1000Communities^2

1000 Community Visioning Initiatives	X	Community Centers with Ongoing Workshops	+	Sister Community Relationships

equals

an exponential increase in our collective capacity
to resolve the challenges of our times

by Stefan Pasti, Founder and Outreach Coordinator
The Interfaith Peacebuilding and Community Revitalization (IPCR) Initiative
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Foreword

In accordance with the nature of Community Visioning Initiatives, in general, and in accordance with this proposal, in particular, both individual persons and specific communities of people are encouraged to decide for themselves what they perceive as the most difficult challenges ahead— and thus what solutions would be most appropriate to resolve those challenges.

As a way of contributing to those decision-making processes, this writer is offering this proposal focusing on Community Visioning Initiatives. He has contributed this example of how such a proposal might be structured, and what might be chosen as content. He has, in particular, created an example which focuses primarily on the process of Community Visioning Initiatives in the "main part" (the sections) of the proposal, and which shares more of his personal viewpoints in the appendices. By doing so, he is providing *one example* of the kind of ideas which might be brought forward *if there was* an ongoing Community Visioning Initiative to participate in. He is contributing what he can to informal discussion and public discourse, with the hopes that his contributions will add something to efforts working towards the greater good of the whole.

Specifically, this writer hopes that people creating other more community specific proposals for Community Visioning Initiatives in the future will find some useful ideas from this example as they create their own structure and content. And he hopes that when such Community Visioning Initiatives are being carried out, some of his views on challenges perceived and solutions preferred will be helpful to the participants as they attend workshops, participate in discussions, and make up their own minds about what *they* are going to contribute to the process.

It is also this writer's feeling that the best possible conclusion (to this proposal, or to future proposals of a similar nature) would be a collection of excerpts from many different "Community Journals" [see p. 10, 2e and p. 24 2d] which indicate that many people, in many different kinds of communities, *found that the potential outlined in this proposal was something they did see, feel, and experience in the everyday circumstances of their community life—and it was a "something" that was worth every bit of the efforts necessary to actualize it.*

Stefan Pasti
Leesburg, Virginia (USA)
June 20, 2008

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Notes and Source References can be found at the end of the
corresponding section, or at the end of the corresponding appendix.

Section 1

Introduction

A. Many Difficult Challenges Ahead

1. More and more people, in more and more parts of the world, are coming to the conclusion that on top of the challenges of

   a) global warming and reducing carbon emissions

   b) peak oil and reducing dependence on petroleum based products

   c) global inequities and the tragic cycles of malnutrition, disease, and death

   d) an increasing world population requiring more resources when many resources are becoming more scarce (*with a special emphasis* on the increasing number of people who are consuming resources and ecological services *indiscriminately*)

there still seems to be a majority of people on the planet who do not have a clear understanding—well-grounded in personal experience—of which basic elements of community life and cultural traditions lead to mutually beneficial understandings, which lead to cycles of violence—and why it is so important for people to achieve clarity on this subject.

 [Note: See Appendix 1 for this writers' assessment of the "Ten Most Difficult Challenges of Our Times".][1] [See Appendices 2-8 for evidence in support of that assessment, and references to possible solutions]

B. "There are countless numbers of 'things people can do….'"

1. At the same time, there are also more and more people[2], in more and more parts of the world, who see sufficient evidence for affirming the following four beliefs

   a) As a result of the unprecedented opportunities created by the expansion of the Internet, we have now arrived at a very auspicious moment in time… for at no other time in the course of history has so many people had access to so much in the way of time-tested guidelines, inspiring role models, and service-oriented initiatives.

   b) There are countless numbers of 'things people can do in the everyday circumstances of their lives' which will contribute to peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecological sustainability efforts, in their own communities and regions—and in other parts of the world.

   c) Even now, as you are reading this, truly inspiring contributions of genuine goodwill are being generated in a variety of ways—and in a variety of circumstances—by countless numbers of people in communities around the world.

   d) We have the resources necessary to overcome the challenges of our times.

C. " … a need for problem solving on a scale most of us have never known before."

1.   Even so, the complexity associated with building bridges and increasing collaboration between diverse communities of people, the urgent need for resolutions to a significant number of critical issues in the near future—*and the seemingly chronic nature of many of the challenges of our times*—suggests a need for problem solving on a scale most of us have never known before.

2.   In addition—there are many important initiatives which are critical to overcoming the challenges of our times, *but which are not quite "coming through the mist as much as they should be"*.

3. What can we do—at this particular point in time—in the everyday circumstances of our lives, to bring the best ideas *from* the storehouses of accumulated wisdom now accessible to us and *"through the mist"*, so that our community building processes will be most effective in helping us overcome the challenges of our times?

D. An Exponential Increase in Our Collective Capacity

This writer is suggesting that if

1)   many communities of people created their own variations of this "1000Communities[2]" proposal—and thus raised awareness of the potential of time-intensive Community Visioning Initiatives of this nature (with "Community Teaching and Learning Centers", ongoing workshops, and "sister community" relationships)

and if

2) many such Community Visioning Initiatives were carried out

the result would surely be an exponential increase in our collective capacity resolve the challenges of our times.

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Notes and Source References (Section 1)

1. The ten point assessment in Appendix 1 of this document is excerpted from a 29 page document titled "An Assessment of the Most Difficult Challenges of Our Times" (accessible at the IPCR website at www.ipcri.net), which includes (as supporting evidence) 26 items of commentary and analysis and 17 statistics (from various sources).
2. The supporting evidence for framing this sentence as a statement is as follows: this proposal identifies only a small fraction of the inspiring role models and service-oriented initiatives which could be identified by any diverse community of people—and thus only a small fraction of the people who are currently accumulating valuable experience and establishing constructive understandings relevant to overcoming the challenges of our times. And this writer's belief is that any responsible and conscientious survey of such people would reveal that 90% of them believe their numbers are increasing.

Section 2

The "1000Communities²" Proposal

A. The "1000Communities²" proposal may be summarized as follows:

"1000Communities²" advocates organizing and implementing Community Visioning Initiatives in 1000 communities (communities or segments of rural areas, towns, or cities with populations of 50,000 or less) around the world

1. which are time-intensive, lasting even as much as 1½ years (18 months), so as to give as much importance to developing a close-knit community as it does to

> a) contributing to accumulating and integrating the knowledge and skill sets necessary for the highest percentage of people to act wisely in response to challenges identified as priority challenges
>
> b) helping people to deliberately channel their time, energy, and money into the creation of "ways of earning a living" which are directly related to resolving high priority challenges
>
> c) assisting with outreach, partnership formation, and development of service capacity for a significant number of already existing (or forming) organizations, businesses, institutions, and government agencies
>
> d) helping to build a high level of consensus for specific action plans, which will help inspire additional support from people, businesses, organizations, institutions, and government agencies with significant resources

2. which establish a significant number of local community points of entry called "Community Teaching and Learning Centers" [if use of that particular description "Community Teaching and Learning Centers" is permitted by the organization "Teachers Without Borders" (see http://www.teacherswithoutborders.org/html/ctlc.html)] to act as information clearinghouses, meeting locations, classrooms for ongoing workshops (on a broad range of topics related to the Community Visioning Process, and building the local knowledge base), practice sites for developing "teacher-leaders", a location for an ongoing "informal" "Community Journal", a location for listing employment opportunities—and to provide a means of responding quickly (by changing the emphasis of workshop content) to new urgencies as they arise

3.   and which suggest—as a way of emphasizing the need for an exponential increase in compassion for our fellow human beings—that communities (with the resources to do so) enter into "sister community" relationships with communities in other countries where there has been well documented calls for assistance with basic human needs.

[Note: For a 15 step outline of this kind of Community Visioning Initiative, see Section 6.]

B. Commentary of the potential for "1000Communities[2]" to have a positive effect of an exponential nature

1. If even a few of these kind of Community Visioning Initiatives generated results similar to those achieved by the Chattanooga, Tennessee (USA) Visioning Initiative carried out in 1984 ("Vision 2000")[1], people in all parts of the world—keenly attuned when it comes to resolving challenges which require urgent solutions at all levels of society— *could be* inspired to carry out similar Community Visioning Initiatives. And if many communities carried out similar initiatives, and also achieved significant results, our collective capacity to resolve the challenges of our times *would surely* begin to accumulate at an accelerating rate.

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Notes and Source References (Section 2)

1. In 1984, the non-profit organization Chattanooga Venture [Chattanooga, Tennessee (USA)] organized a Community Visioning Initiative that attracted more than 1,700 participants, and produced 40 community goals—which resulted in the implementation of 223 projects and programs, the creation of 1,300 permanent jobs, and a total financial investment of 793 million dollars.

The above statistics are from "Revision 2000: Take Charge Again", a brochure this writer received from Chattanooga Venture. These statistics are also accessible in a detailed overview of Chattanooga community revitalization efforts titled "Chattanooga: The Sustainable City", at the website for the James MacGregor Burns Academy of Leadership at http://www.academy.umd.edu/Resources/AcademyPublicationsPDF/BoundaryCrossers-CaseStudies/Ch3-Chattanooga/Chattanooga.pdf (see Chpt. 3, p. 7) (Confirmed June 15, 2008)

Section 3

A Summary of the Potential of Community Visioning Initiatives

A. What are Community Visioning Initiatives?

1. Well organized efforts to identify problems and brainstorm solutions are a universally recognized approach to problem solving which is commonly used in family, community, business, and government settings in every part of the world.

2. In its most basic format, a Community Visioning Initiative (CVI) is simply a more comprehensive variation of the above mentioned approach to problem solving.

3. Community Visioning Initiatives (CVIs) are especially useful as a means of increasing or maximizing citizen participation in the planning phase of community revitalization efforts.

4. In 1984, the non-profit organization Chattanooga Venture [Chattanooga, Tennessee (USA)] organized a Community Visioning Initiative that attracted more than 1,700 participants, and produced 40 community goals—which resulted in the implementation of 223 projects and programs, the creation of 1,300 permanent jobs, and a total financial investment of 793 million dollars.[1]

5. Community Visioning Initiatives (CVIs) can be described as a series of community meetings designed to facilitate the process of brainstorming ideas, organizing the ideas into goals, prioritizing the goals, and identifying doable steps.

6. Many CVIs have followed a model which has three basic steps, and which requires 3 to 6 months to complete (this is a variation of the "Oregon Model"[2]):

>   a) Where are we now? (or What are we now?)
>   An assessment which incorporates:
>   Community Values
>   Strengths and Weaknesses
>   Most Difficult Challenges
>   Most Valuable Resources
>   b) Where do we want to go? (or What do we want to be?)
>   Brainstorming and strategic planning sessions which involve:
>   Brainstorming Positive or Desirable Community Improvements
>   Developing these Ideas into Practical Goals
>   Prioritizing the Goals
>   c) How can we get there?
>   Brainstorming and/or focus group sessions which answer the questions:
>   What action plans will help us achieve our goals?
>   Who will implement the action plans?
>   How will they be implemented? (With what funding?)
>   How will we know if our efforts are achieving the desired
>   results?

7. Many CVIs require steering committees, preliminary surveys or assessments, workshops, task forces, collaboration between many organizations, government agencies, businesses, and educational institutions—and seek to build up consensus in the community for specific goals and action plans by encouraging a high level of participation by all residents.

8. This "1000Communities[2]" proposal incorporates input from many different fields of activity, and emphasizes a time-intensive approach to Community Visioning, which may take up to $1^{1/2}$ years (18 months) to complete. (For more details, see Section 6 "A 15 Step Outline for a '1000Communities [2]' Version of a Community Visioning Initiative")

B. A Well-Organized Community Visioning Initiative is….

1.   a proactive, inclusive, systematic, practical, and doable process for encouraging 100% resident involvement in identifying, creating, and gathering together all ideas for collective effort that can help us overcome the challenges of our times

2. a commitment to periodic assessment of the following question: what points for discussion in public discourse are recognized as essential to community well-being and the greater good of the whole?

3. an affirmation of the reality that all residents have civic responsibilities, and that they will be called upon to contribute to the extent that they can, when urgent responses are needed to overcome of the challenges of our times

4. a way to "bring to the fore what is often hidden: how many good people there are, how many ways there are to do good, and how much happiness comes to those who extend help as well as to those who receive it."

5. a reliable means of drawing out solutions to the many challenges of our times

6. a reliable means of building consensus for the collective efforts necessary to implement such solutions

7. an opportunity for all residents to learn civic skills relevant to sustaining ongoing community revitalization

C. A Well-Organized Community Visioning Initiative will….

1.   help people appreciate how becoming involved in a comprehensive assessment of the challenges of our times—and in well-organized "brainstorming" on how we are going to overcome such challenges—can lead to a positive and constructive re-framing of public discourse

2. increase our awareness of the countless numbers of "things people can do in the everyday circumstances of their lives" which will contribute to peacebuilding and community revitalization efforts, in our own communities and regions—and in communities around the world

3. create local community points of entry "clearinghouses" of "things people can do in the everyday circumstances of their lives" which will contribute to overcoming the challenges of our times

4. identify a variety of ways for residents to have a more active role in deliberately and systematically using their time, energy, and money to reinforce specific local community and regional goals

5. help people to have a positive impact on the quality of life in their communities—*and* help people to realize how much of an impact they already have

6. revive and deepen our appreciation for civic duty and community service

7. create greater understanding for the need of cooperation, and thus increase the likelihood of close-knit neighborhoods and communities

8. help people to have a greater appreciation for the need—and the difficulties—of building consensus among nations of the world

9. provide a re-evaluation of the local education curriculum and the resulting knowledge base by generating new goals, which can then be compared to the goals represented by the current curriculum of local and regional educational institutions

10. assist with outreach, partnership formation, consensus building, project development, and the development of service capacity for a significant number of already existing (or forming) organizations and businesses

11. increase participants' awareness of the storehouses of accumulated wisdom which are our heritage from the past, and the significant numbers of people who are currently accumulating valuable experience and establishing constructive understandings relevant to overcoming our current challenges

D. Many Hands Make Much Work Light

1. At no other time in the course of history has so many people had access to so much in the way of time-tested guidelines, inspiring role models, and service-oriented initiatives.

We should be able to actualize this potential into acceptable standards of living for a very high percentage of the people on this planet, and do so in a way that creates economic stability, maintains ecological sustainability, and emphasizes a high level of compassion for our fellow human beings.

2.   Well organized efforts to identify problems and brainstorm solutions are a universally recognized approach to problem solving which is commonly used in family, community, business, and government settings in every part of the world.

3. Community Visioning Initiatives represent the most organized efforts to date at attempting to actively involve as many residents as possible in ongoing efforts towards community problem solving and community revitalization.

4.   This particular proposal—"1000Communities[2]"—advocates a model for Community Visioning Initiatives which would allow as much time as necessary, possibly even as much as 1½ years, so as to give as much importance to developing a close-knit community as it does to

    a) contributing to accumulating and integrating the knowledge and skill sets
    necessary for the highest percentage of people to act wisely in response to challenges identified as priority challenges

    b) helping people to deliberately channel their time, energy, and money into the creation of "ways of earning a living" which are directly related to resolving high priority challenges

    c) assisting with outreach, partnership formation, and development of service capacity for a significant number of already existing (or forming) organizations and businesses

    d) helping to build a high level of consensus for specific action plans, which will help inspire additional support from people, businesses, and organizations with significant resources

Hopefully, by encouraging as much formal and informal meetings with other people in the local neighborhoods for discussion, information sharing, mutual support and encouragement, fellowship and friendship—the result will include the building of a close-knit community of people with a healthy appreciation for each others strengths, and a well-developed capacity to resolve even the most difficult challenges.

5. We need to periodically re-assess and re-develop the set of meanings by which we understand our experience and judge what is valuable.

6. "We do not live unto ourselves, and the more we realize the repercussions of our actions on our neighbours and strive to act according to the highest we are capable of, the more we shall advance in our spiritual development."[3]

7. There are many important initiatives which are critical to overcoming the challenges of our times, but which are not quite "coming through the mist as much as they should be." Community Visioning Initiatives can be very helpful in exactly these kinds of circumstances, as this community building tool encourages and facilitates the creation of a "constellation" of initiatives by which the best (in view of the participants in the community visioning initiatives) solutions to the most difficult (in the view of the participants in the community visioning

initiatives) challenges can bubble up to the surface, be recognized as priorities, and therefore be brought forward as appropriate recipients of people's time, energy, and money. Many people can realize the wisdom of deliberately focusing the way they spend their time, energy, and money. The result can be a deliberate increase in the "ways of earning a living" which are directly related to overcoming the challenges identified by residents as priority challenges. As the ancient Chinese proverb says: "Many hands make much work light."

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Notes and Source References (Section 3)

1. The statistics are from "Revision 2000: Take Charge Again", a brochure this writer received from Chattanooga Venture. These statistics are also accessible in a detailed overview of Chattanooga community revitalization efforts titled "Chattanooga: The Sustainable City", at the website for the James MacGregor Burns Academy of Leadership at http://www.academy.umd.edu/Resources/AcademyPublicationsPDF/BoundaryCrossers-CaseStudies/Ch3-Chattanooga/Chattanooga.pdf (see Chpt. 3, p. 7) (Confirmed June 15, 2008)

2. Adapted from "Community Visioning: Planning for the Future in Oregon's Local Communities" Steven C. Ames (At http://www.design.asu.edu/apa/proceedings97/ames.html, see section "The Oregon Model: Comprehensive Community Visioning" p. 7-9) (Confirmed May 12, 2008)

3. From "Why the Village Movement?" by J.C. Kumarappa (The edition this writer has includes the 1939 edition foreward by Mahatma Gandhi, and was printed on handmade paper in Rajchat, Kashi in 1960). This writer has incorporated insight and inspiration from "Why the Village Movement?" into the description of "Spiritually Responsible Investing", one of The Eight IPCR Concepts (see www.ipcri.net) Here also is some biographical information about J.C. Kumarappa:

"In 1935, the India National Congress formed the All India Village Industries Association (AIVIA) for the development of (the) rural economy (in India), with Gandhiji as President and Kumarappa as Secretary and Organiser. Between 1935-1939, Kumarappa established the AIVIA headquarters at Maganwadi, developed various experiments of rural technologies, and helped others to reorganize village industries all over the country. (At Maganwadi), he edited a monthly journal, 'Gram Udyog Patrika,' and wrote a book, 'Why the Village Movement?' for AIVIA." [Note: The above information is excerpted from "Brief Life Sketch of J.C. Kumarappa (1892-1960) at the website of the Kumarappa Institute of Gram Swaraj (KIGS) www.kigs.org]

Section 4

The Importance of "Community Teaching and Learning Centers" (CTLCs) and Ongoing Workshops

A. Local Community Points of Entry "Community Centers"

1. The concept of "Community Teaching and Learning Centers" (CTLCs) was created by the organization "Teachers Without Borders" (see www.teacherswithoutborders.org).

The website of "Teachers Without Borders" includes the following description of CTLCs:

"Community Teaching and Learning Centers (CTLCs) are local, practical education centers designed to be embraced by and emerge from the community itself…. CTLCs use existing facilities and are often outfitted with libraries [(which include) dictionaries, references, educational material of general interest] … computers, face-to-face classrooms, and break-out spaces, used primarily to serve several essential functions for community sustainability."[1] [From the "Community Teaching and Learning Centers" section of "Teachers Without Borders" (see http://www.teacherswithoutborders.org/html/ctlc.html)]

2. In this "1000Communities[2]" proposal, the concept of CTLCs is expanded so that such local community points of entry function as

>   a) information centers, resource centers, clearinghouses (on how residents can deliberately channel their time, energy, and money into the creation of "ways of earning a living" which are directly related to resolving high priority challenges

>   b) locations for workshops on topics suggested by the "Preliminary Survey" [see Step 3 of the 15 Step Outline (Section 6)], and as determined by the CTLC Coordinator

>   c) practice sites for the development of "teacher-leaders"

>   d) community centers for meetings, both planned and informal

>   e) locations for "Community Journals" (which are collections of formal and informal input which may be contributed to or accessed at all times)

>   f) locations for "Final Version" Document submission ("voting") as part of Steps 5, 6, 7, 9, and10 of the 15 Step Outline (see Section 6)

>   g) locations for "Summary of CVI Process to Date" Notebooks, for latecomers, and as an information resource for media

>   h) central locations for listings of employment opportunities

>   i) as a special form of community education, which can respond quickly (by changing the emphasis of workshop content) to new urgencies as they arise

3.   Even though there may be some confusion generated by using the term "Community Teaching and Learning Centers" in this proposal, while giving it a meaning which is different from the meaning ascribed to it by the organization "Teachers Without Borders", *this writer hopes that the end result is an increase in appreciation for the critical importance of this concept.*

B. Why are CTLCs so important?

1. Even if there were only one or two major challenges facing the majority of the people on this planet, there would be an urgent need for these kind of flexible educational settings which promote the formation of "community centers". Unfortunately, most of us may eventually have to acknowledge that on top of the challenges of

    a) global warming and reducing carbon emissions

    b) peak oil and reducing dependence on oil

    c) global inequities and the tragic cycles of malnutrition, disease, and death

    d) an increasing world population requiring more resources when many resources are becoming more scarce (*with special emphasis on the* increasing number of people who are consuming resources and ecological services *indiscriminately)*

there still seems to be a majority of people on the planet who do not have a clear understanding—well-grounded in personal experience—of which basic elements of community life and cultural traditions lead to mutually beneficial understandings, which lead to cycles of violence—and why it is so important for people to achieve clarity on this subject.

Special Commentary: This writer concludes from the above observations that communities around the world will be discovering that they have a need to approach fully utilizing all the knowledge, tools, and resources accessible to them for the highest good possible in every area of capacity building (physical, ecological, medical, spiritual, educational, social, economic, technical, political, etc.). And he does not see how such "full utilization" can be realized without an increase in local community points of entry which provide ongoing, affordable, and neighborhood-friendly workshops. He also believes that coordinating such workshops with a Community Visioning Initiative can produce a positive effect of an exponential nature. And since many communities around the world already need positive results of an exponential nature—and many more communities may soon need positive results of an exponential nature—it would seem practical to experiment along these lines.

C. About CTLCs and "Teachers Without Borders"

1. As mentioned earlier in this section, the organization "Teachers Without Borders" defines CTLCs as follows:

"Community Teaching and Learning Centers (CTLCs) are local, practical education centers designed to be embraced by and emerge from the community itself. CTLCs use existing facilities and are often outfitted with libraries (such as dictionaries, references, educational material of general interest) and computers, face-to-face classrooms, and break-out spaces, used primarily to serve several essential functions for community sustainability."[2] [From the "Community Teaching and Learning Centers" section of "Teachers Without Borders" (see http://www.teacherswithoutborders.org/html/ctlc.html)]

2. One of the primary goals of the "Teachers Without Borders" organization is to develop "teacher-leaders".

The "Teachers Without Borders" website provides evidence of the need for "teacher-leaders" which includes the following:

a) reference to a United Nations report, which "identifies a huge shortage of qualified teachers, as well as a demonstrated need for accelerated, practical, local, contemporary, and flexible teacher education."[3]

b) and the following statement—

"… evidence shows that those countries with the desire to 'leapfrog' over the gaps they face in terms of skills, knowledge, and educational opportunities cannot grow through acquisition of equipment alone. They must have consistent and practical teacher training, along with the support of national education strategies."[4] [From the "Community Teaching and Learning Centers" section of "Teachers Without Borders" (see http://www.teacherswithoutborders.org/html/ctlc.html)]

3. "Teachers Without Borders" helps create "teacher-leaders" in two ways:

a) "We help to grow teachers. Click on the link to read more about our Certificate of Teaching Mastery program. We identify talent and find a way of attracting, retaining, and supporting cohorts of teachers from all sectors of local communities. We find mentors for teachers to ensure subject-matter mastery and teaching technique, and then provide opportunities at our community teaching and learning centers for emerging teachers to practice. Our plan is to start from the ground up - incorporating local mentorship, distance learning, and community college offerings, then assist local talent in completion, at a high level, of course work at four-year schools. Most importantly, we provide a means of steady communication and feedback amongst cohorts of teaching talent."[5] [From the "Community Teaching and Learning Centers" section of "Teachers Without Borders" (see http://www.teacherswithoutborders.org/html/ctlc.html]

b) "Teachers Without Borders provides the following value (in taking an active role to create "Community Teaching and Learning Centers):

 Community organizing and readiness
Approvals by government
Site selection & development
Coordination of building retrofitting
Mutual plan, with CTLC leaders, for Internet access (with local and international
        investors)
Computer acquisition, shipping
Support for In-country leadership & CTLC Local Advisory Council
Extensive programs (educational, health, IT)
 Organization and design of service delivery
Community Outreach"[6]

[From the "Community Teaching and Learning Centers" section of "Teachers Without Borders" (see http://www.teacherswithoutborders.org/html/ctlc.html)]

D.   About "Community Teacher and Learning Centers" (CTLCs), "Teacher-Leaders", Community Visioning Initiatives, and Ongoing Workshops

1.   Specifically, this writer is hoping that leadership in the "Teachers Without Borders" organization will appreciate the potential for collaboration—in association with this particular proposal, or with Community Visioning Initiatives in general. This writer hopes that it is clear how the development of CTLCs, and the development of "teacher-leaders"—when linked to "Community Visioning Initiatives"—can contribute directly to two of the primary goals in the Section 2 proposal summary:

> a) contributing to accumulating and integrating the knowledge and skill sets
> necessary for the highest percentage of people to act wisely in response to challenges identified as priority challenges

> b) helping people to deliberately channel their time, energy, and money into the
> creation of "ways of earning a living" which are directly related to resolving high priority challenges

2. This writer does understand that—initially—many of the "teacher-leaders" which are created by this approach will not be experts in the emerging knowledge areas and skill sets needed to respond to the challenges of our times. However, what they will be is very important: they will be links to expert resources, and will function as facilitators for integrating just such knowledge into the local community as quickly, and in as affordable a process, as possible.

> a) As an illustration of the points "integrating knowledge quickly" and
> "affordable", consider the following example. It is possible to imagine workshops being offered at a rate of $100 for a 2 hour workshop (Note: This example is scaled for readers in the United States—cost and currency would vary according to the country participating), with the number of teachers and participants varying. An important part of cost accessibility is that as the number of participants goes up (towards a reasonable limit) the cost per participant would go down. Thus, if there were two teachers and 25 participants for a two hour workshop, the participants would only pay $4 each, and the teachers would earn $50 each. (And even the $4 cost to the participants could be paid in "local currency", if there was a process by which residents could earn "local currency" by making "solution-appropriate" investments of time, energy, and money in their local community.) (For more discussion of this "local currency" idea, see p. 54 and p. 113).

3.   Furthermore, when any given community became saturated with "teacher-leaders", any surplus "teacher-leaders" could offer their services to other communities who are not yet so far along. (Specifically, in the context of this proposal, they could offer their services to the community that their community has a "sister community" relationship with.) (For more on this idea, see Section 5).

E. Concluding Comments

1. This "1000Communities2" proposal recognizes that creating the knowledge base, skill sets, and the compassion for our fellow human beings necessary to resolve the challenges of our times will require

> a) recognizing deficiencies in the knowledge base and skill sets of our communities as they are now (which can be brought to the forefront by Community Visioning Initiatives)

> b) recognizing deficiencies in compassion for our fellow human beings (which can also be brought to the forefront by Community Visioning Initiatives)

> c) linking together the concepts of Community Visioning Initiatives, "Community Teaching and Learning Centers", "teacher-leaders", ongoing workshops, and "sister community" relationships

> d) curriculum development "on the fly"

> e) teacher training "on the fly"

> f) community centers which are neighborhood-friendly, and which provide ongoing workshops that are deliberately affordable

> g) encouraging as much formal and informal meetings with other people in the local neighborhoods for discussion, information sharing, mutual support and encouragement, fellowship and friendship—so that the result will include the building of a close-knit community of people with a healthy appreciation for each others strengths, and a well-developed capacity to resolve even the most difficult challenges.

2. This "1000Communities2" proposal also advocates three propositions which are especially relevant when considering the value of local community points of entry information clearinghouses, and ongoing workshops….

> a) There are countless numbers of "things people can do in the everyday circumstances of their lives" which will contribute to peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecological sustainability efforts, in their own communities and regions—and in other parts of the world.

> b) People can, one by one, decide to deliberately focus the way they spend their time, energy, and money so that their actions have positive repercussions on many or all of the action plans which emerge from Community Visioning Initiatives.

