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As IPM closes for a few days to celebrate the coming Holiday, on behalf of the entire IPM Family, I would like to extend a sincere 'thank-you' for your commitment to IPM in 2008. It has been both a wonderful and challenging year, full of growth and opportunity.

For IPM, along with much of the world, the struggling economy has proven to be particularly challenging in recent months. We have remained throughout this time dedicated to empowering those most in need throughout the world. IPM's work continues to help individuals find alternatives to poverty, through education, income-generating opportunities, organizational development, and various other initiatives. The money that IPM is able to provide to our Project Partners is particularly crucial at this time. Below you will have a chance to read about several of the creative ways that IPM is working with our friends and supporters to strengthen our partnerships with our Project Partners around the world.

You can make a gift online to IPM by [clicking here](#). All new and increased gifts made to IPM in 2008 will be matched up to \$100,000 by our friends and supporters, Alice & Tim McCarthy, through year-end.

As I reflect upon the past year and the promise of the days to come, I am reminded once again of one of my favorite quotes from J. Bryan Hehir, then of Harvard Divinity School, who remarked: "For it is hope that gives us the courage to stretch beyond where we are. Hope is the ability to face reality and not be overwhelmed by it. Hope is the ability to believe that where we are is not all we can be. And hope is the capacity to understand just how hard it is to take the next step...and not to lose courage in the process of recognizing how difficult that step would be."

We remain committed to the journey IPM began some 35 years ago, full of hope for our future together. The year ahead is replete with challenge and promise. We have made some wonderful progress the past few years and we stand on the shoulders of some remarkable giants—Carol Findling, Sammy Mayer, and Paul Strege, who we recently were privileged to honor as IPM's 1st ever Directors Emeritus—but we remain far from fulfilling the dreams we all share. May the hope of the New Year to come carry us forward in partnership with our brothers and sisters around the world.

Best wishes for a hope filled Holiday Season and a peace filled New Year!

Joseph F. Cistone

Executive Director

Be Sure to Make Your Tax-Deductible IRA Donations by Year-End!

The IRA Charitable Rollover tax incentive, which is available through 2009, allows individuals aged 70½ and older to donate up to \$100,000 from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) and Roth IRAs to public charities without having to count the distributions as taxable income. This program has been renewed in 2008 as part of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008. For more information contact Ilze Fender in the IPM office at ifender@ipmconnect.org or +1.216.932.4082.

St. Monica's Girls Tailoring Center Update

IPM was thrilled to host Sister Rosemary Nyirumbe from December 3-10 in our Cleveland office. Her extraordinary story of hope and transformation for former child soldiers in Uganda inspired many of IPM's friends throughout Northeast Ohio, as well as all those in attendance at our 6th Annual Luncheon. She described the young women that learn, work, and reside at *St. Monica's Girls Tailoring Center* during her speech at the Luncheon:

"Many of the abducted and victimized children have been unable to complete their education. Girls become mothers bearing the children got from sexual violence and rape at a very tender age, with little skill or education to support themselves or their children. Dislocation, lack of marketable skills, and lack of access to regional markets have left many of the affected girls and women economically vulnerable. This leaves them more vulnerable to gender based violence, prostitution, and discrimination. Promoting capacity building in vocational and business skills will help provide a source of income and reduce their economic vulnerability. Lack of education and economic opportunity is hampering the reintegration of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and of formerly abducted girls and women back into their communities...The reality of forgiveness and acceptance of the formerly abducted girls is complex, and some continue to experience prejudice, exclusion, and lack of acceptance from their communities..."

At St. Monica we give rehabilitative education offering these girls a welcoming and homey atmosphere where they can receive love, and where we can help them mend their broken past. We give them an ongoing rehabilitation through different practical life skills and educational activities like dress making and cutting, and counseling to vulnerable and disadvantaged girls and women, many of whom are victims of abduction..."

We cannot meet these challenges alone unless we enter into stronger partnership with organizations like IPM who can speak on our behalf and receive support on our behalf."

IPM is dedicated to providing \$5,000 in 2008 to *St. Monica's* to continue the extraordinary work that they do. To date, we have not yet reached that goal. To donate to IPM and the *St. Monica's Girls Tailoring Center*, [click here](#).

IPM Partners with Children's Artist, Uncle Jim

IPM is pleased to continue our partnership with award-winning children's artist, Uncle Jim. Uncle Jim has generously offered to share the proceeds from his Number 1 hit CDs "Funky as a Diaper" and "Let There Be Fun". For every Uncle Jim children's CD purchased, 50% goes directly to IPM. Uncle Jim is also offering Digital Downloads so you can help out with just a few dollars and get some fun music too!

Uncle Jim's music focuses on character issues for young children in a fun and uplifting mix of styles. He was voted XM Nation's Best New Kids Artist and has received awards from iParenting and the Children's Music Web.

As the son of IPM Co-Founder, Jim Mayer, "Uncle" Jim is aware of the deeply rewarding two-way street that IPM fosters. His dream is to be an advocate for children, teach character lessons, and bring joy and wonder to you through his music. These CDs will make a great gift for all of the children in your lives, and great stocking stuffers for the upcoming Holiday season. Many adults have enjoyed these CDs too for their uplifting, lighthearted spirit.

You can order an Uncle Jim CD, download songs, or hear some samples, by [clicking here](#). Be sure to use coupon code "IPM" during checkout.

Support IPM by Shopping Online with Goodshop/Goodsearch!

Use www.goodsearch.com for all of your holiday shopping, and IPM will receive a portion of the profits *at no additional cost to you!* Stores like Amazon.com, Toys R Us, Target, Zappos, and many more offer a portion of proceeds to the non-profit of your choice. Simply type "International Partners in Mission" under "Who do you Goodshop for?" and IPM will receive up to 30% of the proceeds from your online purchases.

As always, bookmark www.goodsearch.com as your search engine, and IPM will earn money with every search. Enter "International Partners in Mission" under "Who do you Goodsearch for?" and IPM will receive a donation for every search performed.

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