAL

Prices good through 12/96.

Shipping, handling – add 20% (except cookers, pots outside USA)
In California add sales tax 8%

TOTAL

Send to: SCI
1724 11th St.
Sacramento, CA 95814 USA
FAX 916-444-5379, Tel. 916-444-6616
From Our Mailbag

"As a high school science teacher, I find the Review an excellent source of project ideas, and have my students construct various versions of solar cookers."

David Gue, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada.

"Just a quick note to say how much I've enjoyed the last couple of issues of Solar Cooker Review. The contents, the format, all are fabulous. Thanks."

Kathy T., USA

"What a super, practical issue your SCR was. I'm sending it to a home economics teacher in Malawi. You are in my prayers."

Jane Collard, USA

Also, many school teachers and others wrote to thank us for providing information on the Internet.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS REVIEW

Kudos to Dave Ruppe at IMPACT Publications in Medford, OR, USA for typesetting layout. Tom Sponheim wrote the featured interview with SERVE. Elaine Imus contributed an essay. Barbara Jodry reported on Sacramento-area activities.

We mourn the untimely death of Harriet Kofalk, killed recently in a car accident in India. Harriet was a solar cooking teacher and advocate who wrote several books, including The Peaceful Cook: More than a Cookbook, Solar Cooking, and Angels in my Garden. The Solar Information Center will sponsor a solar cooking workshop in Eugene, OR, USA to replace the workshop that she herself had agreed to teach.

DONORS GROWING WITH SCI

In 1995, 1280 individuals, families and organizations contributed a record $182,000 to support SCI's work, an increase of 6%.

Many kind donors include brief notes thanking SCI for the work being done. "It's nice to get those notes," says Resources Coordinator Kevin Coyle. "but I hope people remember that they should really thank themselves. All of us, whether we give a little or a lot are SCI and are helping create that brighter future."

2000 REFUGEE FAMILIES and counting...