> c) The result can be that there are countless 'ways to earn a living' which contribute to the peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecological sustainability efforts necessary to overcome the challenges of our times.

Notes and Source References (Section 4)

1. For more discussion of the logistics of "300 people per day", see p. 65 ("Concerns relating to actual logistics") in Section 11 "Why This Proposal Advocates Community Visioning Initiatives with Populations No Larger Than 50,000")

2. From the "Community Teaching and Learning Centers" section of the "Teachers Without Borders" website (see http://www.teacherswithoutborders.org/html/ctlc.html)
In "Definition" section, see paragraphs 1 and 3 (Confirmed May 12, 2008)

3. From the "Community Teaching and Learning Centers" section of the "Teachers Without Borders" website (see http://www.teacherswithoutborders.org/html/ctlc.html)
In the subsection "A Compelling Need", from Bullet #5. (Confirmed May 12, 2008)

4. From the "Community Teaching and Learning Centers" section of the "Teachers Without Borders" website (see http://www.teacherswithoutborders.org/html/ctlc.html)
In the subsection "A Compelling Need", from Bullet #4. (Confirmed May 12, 2008)

5. From the "Community Teaching and Learning Centers" section of the "Teachers Without Borders" website (see http://www.teacherswithoutborders.org/html/ctlc.html)   In the subsection "Example Programs", see "Teachers Education", paragraphs 1 and 2 (Confirmed May 12, 2008)

6. From the "Community Teaching and Learning Centers" section of the "Teachers Without Borders" website (see http://www.teacherswithoutborders.org/html/ctlc.html)   In the subsection "Definition", from paragraph 6. (Confirmed May 12, 2008)

Section 5

About "Sister Community" Relationships

A. Advocating for "Sister Community" Relationships

1. What this Proposal Suggests

This proposal—"1000Communities[2]"—suggests that communities of people choosing to carry out Community Visioning Initiatives (especially those who decide on time-intensive versions such as what is outlined in Section 6… which incorporates CTLCs and ongoing workshops into the process) would generate many kinds of positive outcomes from choosing to identify creating a "sister community" relationship as a priority solution in their Community Visioning process. Since this proposal identifies "increasing compassion for our fellow human beings" as a essential pre-requisite to many other positive outcomes[1], this proposal specifically advocates for creating "sister community" relationships with communities in other countries where there has been well documented calls for assistance with basic human needs.

2. Why is the idea of developing "sister community" relationships so important?

Here are four descriptions of positive outcomes which could result from creating "sister community" relationships with communities in other countries where there has been well documented calls for assistance with basic human needs. (This writer hopes that readers will decide for themselves that there are also many other points in favor of this idea.)

a) As emphasized by Point #1 in the "Ten Point Assessment of the Most Difficult Challenges of Our Times" (see Appendix 1), the need for urgent responses to very complex challenges may influence many people to focus entirely on the problems of their particular area or region; whereas *there are many reasons why it will be important for our collective capacity to respond with emergency humanitarian aid to remain at a high level.* Having a "sister community" relationship of the kind suggested in this proposal will help people and communities maintain a focus which also includes the contributing to the "greater good of the whole".

b) One of the basic propositions of this proposal is as follows:

> "There are countless numbers of 'things people can do in the everyday circumstances of their lives' which will contribute to peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecological sustainability efforts, in their own communities and regions—and in other parts of the world."

Unfortunately, there are often so many different activities which require our attention during the course of any given day, and many of us simply do not know how much good can be done in the world with even minor contributions of time, energy, and money. Here this writer will simply mention the names of ten organizations which may be sufficient to bring to mind how many different kinds of positive outcomes could result from such "sister community" relationships. [See Appendix 5 "Examples of Humanitarian Aid Which Can be Explored Through 'Sister

Community' Relationships*"* for more detailed information about these organizations—or organizations working along these lines).]

> Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
> World Food Programme
> Doctors Without Borders
> Teachers Without Borders
> S^{3}IDF (Small-Scale Sustainable Infrastructure Development Fund)
> IDE (International Development Enterprises)
> Alternative Gifts
> Peace Corps
> Foreign Student Exchange
> Adopt a Child ("Sponsoring" a child)

c) Developing a "sister community" relationship could be a way for diverse people in any particular community to find common ground. And *common ground associated with increasing compassion for our fellow human beings would be a very special kind of common ground.* Exploring these possibilities could make it possible for many people to have first hand experience with "… bringing to the fore what is often hidden: how many good people there are, how many ways there are to do good, and how much happiness comes to those who extend help, as well as to those who receive it."

d) Consider again the proposition brought forward in b) (above):

> "There are countless numbers of 'things people can do in the everyday circumstances of their lives' which will contribute to peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecological sustainability efforts, in their own communities and regions—and in other parts of the world."

This writer understands that it is often very difficult for people in one country to understand the indirect effects of their investments of time, energy, and money—even if those indirect effects are unquestionably beneficial. *If we are to "fully realize the repercussions of our actions on our neighbours"* (see p. 10, point #6 for full quote and footnote)—*and on people in others parts of the world*—it seems that it would be most helpful for whole communities of people to have direct contact with a whole communities of people in another part of the world, for an extended period of time. In the context of this "1000Communities2" proposal, the "sister community" relationship would provide a way for residents of a community with sufficient resources to do so to be in direct contact with residents of a community where there has been well documented calls for assistance with basic human needs.

B. "Sister Cities International"—An Expert in the Field

1. There are many communities in the world who *already have* "sister community" relationships with communities in other parts of the world. The organization most responsible for developing the idea of "sister communities", and the organization most experienced in facilitating and monitoring such relationships, is "Sister Cities International".

2. About "Sister Cities International"

a) "Our mission is to promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation—one individual. One community at a time."[2]

b) "Sister Cities International is a nonprofit citizen diplomacy network that creates and strengthens partnerships between U.S. and international communities. As an international membership organization, we officially certify, represent and support partnerships between U.S. cities, counties, states and similar jurisdictions in other countries."[3]

c) "Sister Cities International" represents more than 2,500 communities in 134 countries around the world."[4]

d) Key program areas include:[5]

> Sustainable Development
> Youth and Education
> Humanitarian Assistance
> Arts and Culture

e) Services provided to communities joining "Sister Cities International" include:[6]

> eligibility to apply for seed grants to support sister city projects
> access to information and how-to guides
> mentoring and staff consultation

f) What makes a successful sister cities program?

"Commitment, creativity, cooperation, and communication are at the heart of all successful sister city programs. Also, the following elements must be present: solid support and involvement from all sectors of society, including city hall and grassroots citizens groups; a broad-based sister city committee; additional alliances (such as Rotary or Lions); excellent communication links; sensitivity to cultural differences; clear objectives; regular exchanges; and a willingness to take risks."[7]

"All sister city programs should ensure that each project reflects the diversity of the Sister Cities International network. Specifically, it should promote the inclusion of ethnic and racial minorities, people with disabilities, youth, women, and people of varied socio-economic backgrounds in all sister city activities."[8]

g) "Sister Cities International represents 694 communities in the United States, which have 1,992 sister city relationships with communities in other parts of the world. (Some cities have established many sister city relationships.)[9]

h) "Sister Cities International represents 1,749 international communities in 134 countries."[10]

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Notes and Source References (Section 5)

1. Although it is not explicitly stated in the proposal description in Section 2—that this proposal identifies "increasing compassion for our fellow human beings" as a essential pre-requisite to many other positive outcomes—observations and commentary in this section (5), in Appendices 4 and 6—and the first three points in the "… Assessment of the Most Difficult Challenges of Our Times" (Appendix 1)—provide sufficient evidence that this writer does view "increasing compassion" as just that kind of essential pre-requisite.

2. From the website of "Sister Cities International". Navigation as follows: About Us/Press/Media Contacts and Fact Sheets/Fact Sheet—Sister Cities International (pdf file) See http://www.sister-cities.org/sci/docs/FactSheet-FINAL-pdf.pdf) From p. 1, paragraph 1 (Confirmed June 1, 2008)

3. From the website of "Sister Cities International". Navigation as follows: About Us/Press/Media Contacts and Fact Sheets/Fact Sheet—Sister Cities International (pdf file) See http://www.sister-cities.org/sci/docs/FactSheet-FINAL-pdf.pdf) From p. 1, paragraph 2 (Confirmed June 1, 2008)

4. From the website of "Sister Cities International". Navigation as follows: About Us/Press/Media Contacts and Fact Sheets/Fact Sheet—Sister Cities International (pdf file) See http://www.sister-cities.org/sci/docs/FactSheet-FINAL-pdf.pdf) From p. 1, paragraph 3 (Confirmed June 1, 2008)

5. From the website of "Sister Cities International". Navigation as follows: About Us/Press/Media Contacts and Fact Sheets/Fact Sheet—Sister Cities International (pdf file) See http://www.sister-cities.org/sci/docs/FactSheet-FINAL-pdf.pdf) From p. 1, paragraph 5, 6, 7, and 8 (Confirmed June 1, 2008)

6. From the website of "Sister Cities International". Navigation as follows: About Us/Press/Media Contacts and Fact Sheets/Fact Sheet—Sister Cities International (pdf file) See http://www.sister-cities.org/sci/docs/FactSheet-FINAL-pdf.pdf) From p. 2, paragraph 1, 4, 8, 10, and 16 (Confirmed June 1, 2008)

7. From the website of "Sister Cities International". Navigation as follows: About Us/FAQ/Question #8 (See http://www.sister-cities.org/sci/aboutsci/faqs#faq8) See paragraph 1 (Confirmed June 1, 2008)

8. From the website of "Sister Cities International".   Navigation as follows: About Us/FAQ/Question #8 (See http://www.sister-cities.org/sci/aboutsci/faqs#faq8)   See paragraph 3 (Confirmed June 1, 2008)

9. From the website of "Sister Cities International".   Navigation as follows: About Us/Statistics (See http://www.sister-cities.org/sci/aboutsci/faqs#faq8)   See Bullet #3 (Confirmed June 1, 2008)

10. From the website of "Sister Cities International".   Navigation as follows: About Us/Statistics (See http://www.sister-cities.org/sci/aboutsci/faqs#faq8)   See Bullet #4 (Confirmed June 1, 2008)

Section 6

A 15 Step Outline for a "1000Communities^2" Version of a Community Visioning Initiative

Approximate Time Required: 1 year and 6 months (18 months)

Approximate Cost: 3 million dollars
(see Section 10 for more on this cost estimate)

The 15 Steps:

The 15 Step Outline:

Step 1 Steering Committee Selection, Administrative Assistant Selection
          (and Securing Volunteers for Advisory Board)

(Approximate Time Required: 8 weeks)

A. Goals
        1) Contracts with 5 people for steering committee
            at salary $80,000 for duration of CVI process
        2) Contracts with 5 people for administrative assistants
            at salary $40,000 for duration of CVI process
        3) Development of Advisory Board
            (50+ volunteers)

B. Suggestions

1. Identify 150 key leaders from a significant variety of fields of activity in the community

2. Prepare Executive Summary of approach to Community Visioning Initiative (CVI), and importance of CVI

3. Prepare "Steering Committee Selection" Questionnaire, which may include Questions #1--#5 from the "Preliminary Survey" examples (see Section 9)

4. Send Executive Summary and "Steering Committee Selection" Questionnaire to 150 key leaders

    a) to increase awareness of intention to carry out CVI

b) as way of identifying leaders with interest, understanding, and experience for Steering Committee
c) as way of identifying possible volunteer Advisory Board members
d) as way of gathering input and leading into Step 2 and Step 3

[Note: Recipients of the above package should be encouraged to save a copy of their responses, as many of these leaders may be asked to participate in the "Preliminary Survey" (see Step 3)]

5. People selected for the Steering Committee will carry out their own selection process for an administrative assistant

Step 2 Initial Preparation

(Approximate Time Required: 6 weeks)

A. Goals
      1) Identifying Volunteer Resources
      2) Establishing "Community Teaching and Learning Centers" (CTLC's)
      3) Outreach
      4) Consulting
      5) Etc.

Very Important Note: On Establishing a Sufficient Number of CTLC's

Establishing a sufficient number of "Community Teaching and Learning Centers" (CTLCs) is a critical prerequisite to going forward with Community Visioning Initiatives of the nature described in this proposal. Identifying and securing somewhere near 20 public access buildings (per community area with a population of 50,000) which can function as described in the beginning of this section—and which can (thus) accommodate as many as 300 people per day (for more discussion of logistics, see Section 10, Part B."Concerns relating to actual logistics") coming in and out at different times for an extended period of time (possibly a year, or more) (with associated parking considerations) (and with, hopefully, no rent associated with it) narrows the possibilities to a point that probable requires a sense of shared urgency among many members of the community. Unfortunately/fortunately, such a sense of shared urgency may be approaching. In the time period preceding such urgency, word may get around about Community Visioning Initiative approaches (such as the one described in this proposal) through the efforts of people who believe that we can overcome the challenges ahead, and are ready to go forward with constructive and practical solutions. Such people may, by their efforts in advance, prepare the way for a sufficient number of CTLCs to be established on short notice. The importance of CTLCs is so critical that without a sufficient number of assurances relating to CTLCs as a prerequisite, there will be no advantage to initiating the 15 step Community Visioning Initiative process described in Section 6.

B. Suggestions

1. Partnership formation with volunteer service organizations, places of worship, educational institutions, etc.

      a) seeking volunteers for an extended amount of time for a variety of support positions
           i) specifically seeking volunteer secretaries and journalists to transcribe, report, and create "actions taken" logs, and overviews of the CVI process for the "Sharing the Lessons" element of the process (see Step 15)
           ii) specifically seeking volunteer journalists to document and verify the "voting" process (see Steps 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10)
           iii) specifically seeking volunteers for compiling and summarizing "voting" (responses) during Steps 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10
           iv) specifically seeking volunteer website design for official CVI website

2. Establishing a sufficient number of CTLC's as local community points of entry

      which are donated building space (with sufficient parking) for the duration of the CVI process

      which are accessible to the public 7 days a week

      and which can function as

      a) information centers, clearinghouses (on how residents can focus their time, energy, and money) and central locations for listings of employment opportunities)
      b) locations for workshops on topics suggested by the "Preliminary Survey" (see Step 3), and as determined by the CTLC Coordinators
      c) community centers for meetings, both planned and informal
      d) locations for "Community Journals" (which are collections of formal and informal input—which may be contributed or accessed at all times) (Note: each CTLC may need to have 5 copies of these "Community Journals"….)
      e) locations for "Final Version Document" Notebooks associated with Steps 5, 6, 7, 9, and 10   (Note: early submissions to these notebooks will help others with format and provide ideas for topics they might explore….)
      f) locations for "Summary of the CVI Process to Date" Notebooks, for latecomers, and as assistance to the media

3. Revised and updated "Executive Summary" of approach to CVI and importance of CVI offered to public through CTLC's and media, so residents can prepare and begin to participate—and so that more residents will be encouraged to "step up" and provide volunteer support

4. Neutral parties with sufficient experience and recognized authority (omsbudpersons, etc.) identified to oversee integrity of CVI process

5. Contacts—and lines of communication for community service announcements—established with local information services providers (newspapers, television, radio, service-oriented websites, etc.)

> a) CVI spokespersons identified as authorities to approach for critical information

6. With (hopefully) assistance from the organization "Teachers Without Borders", the development of "teacher-leaders" is initiated. (The training and apprenticeships of "teacher-leaders" will be ongoing.)

The development of "teacher-leaders" will be critical, as it anticipates a time when

> a) additional teachers will be required to meet the needs for increasing the community's knowledge base, and for the introduction of new skill sets
> (see Appendix 4, subsection F—and Appendices 5-7)
> b) "ways of earning a living" will be created for these new teachers, so that they become a permanent addition to the community workforce

7. Consulting with questionnaire development experts

> a) for assistance with creating a "Preliminary Survey" (see Step 3)
> b) for assistance with creating an "Evaluation Survey" (see Step 13)

8. Preparation of a brochures titled "Suggestions for Making Best Use of the CVI Process" (see Section 7 for one example)

Step 3   Preliminary Surveys

(Approximate Time Required: 6 weeks)

A. Goals

> 1) Summary of responses to Preliminary Survey, to be published in newspapers, posted on official CVI website, and made accessible in CTLC's

B. Suggestions

1. Note: See Section 9 for some example questions for a Preliminary Survey

2. Send Preliminary Surveys to 150—or more—key leaders from a significant variety of fields of activity in the community

> a) selection of recipients will be decided by Steering Committee with input from Advisory Board Members and Partnerships established in Step 2

3. Responses and Summarized of Results from Preliminary Survey will provide

      a) evidence from local leaders of the need for a re-assessment of current priorities
      b) examples of local leaders stepping up in support of CVI
      c) starting points for public discourse about the importance of the CVI
      d) starting points for CTLC workshop content
      e) starting points for some participants as they develop "Final Version" decisions
           ("votes") on challenges, solutions, and action plans
      f) an aid to mobilizing a high level of interest in the CVI, and a high level of
           citizen participation
      g) an initial sense of support or non-support for the "sister community" element
           (an action plan which is advocated by this proposal—see Section 5)

Step 4 <u>Secondary Preparation</u>

(Approximate Time Required: 4 weeks)

A. Goals
      1) Additional CTLC's opened
      2) Announcements for workshops already scheduled
      3) Announcements for "voting" times already scheduled

B. Suggestions

1. Training and apprenticeships of "teacher-leaders" is ongoing (they continue to facilitate workshops and meetings….)

2. As awareness of the value of the CVI process increases, additional donations of appropriate building space will result in additional CTLC's in the community

3. Publications (available at CTLC's) and press releases announce workshops already scheduled (workshops which derive their content mostly from the results of the Preliminary Surveys) (Note: Additional workshops will result from input received by local CTLC Coordinators, and will vary according to specific needs perceived).

4. Publications (available at CTLC's) and press releases announce the "voting" times already scheduled (for Steps 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10)

Step 5   Workshops, Meetings, and "Voting" associated with the question:

What are the challenges which require our most immediate attention? (Or… What are the challenges with the greatest potential to de-stabilize economic systems, community life, and basic survival in community, regional, national, and international settings?)

(Approximate Time Required: 4 weeks)

A. Goal

      1) A List (compiled and summarized through a transparent, well-documented, and fair process) of all Challenges mentioned by participating residents, will be published in local newspapers, posted on the official CVI website, and many copies will be made available in CTLC's

         a) Challenges categories mentioned most often will include some examples of the different ways that challenge was described
         b) The summary list will begin with the challenges identified most often, and list the challenges in order from most often identified to least often identified

B. Suggestions

Note: For more information about "Verifying the Integrity of the Voting Process", see Section 8

1. Residents are encouraged to follow the "Suggestions for Making Best Use of the CVI Process" (see Section 7)

2. Workshops, resources, informal meetings, etc. will be offered in the CTLC's to help residents sort through what could seem like an overwhelming and complex assessment process

3. Residents are encouraged to submit one (1) "Final Version" document for this step. The document for this step should include a list of 10-20 items, and must be limited to 4 well-organized and easily read pages (to help with the compilation and summary process). Examples will be provided, and copies of documents submitted during the early part of this step will be available for participants to consider as they prepare their "vote". Some evidence supporting the items mentioned, or some clarifying comments, may be included to help identify the challenges listed, but citing extensive evidence is unnecessary and discouraged. References to resources of any length can be suggested to local CTLC Coordinators—and entered into the CTLC "Community Journal".

4. Submitting "Final Version" Documents

    a) Such "Final Version" documents should be submitted to the local CTLC
        Coordinator during the days and hours designated for this part of the process.
    b) When submitting "Final Version" documents, residents will be required to
        provide some proof of residency.

5. The compilation and summarizing of all "challenges identified" "Final Version" documents will be carried out by thoroughly screened volunteers, supervised by local CTLC Coordinators, and independently reported on by volunteer journalists and neutral parties such as omsbudpersons (who will also observe the process to evaluate transparency, thoroughness of documentation, and fairness).

6. A Summary List of the Challenges Identified will then be published in local newspapers, posted on the CVI website, and many copies will be made accessible in the CTLC's.

a) The summary list will begin with the challenges identified most often, and list the challenges in order from most often identified to least often identified

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Important Note: This summary list will not be considered a list of challenges prioritized however, for the reason that there may be many participants who have not given much importance to a number of very important challenges, and who may change their mind once they see the content and order of the summary list from this step.

Step 6 <u>Workshops, Meetings, and "Voting" Associated with Prioritizing the List of Challenges Identified created in Step 5</u>

(Approximate Time Required: 3 weeks)

A. Goal
    1) The List of Challenges Identified (created in Step 5) is prioritized by
       participating residents
    2) Prioritized lists properly submitted by residents are compiled and
       summarized through a transparent, well-documented, and fair process; and
       the summary is published in local newspapers, posted on the CVI
       website—and many copies are made available in CTLC's.

a) A "scoring system" common to this kind of "voting" will be applied, so that challenges which are prioritized as most important (first on the list) by some, and which are chosen by many residents as significant in some way, will receive more points than a challenge which is prioritized as most important by some, but not recognized at all by most residents

B. Suggestions

Note: For more information about "Verifying the Integrity of the Voting Process", see Section 8

1. Residents are encouraged to follow the "Suggestions for Making Best Use of the CVI Process" (see Section 7)

2. Workshops, resources, informal meetings, etc. will be offered in the CTLC's to help residents discover tools and resources useful in prioritizing the list of identified challenges

3. Residents are encouraged to submit one (1) "Final Version" document for this step. The document for this step should include a list of 10-20 items, and must be limited to 4 well-organized and easily read pages (to help with the compilation and summary process). Examples will be provided, and copies of documents submitted during the early part of this step will be available for participants to consider as they prepare their "vote". Some evidence supporting the items mentioned, or some clarifying comments, may be included to help identify the challenges listed, but citing extensive evidence is unnecessary and discouraged. References to resources of any length can be suggested to local CTLC Coordinators—and entered into the CTLC "Community Journal".

4. Submitting "Final Version" Documents

   a) Such "Final Version" documents should be submitted to the local CTLC Coordinator during the days and hours designated for this part of the process.
   b) When submitting "Final Version" documents, residents will be required to provide some proof of residency.

5. A "scoring system" common to this kind of "voting" will be applied, so that challenges which are prioritized as most important (first on the list) by some, and which are chosen by many residents as significant in some way, will receive more points than a challenge which is prioritized as most important by some, but not recognized at all by most residents

Special Commentary: Some residents may feel uneasy concerning the problem of residents who are less educated and less informed having as much of a say in the process as those who have spent years working on these issues. This is a fundamental problem, which is not confined to Community Visioning Initiative processes like this; as people who are not sufficiently informed about critical issues are everywhere, and they are investing their time, energy, and money—voting—all the time. If we are honest with ourselves about this issue, we must admit that there are very few people who have successfully aligned all of their investments of time, energy, and money with all of the values of the religious, spiritual, or moral tradition they feel closest to. This writer believes that there are many serious challenges before us now, and that we will need to invest our time, energy, and money very wisely to overcome these challenges. How can we do it? We must help each other. The Community Visioning Initiative outlined in this proposal is time-intensive so that we will have time to learn much more than we know now about how to help each other.

6. The compilation and summarizing of all "challenges identified" "Final Version" documents will be carried out by thoroughly screened volunteers, supervised by local CTLC Coordinators, and independently reported on by volunteer journalists and neutral parties such as omsbudpersons (who will also observe the process to evaluate transparency, thoroughness of documentation, and fairness).

7. A Summary List of the Challenges Identified will then be published in local newspapers, posted on the CVI website, and many copies will be made accessible in the CTLC's.

Step 7   A Two Week Interval from the Publication of the Challenges Prioritized Summary List to the Beginning of Step 8

(Approximate Time Required: 2 weeks)

A. Goal
> 1) To allow a time of public comment (in local newspapers, on websites, etc.) on the content of the Challenges Prioritized Summary List

Step 8   Workshops, Meetings, and "Voting" to brainstorm solutions to the Challenges Prioritized Summary List

(Approximate Time Required: 4 weeks)

A. Goal

    1) A List (compiled and summarized through a transparent, well-documented, and fair process) of all the Solutions mentioned by participating residents (in response to the "Challenges Prioritized Summary List") will be published in local newspapers, posted on the CVI website—and many copies will be made available in local CTLC's

        a) Solutions categories mentioned most often will include some examples of the different ways that solution was described

        b) The summary list will begin with the solutions identified most often, and list the challenges in order from most often identified to least often identified

        c) The listings will include, in the first line, a reference to the challenge, or challenges, targeted

B. Suggestions

Note: For more information about "Verifying the Integrity of the Voting Process", see Section 8

1. Residents are encouraged to follow the "Suggestions for Making Best Use of the CVI Process" (see Section 7)

2. Workshops, resources, informal meetings, etc. will be offered in the CTLC's to help residents sort through what could seem like an overwhelming and complex assessment process

3. Residents are encouraged to submit one (1) "Final Version" document for this step. The document for this step should include a list of 10-20 items, and must be limited to 4 well-organized and easily read pages (to help with the compilation and summary process). Examples will be provided, and copies of documents submitted during the early part of this step will be available for participants to consider as they prepare their "vote". Some evidence supporting the items mentioned, or some clarifying comments, may be included to help identify the solutions listed, but citing extensive evidence is unnecessary and discouraged. References to resources of any length can be suggested to local CTLC Coordinators—and entered into the CTLC "Community Journal".

4. Submitting "Final Version" Documents

    a) Such "Final Version" documents should be submitted to the local CTLC
        Coordinator during the days and hours designated for this part of the process.
    b) When submitting "Final Version" documents, residents will be required to
        provide some proof of residency.

5. The compilation and summarizing of all "solutions identified" "Final Version" documents will be carried out by thoroughly screened volunteers, supervised by local CTLC Coordinators, and independently reported on by volunteer journalists and neutral parties such as omsbudpersons, who will also observe the process to evaluate transparency, thoroughness of documentation, and fairness.

6. A Summary List of the Solutions Identified will then be published in local newspapers, posted on the CVI website, and many copies will be made accessible in the CTLC's.

    a) The summary list will begin with the solutions identified most often, and list
        the solutions in order from most often identified to least often identified
    b) The listings will include, in the first line, a reference to the challenge, or
        challenges, targeted.

Step 9 <u>Workshops, Meetings, and "Voting" Associated with Prioritizing the List of Solutions Identified created in Step 8</u>

(Approximate Time Required: 3 weeks)

A. Goals
> 1) The List of Solutions Identified (created in Step 8) is prioritized by participating residents
> 2) Prioritized lists properly submitted by residents are compiled and summarized through a transparent, well-documented, and fair process; and the summary is published in local newspapers, posted on the CVI website—and many copies are made available in CTLC's.
>
>> a) A "scoring system" common to this kind of "voting" will be applied, so that solutions which are prioritized as most important (first on the list) by some, and which are chosen by many residents as significant in some way, will receive more points than a solution which is prioritized as most important by some, but not recognized at all by most residents

B. Suggestions

Note: For more information about "Verifying the Integrity of the Voting Process", see Section 8

1. Residents are encouraged to follow the "Suggestions for Making Best Use of the CVI Process" (see Section 7)

2. Workshops, resources, informal meetings, etc. will be offered in the CTLC's to help residents discover tools and resources useful in prioritizing the list of identified solutions

3. Residents are encouraged to submit one (1) "Final Version" document for this step. The document for this step should include a list of 10-20 items, and must be limited to 4 well-organized and easily read pages (to help with the compilation and summary process). Examples will be provided, and copies of documents submitted during the early part of this step will be available for participants to consider as they prepare their "vote". Some evidence supporting the items mentioned, or some clarifying comments, may be included to help identify the solutions listed, but citing extensive evidence is unnecessary and discouraged. References to resources of any length can be suggested to local CTLC Coordinators—and entered into the CTLC "Community Journal".

4. Submitting "Final Version" Documents

    a) Such "Final Version" documents should be submitted to the local CTLC Coordinator during the days and hours designated for this part of the process.

    b) When submitting "Final Version" documents, residents will be required to provide some proof of residency.

5. A "scoring system" common to this kind of "voting" will be applied, so that solutions which are prioritized as most important (first on the list) by some, and which are chosen by many residents as significant in some way, will receive more points than a solution which is prioritized as most important by some, but not recognized at all by most residents

(Note: The following Special Commentary is repeated, in other parts of this proposal, for emphasis)

Special Commentary: Some residents may feel uneasy concerning the problem of residents who are less educated and less informed having as much of a say in the process as those who have spent years working on these issues. This is a fundamental problem, which is not confined to Community Visioning Initiative processes like this; as people who are not sufficiently informed about critical issues are everywhere, and they are investing their time, energy, and money—voting—all the time. If we are honest with ourselves about this issue, we must admit that there are very few people who have successfully aligned all of their investments of time, energy, and money with all of the values of the religious, spiritual, or moral tradition they feel closest to. This writer believes that there are many serious challenges before us now, and that we will need to invest our time, energy, and money very wisely to overcome these challenges. How can we do it? We must help each other. The Community Visioning Initiative outlined in this proposal is time-intensive so that we will have time to learn much more than we know now about how to help each other.

6. The compilation and summarizing of all "solutions identified" "Final Version" documents will be carried out by thoroughly screened volunteers, supervised by local CTLC Coordinators, and independently reported on by volunteer journalists and neutral parties such as omsbudpersons, who will also observe the process to evaluate transparency, thoroughness of documentation, and fairness.

7. A Summary List of the Solutions Identified will then be published in local newspapers, posted on the CVI website, and many copies will be made accessible in the CTLC's.

Step 10   Workshops, Meetings, and "Voting" Associated with Developing Action Plans to Implement Prioritizing Solutions

(Approximate Time Required: 6 weeks)

A. Goal

      1) Specific outlines of relevant, practical and doable steps for implementing prioritized solutions, so that as many residents as possible can understand how to use their time, energy, and money in ways that will resolve the challenges of our times

B. Suggestions

1. Residents are encouraged to follow "Suggestions for Making Best Use of the CVI Process" (see Section 7)

2. Residents are encouraged to work at home, or in informal groups, or through meetings/workshops etc. at the CTLCs, to arrive at point by point answers to the following questions

      a) Who would they like to see as the lead organization, agency, institution,, etc. for implementing which solutions?
      b) How would they like that organization, etc. to proceed?
      c) What are the most practical and doable steps in such an action plan, and how can they be clearly stated so that they can be understood by as many people as possible?
      d) How will the general public know if the desired results are being achieved?

Important Note: This is where "accountability indicators" will be identified. They are an important part of the evaluation process—but are only a part of that process. (For more on "Evaluating the Process", see Section 14)

3. Workshops, resources, informal meetings, etc. will be offered in the CTLC's to help residents discover tools and resources useful to developing these kind of action plans

4. Residents are encouraged to submit one (1) "Final Version" document for this step. The document for this step should include a list of 10-20 items, and must be limited to 8 well-organized and easily read pages (to help with the compilation and summary process). Examples will be provided, and copies of documents submitted during the early part of this step will be available for participants to consider as they prepare their "vote". Some evidence supporting the items mentioned, or some clarifying comments, may be included to help identify the action plans listed, but citing extensive evidence is unnecessary and discouraged. References to resources of any length can be suggested to local CTLC Coordinators—and entered into the CTLC "Community Journal".

5. Submitting "Final Version" Documents

    a) Such "Final Version" documents should be submitted to the local CTLC
        Coordinator during the days and hours designated for this part of the process.
    b) When submitting "Final Version" documents, residents will be required to
        provide some proof of residency.

6. The compilation and summarizing of all "action plans" "Final Version" documents will be carried out by thoroughly screened volunteers, supervised by local CTLC Coordinators, and independently reported on by volunteer journalists and neutral parties such as omsbudpersons, who will also observe the process to evaluate transparency, thoroughness of documentation, and fairness.

Special Commentary

1. While there may be much in the way of action plans suggestions which relate to supplementing work already in progress by existing organizations, agencies, etc.—there will also be a significant amount of suggestions which require the creation of new organizations and partnerships.

2. It is inevitable that some or many of the action plans will require involvement from organizations, agencies, etc. which are outside the community. Actions plans will need to be creative to avoid being stagnated by overdependence on complex global interdependencies. There can be no doubt that steady, consistent efforts over a long period of time will be necessary to bring about solutions to some of the more difficult challenges. This is exactly why it is so important to emphasize that efforts are needed from as many communities of people as possible. ("1000Communities[2]")

C. **An Important Note About Community Building**

This kind of time-intensive Community Visioning Initiative is community building in a most comprehensive and deliberate form. Many of us will have experienced community building in a comprehensive and deliberate form in the past. Ideas about what would assist us in realizing our visions about quality of life were brought forward—and some attracted the time, energy, and money of many people, and some not.

What is different here is that although the "developed" countries in the world are very complex, it is possible for participants in these kind of intensive Community Visioning Initiatives to become keenly aware of how each and every one of the residents in their community has—by their "investments" of time, energy, and money—funded what has come before… and how each resident is a fundamental and critical part of the funding for the action plans and doable steps which will determine what will come next.

Participants will surely wish to increase their awareness of

a) what patterns of investment they would like to move away from
b) what patterns of investment they would like to affirm or continue to affirm and
c) how cooperation with other residents in their community will help them do both.

Step 11   A Six Week Interval for Completion of Lists to be Published and Completion of Summary Reports for Upcoming Presentations in Step 12

(Approximate Time Required: 6 weeks)

A. Goals

1) This extra time may be needed for the process of compiling and summarizing the action plans.
2) This extra time will also allow those people chosen to make presentations in Step 12 to complete their summary reports.

Step 12   Summary Presentations and Job Fairs

(Approximate Time Required: 4 weeks)

A. Goals

1) Steering Committee members (with help from volunteer Advisory Board members, etc.) will summarize the Community Visioning Initiative process
2) Steering Committee members-- and key community leaders who were very much involved in the CVI process—will make presentations based on the summaries
3) Specifically, information will be provided on how residents can deliberately focus their time, energy, and money so that their actions
   a) can have positive repercussions on many fields of activity relating to solutions
   b) can result in an increase in the "ways of earning a living" which are related to solutions and action plans

4) Job Fairs will provide a forum for organizations and businesses working in solution oriented fields of activity to describe employment opportunities and future prospects, to discover local talent, to hire qualified prospects, and to build knowledge bases and skill sets for the future

B. Suggestions

1. Although a final published summary of the CVI process (with overall statistics and evaluation survey results) will not yet be available, input on challenges priorities, solution priorities, and action plan summaries will be sufficient for

a) Steering Committee members-- and key community leaders who were very much involved in the CVI process—to make presentations based on the preliminary summaries
b) Booths in local auditoriums to be allocated to businesses and organizations for very practical and informative job fairs

---

Special Commentary: By now, there will have been sufficient public discourse for those people with understanding about high level shifts in investment portfolios to have learned something about what directions future shifts will be leaning towards. The job fairs which come at the end of the CVI process provide opportunities for all key stakeholders in the community (businesses, organizations, institutions, government, etc.) to demonstrate their upgraded awareness—and their interest in the welfare of the community—by offering and facilitating new employment opportunities… and thus helping with a just transition from patterns of investment which in only limited ways represent solutions to prioritized challenges to patterns of investment which in many ways represent solutions to prioritized challenges.

Note: As mentioned on p. 125, one aspect of this just transition can be that people who do deliberately focus their investments of time, energy, and money towards solutions identified by the Community Visioning Initiative being carried out in their community may receive, as encouragement, local currency. *And then such local currency can, in its turn, be redeemed in ways which will be particularly helpful to people transitioning from less solution-oriented employment to more solution-oriented employment.*

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2. People who want CVI processes of this nature to truthfully reflect the challenges before us-- and the solutions which will help us overcome those challenges—will provide resources and supporting evidence at the appropriate steps in the process which is worthy of that kind of conclusion.

Step 13   Evaluating the Process

(Approximate Time Required: 3 weeks)

A. Goal

> 1) Provide evaluation surveys for as many residents as possible and
>   encourage residents to answer as many questions in the survey as possible,
>   with as much careful attention to detail as possible

B. Suggestions

[Special Note: See Section 14 for notes and suggestions for an actual evaluation process]

[Here, suggestions will related to the actual administration of the evaluation surveys]

1. Developing a well-designed evaluation survey will be most helpful to the process of sharing the lessons learned with other communities. Therefore, careful attention should be given to compensating the specialists and consultants who will help create the evaluation surveys. (See Step 2 "Initial Preparation")

2. Announcements will be made in advance detailing designated days and hours when Evaluation Survey Workshops will be scheduled—workshops which will provide assistance for residents filling out the surveys, and which will encourage fellowship and mutual support in the process.

3. Residents can also come to a CTLC, pick up an evaluation survey, fill it out at their convenience, and return it to a local CTLC Coordinator before the deadline.

Step 14   An 8 week interval for compiling and summarizing the evaluation surveys—and for printing the Final CVI Summary Reports

(Approximate Time Required: 8 weeks)

Step 15 Sharing the Lessons, Carrying the Lessons into the Future

A. Goals

    1) Final CVI Summary Reports are made available to residents through CTLC's—and made accessible to other communities through pdf's on the CVI website, and other CVI clearinghouse websites

    Note: There will be a section in the Summary Report which will identify the Action Plans most relevant to carrying the lessons into the future

B. Suggestions

1. Final CVI Summary Reports will include (and incorporate)

    a) notes and reporting which make up an "actions taken" log summary
    b) Steering Committee Selection questionnaire
    c) Progress Reports Summary
    d) Preliminary Surveys (and summary of responses)
    e) Examples of "Final Version" documents (residents "votes") from each step which requested a vote
    f) A Description of the process used to verify the integrity of the "Voting" process (including summaries from volunteer journalists who reported on the process, omsbudpersons who observed and reported on the process, local CTLC Coordinators, and Steering Committee members
    g) Summaries of Challenges Identified, Challenges Prioritized, Solutions Identified, Solutions Prioritized, and Summaries of Priority Action Plans (including preferred lead organizations and doable steps)
    h) Impact Analysis including relevant statistics from mob fairs, accountability indicators, employment statistics, investment statistics, etc.
    i) Steering Committee Summaries
    j) Evaluation Summaries [which will include excerpts from "Community Journals" (see Section 14 "Evaluating the Process")]

2. Copies of these Final CVI Summary Reports will be accessible at CTLC's, and pdf's accessible by way of the CVI website

Important Note: Special emphasis will be given to making copies of this Final CVI Summary Report accessible to other communities through pdf's on the CVI website, and on other CVI clearinghouse websites

3. Action Plans associated with

     a) CTLC's
     b) ongoing CTLC workshops
     c) re-evaluation of knowledge base and skill set needs
     d) re-evaluation of nature of educational institutions (see questions in
          Preliminary Survey and Evaluation Survey)
     e) possible "sister community" relationships
     f) other and etc.

will provide some of the many building blocks for carrying the lessons into the future

4. This kind of CVI process may be repeated at intervals into the future until new patterns of responding to the challenges of our times become such a natural part of everyday community life that the transition to an economically stable, environmentally sustainable and peaceful way of life featuring widespread compassion for our fellow human beings seems to be near completion…

or until the transition to "the kind of future a majority of the residents in any particular community prefers" seems to be near completion

Section 7

Suggestions for Making Best Use of the Community Visioning Initiative (CVI) Process

A. Residents in communities carrying out Community Visioning Initiative's are encouraged to learn about the resources available in the "Community Teaching and Learning Centers" (CTLC) closest to their home, and to use the resources as much as possible to become an informed and active participant in the CVI process.

Resources at local CTLC's will include:

1) information, in the form of flyers, brochures, progress reports, etc. about the CVI process in general, and about workshops, meetings, and "voting" times in particular
2) workshops and meetings which are based initially on needs suggested by Preliminary Survey results (see Step 3 in the 15 step outline, Section 6)—and which then vary in accordance with the steps of the CVI process, and suggestions proposed to (and needs perceived by) the local CTLC Coordinator
3) the Preliminary Survey results (a survey sent to key leaders from a significant variety of fields of activity in the community) (see Step 3 in the 15 step outline, Section 6), which will provide insight into the challenges perceived and solutions envisioned by community leaders
4) "Final Versions Received" Notebooks—which will provide access to copies of residents "votes" on challenges perceived, solutions envisioned, etc. Such access will also provide insight and information for residents who have not yet submitted their "votes"
5) "Community Journals"—which will contain handwritten and signed or printed and signed entries/contributions on any aspect of the CVI process, the issues being explored by the CVI process, and/or any subject of interest to a resident of the community where the "Community Journal" is located. Entries will be categorized according to topics, and may include comments, questions, suggestions, resource recommendations, links, etc. There may be as many as 5 copies of a "Community Journal" in each CTLC. [Note: Entries in the "Community Journal" may be used as part of the evaluation process (see "Evaluating the Process", Section 14).
6) "Clearinghouse" information (which will accumulate) on "things people can do in the everyday circumstances of their lives" to deliberately channel time, energy, and money so that such input contributes, in every way possible, to resolving the challenges identified as priority challenges
7) Listings of employment opportunities in the local community

B. Residents are encouraged to participate in as many steps or parts of the CVI process as possible, and in as many ways as possible (as active participants, as volunteers, as observers, in a variety of support roles, etc.) as every positive and constructive effort will

1) contribute to accumulating and integrating the knowledge and skill sets necessary for the highest percentage of people to act wisely in response to challenges identified as priority challenges
2) help people to deliberately channel their time, energy, and money into the creation of "ways of earning a living" which are directly related to resolving high priority challenges
3) assist with outreach, partnership formation, and development of service capacity for a significant number of already existing (or forming) organizations and businesses
4) help to build a high level of consensus for specific action plans, which will help inspire additional support from people, businesses, and organizations with significant resources

C. Residents are urged to encourage and support each other (and advocate for the welfare of the entire community) by making positive and constructive contributions to public discourse, workshop and meeting discussions, informal discussions—to any other elements of the CVI process—and to any other elements of everyday community life which may increase the greater good of the whole.

D. Residents are specifically encouraged to "vote" ("voice their views") submit one (1) "Final Version" document for Steps 5, 6, 7, 9, and 10. The document should be submitted to the CTLC Coordinator during the days and hours designated for this part of the process, to facilitate the compilation and summary process. Deadlines for such "votes" will be posted well in advance, and the compilation and summary process will be closely monitored to ensure that the process is transparent, well-documented, and fair. (For more information about how the "voting" process will be monitored, see Section 8 "Verifying the Integrity of the 'Voting' Process").

E. Residents are specifically encouraged (by this proposal) to carefully consider the additional concept of creating a "sister community" relationship with a community in another country where there has been well-documented calls for assistance with basic human needs. Having a "sister community" relationship of this nature as an ongoing project in a community can do much to bring compassion for our fellow human beings to the forefront, as a critical part of resolving the challenges of our times.

F. Concluding Comments

Hopefully

    1) by providing a well-organized CVI process, CTLC's and ongoing workshops   and
    2) by encouraging formal and informal meetings between people in the
            neighborhoods and local communities (for discussion, information
            sharing, mutual support and encouragement, fellowship and friendship, etc.)

the results will include the building of a close-knit community of people

        with a healthy appreciation for each others strengths
and   with a well developed capacity to resolve even the most difficult challenges
            of our times

Section 8

Verifying the Integrity of the 'Voting' Process

A. As mentioned in the 15 step outline of the Community Visioning Initiative (CVI) process (see Section 6, Steps 5, 6, 7, 9, and 10), residents are encouraged to submit one (1) "Final Version" Document (vote) for each of those steps. Residents will be requested to submit the document (vote) to their local CTLC Coordinator during the days and hours designated for this part of the process, to facilitate the compilation and summary process. Deadlines for such "votes" will be posted well in advance, and the compilation and summary process will be closely monitored, to ensure that the process is transparent, well documented, and fair.

B. The following 5 steps are offered here to illustrate that very thorough procedures can be established to ensure the fairness of this "voting" process.

1. As mentioned in Step 2 (of the 15 step outline, Section 6), this CVI process will seek out volunteer journalists to help verify this "voting" process. Such journalists will be thoroughly screened, and will have been in association with the CVI process for weeks creating "actions taken" logs before the "voting" part of the process begins. These journalists will observe and record what happens to certified resident "Final Version" votes, and explain the process by which the votes are compiled and summarized.

2. The above volunteer journalists will be accompanied by appropriate neutral parties such as omsbudspersons, who will also make records of the process, and verify its fairness.

3. The Steering Committee will have access to databases and maps of their community, which will be detailed enough to identify houses and apartment buildings from places of business, etc.

4. Participants submitting a "Final Version" "vote" will need to bring with them some proof of residency.

5. "Final Version" "votes" thus submitted will be associated with specific residences and households, and there will be a secure database linked to all CTLC's. Any duplicate name "voting" will be detected AND any unusual numbers of "votes" associated with one particular residence will also be detected. Participants who attempt voter fraud will be disqualified from the CVI process, and may face prosecution for violations of state and/or local statutes.

Section 9

<u>15 Suggestions for Preliminary Survey Questions</u> (see step 3 of the 15 step outline)

A. Introduction

1. This "1000Communities2" proposal includes a "15 Step Outline for a '1000Communities^2' Version of a Community" (see Section 6). Step 3 of that 15 step outline suggests creating a "Preliminary Survey", and sending such a survey to 150 key leaders who represent a variety of fields of activity in the community. Responses and summarized results from "Preliminary Surveys" will provide:

        a) evidence from local leaders of the need for a re-assessment of current priorities
        b) examples of local leaders stepping up in support of CVI
        c) starting points for public discourse about the importance of the CVI
        d) starting points for CTLC workshop content
        e) starting points for some participants as they develop "Final Version" decisions
              ("votes") on challenges, solutions, and action plans
        f) an aid to mobilizing a high level of interest in the CVI, and a high level of
           citizen participation
        g) an initial sense of support or non-support for the "sister community" element
           (an action plan which is advocated by this proposal—see Section 5)

2. In this Section, this writer offers 15 example questions for such a "Preliminary Survey". While this writer does acknowledge that he has no formal experience in questionnaire construction, he also understands that there are many critical challenges which need to be resolved in the near future, and feels that communities can be much more organized, and do much more to resolve these challenges. And he feels that if questions that need to be asked *are asked* as part of the "Preliminary Survey" associated with a Community Visioning Initiative, the results can make a significant contribution to the Visioning process.

3. The questions included in this Section may not prove to be the questions which are asked by many communities applying the concept of "Preliminary Surveys" and Community Visioning Initiatives; but hopefully these questions will help people to appreciate the importance of a "Preliminary Survey"—and to (therefore) work hard at creating useful questions. Readers of this proposal who have any specific suggestions they would like to make on the subject of "Preliminary Survey" questions, are encouraged to contact this writer, using the contact information of the title page.

B. 15 Example Questions

1. *Home Territory*

Please name one—or two—communities/towns/cities/regional areas which you would identify as your "home territory" [i.e. where you have the most significant personal reasons for making your home, and living many years of your life… (even if you are not currently living there)]. Please list your 5 most significant personal reasons for identifying your "home territory"—and rank them as most significant, next most significant, etc., using 1 as most significant, 2 as next most significant, and so on.

2. *Most Difficult Challenges, Most Valuable Resources*

   a) What are the most difficult challenges of our times?
   b) Do we have the resources necessary to overcome the challenges of our times?
   c) If your answer to Question #2 is yes, please describe the resources you believe
        will contribute the most to helping us—collectively—overcome these
        difficult challenges.
   d) If your answer to Question #2 is no, please offer any and all sincere,
        constructive, relevant, and practical suggestions for what we—
        collectively—can do to inspire, encourage, and/or create the resources
        you believe *would be necessary* to overcome these difficult challenges.

3. *Arriving at Working Definitions of "Right Livelihood"*

Consider what ways of earning a living you would identify as "right livelihood."

Now imagine a local community resource guide relating to employment, apprenticeships, training, and volunteer opportunities associated with "right livelihood."

And further: imagine a committee commissioned to produce such a "right livelihood" resource guide…. And the individuals who make up the committee commissioned to produce such a resource guide….

   a) What background (qualifications, experiences, etc.) would you like such
        individuals to have?
   b) What local institutions would you consider most appropriate to commission
        such a resource guide, and oversee its production?

4. *Identifying the Most Important Elements of Community Life and Cultural Traditions*

In the best of times, even the most profound challenges can be overcome; for in the best of times, _____ is/are nurtured, supported, and sustained by family, teachers, mentors, elders, and the everyday influences of community life and cultural traditions.

Please "brainstorm" on the subject of what would best fill in the blank in the above statement. Then choose 5-10 items from the "brainstormed list", and rank them according to most important, and next most important, using 1 as most important, 2 as next most important, and so on.

5. *Engines of Economic Stability*

Many people seem to be worried that "the economy" will collapse if some form of "voluntary simplicity" philosophy becomes more and more accepted… and yet many of the challenges of our times have chronic elements (see Appendix 1), suggesting that it may require decades, generations, or even centuries to overcome such challenges. (There will be work to do….)

a) Please name as many engines of economic stability and methods of economic conversion as you can which you believe would result in communities that

> minimize resource requirements
> maintain ecological sustainability
> maintain a high level of compassion for fellow human beings
>
> and which represent what a significant majority of community residents surveyed
> would describe as a high quality of life.

b) Please check the box below which best corresponds to your view of the following statement:

> "It is possible to create, support, and sustain communities which can minimize
> resource requirements, maintain ecological sustainability, maintain a high level of
> compassion for fellow human beings— and which represent what a significant majority
> of community residents surveyed would describe as a high quality of life."

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I believe it-- and there is much evidence to support it	I believe it-- and there is sufficient evidence to support it	I would like to believe it, but there isn't enough evidence to support it	It is difficult to believe it, with the way things are going now	I don't believe it— there is no evidence to support it

6. *Global Drugs Trade, Global Arms Trade—and Solutions?*

Consider the following excerpt from the "World Report of Violence and Health: Summary (Recommendations for Action)" (by WHO):

"The global drugs trade and the global arms trade are integral to violence in both developing and industrialized countries. Even modest progress on either front will contribute to reducing the amount and degree of violence suffered by millions of people. To date, however—and despite their high profile in the world arena—no solutions seem to be in sight for these problems." (for complete source reference, see p. 89)

a) Do you believe "no solutions seem to be in sight for these problems?" Why or why not?

b) *Please check the box (or boxes) which best corresponds to the way you view of the following statement.*

How much daily contact with the treasured wisdom of religious, spiritual, and moral traditions do you feel people in general would need before we would see noticeable progress on the above two problems (drug trade and arms trade)?

				X	Y
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
more than is likely to happen	a profound increase from current levels	a lot more	a little more	additional solutions will be essential to make noticeable progress	have different view—or different understanding of our present circumstances

c) If you checked boxes X and/or Y, please describe below any solutions to the above two problems (drugs trade and arms trade) which you feel would be helpful contributions to making noticeable progress on resolving these problems.

_____
_____
_____

7. *Proactive Measures to Encourage Constructive Activity during Community Visioning Initiatives*

Organizers of Community Visioning Initiatives should be aware that there may be people in the community who—regardless of the difficulties and urgencies associated with resolving multiple crises—choose to focus their attention of trying to make money by preying of people's fears, manipulating people's trust, and/or encouraging people to abandon hope in higher aspirations, and indulge in unhealthy, or immoral behavior. Such behavior is clearly counterproductive to the building of caring communities; it can be very dangerous for community morale, and it can

become a crippling obstacle in times of crises. Responsible people will take sufficient preventative measures to proactively encourage a high percentage of constructive thinking and constructive action in their community.

Please list at least 5 preventative measures which you believe would proactively encourage a high percentage of constructive thinking and constructive action in their community.

8. *Cultivating Sympathy and Compassion*

Please name 5 people—who you know personally, and/or who you have been influenced by—who have inspired in you the qualities of sympathy for the suffering of others, and willingness to express compassion in ways which might alleviate some of such suffering.

a) What does your local community do—specifically, as a community—to nurture, encourage, support, and inspire-- to cultivate-- such persons, and thus to attract other such people to move into your local community?

9. Curriculum Changes in Local Educational Institutions?

a) Please check the appropriate box—and also offer comments if you wish—to indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statement:

The curriculum in our local and regional educational institutions will _____ for our community to build the knowledge base and skill sets necessary to overcome the challenges of our times.

□	□	□	□	□
need to be transformed	need to be modified often	have different view-- or different way of understanding our present circumstances	need to be modified some	be sufficient as it is

Your different view, or different way of understanding our present circumstances: _____
_____
_____

b) Please use the scale below and, for each section below, indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:

Scale:

(3) = high level of agreement
(2) = moderate level of agreement
(1) = low level of agreement
(0) = do not agree with the statement

Creating the knowledge base, skill sets, and the compassion for our fellow human beings necessary to resolve the challenges of our times will require

      i) recognizing deficiencies in the knowledge base and skill sets of our communities as they are now (which can be brought to the forefront by Community Visioning Initiatives)
      ii) recognizing deficiencies in compassion for our fellow human beings (which can also be brought to the forefront by Community Visioning Initiatives)
      iii) linking together the concepts of Community Visioning Initiatives, "Community Teaching and Learning Centers", "teacher-leaders", ongoing workshops, and "sister community" relationships
      iv) curriculum development "on the fly"
      v) teacher training "on the fly"
      vi) community centers which are neighborhood-friendly, and which provide ongoing workshops which are deliberately affordable
      vii) encouraging as much formal and informal meetings with other people in the local neighborhoods for discussion, information sharing, mutual support and encouragement, fellowship and friendship—so that the result will include the building of a close-knit community of people with a healthy appreciation for each others strengths, and a well-developed capacity to resolve even the most difficult challenges.

Please use the space below for ways of completing the above statement "Creating the knowledge base…." which are not listed above, and which you would have the highest level of agreement with.

_____
_____
_____
_____

10. *A Visioning Exercise on the Subject of Educational Institutions*

Consider the "105 Fields of Activity…" in Appendix 7—and the associated "article" titled "The Potential for a Wide Range of Workshop Offerings").

a) Please describe the kind of educational institution which could provide such a "wide range of workshop offerings". (What would it look like? What would it be called? Where might it be located? What would be essential as "structures" and "departments" of such an educational institution? What would be an appropriate "land use layout" for such an institution?)

b) What kind of certification or experience would be required to become an instructor at such an educational institution?

c) What kind of appropriate technology would be in use to reduce the ecological footprint and the carbon footprint of building construction, food production, and special materials acquisition?

d) How would such an institution be funded?

11. *Making a Community Visioning Initiative Happen in Your Community*

Consider the elements of preparation, education, funding and organization necessary for a successful "community visioning initiative" in your local community or region.

(Note: Section 3 provides a summary of the potential of Community Visioning Initiatives; Section 6 provides specific examples of the above mentioned elements.)

a) Describe 3 steps that are practical and doable which would help make a "community visioning initiative" more likely to happen in your local community or region.

b) Describe 3 obstacles or difficulties which would make a "community visioning initiative" less likely to happen in your local community or region.

12. *For the questions below, please check the box (or boxes) which best correspond(s) to the way you view the following statements:*

a) "As a result of the unprecedented opportunities created by the expansion of the Internet, we have now arrived at a very auspicious moment in time… for at no other time in the course of history has so many people had access to so much in the way of time-tested guidelines, inspiring role models, and service-oriented initiatives relevant to peace, prosperity, and happiness for all humanity."[1]

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I believe it-- and there is much evidence to support it	I believe it-- and there is sufficient evidence to support it	I would like to believe it, but there isn't enough evidence to support it	It is difficult to believe it, with the way things are going now	I don't believe it— there is no evidence to support it

b) "There are countless numbers of 'things people can do in the everyday circumstances of their lives' which will contribute to peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecological sustainability efforts, in their own communities and regions—and in other parts of the world."[2]

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I believe it-- and there is much evidence to support it	I believe it-- and there is sufficient evidence to support it	I would like to believe it, but there isn't enough evidence to support it	It is difficult to believe it, with the way things are going now	I don't believe it— there is no evidence to support it

c) "Even now, as you are reading this, truly inspiring contributions of genuine goodwill are being generated in a variety of ways—and in a variety of circumstances—by countless numbers of people in communities around the world."[3]

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I believe it-- and there is much evidence to support it	I believe it-- and there is sufficient evidence to support it	I would like to believe it, but there isn't enough evidence to support it	It is difficult to believe it, with the way things are going now	I don't believe it— there is no evidence to support it

d) "Everyone is involved when it comes to determining the markets that supply the ways of making a living."[4]

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I believe it-- and there is much evidence to support it	I believe it-- and there is sufficient evidence to support it	I would like to believe it, but there isn't enough evidence to support it	It is difficult to believe it, with the way things are going now	I don't believe it— there is no evidence to support it

e) "We are at a critical point in the evolution of spiritual understanding."[5]

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
agree	agree in some ways	have different view-- or different way of understanding our present circumstances	disagree in some ways	disagree

Your different view, or different way of understanding our present circumstances: _____
_____
_____

f) "There is a profound and critical need for as many people as possible to be exercising as much love, understanding, and forgiveness as possible—in as many ways as possible."[6]

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
agree	agree in some ways	have different view-- or different way of understanding our present circumstances	disagree in some ways	disagree

Your different view, or different way of understanding our present circumstances: _____
_____
_____

g) "A certain degree of physical comfort is necessary, but… the satisfaction of one's physical needs must come at a certain point to a dead stop before it degenerates into physical decadence."[7]

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
agree	agree in some ways	have different view-- or different way of understanding our present circumstances	disagree in some ways	disagree

Your different view, or different way of understanding our present circumstances: _____
_____
_____

h) "Most people making efforts to realize their spiritual potential need to live in caring communities (see definition of caring communities on p. 61), so that they can find support from association with kindred spirits."[8]

☐ agree   ☐ agree in some ways   ☐ have different view-- or different way of understanding our present circumstances   ☐ disagree in some ways   ☐ disagree

Your different view, or different way of understanding our present circumstances: _____
_____
_____

i) "Overcoming the challenges of our times will require fully utilizing all the knowledge, tools, and resources accessible to us for the highest good possible in every area of capacity building (physical, ecological, medical, spiritual, educational, social, economic, technical, political, etc).[9]

☐ agree   ☐ agree in some ways   ☐ have different view-- or different way of understanding our present circumstances   ☐ disagree in some ways   ☐ disagree

Your different view, or different way of understanding our present circumstances: _____
_____
_____

j) "The mariner uses his compass to guide him aright amidst the dark storm clouds and raging waves. When Man is overwhelmed by the dark clouds of despair and the raging confusion of irrepressible desires, he too, has a compass which will point to him the direction he has to take…. That compass is a Society that is dedicated to the propagation of Spiritual Discipline."[10]

☐ agree   ☐ agree in some ways   ☐ have different view-- or different way of understanding our present circumstances   ☐ disagree in some ways   ☐ disagree

Your different view, or different way of understanding our present circumstances: _____
_____
_____

k) "The most advanced societies are the ones which are successful at integrating spiritual wisdom into the everyday circumstances of community life."[11]

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I believe it-- and there is much evidence to support it	I believe it-- and there is sufficient evidence to support it	I would like to believe it, but there isn't enough evidence to support it	It is difficult to believe it, with the way things are going now	I don't believe it— there is no evidence to support it

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
agree	agree in some ways	have different view-- or different way of understanding our present circumstances	disagree in some ways	disagree

Your different view, or different way of understanding our present circumstances: _____
_____
_____

13. Please complete the following sentence in as many ways as you believe may help others who will read your responses:

If only there was a way to   _____.

14. Please complete the following sentence in as many ways as you believe may help others who will read your responses:

The person who will help me the most is the person who will _____.

15. This question focuses on the creation of "accountability indicators", or ways of measuring whether our efforts to resolve the challenges before us are on the right track or not. This question has two parts. The first part is preceded by a list of goal areas which are offered as appropriate for villages which might be thought of as located in "less developed" areas. The second part is preceded by a list of goal areas which are offered as appropriate for towns and cities which might be thought of as located in "more developed" areas.

Part 1

Below is a list of 10 goal areas which are offered as appropriate for villages which might be thought of as located in "less developed" areas.

a) A clean and beautiful environment
b) Adequate provision of clean drinking water
c) Minimal supplies of clothing
d) Adequate and balanced nutrition
e) Simple housing
f) Basic health care
g) Basic communication facilities
h) A minimal supply of energy
i) Holistic education
j) Satisfaction of intellectual and cultural needs

Question: Please brainstorm on the subject of what quantifiable benchmark goals or qualitative progress indicators might be used to confirm that efforts being made are on the right track (or signal that efforts being made are on the wrong track).

Part 2

Below is a list of 10 goal areas which are offered as appropriate for towns and cities which might be thought of as located in "more developed" areas.

a) Poverty Alleviation
    job creation/retention
    job training
b) Economic Development
    enterprise development
    producer responsibility
c) Social Infrastructure and Services
    education and literacy
    health
    food and nutrition
    public safety
    crime reduction and prevention
d) Environmental Regeneration
    appropriate technology
    waste reuse and recycling
    solid waste management and treatment
    environmental education/consumer awareness
    resource conservation
e) Physical Infrastructure and Services
    energy use and production
    water
    transportation/access
    communication
    sewage and sanitation
f) Natural Hazard Management
    reconstruction capacity
    contingency planning

g) Housing
        affordable housing and shelter
        homelessness

h) Land Use and Urban Planning
        land use regulations
        land tenure (protection from eminent domain)
        community based design and planning

i) Urban Governance
        legislation
        information access

j) Social and Cultural Vitality
        community cooperation
        social integration
        cultural expression
        conflict resolution

Question: Please brainstorm on the subject of what quantifiable benchmark goals or qualitative progress indicators might be used to confirm that efforts being made are on the right track (or signal that efforts being made are on the wrong track).

———————————————————————

Notes and Source References (Section 9)

1. This writer

2. This writer

3. This writer

4. This writer

5. This writer

6. This writer

7. Mahatma Gandhi from "Gandhi's Swadeshi: The Economics of Permanence" by Satish Kumar at http://squat.net/caravan/ICC-en/Krrs-en/ghandi-econ-en.htm   (see Paragraph 13 in section "Principles of Swadeshi") (Confirmed June 11, 2008)

8. This writer

9. This writer

10. Sri Sathya Sai Baba from *Sathya Sai Speaks* Vol. 8, Chpt. 21, p. 108 Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust Prasanthi Nilayam   India (Note: Vol. 8 contains discourses delivered by Sri Sathya Sai Baba during 1968)

11. This writer

Section 10

A Very Rough Cost Estimate for "1000Communities^2" Community Visioning Initiatives

A. Introduction

1. This writer does not have the personal experience necessary to do a cost estimate of this nature. It is also true that the Community Visioning Initiative outlined in Section 6 is more comprehensive and requires more time to carry out than any of the other CVIs this writer has discovered in his research on the subject. Nevertheless, this writer feels that even a very rough overview of budget priorities and cost estimates would provide indications of what would have to be donated, volunteered, or somehow incorporated from other sources—and therefore would be useful as a starting point for cost/benefit discussions. Readers may then begin to imagine the intentions and philosophies behind the many different approaches available to them, and contemplate on the cost/benefit ratio of each approach.

2.   Hopefully, there will be readers of this proposal who do have the personal experience necessary to provide a realistic cost estimate, and who see enough potential in this approach to share their insights on this subject.

Special Note: Constructive comments, suggestions, and/or recommendations on any section of this proposal will be carefully considered, and may be incorporated into this proposal, as it is presented on the website of The IPCR Initiative. Please direct any comments, suggestions, etc. to Stefan Pasti at stefanpasti@ipcri.net. Thank you.

Additional Special Note: Here is a reminder that the 15 step outline of a "1000Communities^2" Community Visioning Initiative process in Section 6 has been created specifically for communities or segments of rural areas, towns, or cities with a population of 50,000 people or less. (For more discussion on the reasoning behind the figure of 50,000, see Section 11).

B. An Approximate High End Cost Estimate

1. Here is an approximate high end cost estimate for a "1000Communities2" version of a Community Visioning Initiative

> with a significant number of associated "community centers" for ongoing
>> workshops, meetings, etc.
> with heavy reliance on volunteer activity and collaboration with multiple
>> organizations

and   lasting for 1½ years before the final results are published

Approximate High End Cost Estimate = $3,000,000 (3 million dollars) (for each Commmunity Visioning Initiative)

2. A Rough Overview of Budget Priorities and Cost Estimates

Note: Materials not included here may have to be donated
        Assistance not included here may have to be volunteered

Qualifier: If there is sufficient collaboration between multiple organizations, agencies, and businesses, much of what may have to be donated or volunteered could be supplied by participating organizations, agencies, and businesses—by re-allocating resources from one area of focus to another.

	Cost Estimate
a) 5 people for Steering Committee	
(full time positions for duration of CVI process)	
Salary = $80,000	$400,000

(Also recommended: 50+ Advisory Board Members in volunteer positions)

b) 5 Administrative Support Persons for Steering Committee Members	
(full time positions for duration of CVI process)	
Salary = $40,000	$200,000

c) CTLC Coordinators (for 20 CTLC's)	
(full time positions for duration of CVI process)	
Salary = $40,000	$800,000

d) Maintenance and other assistance for building spaces donated
    as CTLC's
    (approximately 20 building spaces for duration of process)
    Allocation: $40,000 per CTLC $800,000

e) Consulting with project directors, etc. from CVI's which have
    been successful in the past $10,000

f) Development, Compilation, and Summary Reports associated with
    2 Questionnaire/Surveys
    (Preliminary Survey to 150 Key Leaders in Community)
    (Evaluation Survey) $90,000

g) Printing of questionnaires, flyers, information brochures,
    progress reports, meeting agendas, final summary reports
    (with limited mailings) $700,000

               Approximate High End Cost Estimate = $3,000,000

C. Some Thoughts About Funding

1. There are many possibilities for bringing together the financial resources necessary for a CVI process of this kind:

    grants from foundations and other philanthropic institutions
    sponsorships from organizations, educational institutions, and businesses
    appropriations from the resources of organizations, government agencies,
        educational institutions, and businesses
    fundraising efforts by local non-profit organizations
    fundraising efforts by local places of worship
    fundraising efforts by students (through school-based activities)
    donations from specific individuals

(For more on "Areas to Explore for Collaboration and Partnership Formation", see Section 12.)

2. However, since this particular approach—"1000Communities^2"—emphasizes building close-knit communities, it is also appropriate to provide an estimate of how such a project could be financed directly, by the residents themselves. Here then, are 3 examples of how residents of a population segment of 50,000 people or less could finance a Community Visioning Initiative process with an approximate high end cost estimate of 3 million dollars:

a)   500   people contribute $3,000 each $1,500,000
      5000   people contribute $300 each $1,500,000

b)   200   people contribute $3,000 each $600,000
      8000   people contribute $300 each $2,400,000

c)   10,000 people contribute $300 each $3,000,000

D. Concluding Comments

1. There are many ways that 3 million dollars are spent by the 50,000 residents of a community or regional area over the course of any given year.

2. As a sense of shared urgency arises—due to the challenges which are accumulating in number and in significance, and which must be resolved in the near future (see Appendix 1)—many of us will need to ask ourselves: Are the ways we—collectively—are spending 3 million dollars contributing to the greater good of the whole in ways which are both appropriate and sufficient to resolve the challenges of our times?

3. What can we do—at this particular point in time—in the everyday circumstances of our lives, to bring the best ideas *from* the storehouses of accumulated wisdom now accessible to us and *"through the mist"*, so that our community building processes will be most effective in helping us overcome the challenges of our times?

4. This "1000Communities^2" proposal emphasizes three propositions which will by supported by carrying out Community Visioning Initiatives of the nature described in Section 6:

    a) There are countless numbers of "things people can do in the everyday circumstances of their lives" which will contribute to peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecological sustainability efforts, in their own communities and regions—and in other parts of the world.

    b) People can, one by one, decide to deliberately focus the way they spend their time, energy, and money so that their actions have positive repercussions on many or all of the action plans which emerge from Community Visioning Initiatives.

c) The result can be that there are countless 'ways to earn a living' which contribute to the peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecological sustainability efforts necessary to overcome the challenges of our times.

5. And (thus) the result can be that there are many communities creating many meaningful answers to the challenge of filling in the blank in the following statement:

In the best of times, even the most profound challenges can be overcome; for in the best of times, _____ is/are nurtured, supported, and sustained by family, friends, teachers, mentors, elders, and the everyday influences of community life and cultural traditions.

Section 11

Why This Proposal Advocates Community Visioning Initiatives with Populations
No Larger Than 50,000

A. Primary Considerations

1. As indicated in the proposal description in Section 2, this "1000Communities[2]" proposal advocates applying the Community Visioning Initiative approach described in Section 6 in communities—or segments of rural areas, towns, or cities—with a population of no more than 50,000 people. Where there are towns with more than 50,000 people, or where there are cities with much larger populations, this proposal suggests having separate Community Visioning Initiatives in designated areas of no more than 50,000 people.

2. The primary considerations for suggesting a limit to possible participants are practical—and can be summarized as concerns relating to the "intangibles" which are needed to develop close-knit communities, and concerns relating to logistics.

a) Concerns relating to the "intangibles" needed to develop close-knit communities

Special Commentary: The kind of Community Visioning Initiatives suggested in this proposal is time-intensive, with an emphasis on developing close-knit communities. This writer feels that, past a certain point, as more and more people participate, it will be more and more difficult for a majority of the participants to feel/experience/internalize "intangibles" such as a sense belonging, a sense of trustworthiness, a willingness to serve, etc. And this writer feels that such "intangibles" are critical to overcoming the challenges of our times, and need to be carefully cultivated. Without these "intangibles" there may be too much instability in the community or region, and there may be less "investments" of time energy, and money. With such "intangibles", there will surely be more significant "investments" of time energy, and money; and such, in its turn, is essential to the building of close-knit communities capable of contributing to the greater good of the whole.

b) Concerns relating to actual logistics

In particular, the actual logistics of compiling and summarizing responses ("votes") in Steps 5, 6, 7, 9, and 10 (of the 15 step outline in Section 6) require a capacity to process much complex information in a short period of time.

Consider, for example, a Community Visioning Initiative (similar to the one outlined in Section 6) being carried out by a city with a population of 50,000. As a high end estimate for a first time effort (in circumstances where a shared sense of urgency is present), imagine that 60% of the population participates. This would be a total of 30,000 residents participating in the Community Visioning Initiative process. If there was a shared sense of urgency, it is likely that enough collaboration and partnership formation will have taken place to establish 20 CTLCs throughout the city. Thus, there would be 1 CTLC for every 1,500 participants.

Since, during the Community Visioning Initiative process (of the nature described in Section 6), residents are encouraged to use the resources located at the CTLC as much as possible—and to participate in as many steps as possible—it may happen that 300 people per day are accessing the CTLC (with related considerations for vehicle parking). While a high level of participation such as this would certainly require many volunteers—especially during the compiling and summarizing of responses which would occur in Steps 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10—it is possible to imagine compiling and summarizing 1,500 responses in a time period conducive to a shared sense of urgency. (For example, the 15 step outline in Section 6 suggests 4 weeks for "brainstorming" solutions, with "response submitting windows" restricted to the first 3 weeks.)

However, this example will be sufficient to suggest that at some ratio not much higher than 1 CTLC for every 1,500 participants, the system for compiling and summarizing responses would get overwhelmed—or require so much time as to be too time consuming. Furthermore, if, for example, there was 1 CTLC for every 5,000 residents, it becomes more and more likely that residents may not want to use the CTLC as much, that the many advantages of having a CTLC may begin to diminish, and that the Community Visioning Initiative itself may become a negative experience—just when there is an urgent need for mobilizing people and resources for the greater good of the whole.

Special Commentary: Yes, risks will need to be taken; but every precaution should also be taken to avoid costly efforts which generate poor results. Such results might be demoralizing, and impair the effectiveness of other constructive projects awaiting participation.

B. A Most Important Question

1. The challenges listed in Appendix 1, and the statistics brought forward in Appendices 2 and 4, suggest an important question, which will be asked here:

> How large a community or segment of a rural area, town, or city, can a Community Visioning Initiative of the nature suggested by this proposal encompass, before the actions plans that result move a majority of the residents out of accordance with
>
>> baseline concerns associated with carbon emission and ecological
>>> footprinting,
>> the creation of close-knit communities,
>
> and   the maintenance of a high level of compassion for our fellow human
>>> beings
>
> and thus out of accordance with contributing to the greater good of the whole?

In other words, is there a **size consideration for human settlements** which presents the best possible opportunities for actually achieving results relevant to resolving the challenges of our times?

2. This writer appreciates that there may not be sufficient evidence to answer this question now, or in the near future… and that answers will vary according to what different communities of people identify as the highest priority challenges, and the highest priority solutions to those challenges. Even so, this writer feels that sometimes intuition must suggest conclusions which cannot be proved by rational intellectual analysis. And so he will include, in this section, the following questions:

Will the answer be a mixture, with a majority of the world population living in cities with of 500,000 or more? (Note: There are approximately 736 such cities in the world[1]).

Will the answer be a mixture, with a majority of the world population living in cities with a population of 200,000—500,000?

Will the answer be a mixture, with a majority of the world population living in cities with a population of 50,000—200,000?

Or will the answer be a mixture, with a majority of the world population living in cities, towns, and villages with a population of 50,000 or less?

3. This writer believes there is an answer to the questions posed in subsection 1 above, *and that the answer is directly related to the size of human settlements which will be most conducive to an exponential increase in compassion for our fellow human beings.*

Hopefully, increased discussion of the questions raised in this section will lead to a better understanding of the challenges which require our immediate attention, and the solutions which will be most needed to resolve those challenges.

Notes and Source References (Section 11)

1. From the website of Mongobay.com, in a section titled "2005 City Population Estimates for the World" (See http://www.mongabay.com/igapo/2005_world_city_populations/)
[Note: "With more than 600,000 unique visitors per month, Mongabay.com is one of the world's most popular environmental science and conservation news sites." "Mongabay.com seeks to raise interest in and appreciation of wild lands and wildlife, while examining the impact of emerging trends in climate, technology, economics, and finance on conservation and development." (from the "About Us" section of Mongobay.com)]

Section 12

Areas to Explore for Collaboration and Partnership Formation

Here is a list of some of the areas which can be explored for collaboration and partnerships formation associated with efforts to carry out a "1000Communities[2]" Community Visioning Initiative.

A. Local and Regional Businesses, and Local Government Agencies

1. For example, businesses associated with

Building Construction	Health Care
Building Supplies	Home Repair
Clothes and Shoes Manufacturing	Information Services
Communication Services	Recycling
Emergency Health Care	Road Building and Maintenance
Energy Production and Distribution	Transportation
Food Wholesale and Retail	Waste Treatment and Processing
Food Production	Waste Purification and Distribution

2. For example, local government agencies associated with

Social Services, Crime Prevention, Water Quality, Waste Treatment and Processing, Land Use Planning, Affordable Housing, Employment Training, Workforce Development, Transportation Systems, Parks and Recreation, Senior Centers, etc. (and City Councils….)

3. Local and Regional Educational Institutions

a) Universities, Colleges, and Community Colleges
b) Public and Private Schools

4. Non-profit Human Service Organizations

With services ranging from:

Food and clothing for the needy, homeless shelters, alcohol and substance abuse rehabilitation, healthcare, employment assistance, pro bono legal assistance, etc.

5. Local Business Organizations

> Chamber of Commerce, Microenterprise Development, etc.

6. Financial Institutions

> a) Banks, especially ones with Community Loan programs, microenterprise development, etc.

7. Trade Unions

8. Neighborhood and Civic Associations

9. Men and Women Service Clubs

10. Retirement Communities

11. Boys and Girls Clubs

12. Hospitals and Health Care Organizations

13. Fire Departments and Rescue Squads

14. Police Departments and Police Substations

B. As an example, here is a list which illustrates some of the potential for collaboration and partnership formation in the greater Washington D.C. area (USA):

c) "In the Greater Washington D.C. area (USA), there are

> approximately 2,400 places of worship
> well over 1,200 non-profit human service organizations (with services ranging
> > from food and clothing supplies for needy, homeless shelters, alcohol and drug
> > abuse rehabilitation, healthcare, employment assistance, etc.)

well over 1,000 civic associations and advisory neighborhood commissions
over 1,000 public and private schools
over 350 continuing care retirement communities, independent living retirement
        communities, assisted living/group homes, nursing care facilities and home health
        care agencies for elders
over 200 men's and women's service clubs
over 125 fire departments and rescue squads
over 50 hospitals
over 50 central and district police stations
over 50 universities, community colleges and theological seminaries
over 30 boys and girls clubs
a multitude of businesses large and small
and many, many local, state, and federal government offices and agencies

        (from a database compiled in 1996 by this writer)

C. Concluding Comments

1. If there is sufficient collaboration between multiple organizations, agencies, and businesses, much of what may have to be donated or volunteered (to carry out a "1000Communities[2]" Community Visioning Initiative) could be supplied by participating organizations, agencies, and businesses—by re-allocating resources from one area of focus to another.

2. As a sense of shared urgency arises—due to the challenges which are accumulating in number and in significance, and which must be resolved in the near future (see Appendix 1)—many of us will need to ask ourselves: Are the ways we—collectively—are spending 3 million dollars contributing to the greater good of the whole in ways which are both appropriate and sufficient to resolve the challenges of our times?

3. This "1000Communities[2]" proposal emphasizes three propositions which will by supported by carrying out Community Visioning Initiatives of the nature described in Section 6:

    a) There are countless numbers of "things people can do in the everyday circumstances of their lives" which will contribute to peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecological sustainability efforts, in their own communities and regions—and in other parts of the world.

    b) People can, one by one, decide to deliberately focus the way they spend their time, energy, and money so that their actions have positive repercussions on many or all of the action plans which emerge from Community Visioning Initiatives.

    c) The result can be that there are countless 'ways to earn a living' which contribute to the peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecological sustainability efforts necessary to overcome the challenges of our times.

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Section 13

Problems That May Arise

A. Introduction

1. This section is a brief overview of problems participants of a "1000Communities[2]" Community Visioning Initiative process may encounter.

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Special Commentary: Could problems overwhelm a Community Visioning
                      Initiative of the nature described in this proposal?

Could problems like those discussed in this section (or other problems) overwhelm a Community Visioning Initiative of this nature, and cause the process to be an unfortunate experience with few positive outcomes? Yes, that possibility does exist. Even though there may be a sense of shared urgency among a majority of the residents in a given community, there are problems, issues, and challenges which can turn the whole Community Visioning Initiative process into an unfortunate experience with few positive outcomes. And yet— given circumstances which require problem solving unlike anything most of us have experienced before—experiments must be tried, and risks must be taken. However, every precaution should also be taken to avoid costly efforts which result in unfortunate experiences with few positive results. Such experiences might be demoralizing, and impair the effectiveness of other constructive efforts in the future.

Thus, organizers and participants would be well advised to err on the side of working carefully and consolidating gains rather than moving too quickly, creating a series of unfortunate experiences, and having a demoralizing effect on the willingness of people to participate and contribute. From this point of view, it may be necessary for a community to carry out two small Community Visioning Initiatives, before they can manage one Community Visioning Initiative with a large number of participants.

</div>

2. With this introduction as a word of general caution, what follows is an overview of some of the problems that may arise during a Community Visioning Initiative of the nature described in Section 6. Organizers alerted to these problems—and others that may arise—may choose to provide workshops early in the process which can prepare participants so they can minimize such problems. Participants, for their part, can look closely at themselves, as they participate, and ask themselves at regular intervals: "Am I participating in a way that adds to the greater good of the whole, or subtracts from the greater good of the whole? Am I part of the problem—or part of the solution?"

Additional Special Commentary: This writer offers the following proposition as encouragement to organizers hoping to "get ahead" of the problems before they occur, and take steps to minimize such problems:

The more we integrate the treasured wisdom of religious, spiritual, and moral traditions into the everyday circumstances of community life, and the more we demonstrate that cultures of violence, greed, corruption, and overindulgence need not be considered an inevitable part of our community experience, the more we will see that problems like those described in this section can be reduced in frequency and repercussions until they are only insignificant and occasional parts of a much improved whole.

B. An Overview of Problems That May Arise

1. *Honesty is the best policy*

"Oh! What a tangled web we weave
when first we practice to deceive."[1]

2. *… linked to the land around us, and to the earth as a whole.*

Those people who spend much of their lives amidst concrete, metal, plastic, and glass can easily forget how fundamentally our well being is linked to the land around us, and to the earth as a whole.

3. *The need to proactively encourage constructive thinking*

There will be people who are inclined to focus their attention, regardless of the difficulties and urgencies of trying to resolve multiple crises, on trying to make money by preying on people's fears and misunderstandings, or on trying to encourage people to set aside their higher aspirations, and indulge in destructive behavior. Such behavior is clearly counterproductive to the building of caring communities; it can be very dangerous for community morale, and it can become a crippling obstacle in times of crises. Responsible people will take sufficient preventative measures to encourage a high percentage of constructive thinking and constructive action in their community. [Note: This particular "problem that may arise" is formulated into a question (see question 7) which is included in Section 9 "15 Suggestions for Preliminary Survey Questions"]

4. *"Youth always imitates the elders…."*

Little pitchers have big ears.

5. *"The tendency of untrained minds…."*

"The tendency of untrained minds is to adapt to their environment at the expense of their spiritual aspirations."[2]

6. *"The Great Way is very level…"*

"Were I to have the least bit of knowledge, in walking on a Great Road
it's only going astray I would fear.
The Great Way is very level
But people greatly delight in tortuous paths."[3]

7. *Can we make the difficult decisions?*

"At present, educated people are wanting in the grit necessary to act according to their convictions; they know a thing is right, but lack the will to carry it through."[4]

8. *Reform begins at home….*

"Don't worry about bringing people 'in line', but rather concern yourself with making sure your own practices are becoming a means for attaining inner peace…. If your practice brings you inner peace and wisdom others will emulate those practices voluntarily."[5]

9. *How do we define responsible, and do we encourage responsible behavior by what we do?*

The responsible person respects authority, and is conscientious and consistent in observing the laws and customs that represent appropriate and moral behavior.

10. *Communities are not facing the challenges….*

People cannot serve their communities as well as they would like when their communities are not facing the challenges of our times as much as they need to be. In such circumstances, people can easily get distracted from the pathways that lead to wisdom and solutions.

Note: Here is a quotation which presents this "problem" from a slightly different perspective:

> "The mariner uses his compass to guide him aright amidst the dark storm clouds and raging waves. When Man is overwhelmed by the dark clouds of despair and the raging confusion of irrepressible desires, he too, has a compass which will point to him the direction he has to take…. That compass is a Society that is dedicated to the propagation of Spiritual Discipline."[6]

11. *How will we know if we're on the right track?*

On many occasions it will be clear that there are conflicting opinions being expressed by participants in workshops and in meetings. It is also very likely that some of the solutions identified and some of the action plans created will include elements which may work against elements of other solutions or action plans. If there is any overriding principle (and this may certainly differ from community to community), it may be this:

> If the Community Visioning Initiative is on the right track, there will be more and more participants/community residents who believe that everyone has some potential for good inside of them. In other words, as the process moves forward, the capacity of each resident to contribute something to the greater good of the whole should become more appreciated, more easily recognized, and more visible in the everyday circumstances of community life.

12. *Everyone's opinion matters*

Some people may believe that their opinion does not matter, but organizers of this kind of Community Visioning Initiative will encourage everyone to respectfully and courteously contribute their thoughts, suggestions, comments, recommendations, etc. to meetings, workshop discussions—and as formal responses to steps in the process. Encouraging a wide range of contributions will help the best ideas "bubble up to the surface". At any time during the process, an idea or comment may be brought forward, and many others may immediately recognize its validity. By this process, challenges, solutions, and action plans can be raised to a high priority, and get resolved much sooner than they would have—because now there is an ongoing system for actively seeking, and actively doing something with, all possible constructive ideas.

13. *We must help each other.*

Some residents may feel uneasy concerning the problem of residents who are less educated and less informed having as much of a say in the process as those who have spent years working on these issues. This is a fundamental problem, which is not confined to Community Visioning Initiative processes like this; as people who are not sufficiently informed about critical issues are everywhere, and they are investing their time, energy, and money—voting—all the time. If we are honest with ourselves about this issue, we must admit that there are very few people who

have successfully aligned all of their investments of time, energy, and money with all of the values of the religious, spiritual, or moral tradition they feel closest to. This writer believes that there are many serious challenges before us now, and that we will need to invest our time, energy, and money very wisely to overcome these challenges. How can we do it? We must help each other. The Community Visioning Initiative outlined in this proposal is time-intensive so that we will have time to learn much more than we know now about how to help each other.

14. *Peacebuilding is not a competitive field of activity*

Peacebuilding in its most compassionate form is not a competitive field of activity. Viewed in this light, the most valuable forms of peacebuilding will nurture, support, and sustain the development of an infinite variety of other forms of peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecologically sustainability initiatives.

15. *Practice will be necessary....*

It may take 3-5 years and 2 or 3 Community Visioning Initiatives before residents can understand how many ways they can contribute to the process, and how many ways they can benefit from it. But once they know, they will never forget.

C. Concluding Comments

1. While there may be many people—some of whom are authorities in their fields of activity— who may already have clear ideas about what the challenges ahead are, and what solutions will be most effective

and

while there may also be many people who feel that they do not—because of lack of experience or education, or for other reasons—have the "appropriate skills" to fit into this kind of community activity….

it is critical, and cannot be emphasized enough, that this kind of Community Visioning Initiative process gives as much importance to developing a close-knit community (and thus to increasing compassion for our fellow human beings, and helping each other) as it does to

     a) contributing to accumulating and integrating the knowledge and skill sets
     necessary for the highest percentage of people to act wisely in response to challenges
     identified as priority challenges

b) helping people to deliberately channel their time, energy, and money into the creation of "ways of earning a living" which are directly related to resolving high priority challenges

c) assisting with outreach, partnership formation, and development of service capacity for a significant number of already existing (or forming) organizations and businesses

d) helping to build a high level of consensus for specific action plans, which will help inspire additional support from people, businesses, and organizations with significant resources

2. Therefore, residents are encouraged to participate in as many ways, and in as many steps as possible.

Notes and Source References (Section 13)

1. Sir Walter Scott   Marmion, Canto vi. Stanza 17. Scottish author & novelist (1771 - 1832)
[Note: Information from www.quotationspage.com (see
http://www.quotationspage.com/quote/27150.html)

2. Jonathan Roof in "Pathways to God: A Study Guide to the Teachings of Sathya Sai Baba" Leela Press December 2002 (page number not retained)

3. From Chapter 53 of "Te-Tao Ching" (by Lao Tzu) (possibly written in 6th Century B.C.E., sufficient evidence unavailable) (translation by Robert G. Hendricks) Ballantine Books New York 1989

4. Sri Sathya Sai Baba from *Sathya Sai Speaks* Vol. 12, Chpt. 44, p. 241 Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust Prasanthi Nilayam   India (Note: Vol. 12 contains discourses delivered by Sri Sathya Sai Baba during 1973-74)

5. Shaykh Nazim Adil Al Haqqani in "In the Mystic Footsteps of Saints" Vol. 1 (Sufi Wisdom Series) Naqshbandi-Haqqani Sufi Order (2002) p. 5-6

6. Sri Sathya Sai Baba from *Sathya Sai Speaks* Vol. 8, Chpt. 21, p. 108 Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust Prasanthi Nilayam   India (Note: Vol. 8 contains discourses delivered by Sri Sathya Sai Baba during 1968)

Section 14

Evaluating the Process

A. Introduction

1. This writer feels that it will be valuable to seek input from a variety of sources to arrive at a comprehensive evaluation of a Community Visioning Initiative as described in this proposal. Specifically, it will be most important to establish some of the evaluation procedures at the very beginning of the process, so that relevant information can be accumulated, systematically organized, and summarized as the process goes along. However, since there has not yet been a Community Visioning Initiative of this nature carried out in conditions similar to the urgent circumstances we are now in, new approaches to evaluation will need to be explored.

2. The purpose of this section is to provide enough ideas for possible approaches to evaluation to emphasize how important it will be for the steering committee to decide on evaluation procedures early in the process. By giving much importance to developing evaluation procedures, organizers of these Community Visioning Initiatives will have the tools necessary to maximize the lessons which can be learned from the experience.

B. Some suggestions for evaluating Community Visioning Initiatives associated with this "1000Communities[2]" proposal

In the Final Summary Report on the Community Visioning Initiative, readers will be hoping to learn the most valuable lessons there are to learn about the experience. The "Evaluation" section of the Final Summary Report will be developed using input from people involved in other Community Visioning Initiatives that have already been carried out, from experts in questionnaire/survey construction, from the Preliminary Survey to 150 key leaders in the community, from suggestions received from community members, and from other sources. The following is a list of suggestions from this writer.

1. The Community Visioning Initiative organizers initial presentation would have provided some idea of the "community of people" or segment of population who would be asked to participate in the initiative.

a) How did they define this "community of people?"
b) Did this "community of people" change during the process?
c) How did a representative sample of residents describe what they thought of as
their community before the Community Visioning Initiative began?
d) How did those same people—or another representative sample of residents—
describe what they thought of as their community after the Community Visioning Initiative was completed?

2. Documented evidence relating to the following:

a) population of area encompassed by the Community Visioning Initiative
b) number and percentage of residents involved
        [(including composition of residents: age, gender, first language (and proficiency
        in language of country of residence)]
c) how participants described their involvement
d) final summaries: lists of challenges identified and challenges prioritized
e) final summaries: lists of solutions identified and solutions prioritized
f) action plan summaries (including accountability indicators)
g) number of projects created
h) number of jobs created
i) financial investment created
j) total cost of community visioning initiative

3. Documented evidence from newspaper, television, and radio coverage; from published
articles in magazines and journals, and information, news stories, and commentary from websites
and blogs

4. Documented evidence from the informal comments in the "Community Journal"

5. Summary of Responses to evaluation questions (see Section C below for possible evaluation
questions)

C. Suggestions for Evaluation Questions

1, *General Information About the Respondent*

Please, if you are willing, <u>and in a way that does not identify you, so that you can remain
anonymous—</u>

--state your age
--describe where you live (rural area, town, suburb, city), the region you live in (Greater
Metropolitan Washington D.C.; southwestern part of Virginia; the mountains of North Carolina;
etc.), and include the country you live in
(**Example**: I live in a suburban section of a small town on the outer edge of development
associated with the Greater Washington D.C. Metropolitan area, in the United States)
--how long have you lived at your current residence
--describe your occupation, your "way of earning a living", or what you do during the course
of any given month which requires the majority of your time
--describe what you do during the course of any given month which you feel is the most
important or most fulfilling work you do
--share your reasons for participating in this Community Visioning Initiative

2. *Rating Each Part of the Community Visioning Initiative Process*

Please rate each part of the Community Visioning Initiative process according to the scale provided (and provide specific examples, if possible, to support your choice)

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
essential	most helpful	somewhat helpful	not helpful	created more problems than it resolved

local community points of entry
community journals
community teaching and learning center workshops
volunteer services
meeting spaces
progress reports
media commentary and analysis
preliminary survey
instructors/facilitators
advance notice of steps in process
brainstorming challenges
prioritizing challenges
brainstorming solutions
prioritizing solutions
developing action plans to prioritized solutions

3. Evaluating the Action Plans

Evaluation of action plans developed in response to the <u>20 most frequently identified challenges</u>

[**Important Note**: Please answer in as much detail as you wish to the first two questions, and then circle the appropriate statement in each of the three categories (see p. 83) for the third question.]

a) How would you describe the response of (your community) as a whole to the specific challenge of _____?

b) Do you feel that your community significantly closer to resolving this challenge as a result of carrying out this Community Visioning Initiative?

c) Please check the box in the following three categories which most closely represents your view of the community's plans to resolve this particular challenge

Resources

☐ I believe we have more than enough resources to resolve this challenge.
☐ I believe we have sufficient resources to resolve this challenge.
☐ I am not sure if we have enough resources to resolve this challenge.
☐ I am sure we do not have enough resources to resolve this challenge.

Plans

☐ I believe we have a relevant, practical, and doable action plan for resolving this
    challenge.
☐ I believe we are taking the steps necessary to develop a relevant, practical, and doable
    action plans for resolving this challenge.
☐ I am not sure if we know how to resolve this challenge.
☐ I do not believe we know how to resolve this challenge.

Confidence of Success

☐ I am confident we can resolve this challenge
☐ I believe we are moving in the right direction to resolve this challenge.
☐ I am not sure if we will be able to resolve this challenge.
☐ I have no confidence in our ability to resolve this challenge.

4. *Most Valuable Lessons Learned*

What are the most valuable lessons you have learned? Please comment in response to as many
of these topics as you can. Please give the most time and attention to the areas where you
learned the most valuable lessons.

About:

Community visioning initiatives
American culture
Stepping up to face challenges
Your neighbors
Constructive dialogue
Yourself
The value of education
The capacity of media for community service
Community leadership
About sorting out what is valuable and what is less important
About the virtue of honesty
About the virtue of hard work
About the value of compassion

5. *Most Valuable Resources, Greatest Obstacles*

a) What contributed most to

    identifying essential actions needed
    consensus building necessary to implement actions needed
    knowledge base and skill sets necessary to wisely use time, energy, and money
    financial support necessary to implement actions needed

b) What were the greatest obstacles to

    identifying essential actions needed
    consensus building necessary to implement actions needed
    knowledge base and skill sets necessary to wisely use time, energy, and money
    financial support necessary to implement actions needed

6. Effect of Community Visioning Initiative on Building a Close-Knit Community

a) What are your feelings about the effect of this Community Visioning
Initiative on helping to build close-knit communities, where people know each other well,
cooperate towards well-defined goals, and believe that they are living in a community which
cares about the people in it, and people in other parts of the world?

b) Before there was any notice about planning for a Community Visioning
Initiative, how many people did you know—within the geographical boundaries you understand
as your community—as more than acquaintances (as people with whom you have a personal
relationship with "defined guidelines, reasonable expectations, reciprocal considerations, and
clear plans for the future")?

c) Now, after a year of having an ongoing Community Visioning Initiative, how
many people—within the geographical boundaries you understand as your community—do you
know as more than acquaintances?

7. *Has the Community Visioning Initiative Changed Your Life In Any Way?*

Are you going to do anything differently in your life as a result of participating in this
Community Visioning Initiative?

If yes, please describe_____
_____
_____

8. On the Idea of "Sister Community" Relationships

a) Did your community give a high priority to the solution of creating a "sister community" relationship with a community in another country which has made well documented calls for assistance with basic human needs?

b) If yes, are you going to participate in any way in the action plan to help develop the "sister community" relationship?

c) If yes, please describe what you would like to do:

_____

_____

9. *Feelings About Community Visioning Initiatives*

a) Would you participate in another Community Visioning Initiative?
b) Would you recommend the kind of Community Visioning Initiative your community carried out to others?

10. *About this "1000Communities^{2}" proposal and Community Visioning Initiatives*

Was this proposal "1000Communities^{2}" helpful to your understanding of how useful a Community Visioning Initiative could be? (to your idea of the potential of Community Visioning Initiatives?) If yes, how was it most helpful? If no, why do you feel it was not helpful?   Any suggestions, comments, recommendations on how to make proposals like this more helpful, and thus more useful?

11. About Leadership in Your Community

a) What are your feelings about leadership in your community?
b) Was leadership in your community helpful during the Community Visioning Initiative process?
c) Would you like to see leadership improve?
d) If yes, what solutions or action plans would you recommend to improve community leadership?

12. About the "Community Journal" Concept

a) How often did you visit the CTLC nearest your home?
b) How many times did you look into the "Community Journal"?
c) How many times did you submit entries to the "Community Journal"?
d) Do you feel that having a "Community Journal" is a good idea? Why or why not?
e) Any additional comments on the "Community Journal" concept?

13. Media Coverage of the Community Visioning Initiative

a) Do you feel that the coverage, in general, by newspapers, television stations, and radio stations, of this Community Visioning Initiative, was a positive and constructive service to your community? Why or why not? (Please provide specific examples if you can.)

b) Please share any comments, suggestions, recommendations, etc. which may help newspapers, television stations, and radio stations provide more positive and constructive services to the community.

14. *Curriculum in Educational Institutions Sufficient?*
     Community Support of Teachers Sufficient?

a) Do you feel that the curriculum in the local (or regional) educational institutions (both public and private, and from elementary through college level) is sufficient to give students the knowledge base and skill sets necessary to carry out the actions plans which emerged from the Community Visioning Initiative? Why or why not?

b) Please check the box below which most closely reflects your view of the following statement:

"Teachers in the educational institutions in your community are given enough support (financial, resource access, community partnerships, parent involvement, etc.) to fulfill their role in these challenges times."

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
100% of the time	Most of the time	Some of the time	Rarely	Never

c) How can your community be more supportive of the teachers in educational institutions? Please be specific.

d) Please share any comments, suggestions, recommendations, etc. which may help educational institutions understand how they can be more of a positive and constructive force in your community.

15. *Most Memorable Experience, Most Difficult Experience*

a) What was your most memorable experience or experiences during the Community Visioning Initiative—the one or ones which you are most likely to tell others about as an example of the good that can come from participating in Community Visioning Initiatives?

b) What was the most difficult experience or experiences for you during the Community Visioning Initiative—the one or ones which you are most likely to tell others about as an example of the difficulties of participating in a Community Visioning Initiative?

Section 15

Summary and Concluding Comments

A. We should be able to actualize this potential

1. At no other time in the course of history has so many people had access to so much in the way of time-tested guidelines, inspiring role models, and service-oriented initiatives.

2. We should be able to actualize this potential into acceptable standards of living for a very high percentage of the people on this planet, and do so in a way that creates economic stability, maintains ecological sustainability, and emphasizes a high level of compassion for our fellow human beings.

B. The "1000Communities[2]" proposal may be summarized as follows:

"1000Communities[2]" advocates organizing and implementing Community Visioning Initiatives in 1000 communities (communities or segments of rural areas, towns, or cities with populations of 50,000 or less) around the world

1. which are time-intensive, lasting even as much as 1½ years (18 months), so as to give as much importance to developing a close-knit community as it does to

> a) contributing to accumulating and integrating the knowledge and skill sets necessary for the highest percentage of people to act wisely in response to challenges identified as priority challenges

> b) helping people to deliberately channel their time, energy, and money into the creation of "ways of earning a living" which are directly related to resolving high priority challenges

> c) assisting with outreach, partnership formation, and development of service capacity for a significant number of already existing (or forming) organizations, businesses, institutions, and government agencies

> d) helping to build a high level of consensus for specific action plans, which will help inspire additional support from people, businesses, organizations, institutions, and government agencies with significant resources

2. which establish a significant number of local community points of entry called "Community Teaching and Learning Centers" [if use of that particular description "Community Teaching and Learning Centers" is permitted by the organization "Teachers Without Borders" (see http://www.teacherswithoutborders.org/html/ctlc.html)] to act as information clearinghouses, meeting locations, classrooms for ongoing workshops (on a broad range of topics related to the Community Visioning Process, and building the local knowledge base), practice sites for

developing "teacher-leaders", a location for an ongoing "informal" "Community Journal", a location for listing employment opportunties—and to provide a means of responding quickly (by changing the emphasis of workshop content) to new urgencies as they arise

3.   and which suggest—as a way of emphasizing the need for an exponential increase in compassion for our fellow human beings—that communities (with the resources to do so) enter into "sister community" relationships with communities in other countries where there has been well documented calls for assistance with basic human needs.

[Note: For a 15 step outline of this kind of Community Visioning Initiative, see Section 6.]

C. This community building tool encourages and facilitates the creation of a "constellation" of initiatives

1. There are many important initiatives which are critical to overcoming the challenges of our times, but which are not quite "coming through the mist as much as they should be." Community Visioning Initiatives can be very helpful in exactly these kinds of circumstances, as this community building tool encourages and facilitates the creation of a "constellation" of initiatives by which the best (in view of the participants in the community visioning initiatives) solutions to the most difficult (in the view of the participants in the community visioning initiatives) challenges can bubble up to the surface, be recognized as priorities, and therefore be brought forward as appropriate recipients of people's time, energy, and money. Many people can realize the wisdom of deliberately focusing the way they spend their time, energy, and money. The result can be a deliberate increase in the "ways of earning a living" which are directly related to overcoming the challenges identified by residents as priority challenges. As the ancient Chinese proverb says: "Many hands make much work light."

D. If even a few….

If even a few of these kind of Community Visioning Initiatives generated results similar to those achieved by the Chattanooga, Tennessee (USA) Visioning Initiative carried out in 1984 ("Vision 2000")[1], people in all parts of the world—keenly attuned when it comes to resolving challenges which require urgent solutions at all levels of society-- *could   be* inspired to carry out similar Community Visioning Initiatives. And if many communities carried out similar initiatives, and also achieved significant results, our collective capacity to resolve the challenges of our times *would surely* begin to accumulate at an accelerating rate.

E. The result *could be*   a well-developed capacity to resolve even the most difficult challenges

1. Hopefully, by encouraging as much formal and informal meetings with other people in the local neighborhoods for discussion, information sharing, mutual support and encouragement, fellowship and friendship—the results will include the building of a close-knit community of people with a healthy appreciation for each others strengths, and a well-developed capacity to resolve even the most difficult challenges.

F. We must help each other

1. Some residents may feel uneasy concerning the problem of residents who are less educated and less informed having as much of a say in the process as those who have spent years working on these issues. This is a fundamental problem, which is not confined to Community Visioning Initiative processes like this; as people who are not sufficiently informed about critical issues are everywhere, and they are investing their time, energy, and money—voting—all the time. If we are honest with ourselves about this issue, we must admit that there are very few people who have successfully aligned all of their investments of time, energy, and money with all of the values of the religious, spiritual, or moral tradition they feel closest to. This writer believes that there are many serious challenges before us now, and that we will need to invest our time, energy, and money very wisely to overcome these challenges. How can we do it? We must help each other. The Community Visioning Initiative outlined in this proposal is time-intensive so that we will have time to learn much more than we know now about how to help each other.

G. Concluding comments from the writer of this proposal

1. This writer is aware that—due to the unfolding of the challenges described in Appendix 1 (and other circumstances known and unanticipated)—changes are occurring rapidly in communities around the world; and, as a result, the presentation of statistics made in this proposal may not be as relevant or as insightful five years from now. While that may be, much of the content of Sections 1-15 should remain relevant well into the distant future.

This writer hopes that this "1000Communities[2]" proposal provides sufficient indications of the potential Community Visioning Initiatives to encourage others to frame proposals which are appropriate to their specific communities, and relevant to the circumstances they are currently experiencing.

2. It is also this writer's feeling that the best possible conclusion (to this proposal, or to future proposals of a similar nature) would be a collection of excerpts from many different "Community Journals" which indicate that many people—in many different kinds of communities—*found that the potential outlined in this proposal was something they did see, feel, and experience in the everyday circumstances of their community life—and it was a "something" that was worth every bit of effort taken to achieve it.*

3. This proposal—and this writer's work associated with The IPCR Initiative—are dedicated to the people who, like this writer, believe that such a collection of excerpts *will be* a part of life on the "other side" of the challenges of our times.

"We do not live unto ourselves, and the more we realize the repercussions of our actions
on our neighbours and strive to act according to the highest we are capable of,
the more we shall advance in our spiritual development."[2]

Everyone is involved when it comes to determining the markets
that supply the "ways of earning a living". (SP)

"The function of work should be to practice our ideal of life."[3]

Notes and Source References (Section 15)

1. In 1984, the non-profit organization Chattanooga Venture [Chattanooga, Tennessee (USA)] organized a Community Visioning Initiative that attracted more than 1,700 participants, and produced 40 community goals—which resulted in the implementation of 223 projects and programs, the creation of 1,300 permanent jobs, and a total financial investment of 793 million dollars.

The statistics above are from "Revision 2000: Take Charge Again", a brochure this writer received from Chattanooga Venture. These statistics are also accessible in a detailed overview of Chattanooga community revitalization efforts titled "Chattanooga: The Sustainable City", at the website for the James MacGregor Burns Academy of Leadership at
www.academy.umd.edu/publications/Boundary/CaseStudies/bcschattanooga.htm
(Accessed June 10, 2007)

2. From "Why the Village Movement?" by J.C. Kumarappa (The edition this writer has includes the 1939 edition foreword by Mahatma Gandhi, and was printed on handmade paper in Rajchat, Kashi in 1960). This writer has incorporated insight and inspiration from "Why the Village Movement?" into the description of "Spiritually Responsible Investing", one of The Eight IPCR Concepts (see www.ipcri.net). Here also is some biographical information about J.C. Kumarappa:

"In 1935, the India National Congress formed the All India Village Industries Association (AIVIA) for the development of (the) rural economy (in India), with Gandhiji as President and Kumarappa as Secretary and Organiser. Between 1935-1939, Kumarappa established the AIVIA headquarters at Maganwadi, developed various experiments of rural technologies, and helped others to reorganize village industries all over the country. (At Maganwadi), he edited a monthly journal, "Gram Udyog Patrika," and wrote a book, 'Why the Village Movement?' for AIVIA." [Note excerpted from "Brief Life Sketch of J.C. Kumarappa (1892-1960) at the website of the Kumarappa Institute of Gram Swaraj (KIGS) www.kigs.org]

3. J.C. Kumarappa in *Why the Village Movement?* Akhil Bharat Sarva Seva Sangh Rajchat, Kashi 1960 p. 183

Appendix 1

A Ten Point Assessment of
"the Most Difficult Challenges of Our Times"

Introduction

The following ten point assessment is excerpted from a 29 page document titled "An Assessment of the Most Difficult Challenges of Our Times" (see p. 4-6), which is accessible at the website of The Interfaith Peacebuilding and Community Revitalization (IPCR) Initiative (see http://ipcri.net/images/3-Assessment-of-Most-Difficult-Challenges.pdf). The 29 page document includes (as evidence in support of the "ten point" list) 26 items of commentary and analysis and 17 statistics (from various sources).

Hopefully, the urgency suggested by the content of this "Assessment" will be considered sufficient to encourage readers (if they have not done so already) to explore the assessments of many people working in many different fields of activity—and to actively develop their own assessment of the most difficult challenges of our times. The more people make an effort to arrive at a clear understanding of the challenges before us, the more likely it is that we will be able build consensus for the collective action necessary to overcome those challenges.

1) Community building associated with energy descent (see Challenges #4, 5, and 6) (as a result of either wise decisions, key supply shortages, or lack of other options) may or may not be accompanied by an exponential increase in compassion for our fellow human beings. *Without such an exponential increase*, an increase in the need for emergency assistance to people with basic human needs [as a result of migrations from areas where carrying capacity has been exceeded (areas such as mega-cities), for example (see Challenge #8)] may coincide with a decrease in our capacity to respond to such emergencies

2) "Cultures" of violence, greed, corruption, and overindulgence which have become so common that many of us accept such as inevitable[2]

3) The source of threats—whether perceived or real—to the identities and/or cherished meanings of many communities of people is too often linked to religious, spiritual, and/or moral traditions; and such threats too often result in conflicts which cast a shadow of negative associations onto such traditions. These negative associations have caused many people to disassociate from the religious, spiritual, and/or moral traditions linked to such threats; and have

accumulated to such a degree that the real treasured wisdom of many such traditions now seems as if it is hidden—or remains undiscovered. This is unfortunate—as such treasured wisdom contains teachings which inspire and encourage people to

a) appreciate truth, virtue, love, and peace—and live disciplined lives for the purpose of adhering to truth, cultivating virtue and love, and maintaining the pathways to enduring peace
b) sacrifice personal desires for the greater good of the whole
c) find contentment and quality of life while consuming less material goods and ecological services
d) prefer peacebuilding which supports and actualizes mutually beneficial understandings, forgiveness, and reconciliation—*and which abstains from violent conflict resolution*—as a way
of bringing cycles of violence to an end
e) use resources carefully, so that there is surplus available for emergency assistance
f) support community life and cultural traditions which "… bring to the fore what is often hidden: how many good people there are, how many ways there are to do good, and how much happiness comes to those who extend help, as well as to those who receive it."

4), 5) and 6) Planet-wide climate chaos and global warming, the end of the era of cheap oil ("peak oil"), and widespread resource depletion and extinction (the "Triple Crises")

Consider the following references (with additional corroborating quotes) to pre-conference (September, 2007) information for a "Teach In: Confronting the Global Triple Crises—Climate Change, Peak Oil (The End of Cheap Energy), and Global Resource Depletion and Extinction" (September 14-17, 2007 at The George Washington University Lisner Auditorium in Washington D.C.) Sponsored by The International Forum on Globalization (www.ifg.org) and The Institute on Policy Studies

"The planet's ecological systems are on the verge of catastrophic change for which few societies are prepared. So far, responses by governments to this emergency are inadequate, or counterproductive. We call it the "Triple Crisis," the convergence of three advancing conditions:

a)   Planet-wide climate chaos and global warming ("There is a serious risk of widespread, catastrophic climate change if we do not begin dramatically reducing global carbon emissions"[3])

b) The end of the era of cheap energy ("peak oil") ("The peaking of world oil production presents the U.S. and the world with an unprecedented risk management problem…. The world has never faced a problem like this…."[4])

c) The depletion of many of the world's key resources: water, timber, fish, fertile soil, coral reefs; and the expected extinction of 50% of the world's species.

"All are rooted in the same systemic problem—massive overuse of fossil fuels and the Earth's resources; all driven by an economic ideology of hyper growth and consumption that's beyond the limits of the planet to sustain."[5]

7)   The increasing world population and its implications relating to widespread resource depletion (with special focus on *the increasing number of people* who are consuming material goods and ecological resources *indiscriminately*)

8) Current trends indicate that we are creating more and more "urban agglomerations" (cities with a population of more than 1 million people), which require more and more complex and energy intensive infrastructures, where it is more and more difficult to trace the consequences of our individuals investments of time, energy, and money—and which are the least appropriate models when it comes to implementing resolutions to many of the other challenges included in this list.[6] (Note: "Response nodes" for emergency assistance, and centers for regional and international exchange of "weak link" materials do not require a mega-city infrastructure base)

9) Any shortages of goodwill in times of unprecedented transition could tilt already precarious systems into further disarray—and thus erode established systems in even the most stable communities and regions

10) Sorting out what are real challenges and what are sound and practical solutions is becoming more and more difficult, as there is now, in many parts of the world, a multitude of ideas of all kinds coming to the fore in personal, family, community, and cultural life—all at the same time.

_____

Notes and Source References (Appendix 1)

1. Here is one example of evidence which leads to the conclusion stated in "Challenge #2":

"The global drugs trade and the global arms trade are integral to violence in both developing and industrialized countries. Even modest progress on either front will contribute to reducing the amount and degree of violence suffered by millions of people. To date, however—and despite their high profile in the world arena—no solutions seem to be in sight for these problems."

From the "World Report on Violence and Health" (World Health Organization Geneva 2002) in Chapter 9 "The Way Forward: Recommendations for Action" p. 254 (at http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2002/9241545615.pdf) (Confirmed June 11, 2008)

2. Daniel Lerch from *Post Carbon Cities: Planning for Energy and Climate Uncertainty (A Guidebook on Peak Oil and Global Warming for Local Governments)* (Free Abridged Version) http://postcarboncities.net/guidebook (see "Executive Summary" paragraph 4) Post Carbon Institute 2007 (Accessed August 24, 2007).

3. From the "Hirsch Report" ["The Peaking of World Oil Production: Impacts, Mitigation and Risk Management"]—Project Leader: Robert L. Hirsch (SAIC) Commisioned by the Department of Energy, and dated February, 2005] [Accessible at the website of Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD)(USA) at www.bartlett.house.gov/EnergyUpdates/   (Accessed August 24, 2007)] Note: The first sentence quoted is from the section "Executive Summary" (see paragraph 1 on p. 4) The second sentence quoted is from the section "Summary and Concluding Remarks" (see Point #3: "Oil Peaking Presents a Unique Challenge"; on p. 64).

Consider also the following quote from Richard Heinberg:

"The human community's central task for the coming decades must be the undoing of its dependence on oil, coal, and natural gas in order to deal with the twin crises of resource depletion and climate chaos. It is surely fair to say that fossil fuel dependency constitutes a systemic problem of a kind and scale that no society has ever had to address before. If we are to deal with this challenge successfully, we must engage in systemic thinking that leads to sustained, bold action."

From Richard Heinberg's Museletter #184 titled "A View from Oil's Peak" (at http://www.richardheinberg.com/museletter/184) (from closing paragraph) (Accessed September 6, 2007) (from Richard Heinberg's website at http://www.richardheinberg.com/ [Note: Richard Heinberg is widely acknowledged as one of the world's foremost Peak Oil educators. He is a journalist, educator, editor, lecturer, and a Core Faculty member of New College of California, where collaborative efforts between faculty, students, and a variety of other "stakeholders" are creating models for "Powerdown" efforts at the regional and community level. Some of the books he has written: *The Party's Over: Oil, War, and the Fate of Industrial Societies; Powerdown; The Oil Depletion Protocol: A Plan to Avert Wars, Terrorism, and Economic Collapse; and Peak Everything: Waking Up to a Century of Declines"]*

[Additional Note: Less and less availability of cheap oil will directly impact much more of the infrastructure of modern industrial society than most of us can easily imagine. (For some examples, see "The Oil Crash and You" by Bruce Thomson at www.oilcrash.com/roe.htm Note: Bruce Thomson is a technical writer in New Zealand, and moderator of the RunningonEmpty2 Internet Discussion Forum, which assisted in creating the document.)]

4. From pre-conference information for "Teach In: Confronting the Global Triple Crises—Climate Change, Peak Oil (The End of Cheap Energy), and Global Resource Depletion and Extinction" (September 14-17, 2007 at The George Washington University Lisner Auditorium in Washington D.C.) Sponsored by The International Forum on Globalization (www.ifg.org) and The Institute on Policy Studies (with other co-sponsors) From Teach-In Flyer and Draft Program at http://www.ifg.org/events/Triple_Crisis_Speakers.pdf (see p. 2)

5. Consider the following statistics and observations:

 "In 1800, only 3% of the world's population lived in urban areas."
"In 1900, almost 14% of the world's population lived in urban areas."
"In 1950, 30% of the world's population lived in urban areas. 83 cities had 1 million or
        more inhabitants."
"In 2000, about 47% of the world's population lived in urban areas. 411 cities had
        1 million or more inhabitants."

(from website of Population Reference Bureau-- see http://www.prb.org/Educators/TeachersGuides/HumanPopulation/Urbanization.aspx) (see paragraphs one and two) (Accessed June 9, 2007)

From "Revisiting Carrying Capacity: Area Based Indicators of Sustainability", by William E. Rees, 1996, (at www.dieoff.org/page110.htm) (Accessed June 9, 2007) (Especially in light of the activity necessary to overcome the challenges of global warming and "peak oil"….)

"Cities necessarily appropriate the ecological output and life support functions of distant regions all over the world through commercial trade and the natural biogeochemical cycles of energy and material. Indeed, the annual flows of natural income required by any defined population can be called its

'appropriated carrying capacity.' Since for every material flow there must be a corresponding land/ecosystem source or sink, the total area of land/water required to sustain these flows on a continuous basis is the true 'ecological footprint' of the referent population on the Earth." [see section "Appropriating Carrying Capacity and Ecological Footprints" (paragraph 5)]

"… as a result of high population densities, the enormous increase in per capita energy and material consumption made possible by (and required by) technology, and universally increasing dependencies on trade, the ecological locations of human settlements no longer coincide with their geographic locations. Twentieth century cities and industrial regions are dependent for survival and growth on a vast and increasingly global hinterland of ecologically productive landscapes." [see section "Appropriating Carrying Capacity and Ecological Footprints" (paragraph 4)]

and the following statistics--

From Press Release (August 13, 2002) "Londoners Running Up Massive Debt on
     Earth's Resources" at www.citylimitslondon.com/city_limits_press_release.htm
     (Accessed June 10, 2007)

"Forty one per cent of the Ecological Footprint (2.80 gha) is accounted for by the food Londoners eat…. In total, London consumes 6.9 million tones of food (per year), more than three quarters of which is imported. London throws away 560,000 tonnes of food (per year) as waste."

Appendix 2

About Global Warming, Peak Oil, and Population and Consumption Patterns

A. Community Visioning Initiatives as Starting Points for Sifting Through Some Very Complex Information

1. This proposal—"1000Communities[2]"—began with the following statement:

More and more people, in more and more parts of the world, are coming to the conclusion that on top of the challenges of

> a) global warming and reducing carbon emissions
>
> b) peak oil and reducing dependence on petroleum based products
>
> c) global inequities and the tragic cycles of malnutrition, disease, and death
>
> d) an increasing world population requiring more resources when many resources are becoming more scarce (*with a special emphasis* on the increasing number of people who are consuming resources and ecological services *indiscriminately*)

there still seems to be a majority of people on the planet who do not have a clear understanding—well-grounded in personal experience—of which basic elements of community life and cultural traditions lead to mutually beneficial understandings, which lead to cycles of violence—and why it is so important for people to achieve clarity on this subject.

Special Commentary: One Way Community Visioning Initiatives Can Help Build Consensus

In this particular section of the proposal, some of the evidence which has formed this writers' views about the challenges of our times will be brought forward. This evidence is associated with issues that require some sifting of very complex information, which by its nature must be considered incomplete at best. Therefore, what is provided here is simply offered as starting points for readers who have not yet explored these issues in depth—and as an indication of the kind of sources this writer regards as trustworthy and service-oriented. ("…words that come from the depth of experience have the ring of sincerity that convinces."[1]) This writer recognizes that a significant degree of consensus may be needed to resolve the most complex challenges. *That is one of the reasons why he is advocating the use of Community Visioning Initiatives.*

Some of the evidence which has formed this writer's views--

B. On the urgency of preventing catastrophic global warming

1. *From "Zero Carbon Britain", a document from the Centre for Alternative Technology (UK)*[2]

"'zerocarbonbritain' is a radical vision of Britain's energy future, outlining bold policy drivers to reduce carbon emissions to zero within 20 years. "

"This report is the Centre for Alternative Technology's considered response to the current understanding of the global climate.

"Two things have changed in recent years.

• The international scientific consensus on the causes and gravity of climate change has moved from 'perhaps' to 'certainly'.
• A number of significant positive feedbacks have been identified in the climate system. Their effect is such that humanity's greenhouse gas emissions will act merely as a trigger for much greater and more rapid climatic changes."

2. *From "Climate Code Red: The Case for a Sustainable Emergency" by David Spratt and Philip Sutton*[3]

"Global warming is already dangerous at a rise in global temperatures of $0.8^{o}C$, with at least another $0.6^{o}C$ locked into the system and impossible to avoid, and more to come given the inertia of the worlds energy and political systems. If it takes the world 10 to 15 years to stop increasing the rate of emissions, and another 40-50 years to stabilize atmospheric carbon levels, it is very likely that the resulting stabilization temperature level (and increase of more than $2^{o}C$) and the rate of temperature increase ($o.2^{o}$-$0.3^{o}C$/decade) will be too much for many ecosystems, (even without considering the) triggering (of) positive feedback in the climate system that will escalate way beyond control. There is even a 50% chance that warming will exceed $0.3^{o}C$ for the decade 2004-2014 (Smith,Cusack et. al, 2007)."

3. *From the "UN Human Development Report 2007/2008 Fighting Climate Change: Human Solidarity in a Divided World"*[4]

"Avoiding the unprecedented threats posed by dangerous climate change will require an unparalleled collective exercise in international cooperation."

4. *From Lester Brown's "Plan B 3.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization"*

"Plan B is shaped by what is needed to save civilization, not by what may currently be considered politically feasible. Plan B does not fit within a particular discipline, sector, or set of

assumptions. Implementing Plan B means undertaking several actions simultaneously, including eradicating poverty, stabilizing population, and restoring the earth's natural systems. It also involves cutting carbon dioxide emissions 80% by 2020, largely through a mobilization to raise energy efficiency and harness renewable sources of energy. Not only is the scale of this save-our-civilization plan ambitious, so is the speed with which it must be implemented. We must move at wartime speed, restructuring the world energy economy at a pace reminiscent of the restructuring of the U.S. industrial economy in 1942 following the Japanese attack on Pear Harbor. The shift from producing cars to planes, tanks, and guns was accomplished within a matter of months."[5]

5. From "Focus the Nation" website at www.focusthenation.org

a) From "Media Room", see section "Teach-In"[6]

"January 31st 2008, Focus the Nation is a national teach-in engaging millions of students and citizens with political leaders and decision makers about Global Warming Solutions."

"We stand at a unique moment in human history. Decisions that are ours to make today – to stabilize global warming pollution and invest in clean energy solutions – will have a profound impact not only on our lives and the lives of our children, but indeed for every human being who will ever walk the face of the planet from now until the end of time….

"… Focus the Nation: Global Warming Solutions for America is an unprecedented educational initiative, involving over a thousand colleges, universities, high schools, middle schools, faith groups, civic organizations and businesses. Focus the Nation is a catalyzing force helping shift the national conversation about global warming towards a determination to face this civilizational challenge.

"A teach-in is a day when an entire school turns its attention to a single issue—when faculty, students and staff put aside business as usual, and focus the full weight of campus engagement on one topic.

"The key to a successful teach-in is widespread faculty involvement. Focus the Nation challenges participating schools to engage at least fifty faculty members in their role as educators (as well as students, staff, alumni, and community members). With fifty plus faculty engaged from disciplines across the curriculum—art, science, politics, psychology, engineering, philosophy—the event will involve thousands of students on each campus, and millions of students nationwide. Campus-wide engagement at this scale sounds difficult to organize, but in fact, our TEACH-IN MODEL charts a simple path to success that requires only a month or two of lead time.

"Our model has 45 suggested educational panels with slots for 110 faculty members."

b) What Happened on January 31, 2008?

"JANUARY 31ST, 2008: Over 1900 colleges, universities, high schools, middle schools, faith organizations, civic groups and businesses sponsored panels, workshops, theater events, technology fairs, poetry readings, keynotes, sculpture displays, poster sessions and debates on the topic of Global Warming Solutions for America."[7]

c) About Media Coverage of the January 31, 2008 "Focus the Nation" events:

"Focus the Nation was covered in more than 1000 print, radio and broadcast news services across the country, in addition to international online magazines."[8]

d) Focus the Nation is shifting the national conversation about global warming:[9]

"Between 1960 and 1964 the Civil Rights movement swept across the country, moving America from a fatalistic acceptance of racial segregation to a solid determination to end Jim Crow. In 1964 we enacted civil rights laws.

"By the end of 2009 we can move this country beyond a fatalistic acceptance of global warming, beyond the paralyzing sense that our children must inherit an impoverished planet. We can embrace a determination to act, hold global warming to the low end, and lay the foundation for a just and prosperous future.

"The Greatest Generation. Over the coming decades, today's young people will bring an end to the fossil fuel era. They will rewire the entire planet with clean energy technologies, and build a sustainable world. Now, at this moment in history, we must force Congress to act to secure that future.

"Focus the Nation is shifting the national conversation about global warming towards a serious determination to face this civilizational challenge."

6. *From "Climate Code Red: The Case for a Sustainable Emergency" by David Spratt and Philip Sutton*[10]

"It's 'now or never' for truly radical action and heroic leadership. How much of our productive wealth we must devote to this life-saving action should not be calculated in tenths of a percent, but in how may %, and if necessary, in how many tens of %. During the last global mobilization, the 1939-1945 war, more than 30% , and in some cases more than half, of the economy was devoted to military expenditure (a table with statistics is provided). Is not the cause and the need much greater now?

"At a rough calculation, $300-400 billion invested in renewable energy and energy efficiency in Australia would allow us to close every coal-fired electricity generator, transform our rail and transport and key industries, and provide a just transition for those economically displaced by the changes. And much of that investment in energy efficiency would be repaid in lower energy costs over time. That's just 3-4% of our total economic production for 10 years, minus the energy savings, and is miniscule compared to the war effort. Can we not identify 3-4% of total personal consumption and government expenditures and corporate activity that could reasonable be re-directed to this necessary task?"

7. *From "Climate Code Red: The Case for a Sustainable Emergency" by David Spratt and Philip Sutton*[11]

"We are in a struggle against time and our analysis suggests that the world will only get one shot at the major restructuring that is needed. We have to act with great speed and get the broad outlines of the needed change right the first time."

8. *From "Climate Code Red: The Case for a Sustainable Emergency" by David Spratt and Philip Sutton*[12]

"The usual approach to an emergency is to direct all available resources to resolving the immediate crises, and to put non-essential concerns on the back-burner for the duration.

"Many people argue that in today's world we should focus our attention exclusively on climate because a 'single issue' approach is a good way to concentrate people's minds on action, and cut through the competing, lower priority issues. While this is a powerful practical argument, is it the right strategy? To test this approach, we need to ask whether there are issues that

a) will be seen, in retrospect, to have caused major problems if ignored

b) are of great moral significance from a caring/compassionate point of view, and therefore should not be ignored

c) should be taken into account in framing the solutions to issues that are tackled during the period of the emergency because otherwise serious new problems will be created, or existing crises will be deepened

d) are so compelling (for any reason) in the short term that they threaten to take attention away from climate , if a one-at-a-time approach is applied

"When these questions are asked, it is clear there are several issues that simply must be resolved with the climate crises. (These are issues) that cannot be ignored because their impacts on all people, including the rich and powerful are so great: for example peak oil, severe economic depression, warfare, and pandemics. And there are ethical issues that we should (also) not ignore, such as poverty—including adequacy of food supply at an affordable price—and biodiversity protection."

C. On the implications of peak oil

1. From Dr. Fatih Birol (Chief Economist, International Energy Agency) Interview with Astrid Schneider (Internationale Politik) Posted at www.relocalize.net "News Postings" section on May 3, 2008

(first excerpt)[13]

Schneider:
If I understand you correctly, you say that the demand for oil could rise 3 % globally every year, while we have to expect a decrease of 4 % in oil production in the time from now until 2015. That would be 7 % each year which are missing.

Birol:
The demand might increase a little slower. But there could be a large gap between what should be there and what actually will be there, especially if we do not put massive efforts into improving the efficiency of cars or change to other transportation systems. If we don't take measures on the consumer side, the consumption will continue to grow. And if we have not invested enough into oil production, we will flounder.

Schneider:
But when you think of the life cycle of goods, of the long investment cycles of machines, power stations or air conditioning systems: do you think an adjustment of the consumer side to a lower supply path could be done that fast?

Birol:
No, but I don't think that prices will go up that rapidly. We can see a gradual incline and that will give the people some time to adapt. But on the long run it has to be clear: if oil will be gone by 2030, or in 2040 or 2050 does not change much.

Schneider:
You really say that?

Birol:
Yes, one day it will definitely end. And I think we should leave oil before it leaves us. That should be our motto. So we should prepare for that day - through research and development on alternatives to oil, on which living standards we want to keep and what alternative ways we can find.

(also in the same interview)[14]

Schneider:
In the WEO 2007 it is mentioned that the rapid decline of oil production will be between 3.7 and 4.2 percent per year. Is that right?

Birol:
Exactly-

Schneider:
This decline is even steeper than the one predicted by the Energy Watch Group!

Birol:
I can already tell you that in our "World Energy Outlook 2008" which will be published in November we will deal in depth with the prospects of the oil and gas production. We will take a look at the 350 most important oil and gas fields and explore how much production rates are sinking and what that means.

Schneider:
What do you mean by that?

Birol:
As far as I know this will be the first profound public study in which we verify and revise our knowledge about how much oil and gas is going to the markets. Many people will come to new conclusions about this.

2. From Energy Watch Group press conference of May 21, 2008. Press Conference available at the website of the Energy Watch Group, but only from the German language format (See http://www.energywatchgroup.org/fileadmin/global/pdf/2008-05-21_EWG_Erdoel_Pressemeldung_D.pdf) (translation here from Yahoo "Babelfish")

(First excerpt is from paragraphs 2 and 3)[15]

"'Peak oil now is. The world-wide oil production exceeded in all probability the promotion maximum and will already continue to decrease. This is the main cause of the rising oil price. Hope for the blow-out of one alleged stockmarket bubble is futile.'" explains Dr. Werner Zittel, as a co-author from the Ludwig Boelkow system engineering GmbH written study on one Press conference of the Energy Watch Group in Berlin. 'Up to the year 2030 those could world-wide oil production on half decrease/go back. Because of the increasing consumption in the few exporting states themselves, this that the quantities of oil available on the world market will still faster decrease than the promotion means remaining oil,' thus Zittel.

"Dr. Josef Auer of as rather conservatively well-known German bank the Research gets straight: 'One dares a long-term view of the power supply, is appropriate at least which the oil concerns

the future already behind us. Therefore the scenario of the end of the fossil hydrocarbons is not a horror painting pessimistic Weltuntergangspropheten, but one in the coming years and decades shortage perspective which can be taken seriously. Foresighted politicians, enterprise steering wheel and economist should prepare now on this time, in order to be able to arrange the transitions as effective as possible.'"

(Second excerpts from paragraphs 5, 6, and 7)[15]

"'Institutional early warning systems failed, with drastic consequences for the industry and consumer. The IEA and mineral oil companies have over decades the misleading message sent that there would be sufficient oil on very long view, the prices low remained alleged and no oil avoidance strategies are necessary. This proved as fatal mistake. Important time was lost, which the national economies would have needed for the preparation on the oil shortage,' Hans Josef Fell, MdB., speaker for energy and technological policy of the Bundestag faction alliance 90/said the Greens. The politician skin finds in addition also clear words: 'Who in the policy now the lowering of energy taxes or subsidies like the increase of commuter flat rate suggests, calls to subsidies in fire accelerators, since obviously the fire with gasoline is to be deleted here. By far more economically and also it would be lasting, now transferred to renewable energies to force.'

"Dr. Aribert Peters, chairman of the federation of the energy consumers measures the price increases, which follow a promotion decrease. An annual oil price rise between 30 and 50 per cent must due to available studies accepted become, so that the demand adapts to the removing offer. 'That becomes the socially weak ones particularly hard today already meet, those at the edge of existence live.' Peters recommends: 'Germany should say good-bye after the model of Sweden as fast and purposefully as possible to fossil fuels. Should be given to the social consequences more attention. A minimum quantity on river and a warm dwelling belong to the subsistence level.'

"Oil and thus gasoline, diesels and kerosene become ever more luxury goods. The private households and the national budgets of the importing country turn out under pressure. After the analyses of the Energy Watch Group do not offer also natural gas, coal and uranium a safe way out of the oil crisis. There it itself around finite resources acts, whose prices rose in the past already with the first shortage references strongly. With its analysis the Energy Watch Group withdraws euphoric availability speculations the ground. 'The principle hope' conservative energy player and parts of the political establishment will not fulfill itself. The time of the cheaply available oil is past."

3. *From the "Hirsch Report" ["The Peaking of World Oil Production: Impacts, Mitigation and Risk Management] (February 2005)

(in "Summary and Concluding Remarks")[16]

"Over the past century the development of the U.S. economy and lifestyle has been fundamentally shaped by the availability of abundant, low-cost oil. Oil scarcity and several-fold oil price increases due to world oil production peaking could have dramatic impacts." (see Point #2: "Oil Peaking Could Cost the U.S. Economy Dearly", p. 64)

"The world has never faced a problem like this. Without massive mitigation more than a decade before the fact, the problem will be pervasive and will not be temporary." (see Point #3: "Oil Peaking Presents a Unique Challenge", p. 64)

(in "Executive Summary")[16]

"The peaking of world oil production presents the U.S. and the world with an unprecedented risk management problem. As peaking is approached, liquid fuel prices and price volatility will increase dramatically, and, without timely mitigation, the economic, social, and political costs will be unprecedented." (see paragraph 1, p. 4)

"The challenge of oil peaking deserves immediate, serious attention, if risks are to be fully understood and mitigation begun on a timely basis." (see point #2, p. 5)

4. *From Richard Heinberg's "Museletter" #184 titled "A View from Oil's Peak"* (at http://www.richardheinberg.com/museletter/184)

"The human community's central task for the coming decades must be the undoing of its dependence on oil, coal, and natural gas in order to deal with the twin crises of resource depletion and climate chaos. It is surely fair to say that fossil fuel dependency constitutes a systemic problem of a kind and scale that no society has ever had to address before. If we are to deal with this challenge successfully, we must engage in systemic thinking that leads to sustained, bold action."[17]

5. Less and less availability of cheap oil will directly impact much more of the infrastructure of modern industrial society than most of us can easily imagine. (For some examples, see "The Oil Crash and You" by Bruce Thomson at http://www.oilcrash.com/articles/running.htm) (Confirmed June 7, 2008) (Note: Bruce Thomson is a technical writer in New Zealand, and moderator of the RunningonEmpty2 Internet Discussion Forum, which assisted in creating the document.)]

D. On the "Triple Crises"

1. From pre-conference information for "Teach In: Confronting the Global Triple Crises—Climate Change, Peak Oil (The End of Cheap Energy), and Global Resource Depletion and Extinction" (September 14-17, 2007 at The George Washington University Lisner Auditorium in Washington D.C.)

"The Way Forward—Toward New Economies of Sustainability, Equity, Sufficiency and Peace ('Less and Local')"

"The planet's ecological systems are on the verge of catastrophic change for which few societies are prepared. So far, responses by governments to this emergency are inadequate, or counterproductive. We call it the "Triple Crisis," the convergence of three advancing conditions:

     a) Planet-wide climate chaos and global warming;
     b) The end of the era of cheap energy ("peak oil");

c) The depletion of many of the world's key resources: water, timber, fish, fertile
   soil, coral reefs; and the expected extinction of 50% of the world's species.

"All are rooted in the same systemic problem—massive overuse of fossil fuels and the Earth's resources; all driven by an economic ideology of hyper growth and consumption that's beyond the limits of the planet to sustain."[18]

E. On Population and Consumption Patterns

Special Commentary: Readers will notice that there are quoted excerpts of statistics, commentary, and analysis which are repeated—i.e. which appear in more than one context in this proposal. Most of these repeated excerpts are related to the subjects of world population, the increasing number of "mega-cities", ecological footprint analysis, and consumption patterns. These are very important subjects. These are also very complex subjects, encompassing many diverse viewpoints.

We—collectively—are currently very far from any kind of consensus understandings regarding these subjects. We—collectively—may need to become much closer to consensus understandings on these subjects in the future. This writer hopes that by bringing up the subjects in a number of different contexts, there will be more readers who understand the implications of these excerpts—and more people determined to learn more about these complex subjects. This writer believes that it is very important for people in all parts of the world to think very clearly on these subjects.

1. *World Population*

In 1804, the world population was 1 billion.
In 1927, the world population was 2 billion (123 years later).
In 1960, the world population was 3 billion (33 years later).
In 1974, the world population was 4 billion (14 years later).
In 1987, the world population was 5 billion (13 years later).
In 1999, the world population was 6 billion (12 years later).
As of June 8, 2008 (14:36 GMT EST + 5), the world population was estimated
       to be 6,672,879,869.

(from www.infoplease.com at www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0883352.html; and U.S. Bureau of the Census POP Clock estimate at www.census.gov/cgi-bin/ipc/popclockw)
(Both confirmed on June 8, 2008)

2. *Percent of World Population Living in Urban Areas*

"In 1800, only 3% of the world's population lived in urban areas."
"In 1900, almost 14% of the world's population lived in urban areas."
"In 1950, 30% of the world's population lived in urban areas. 83 cities had 1 million or
        more inhabitants."
"In 2000, about 47% of the world's population lived in urban areas. 411 cities had
        1 million or more inhabitants."

(from website of Population Reference Bureau-- see
http://www.prb.org/Educators/TeachersGuides/HumanPopulation/Urbanization.aspx)
(see paragraphs one and two) (Confirmed June 8, 2008))

3. *From the website of UN Habitat—United Nations Human Settlements Programme—*
        at http://www.unhabitat.org (from "Media Centre/Press Kits" section)

 a) from "State of the World's Cities 2004-5" (foreward by Kofi Annan, UN Sec. Gen.)
(at http://www.unhabitat.org/documents/media_centre/sowc/sgforeword.pdf) (see paragraph 1) (Confirmed
June 8, 2008)

"Many cities face pervasive and persistent problems, including growing poverty, deepening
inequality and polarization, widespread corruption at the local level, high rates of urban crime
and violence, and deteriorating living conditions."

b) from "Financing Urban Shelters: Global Report on Human Settlements 2005)"
(see article "Sustainable Urbanisation: A Shack by Any Standards")
(at http://www.unhabitat.org/documents/media_centre/ghs/GRHS05F3.pdf) (see paragraphs 1 and 3)
(Confirmed June 8, 2008)

"A shack, about 2 metres long and 2 metres wide, is home to a family composed of husband,
wife and four children. It is just one of 7700 such shacks in a street behind the residential area in
Delhi…."

"The circumstances described above are very similar to those experienced by the vast majority of
the more than 900 million slum dwellers all over the world…"

c) from "State of the World's Cities 2006-7" (introduction by Dr. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive
Director of UN-Habitat) (at
http://www.unhabitat.org/documents/media_centre/sowcr2006/SOWCR_ED.pdf) (see paragraph 6)
(Confirmed June 8, 2008)

"… unless concerted action is taken to redress urban inequalities, cities may well become the
predominant sites of deprivation, social exclusion and instability worldwide."

4. *Global Consumer Class, 2004*

"By virtually any measure—household expenditures, number of consumers, extraction of raw materials—consumption of goods and services has risen steadily in industrial nations for decades, and it is growing rapidly in many developing countries."

"By one calculation, there are now more than 1.7 billion members of 'the consumer class'— nearly half of them in the developing world. A lifestyle and culture that became common in Europe, North America, Japan, and a few other pockets of the world in the twentieth century is going global in the twenty-first."

(from the "Online Features/Consumption/State of Consumption: Trends and Facts" section of the Worldwatch Institute website at http://www.worldwatch.org/node/810)
(see paragraphs 1 and 2) (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

5. *From Press Release (August 13, 2002) "Londoners Running Up Massive Debt* on Earth's Resources" at www.citylimitslondon.com/city_limits_press_release.htm
(see paragraphs 2, 6, and 8) (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

"The City Limits Report reveals each Londoner has an ecological footprint of 6.63 global hectares…. The current calculation for a sustainable footprint is 2.18 global hectares."

"Paper and plastics are the biggest hitters in the material and wastes footprint. Paper's large contribution is accounted for partly by the large quantities Londoners use, 2,908,000 tonnes (per year)…. Londoners consume less plastic than paper—691,000 tonnes (per year)—but because it is derived from fossil fuel and very little is currently re-cycled, plastic makes up a large part of the average Londoner's footprint."

"Forty one per cent of the Ecological Footprint (2.80 gha) is accounted for by the food Londoners eat…. In total, London consumes 6.9 million tones of food (per year), more than three quarters of which is imported. London throws away 560,000 tonnes of food (per year) as waste."

["London throws away 560,000 tonnes of food (per year) as waste."]

F. Summary

1. The following challenges are listed in Appendix 1 of this proposal ("A list of the ten most difficult challenges of our times")

#7   The increasing world population and its implications relating to widespread resource depletion (with special focus on *the increasing number of people* who are consuming material goods and ecological resources *indiscriminately*)

#8 Current trends indicate that we are creating more and more "urban agglomerations" (cities with a population of more than 1 million people), which require more and more complex and energy intensive infrastructures, where it is more and more difficult to trace the consequences of our individuals investments of time, energy, and money—and which are the least appropriate models when it comes to implementing resolutions to many of the other challenges included in this list. (Note: "Response nodes" for emergency assistance, and centers for regional and international exchange of "weak link" materials do not require a mega-city infrastructure base)

2.   The complexity associated with building bridges and increasing collaboration between diverse communities of people, the urgent need for resolutions to a significant number of critical issues in the near future—*and the seemingly chronic nature of many of the challenges of our times*—suggests a need for problem solving on a scale most of us have never known before. There has never been a time in the course of history when both the capacity to cultivate practical wisdom and the capacity to build a positive and constructive consensus were as important as they are now. *Are we up to the challenge?*

———————————————————

Notes and Source References (Appendix 2)

1. Sri Sathya Sai Baba from *Sathya Sai Speaks* Vol. 8, Chpt. 17, p. 77 Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust Prasanthi Nilayam   India (Note: Vol. 8 contains discourses delivered by Sri Sathya Sai Baba during 1968)

2*. From "Zero Carbon Britain", a document from the Centre for Alternative Technology (UK)* (Foreward written June, 2007) From section "Executive Summary" (paragraphs 1-4) (p. 4) at http://www.zerocarbonbritain.com/images/zerocarbonbritain.pdf (Confirmed June 1, 2008)

3. *From "Climate Code Red: The Case for a Sustainable Emergency" by David Spratt and Philip Sutton* Published February, 2008 by Friends of the Earth, Australia (See http://www.climatecodered.net/ for free download) p. 59, paragraph 2 (Confirmed June 1, 2008)

4. *From the "UN Human Development Report 2007/2008 Fighting Climate Change: Human Solidarity in a Divided World"* Director and Lead Author: Kevin Watkins Published for the United Nations Development Program   Released November 27, 2007   In "Summary" of Complete Report (See http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/hdr_20072008_summary_english.pdf for free download) On p. 19, in section "Avoiding Dangerous Climate Change: Strategies for Mitigation" paragraph 1 (Confirmed June 1, 2008)

5. *From Lester Brown's "Plan B 3.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization"* Published by Earth Policy Institute   2008   (See http://www.earth-policy.org/Books/PB3/Contents.htm for free download) From "Introduction", in section "Plan B—A Plan of Hope" p. 20, paragraphs 1, 2, and 3

6. From the "Focus the Nation" website (From the "Media Room", see section "Teach-In" at http://www.focusthenation.org/nationalteachin.php) Excerpts from paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 (Confirmed June 1, 2008)

7. From the "Focus the Nation" website (From the "Focus 2008" section at http://www.focusthenation.org/focus2008.php) See paragraph 1 (Confirmed June 1, 2008)

8. From the "Focus the Nation" website (From the "Media Room" section, at http://www.focusthenation.org/mediaroom.php) See Introductory Statement (Confirmed June 1, 2008)

9. From the "Focus the Nation" website (From the "Focus 2009" section, at http://www.focusthenation.org/focus2009.php) Excerpts from last four paragraphs (Confirmed June 1, 2008)

10. *From "Climate Code Red: The Case for a Sustainable Emergency" by David Spratt and Philip Sutton*   Published February, 2008 by Friends of the Earth, Australia (See http://www.climatecodered.net/ for free download) p. 70-71, paragraphs 7, 8, and 9 (Confirmed June 1, 2008)

11. *From "Climate Code Red: The Case for a Sustainable Emergency" by David Spratt and Philip Sutton*   Published February, 2008 by Friends of the Earth, Australia (See http://www.climatecodered.net/ for free download) p. 59, paragraph 3 (Confirmed June 1, 2008)

12. *From "Climate Code Red: The Case for a Sustainable Emergency" by David Spratt and Philip Sutton*   Published February, 2008 by Friends of the Earth, Australia (See http://www.climatecodered.net/ for free download) p. 44, paragraphs 5, 6, and 7 (Confirmed June 1, 2008)

13. *From Dr. Fatih Birol (Chief Economist, International Energy Agency) interview "Leave oil before it leaves us" with Astrid Schneider (Internationale Politik)* Posted at www.relocalize.net "News Postings" section on May 3, 2008 Stored at relocalize.net at http://relocalize.net/fatih_birol_interview_leave_oil_before_it_leaves_us Excerpt on p. 5-6 (Confirmed June 1, 2008)

From notes at beginning of interview:

"Note: Dr. Fatih Birol is Chief Economist and Head of the Economic Analysis Division of the Paris-based International Energy Agency. He is organiser and director of the World Energy Outlook series, the IEA's flagship publication. He is also responsible for providing regular briefing to the Executive Director and Governing Board of the IEA on the economic impact of energy market and industry developments.

"The World Energy Outlook series is widely recognized as the most authoritative source for forward looking energy market analysis. More than twenty IEA analysts contribute to the publication, which also benefits from the input of distinguished energy and climate change experts from around the world. In recent years, the World Energy Outlook has received a number of honours for analytical excellence. These have included awards from the Russian Academy of Sciences, the United States Department of Energy and numerous private organizations.

"'The Sirens Shrill'
The International Energy Agency (IEA) gives the alarm: The world could run out of oil faster than expected - the danger of a supply shortage is rising
.
"Hunger for energy vs. energy shortage: While the demand for oil is on the rise, the production is decreasing - shortages, escalating prices and inflation are looming. When talking to energy politician Astrid Schneider, Faith Birol, chief economist of the IEA demands a change in policy from the member countries. His motto: leave oil before it leaves us."

14. From Dr. Fatih Birol (Chief Economist, International Energy Agency) interview "Leave oil before it leaves us" with Astrid Schneider (Internationale Politik) Posted at www.relocalize.net "News Postings" section on May 3, 2008 Stored at relocalize.net at http://relocalize.net/fatih_birol_interview_leave_oil_before_it_leaves_us Excerpt on p. 2-3 (Confirmed June 1, 2008)

15. From Energy Watch Group press conference of May 21, 2008. Press Conference available at the website of the Energy Watch Group, but only from the German language format (See http://www.energywatchgroup.org/fileadmin/global/pdf/2008-05-21_EWG_Erdoel_Pressemeldung_D.pdf) English translation may be coming soon to the website of Energy Bulletin, where reference to this press conference was first discovered (See http://www.energybulletin.net/45099.html) The excerpts from the Energy Watch Group May 21, 2008 press release which follow have been translated into English using the Yahoo Babelfish translating process. (Website sources confirmed June 8, 2008)

16. *From the "Hirsch Report" ["The Peaking of World Oil Production: Impacts,Mitigation and Risk Management"—Project Leader: Robert L. Hirsch (SAIC)* Commissioned by the Department of Energy, and dated February, 2005] [Accessible at the website of Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD)(USA) at www.bartlett.house.gov/EnergyUpdates/] (see http://www.bartlett.house.gov/uploadedfiles/hirschreport.pdf) (Confirmed June 7, 2008)

17. *From Richard Heinberg's "Museletter" #184 titled "A View from Oil's Peak"* (at http://www.richardheinberg.com/museletter/184) (from closing paragraph) (Confirmed June 7, 2008) (from Richard Heinberg's website at http://www.richardheinberg.com/) [Note: Richard Heinberg is widely acknowledged as one of the world's foremost Peak Oil educators. He is a journalist, educator, editor, lecturer, and a Core Faculty member of New College of California, where collaborative efforts between faculty, students, and a variety of other "stakeholders" are creating models for "Powerdown" efforts at the regional and community level. Some of the books he has written: *The Party's Over: Oil, War, and the Fate of Industrial Societies; Powerdown; The Oil Depletion Protocol: A Plan to Avert Wars, Terrorism, and Economic Collapse;* and *Peak Everything: Waking Up to a Century of Declines"]*

18. From pre-conference information for "Teach In: Confronting the Global Triple Crises—Climate Change, Peak Oil (The End of Cheap Energy), and Global Resource Depletion and Extinction" (September 14-17, 2007 at The George Washington University Lisner Auditorium in Washington D.C.) Sponsored by The International Forum on Globalization (www.ifg.org) and The Institute on Policy Studies (with other co-sponsors) From Teach-In Flyer and Draft Program at http://www.ifg.org/events/Triple_Crisis_Speakers.pdf (see p. 2) (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

Appendix 3

The Transition to Sustainable Communities

A. Introduction

1. This writer is hoping that this "1000Communities[2]" proposal will provide sufficient encouragement for many other people to create similar proposals specific to their communities—and that many proposals will result in many Community Visioning Initiatives of this nature.

2. Hopefully, what is provided in this appendix will be sufficient to suggest

     a) the need for proposals of this nature to include an appendix on this topic

     b) the need for ongoing workshops in community centers so that the residents of any given community can hope to acquire the know-how and skills sets necessary to contribute in a positive way to the transition

     c) the need for local community clearinghouses of how people can deliberately focus their time, energy, and money in ways which contribute to solutions instead of add to the challenges

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Important Note: It is worth emphasizing here that in Community Visioning Initiatives of the nature described in Section 6, even residents who have extensive background <u>in fields of activity which are universally recognized as relevant to forming solutions and action plans for the community</u> will be limited when it comes to submitting a "vote"—as in Steps 5, 6, 7, 9, and 10 (See Section 6). In other words, in Community Visioning Initiatives of this nature, there are processes which require a brief and condensed presentation (a "vote") from as many residents as possible. One conclusion which readers may draw from this observation is this: if a community is going to carry out a time-intensive CVI (as outlined in Section 6) helping people make brief and condensed presentations—as in the "votes" in the above mentioned steps—will probably be a good choice for an ongoing workshop in local Community Teaching and Learning Centers (CTLCs).

Special Commentary: Readers will notice that there are quoted excerpts of statistics, commentary, and analysis which are repeated—i.e. which appear in more than one context in this proposal. Most of these repeated excerpts are related to the subjects of world population, the increasing number of "mega-cities", ecological footprint analysis, and consumption patterns. These are very important subjects, especially in the context of energy descent and increasing resource scarcities. These are also very complex subjects, encompassing many diverse viewpoints.

We—collectively—are currently very far from any kind of consensus understandings regarding these subjects. We—collectively—may need to become much closer to consensus understandings on these subjects in the future. This writer hopes that by bringing up the subjects in a number of different contexts, there will be more readers who understand the implications of these excerpts—and more people determined to learn more about these complex subjects. This writer believes that it is very important for people in all parts of the world to think very clearly on these subjects.

B. A "Footprint" Approach to Sustainability

1. Basic Principles

a) "From the Footprint perspective, sustainability requires living within the regenerative and absorptive capacity of the planet."[1]

b) "Sustainability… is based on the recognition that when resources are consumed faster than they are produced or renewed, the resource is depleted and eventually used up."[2]

c) "We depend on these ecological assets to survive. Their depletion systematically undermines the well-being of people. Livelihoods disappear, resource conflicts emerge, land becomes barren, and resources become increasingly costly or unavailable."[3]

[Note: The difficulties described above—"Livelihoods disappear, resource conflicts emerge, land becomes barren, and resources become increasingly costly or unavailable"-- are difficulties which many people—in places with marginal ecological assets to begin with—already experience.]

d) "Since the flow of services from ecosystems often requires that they function as intact systems, the structure and diversity of the system may be an important component of natural capital."[4]

e) "[Furthermore, we should remember Leibig's 'Law of the Minimum' in this context: i.e. the productivity and ultimately the survival of any complex system dependent on numerous essential inputs or sinks is *limited by that single variable in least supply*.]"[5]

C. The Millenium Ecosystem Assessment

1) *From Washington Post article "Earth's Sustainability Not Guaranteed.…"* (Shankar
     Vedantam, March 30, 2005) and from the summary of the Millennium Ecosystem
     Assessment, at www.greenfacts.org/en/ecosystems/index.htm#10

(from Washington Post article about the Millenium Ecosystem Assessment)[6]

"…the most comprehensive analysis ever conducted on how the world's oceans, dry lands,
forests, and species interact and depend on one another—was made public March 30, 2005 by
the United Nations and by several private and public organizations."

"The effort brought together 1,300 authors from 95 countries—including governments, civil
society groups, scientists from many universities and organizations, indigenous people, etc.—
over a 4 year period, to examine the social, economic and environmental aspects of ecosystems."

(Major Findings—from a summary of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment)[7]

> a) "Over the past 50 years, humans have changed ecosystems faster and more
> extensively than in any period in human history. This has been due largely to rapidly
> growing demands for food, freshwater, timber, fiber, and fuel…."
>
> b) "The changes made to ecosystems have contributed to substantial gains in human well
> being and economic development, but these gains have been achieved at growing costs.
> These costs include the degradation of many ecosystem services…."
>
> c) "This degradation of ecosystem services could get significantly worse during the next
> 50 years…."
>
> d) "Reversing the degradation of ecosystems while meeting increasing demands for their
> services is a challenge. This challenge can be partially met in the future under scenarious
> involving significant changes to policies, institutions, and practices. However, these
> required actions will have to be substantial when compared to the actions currently
> taken…."

Important Note: Everything discussed in this section is subject to constraints which may
result from the implications of global warming and peak oil. See Section 4 for discussion on
those subjects.

D. Cities and Ecological Footprints

1. "In 2000, about 47% of the world's population lived in urban areas. 411 cities had
     1 million or more inhabitants."

(from website of Population Reference Bureau-- see
http://www.prb.org/Educators/TeachersGuides/HumanPopulation/Urbanization.aspx)
(see paragraphs one and two) (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

2. *From "Revisiting Carrying Capacity: Area Based Indicators of Sustainability", by*
       William E. Rees, 1996 (at www.dieoff.org/page110.htm) (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

"Ecological Deficit—The level of resource consumption and waste discharge by a defined
economy or population in excess of locally/regionally sustainable natural production and
assimilative capacity (also, in spatial terms, the difference between that economy/population's
ecological footprint and the geographic area it actually occupies)." [see section "Appropriating
Carrying Capacity and Ecological Footprints" (Box 3: "A Family of Area-Based Sustainability
Indicators")]

"… as a result of high population densities, the enormous increase in per capita energy and
material consumption made possible by (and required by) technology, and universally increasing
dependencies on trade, the ecological locations of human settlements no longer coincide with
their geographic locations. Twentieth century cities and industrial regions are dependent for
survival and growth on a vast and increasingly global hinterland of ecologically productive
landscapes." [see section "Appropriating Carrying Capacity and Ecological Footprints" (paragraph 4)]

"….However, our analysis of physical flows shows that these and most other so-called
'advanced' economies are running massive, unaccounted, ecological deficits with the rest of the
planet (Table 1)…. These data emphasize that all the countries listed, except for Canada, are
overpopulated in ecological terms—they could not sustain themselves at current material
standards if forced by changing circumstances to live on their remaining endowments of
domestic natural capital. This is hardly a good model for the rest of the world to follow." [see
section "Appropriating Carrying Capacity and Ecological Footprints" (and subsection "'Footprinting' the
Human Economy", paragraphs 10-11)]

"Ecological Footprint Analysis supports the argument that to be sustainable, economic growth
has to be much less material and energy intensive than at present." [in subsection "Addressing the
Double-Bind of Sustainability", see "Bullet" #6]

3. *From Press Release (August 13, 2002) "Londoners Running Up Massive Debt* on
       Earth's Resources" at www.citylimitslondon.com/city_limits_press_release.htm
          (see paragraphs 2, 6, and 8) (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

 "The City Limits Report reveals each Londoner has an ecological footprint of 6.63 global
hectares…. The current calculation for a sustainable footprint is 2.18 global hectares."

"Paper and plastics are the biggest hitters in the material and wastes footprint. Paper's large
contribution is accounted for partly by the large quantities Londoners use, 2,908,000 tonnes (per

year).… Londoners consume less plastic than paper—691,000 tonnes (per year)—but because it is derived from fossil fuel and very little is currently re-cycled, plastic makes up a large part of the average Londoner's footprint."

"Forty one per cent of the Ecological Footprint (2.80 gha) is accounted for by the food Londoners eat…. In total, London consumes 6.9 million tones of food (per year), more than three quarters of which is imported. London throws away 560,000 tonnes of food (per year) as waste."

E. Population and Consumption Patterns

1. From "Revisiting Carrying Capacity: Area-Based Indicators of Sustainability" by William E. Rees   (See http://dieoff.org/page110.htm) In section "Sustaining Development with Phantom Planets?") (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

(From 1994 publication): "If just the present world population of 5.8 billion people were to live at current North American ecological standards (say 4.5 ha/person), a reasonable first approximation of the total productive land requirement would be 2.6 billion ha (assuming present technology). However, there are only just over 13 billion ha of land on Earth, of which only 8.8 billion are ecologically productive cropland, pasture or forest (i.e. only 1.5 ha/person available at best). In short, we would need an additional 2 planet Earths to accommodate the increased ecological load of people alive today. If the population were to stabilize at between 10 and 11 billion sometime in the next century, 5 additional Earths would be needed, all else being equal— and this just to maintain the present rate of ecological decline."

"While this may seem to be an astonishing result, empirical evidence suggests that 5 phantom planets is, in fact, a considerable underestimate…. Global and regional scale ecological change in the form of atmospheric change, ozone depletion, soil loss, ground water depletion, deforestation, fisheries collapse, loss of biodiversity, etc. is accelerating. This is direct evidence that aggregate consumption exceeds natural income in certain critical categories and that (thus) the carrying capacity of this one Earth is being steadily eroded."

"Furthermore, we should remember Liebig's "Law of the Minimum" in this context: i.e. the productivity and ultimately the survival of any complex system dependent on numerous essential inputs or sinks is *limited by that single variable in least supply*….

"This situation is, of course, largely attributable to consumption by that wealthy quarter of the world's population who use 75% of global resources. The WCED's 'five- to ten-fold increase in industrial output' was deemed necessary to address this obvious inequity while accommodating a much larger population. However, since the world is already ecologically full, sustainable growth on this scale using present technology would require at [least] five to ten additional planets."

2. *World Population*

In 1804, the world population was 1 billion.
In 1927, the world population was 2 billion (123 years later).
In 1960, the world population was 3 billion (33 years later).
In 1974, the world population was 4 billion (14 years later).
In 1987, the world population was 5 billion (13 years later).
In 1999, the world population was 6 billion (12 years later).
As of June 8, 2008 (14:36 GMT EST + 5), the world population was estimated
        to be 6,672,879,869.

(from www.infoplease.com at www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0883352.html; and U.S. Bureau of the
Census POP Clock estimate at www.census.gov/cgi-bin/ipc/popclockw)
(Both confirmed on June 8, 2008)

3. *Percent of World Population Living in Urban Areas*

"In 1800, only 3% of the world's population lived in urban areas."
"In 1900, almost 14% of the world's population lived in urban areas."
"In 1950, 30% of the world's population lived in urban areas. 83 cities had 1 million or
        more inhabitants."
"In 2000, about 47% of the world's population lived in urban areas. 411 cities had
        1 million or more inhabitants."

(from website of Population Reference Bureau-- see
http://www.prb.org/Educators/TeachersGuides/HumanPopulation/Urbanization.aspx)
(see paragraphs one and two) (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

4. *Number of Vehicles, Worldwide*

"In 1900, only 4,192 passenger cars were in existence (there were no trucks, buses, etc.)"
"In 1968, there were 169,994,128 passenger cars in the world, and 46,614,342 trucks and
        buses—for a total worldwide, of 216,608,470 motor vehicles."
"In 1996, there were 485,954,000 cars registered worldwide, and 185,404,000 trucks and
        buses—for a total, worldwide, of 671,358,000 motor vehicles."

[from Glenn Elert's webpage "Number of Cars"—(statistics attributed to various sources) at
http://hypertextbook.com/facts/2001/MarinaStasenko.shtml) (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

5. *Global Consumer Class, 2004*

"By virtually any measure—household expenditures, number of consumers, extraction of raw materials—consumption of goods and services has risen steadily in industrial nations for decades, and it is growing rapidly in many developing countries."

"By one calculation, there are now more than 1.7 billion members of 'the consumer class'— nearly half of them in the developing world. A lifestyle and culture that became common in Europe, North America, Japan, and a few other pockets of the world in the twentieth century is going global in the twenty-first."

(from the "Online Features/Consumption/State of Consumption: Trends and Facts" section of the Worldwatch Institute website at http://www.worldwatch.org/node/810)
(Confirmed June 8, 2008)

6. *Global Spending on Advertising, Worldwide,* 2002

"Global spending on advertising reached $444 billion in 2002."

(from "Online Features/Vital Signs Facts/Advertising Targets the Young" section of the Worldwatch Institute website, see http://www.worldwatch.org/node/84)
(Confirmed June 8, 2008)

Special Commentary: There are times when intuition must suggest conclusions which cannot be proved by rational intellectual analysis.

F. How to Respond to These Challenges?
    "There are countless numbers of 'things people can do….'"

1. Permaculture

a) Definitions

i) The word "permaculture" was coined and popularized in the mid 70's by David Holmgren, a young Australian ecologist, and his associate, Bill Mollison. It is a contraction of "permanent agriculture" or "permanent culture."[8]

ii) "Permaculture: the use of ecology as the basis for designing integrated systems of food production, housing, appropriate technology, and community development."[9]

iii) "Permaculture adopts techniques and principles from ecology, appropriate technology, sustainable agriculture, and the wisdom of indigenous peoples."[10]

iv) "If there is a single most important insight from Odum's work, it is that solar energy and its derivatives are our only sustainable source of life. Forestry and agriculture are the primary (and potentially self supporting) systems of solar energy harvesting available. It should be possible to design land use systems which approach the solar energy harvesting capacities of natural systems while providing humanity with its needs. *This was the original premise of the permaculture concept.*[11]

v) "Permaculture aims to maximize symbiotic and synergistic relationships between all site components."[12]

b) Permaculture Approaches (Characteristics of Permaculture)[13]

i) appropriate technologies—solar and wind power, composting toilets, solar greenhouses, energy efficient housing, solar food cooking (from paragraph 2)

ii) farming systems and techniques—forestry, swales, contour planting, keyline agriculture (soil and water management), hedgerows and windbreaks, pond-dike aquaculture, aquaponics, intercropping, polyculture (from paragraph 4)

iii) gardening and recycling—cover crops, green manure, crop rotation, mulches (from paragraph 3)

iv) water collection, management, and reuse systems—keyline, greywater catchment, constructed wetlands, aquaponics, solar aquatic ponds (from paragraph 4)

c) Examples of Permaculture Principles[14]

Principle 2: Catch and Store Energy

"We live in a world of unprecedented wealth resulting form the harvesting of the enormous storage of fuels created by the earth over billions of years…. Inappropriate concepts of wealth have led us to ignore opportunities to capture local flows of both renewable and non-renewable forms of energy. Identifying and acting on these opportunities can create energy with which we can rebuild (natural) capital…."

"Some of the sources of energy include:
-- sun, wind and runoff water flows
-- wasted resources from agricultural, industrial and commercial activities"

"The most important storages of future value include:
--fertile foil with high humus content
-- perennial vegetation systems, especially trees, yield food and other useful resources

-- water bodies and tanks
-- passive solar buildings"
(from permacultureactivist.net introduction)

Principle 6: Produce No Waste

e) Permaculture Summary[15]

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (in that order)
Grow a garden and eat what it produces
Avoid imported resources where possible
Use labor and skill in preference to materials and technology
Design, build, and purchase for durability and repairability
Use resources for their greatest potential use
Use renewable resources wherever possible even if local environmental costs appear
        higher
Use non-renewable and embodied energies primarily to establish sustainable systems
When using high technology avoid using state of the art equipment
Avoid dept and long-distance commuting
Reduce taxation by earning less
Develop a home-based lifestyle, be domestically responsible

f) Global Networking Directory for Permaculture Resources

"In 2007, we celebrate 22 years of support from our readers, the designers of a regenerative
human culture. In North America's leading (and the world's longest-lived) permaculture
periodical you'll find information about permaculture design, edible landscaping,
bioregionalism, ecovillage design, aquaculture, natural building, earthworks, forestry, soils,
agriculture, urban sustainability, renewable energy, regeneration and restoration, and may
practical solutions to the challenges of life in an age of energy decline and Peak Everything.

"At our website you'll find a table of contents for our back issues, articles from past issues,
directories of plant nurseries and seed sources, an extensive catalog of books for redesigning
your life, economics, and habitat. We've added a section with products and services of interest
to our readers in the Permaculture Trading Post.

"We provide a current listing of upcoming permaculture design courses **and a valuable global
networking directory** linking students to teachers and information, homeowners to designers
and consultants, homeseekers to community, and hope and help for all who desire a healthy
happy planet that cares for it's peoples."

[From the "About Us" section of the "Permaculture Activist" website (see
http://www.permacultureactivist.net/about-us/about-us.htm)]

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2. Ecovillages

a) **Global Ecovillage Network**

"The Global Ecovillage Network is a global confederation of people and communities that meet and share their ideas, exchange technologies, develop cultural and educational exchanges, directories and newsletters, and are dedicated to restoring the land and living 'sustainable plus' lives by putting more back into the environment than we take out."

[From the "About GEN" section of the website of the Global Ecovillage Network (see http://gen.ecovillage.org/about/index.html)] (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

b) **Ecovillage Training 2008**

[From the "Ecovillage Training" subsection of the "Ecovillages and Sustainable Living" section of the "Findhorn Foundation" website (see http://www.findhorn.org/programmes/programme53.php)] (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

"Coordinated by Craig Gibsone and members of the community" (Beginning) Saturday 16th February, 2008 Presented in association with Global Ecovillage Network Europe

"There is an increasing and urgent global need for viable, sustainable human settlements. Ecovillages provide environmental, social, economic and spiritual sustainability, and an enhanced quality of life for all. Ecovillage communities are cohesive social structures, united by common social and/or spiritual values. Working with the simple principle of not taking more away from the Earth than one gives back, ecovillages are consciously diminishing their ecological footprint.

"Ecovillage principles apply equally to urban and rural settings, to both developing and over-developed countries.

"Ecovillage Training provides a practical forum for learning, and for developing action plans. It draws on the experience and expertise developed within the Findhorn Ecovillage over the past 44 years, as well as on other local and international initiatives.

"Findhorn Ecovillage has the lowest ecological footprint for any community in the industrialised world, just half the UK national average.

"Ecovillage Training teaches concepts, tools and techniques for creating sustainable human settlements. It lasts for a month and may be attended as a whole, or for one or more of its theme-based weeks.

"Topics covered include:

* Ecological building and engineering
* Local organic food production

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* Renewable energy systems
* Cooperative social economies
* Group building and global networking
* Deep ecology, earth restoration and environmental art
* Permaculture design

"This month-long training incorporates the internationally recognised Permaculture Design Certificate syllabus.

"We invite you to join the ecovillage movement. Thousands of individuals and hundreds of ecovillage initiatives and existing ecovillages have joined the Global Ecovillage Network (GEN) since its creation in 1995, becoming what has been called the Habitat Revolution."

c) **Ecovillage Design Education - Training of Trainers 2008**

[From the "Ecovillage Design Training" subsection of the "Ecovillages and Sustainable Living" section of the "Findhorn Foundation" website (see http://www.findhorn.org/programmes/programme189.php)]

"(Beginning) Saturday 11th October, 2008
presented by the Findhorn Foundation in partnership with
Global Ecovillage Network and Gaia Education

"Based on the Gaia Education Ecovillage Design Curriculum - an official contribution to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014

"Facilitated by:
Pracha Hutanuwatr - Director, Wongsanit Ashram, Thailand
May East - Director, Gaia Education
Jonathan Dawson - President, Global Ecovillage Network
Michael Shaw - Director, The Ecovillage Institute
and Findhorn Ecovillage experts

"You are invited to join this four-week comprehensive training of trainers on the fundamentals of sustainability design for urban and rural settlements, covering all elements of an ecovillage-based education.

"While the course will be facilitated by a very experienced team of ecovillage educators, it will be highly collaborative in nature, with all participants drawn in as rich resources for the learning community.

"Ecovillage Design - Training of Trainers is an advanced training course based at the Findhorn Ecovillage providing a practical forum for learning and developing skills needed to work effectively with design for sustainability at all levels.

"The programme is based at the Findhorn Ecovillage and comprises four separate weeklong modules, which may be attended as a whole or separately.

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[Social Design - Week 1: Oct 11 - 17](#)
Building Community & Embracing Diversity
Communication Skills
Conflict Facilitation and Decision-Making
Coaching, Personal Empowerment and Leadership
Celebrating Life: Creativity and Art

[Economic Design - Week 2: Oct 18 - 24](#)
Shifting the Global Economy to Sustainability
How Money Works: Community Banks and Currencies
Right Livelihood
Social Enterprise
Legal and Financial Issues

[Ecological Design - Week 3: Oct 25 - 31](#)
Whole Systems Approach to Ecological Design
Appropriate Technology: Water
Organic Agriculture and Local Food
Appropriate Technology: Energy
Green Building & Retrofitting

[Worldview - Week 4: Nov 1 - 7](#)
Holistic Worldview
Listening to and Reconnecting with Nature
Awakening & Transformation of Consciousness
Personal Health, Planetary Health
Socially Engaged Spirituality and Bioregionalism

"The EDE is being introduced to the world at this time to complement, correspond with, and assist in setting a standard for the United Nations' Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014."

3. Relocalization Network

a) [From the "What is Relocalization?" subsection of the "About" section of "The Relocalization Network" website (see http://www.relocalize.net/about/relocalization)] (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

The Relocalization Network (a program of the Post Carbon Institute)—"Relocalization is a strategy to build societies based on the local production of [food](#), [energy](#) and [goods](#), and the local development of [currency](#), [governance](#) and [culture](#). The main goals of Relocalization are to increase community energy security, to strengthen local economies, and to dramatically improve environmental conditions and social equity.

"The Relocalization strategy developed in response to the environmental, social, political and economic impacts of global over-reliance on cheap energy. Our dependence on cheap non-

renewable fossil fuel energy has produced climate change, the erosion of community, wars for oil-rich land and the instability of the global economic system.

"The Relocalization Network supports local groups in developing community activities and programs that can be implemented locally and as working models for other communities seeking to increase their resilience."

b) [From the "Background and History" subsection of the "About" section of "The Relocalization Network" website (see http://www.relocalize.net/about/background)] (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

 "The Relocalization Network is now composed of nearly 150 Local Post Carbon Groups from all over the world that are working to prepare their communities for an energy constrained future. These groups operate autonomously, while receiving guidance, educational resources, project and technical support and electronic infrastructure from Post Carbon Institute."

G. The Potential for "Green Job Creation" to be an Engine of Economic Stability

1. From a Press Release dated December 6, 2007 by the United Nations Enviroment Programme's (UNEP) News Centre (see http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=523&ArticleID=5717&l=en)   "[(referring to the preliminary draft report, *Green Jobs: Can the Transition to Environmental Sustainability Spur New Kinds and Higher Levels of Employment?*, that was commissioned by UNEP, in groundbreaking partnership with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). The final report will be released early next year.]" (Note: Possibly June, 2008)

a) ILO Sustainable Development Specialist Peter Poschen: "Adapting to and mitigating climate change will entail a transition to new patterns of production, consumption, and employment." (see paragraph 12)

b) "Millions of new jobs are among the many silver, if not gold-plated linings on the cloud of climate change" said Achim Steiner, UN Undersecretary General and Executive Director of the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP). (see paragraph 2)

2. From the "Labour Environment Unit" of the UNEP; from information on "The UNEP-ILO-ITUC Green Jobs Initiative" (see http://www.unep.org/labour_environment/features/greenjobs.asp)

[Note: "The Green Jobs Initiative is a joint initiative by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), which has been launched to assess, analyze and promote the creation of decent jobs as a consequence of the needed environmental policies. It supports a

concerted effort by governments, employers and trade unions to promote environmentally sustainable jobs and development in a climate-challenged world." (from paragraph 1)]

"(There are now a) multitude of different policy initiatives and responses to environmental threats (particularly climate change) currently being implemented, negotiated, and studied at all levels of government and society; all of which will have employment consequences. (As a result), the place of green job creation is likely to accelerate in the years ahead." (from paragraph 2)

3. From the website of the United Nations Non-Governmental Liason Service, in an article titled "UNEP/ILO/ITUC: Preliminary report on 'Green Jobs: Towards Sustainable Work in a Low-Carbon World'" (see http://www.un-ngls.org/site/article.php3?id_artoc;e=434)

"A global transition to a low-carbon and sustainable economy will create large numbers of green jobs across many sectors of the economy and indeed become an engine of sustainable development." (from paragraph 2)

4. From the Preliminary Report: Green Jobs: Towards Sustainable Work in a Low-Carbon World" accessible at http://www.unep.org/civil_society/Publications/index.asp

"The transition to new and sustainable patterns of production and consumption and a low-carbon future will entail major shifts in employment patterns and skill profiles." (see p. 132, paragraph 6)

5. From the "Labour Environment Unit" of the UNEP; from information on "The UNEP-ILO-ITUC Green Jobs Initiative" (see http://www.unep.org/labour_environment/features/greenjobs.asp)

"A fundamental dimension of the report will be the necessary just transition. Examples (are provided) of priority support measures to facilitate a fair transition for workers (and communities) affected negatively by "green" policy initiatives—including (mitigating) climate change—and changing production and consumption patterns…." (see paragraph 6)

6. From the website of the United Nations Non-Governmental Liason Service, in an article titled "UNEP/ILO/ITUC: Preliminary report on 'Green Jobs: Towards Sustainable Work in a Low-Carbon World'" (see http://www.un-ngls.org/site/article.php3?id_artoc;e=434)

"The final report will identify ways and means to promote and facilitate the significant opportunities for the development of green jobs and new 'green' skills in the future." (see paragraph 3)

7. From a Press Release dated December 6, 2007 by the United Nations Enviroment Programme's (UNEP) News Centre (see http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=523&ArticleID=5717&l=en)   "[(referring to the preliminary draft report, *Green Jobs: Can the Transition to Environmental Sustainability Spur New Kinds and Higher Levels of Employment?*, that was commissioned by UNEP, in groundbreaking partnership with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). The final report will be released early next year.]" (Note: Possibly June, 2008)

"A new report by UNEP's Sustainable Energy Finance Initiative estimates that investment in renewable energy has now reached $100 billion and represents 18% of new investments in the power sector." (see paragraph 7)

"A recent report by the U.S. economist Roger Bozdek concluded that with the right government signals and investments in research and development, renewable energy and energy efficiency industries could create 40 million jobs across the U.S. alone by 2030." (see paragraph 8)

8. Briefing with Select Committee and UN Special Envoy on Climate Change: "Forging a Global Solution for Global Warming: International Perspectives" ("United Nations Top Climate Negotiators Appear Before Global Warming Panel") Date of Briefing: September 26, 2007 10:00 am before The Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, Chair: Edward J. Markey (see http://globalwarming.house.gov/pubs/pubs?id=0014) (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

UN Special Envoy:

Mrs. Gro Harlem Brundtland, UN Special Envoy on Climate Change, former Prime Minister of Norway and former chair of the World Commission of Environment and Development

Mr. Ricardo Lagos, UN Special Envoy on Climate Change, former Chilean President

Mr. Han Seung-soo, UN Special Envoy on Climate Change, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea and former President of the UN General Assembly

Also offering testimony:

Mr. Sigmar Gabriel, Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany

 From Mr. Sigmar Gariel's testimony (at http://globalwarming.house.gov/tools/assets/files/0058.pdf) (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

"Environmental and climate protection are already real job motors: currently around 3.5 million people are employed in the environmental protection sector in the EU. In Germany, this figure is around 1.5 million. This means that already 3.8% of the German workforces are employed in the environmental protection sector." (see p. 2, paragraph 4)

"Successful energy and climate policy also has positive impacts for Germany as a location for business and innovation. It secures both jobs and a liveable environment." (see p. 2, paragraph 5)

"The expansion of renewables (the renewable energy market) shows how our country is benefiting from its role as a driving force for climate protection: within just 2 years from 2004-2006, employment in the renewables sector rose by 50%-- to 235,000 jobs. At least 134,000 jobs—almost 60% of the employment figure calculated for 2006—can be directly attributed to the Renewable Energy Sources Act. The dynamic employment development in the field of renewables will create more than 400,000 jobs by 2020. This generates demand in other industries too, and gives the industry sustainable growth in lead markets. Solar power installations and wind turbines made in Germany are an export hit all over the world." (see p.2-3, paragraph 8)

9. From the "Co-op America's National Green Pages—2007 Edition", in the section "About Co-op America" (available for search and purchase at www.coopamerica.org) (For more about the publication, see http://www.coopamerica.org/pubs/greenpages/about.cfm)

"Our mission is to harness economic power—the strength of consumers, investors, businesses, and the marketplace—to create a socially just and environmentally sustainable society." (see p. 31, paragraph 2)

b) "Through our programs, we work together with out 70,000 members and allies to

    grow green businesses and the green economy
    advance fair trade
    promote green energy and curb climate change
    increase social investing and community investing
    encourage green living choices
    use economic strategies to solve the most critical challenges of our times, such as
    economic and trade injustice, deforestation, sweatshop and child labor, global warming,
    and more (see p. 31, paragraph 4)

10. From the website of "The Social Investment Forum", in the section "About Us" (see http://www.socialinvest.org/about/) (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

"The Social Investment Forum (SIF) is the only national membership association dedicated to promoting the concept, practice, and growth of socially and environmentally responsible investing (SRI). Our members integrate economic, environmental, social and governance factors into their investment decisions and SIF provides programs and resources to advance this work.

"SIF's membership includes more than 500 social investment practitioners and institutions, including financial professionals, analysts, portfolio managers, banks, mutual funds, researchers, foundations, community development organizations, and public educators."

H. Bringing it all together at the local community level

1. From the article "Energy and Permaculture" by David Holmgren, co-creator of the "permaculture" concept) (article first written in 1990, published in "Permaculture Activist" Issue #31 May, 1994) (see subsection titled "Mollison")
(http://permacultureactivist.net/Holmgren/holmgren.htm) (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

"The transition from an unsustainable fossil fuel-based economy back to a solar-based (agriculture and forestry) economy will involve the application of the embodied energy that we inherit from industrial culture. This embodied energy is contained within a vast array of things, infrastructure, cultural processes and ideas, mostly inappropriately configured for the "solar" economy. It is the task of our age to take this great wealth, reconfigure it, and apply it to the development of sustainable systems."

2. This proposal "1000Communities[2]" advocates 3 propositions which are especially relevant when considering the value of local community information clearinghouses and ongoing workshops:

> a) There are countless numbers of "things people can do in the everyday circumstances of their lives" which will contribute to peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecological sustainability efforts, in their own communities and regions—and in other parts of the world.
>
> b) People can, one by one, decide to deliberately focus the way they spend their time, energy, and money so that their actions have positive repercussions on many or all of the 105 fields of activity (see Appendix 7).
>
> c) The result can be that there are countless "ways to earn a living" which contribute to the peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecological sustainability efforts necessary to overcome the challenges of our times.

3. The UNEP/ILO/ITUC Green Jobs Report emphasizes the concept of just transition. (See the Preliminary Report: Green Jobs: Towards Sustainable Work in a Low-Carbon World" accessible at http://www.unep.org/civil_society/Publications/index.asp)

One aspect of this just transition can be that people who do deliberately focus their investments of time, energy, and money towards solutions identified by the Community Visioning Initiative being carried out in their community may receive, as encouragement, local currency. *And then such local currency can, in its turn, be redeemed in ways which will be particularly helpful to people transitioning from less solution-oriented employment to more solution-oriented employment. (*There is much that can be done to generate goodwill and promote peace that has not yet been done.)

4. A question which would be recommended for the "Preliminary Survey" step (See Step #3 in Section 6) in a Community Visioning Initiative is as follows:

Engines of Economic Stability

Many people seem to be worried that "the economy" will collapse if some form of "voluntary simplicity" philosophy becomes more and more accepted… and yet many of the challenges of our times have chronic elements (see Appendix 1), suggesting that it may require decades, generations, or even centuries to overcome such challenges. (There *will* be work to do….)

a) Please name as many engines of economic stability and methods of economic conversion as you can which you believe would result in communities that

> minimize resource requirements
> maintain ecological sustainability
> maintain a high level of compassion for fellow human beings
>
> and which represent what a significant majority of community residents surveyed
> would describe as a high quality of life.

Important Note: Having responses to the above question (and many others, through "Preliminary Surveys") from 150 key leaders from a significant variety of fields of activity in the community will, by itself, be a significant contribution to the "(reconfiguring) the embodied energy from the industrial age, and applying it to the development of sustainable systems".

[Additional Note: The above question is one of 60 questions which are a part of The IPCR Initiative's "Building Caring Communities" Questionnaire. This questionnaire can be accessed at the website of the IPCR Initiative, at www.ipcri.net. (see http://ipcri.net/images/2-The-IPCR-Building-Caring-Communities-Questionnaire.pdf)]

Notes and Source References (Appendix 3)

1. In "Ecological Footprints of Nations, 2004"   Primary Authors: Dr. Jason Venetoulis, Dahilia Chazan, and Christopher Gaudet Redefining Progress   March, 2004 At the "Redefining Progress" website, see "Research and Publications", then "Publications 2004", then "Footprint of Nations 2004 Update" (at http://www.rprogress.org/publications/2004/footprintnations2004.pdf) (see section "What is an ecological footprint?" p. 7, paragraph 3) (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

2. From the website of "Global Footprint Network", in the section "Ecological Footprint: Overview" (see http://www.footprintnetwork.org/gfn_sub.php?content=footprint_overview) (paragraph 5) (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

3. From the website of "Global Footprint Network", in the section "Ecological Footprint: Overview" (see http://www.footprintnetwork.org/gfn_sub.php?content=footprint_overview) (paragraph 7) (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

4. From "Revisiting Carrying Capacity: Area-Based Indicators of Sustainability" by William E. Rees (See http://dieoff.org/page110.htm) In section "The Ecological Argument", see subsection "Box 1: On Natural Capital", paragraph 1) (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

5. From "Revisiting Carrying Capacity: Area-Based Indicators of Sustainability" by William E. Rees (See http://dieoff.org/page110.htm) In section "Sustaining Development with Phantom Planets?", paragraph 4) (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

6. *From Washington Post article "Earth's sustainability not guaranteed unless action is taken to protect resources"* (Shankar Vedantam, March 30, 2005 p. A02 (see http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A10966-2005Mar29.html) (paragraphs 1, 2, and 4) (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

7. From Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005. "Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Synthesis" Island Press, Washington, DC. (See http://www.millenniumassessment.org/documents/document.356.aspx.pdf) In Section "Summary for Decision Makers", in Box "Four Main Findings", p. 1) (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

8. From website of "Permaculture Activist", see section "What is Permaculture?" and subsection "Some History" (at http://permacultureactivist.net/intro/PcIntro.htm#History) (See paragraph 1) (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

9. From website of "Permaculture Activist", see section "What is Permaculture?" and subsection "Permaculture Defined" (at http://permacultureactivist.net/intro/PcIntro.htm#Defined) (see definition #3 by Permaculture Drylands Institute) (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

10. From website of "Permaculture Activist", see section "What is Permaculture?" and subsection "Permaculture Defined" (at http://permacultureactivist.net/intro/PcIntro.htm#Defined) (see definition #6 from a Bay Area Permaculture Group brochure) (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

11. From the article "Energy and Permaculture" by David Holmgren, co-creator of the "permaculture" concept) (article first written in 1990, published in "Permaculture Activist" Issue #31 May, 1994) (see subsection titled "Agriculture and Forestry") (http://permacultureactivist.net/Holmgren/holmgren.htm) (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

12. From website of "Permaculture Activist", see section "What is Permaculture?" and subsection "Characteristics of Permaculture" (at http://www.permacultureactivist.net/intro/PcIntro.htm#Characteristics) (see Bullet #6) (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

13. From website of "Permaculture Activist", see section "What is Permaculture?" and subsection "Characteristics of Permaculture" (at http://www.permacultureactivist.net/intro/PcIntro.htm#Characteristics) (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

14. From website of "Permaculture Activist", see section "What is Permaculture?" and subsection "David Holmgren's Principles of Permaculture Design" (at http://www.permacultureactivist.net/intro/PcIntro.htm#Holmgrenprinciples) (see Principle #2 and Principle #6) (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

15. From the article "Energy and Permaculture" by David Holmgren, co-creator of the "permaculture" concept) (article first written in 1990, published in "Permaculture Activist" Issue #31 May, 1994) (see "Conclusion") (http://permacultureactivist.net/Holmgren/holmgren.htm) (Accessed June 10, 2007)

Appendix 4

Evidence of the Need for an Increase in Compassion
for Our Fellow Human Beings

A. Introduction

1. This writer believes that there is a profound and critical need for an exponential increase in compassion for our fellow human beings. This profound and critical need is especially urgent when viewed as only a part of the challenges listed in Appendix 1.

2. An exponential increase in compassion for our fellow human beings is, currently, not widely recognized as an essential and critical element of truly comprehensive response to the challenges of our times. Hopefully, people who decide to develop Community Visioning Initiative proposals similar to this one (in the future) will also decide to include a section or appendix like this Appendix 4.

[Note: For more discussion on the subject of increasing compassion for our fellow human beings, see Sections 5, and Appendices 4-6.]

Special Commentary: "… bringing to the fore what is often hidden…."

The challenges of our times are such that it is now critical for us to access the storehouses of wisdom which have accumulated over the many centuries of human experience, and which have been confirmed again and again as essential to individual well-being and social harmony by the saints, sages, spiritual leaders, and sincere practitioners of all faiths and moral "world views".

B. World Population

1. World Population

In 1804, the world population was 1 billion.
In 1927, the world population was 2 billion (123 years later).
In 1960, the world population was 3 billion (33 years later).
In 1974, the world population was 4 billion (14 years later).
In 1987, the world population was 5 billion (13 years later).
In 1999, the world population was 6 billion (12 years later).
As of June 8, 2008 (14:36 GMT EST + 5), the world population was estimated
        to be 6,672,879,869.

(from www.infoplease.com at www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0883352.html; and U.S. Bureau of the Census POP Clock estimate at www.census.gov/cgi-bin/ipc/popclockw)
(Both confirmed on June 8, 2008)

C. Growth of Urban Areas—and Challenges Ahead

1. Percent of World Population Living in Urban Areas

"In 1800, only 3% of the world's population lived in urban areas."
"In 1900, almost 14% of the world's population lived in urban areas."
"In 1950, 30% of the world's population lived in urban areas. 83 cities had 1 million or
        more inhabitants."
"In 2000, about 47% of the world's population lived in urban areas. 411 cities had
        1 million or more inhabitants."

(from website of Population Reference Bureau-- see
http://www.prb.org/Educators/TeachersGuides/HumanPopulation/Urbanization.aspx)
(see paragraphs one and two) (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

2. From "Revisiting Carrying Capacity: Area Based Indicators of Sustainability", by
        William E. Rees, 1996 (at www.dieoff.org/page110.htm) (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

"… as a result of high population densities, the enormous increase in per capita energy and material consumption made possible by (and required by) technology, and universally increasing dependencies on trade, the ecological locations of human settlements no longer coincide with their geographic locations. Twentieth century cities and industrial regions are dependent for survival and growth on a vast and increasingly global hinterland of ecologically productive landscapes." [see section "Appropriating Carrying Capacity and Ecological Footprints" (paragraph 4)]

3. From the website of UN Habitat—United Nations Human Settlements Programme—
        at http://www.unhabitat.org (from "Media Centre/Press Kits" section)

 a) from "State of the World's Cities 2004-5" (foreward by Kofi Annan, UN Sec. Gen.)
        (at http://www.unhabitat.org/documents/media_centre/sowc/sgforeward.pdf) (see paragraph 1)
        (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

"Many cities face pervasive and persistent problems, including growing poverty, deepening inequality and polarization, widespread corruption at the local level, high rates of urban crime and violence, and deteriorating living conditions."

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b) from "Financing Urban Shelters: Global Report on Human Settlements 2005)"
    (see article "Sustainable Urbanisation: A Shack by Any Standards")
    at http://www.unhabitat.org/documents/media_centre/ghs/GRHS05F3.pdf
    (see paragraphs 1 and 3) (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

"A shack, about 2 metres long and 2 metres wide, is home to a family composed of husband, wife and four children. It is just one of 7700 such shacks in a street behind the residential area in Delhi…."

"The circumstances described above are very similar to those experienced by the vast majority of the more than 900 million slum dwellers all over the world…"

c) from "State of the World's Cities 2006-7" (introduction by Dr. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-Habitat) (at http://www.unhabitat.org/documents/media_centre/sowcr2006/SOWCR_ED.pdf) (see paragraph 6) (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

"… unless concerted action is taken to redress urban inequalities, cities may well become the predominant sites of deprivation, social exclusion and instability worldwide."

Special Commentary: Readers will notice that there are quoted excerpts of statistics, commentary, and analysis which are repeated—i.e. which appear in more than one context in this proposal. Most of these repeated excerpts are related to the subjects of world population, the increasing number of "mega-cities", ecological footprint analysis, and consumption patterns. These are very important subjects. These are also very complex subjects, encompassing many diverse viewpoints.

We—collectively—are currently very far from any kind of consensus understandings regarding these subjects. We—collectively—may need to become much closer to consensus understandings on these subjects in the future. This writer hopes that by bringing up the subjects in a number of different contexts, there will be more readers who understand the implications of these excerpts—and more people determined to learn more about these complex subjects. This writer believes that it is very important for people in all parts of the world to think very clearly on these subjects.

D. On the "Triple Crises"

1. From pre-conference information for "Teach In: Confronting the Global Triple Crises—Climate Change, Peak Oil (The End of Cheap Energy), and Global Resource Depletion and Extinction" (September 14-17, 2007 at The George Washington University Lisner Auditorium in Washington D.C.) From Teach-In Flyer and Draft Program at http://www.ifg.org/events/Triple_Crisis_Speakers.pdf (see p. 2) (Confirmed June 8, 2008)

"The Way Forward—Toward New Economies of Sustainability, Equity, Sufficiency and Peace ('Less and Local')"

"The planet's ecological systems are on the verge of catastrophic change for which few societies are prepared. So far, responses by governments to this emergency are inadequate, or counterproductive. We call it the "Triple Crisis," the convergence of three advancing conditions:

       a) Planet-wide climate chaos and global warming;
       b) The end of the era of cheap energy ("peak oil");
       c) The depletion of many of the world's key resources: water, timber, fish, fertile
           soil, coral reefs; and the expected extinction of 50% of the world's species.

"All are rooted in the same systemic problem—massive overuse of fossil fuels and the Earth's resources; all driven by an economic ideology of hyper growth and consumption that's beyond the limits of the planet to sustain."

E. Tragic Cycles of Malnutrition, Disease, and Death

1. Deaths, Children Younger Than 5 (each year) (worldwide)

"10 million children younger than 5 die every year, more than half from hunger-related causes. Most of these deaths are attributed, not to outright starvation, but to diseases that move in on vulnerable children whose goodies have been weakened by hunger. The four most common childhood illnesses are diarrhea, acute respiratory illness, malaria and measles. Each of these illnesses is both preventable and treatable. Yet, poverty interferes in parents' ability to access immunizations and medicines. Chronic undernourishment on top of insufficient treatment greatly increases a child's risk of death."

[From "Hunger Facts: International/Facts and Figures on Health" section of the Bread for the World website (see http://www.bread.org/learn/hunger-basics/hunger-facts-international.html) (see "Facts and Figures on Health" Bullets #3, #4, and #6) (Confirmed June 11, 2008)

2. Number of Deaths Attributed to Hunger and Poor Sanitation (in the years 1950-2000)

"An estimated 17% (8,549,000 people) of all deaths in the world in 1990 were due to malnutrition, unsafe water, and (poor) sanitation. If that 17% were applied to the years (1950-2000), (then we may conclude that) more than 418,000,000 (over 400 million) people have died of hunger and poor sanitation in the (50 years from 1950-2000)…."

 [In "A Program to End World Hunger: Hunger 2000—Tenth Annual Report of the State of World Hunger" Bread for the World Institute, see http://www.bread.org/learn/hunger-reports/hunger-report-pdfs/hunger-report-2000/introduction.pdf) (see Introduction, p. 4) (excerpt quoted from "The Global Burden of Disease: Summary" by Christopher Murray and Alan D. Lopez, eds.)] (Confirmed June 11, 2008)

F. Food Price Increases Threaten Global Security

1. "…33 nations are at risk of social unrest…."

"Last week, the president of the World Bank, Robert Zoellick, warned that 33 nations are at risk of social unrest because of the rising prices of food. 'For countries where food comprises from half to three-quarters of consumption, there is no margin for survival,' he said."

From an editorial titled "The World Food Crises" in the "Opinion" section of The New York Times (online). Published April 10, 2008 (at http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/10/opinion/10thu1.html) (see paragraph 3) (Confirmed June 13, 2008)

2. "Hunger riots will destabilize weak governments…."

"Rising food prices could spark worldwide unrest and threaten political stability, the UN's top humanitarian official warned yesterday after two days of rioting in Egypt over the doubling of prices of basic foods in a year and protests in other parts of the world.

"Sir John Holmes, undersecretary general for humanitarian affairs and the UN's emergency relief coordinator, told a conference in Dubai that escalating prices would trigger protests and riots in vulnerable nations. He said food scarcity and soaring fuel prices would compound the damaging effects of global warming. Prices have risen 40% on average globally since last summer.

"'The security implications [of the food crisis] should also not be underestimated as food riots are already being reported across the globe,' Holmes said. 'Current food price trends are likely to increase sharply both the incidence and depth of food insecurity.'

…."As well as this week's violence in Egypt, the rising cost and scarcity of food has been blamed for:
· Riots in Haiti last week that killed four people
· Violent protests in Ivory Coast
· Price riots in Cameroon in February that left 40 people dead
· Heated demonstrations in Mauritania, Mozambique and Senegal
· Protests in Uzbekistan, Yemen, Bolivia and Indonesia"

From an article titled "Food price rises threaten global security—UN: Hunger riots will destabilize weak governments, says senior official" by David Adam, environment correspondent, in The Guardian (UK) Wednesday, April 9, 2008 (at http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/apr/09/food.unitednations) (see paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 5) (Confirmed June 13, 2008)

3. "Food Summit Calls for More Investment in Agriculture"

 "The Summit on soaring food prices, convened by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) (June 3-5, 2008), has concluded with the adoption by acclamation of a declaration calling on the international community to increase assistance for developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and those that are most negatively affected by high food prices.

"'There is an urgent need to help developing countries and countries in transition expand agriculture and food production, and to increase investment in agriculture, agribusiness and rural development, from both public and private sources,' according to the declaration."
…."On climate change, the Declaration said: 'It is essential to address (the) question of how to increase the resilience of present food production systems to challenges posed by climate change... We urge governments to assign appropriate priority to the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors, in order to create opportunities to enable the world's smallholder farmers and fishers, including indigenous people, in particular vulnerable areas, to participate in, and benefit from financial mechanisms and investment flows to support climate change adaptation, mitigation and technology development, transfer and dissemination. We support the establishment of agricultural systems and sustainable management practices that positively contribute to the mitigation of climate change and ecological balance.'"

From the FAONewsroom section of The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) website. In the "Focus on the Issues" subsection, see "High-level conference on world food security…", and then see "Conference News" (6/6/2008). Specific article "Food Summit Calls for More Investment in Agriculture" (paragraphs 1, 2, and 9) (at http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2008/1000856/index.html) (Confirmed June 13, 2008)

4. "This calls for 'innovative and imaginative solutions'…."

"Noting that the time for talk was over and that action was urgently needed, FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf today appealed to world leaders for US$30 billion a year to re-launch agriculture and avert future threats of conflicts over food.

"In an impassioned speech at the opening of the Rome Summit (FAO World Summit on Food Security, June 3-5, 2008) called to de-fuse the current world food crisis, Dr Diouf noted that in 2006 the world spent US$1,200 billion on arms while food wasted in a single country could cost US$100 billion and excess consumption by the world's obese amounted to US$20 billion.

"'Against that backdrop, how can we explain to people of good sense and good faith that it was not possible to find US$30 billion a year to enable 862 million hungry people to enjoy the most fundamental of human rights: the right to food and thus the right to life?' Dr Diouf asked."

…."'The structural solution to the problem of food security in the world lies in increasing production and productivity in the low-income, food-deficit countries,' he declared.

"This calls for 'innovative and imaginative solutions', including 'partnership agreements ... between countries that have financial resources, management capabilities and technologies and countries that have land, water and human resources'.

"The current world food crisis had already had 'tragic political and social consequences in different countries' and could further 'endanger world peace and security', Dr Diouf said.

"But the crisis was in essence a 'chronicle of disaster foretold', he noted. Despite the World Food Summit's solemn pledge in 1996 to halve world food hunger by 2015, resources to finance agricultural programmes in developing countries had not only failed to rise but decreased significantly since then."
From the FAONewsroom section of The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) website. In the "Focus on the Issues" subsection, see "High-level conference on world food security…", and then see "Conference News" (6/6/2008). Specific article "The World only needs 30 billion dollars a year to eradicate the scourse of hunger" (paragraphs 1-3 and 5-8) (at http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2008/1000853/index.html)   (Confirmed June 13, 2008)

G. Cultures of Violence

1. Deaths by Violent Conflict, 1900-2000

"In the 20th Century, an estimated 191 million people lost their lives directly or indirectly as a result of conflict, and well over half of them were civilians."

(from search using "Injuries and Violence Prevention" in the World Health Organization website, in the section "Facts Sheets" associated with "The World Report on Violence and Health" by the World Health Organization, Geneva 2002. see http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/world_report/factsheets/en/collectiveviolfacts.pdf (Confirmed June 11, 2008)

2. *Deaths by Murder or Non-Negligent Manslaughter, United States (1983-2002)*

"According to FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) statistics, in a document titled 'Crime in the United States, 2002'-- there were an average of 19,969 deaths by murder or non-negligent manslaughter per year in the United States, during the years 1983-2002"

(from "Crime Index Offenses Reported/United States, 1983-2002" section of the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation website, (http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius_02/html/web/offreported/02-table01.html) (Confirmed June 11, 2008))

3. Small Arms Statistics, 2003

"There are at least 639 million firearms in the world today, of which 59% are legally held by citizens."

"At least 1,134 companies in 98 countries worldwide are involved in some aspect of the production of small arms and/or ammunition."

(from the "Publications/Yearbook" section of the Small Arms Survey website, in the subsection "About the Small Arms Survey 2003", at http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/files/sas/publications/year_b_pdf/2003/2003SAS_press-release_yb03_en.pdf) (Confirmed June 11, 2008))

Or—from a document titled "State of the World's Cities (2004-2005): General Overview: Urbanization & the Economic Contribution of Cities" (see p. 5)
 from UN-Habitat website, at
http://www.unhabitat.org/documents/media_centre/sowc/ContritoCities.pdf
(see p. 5, Bullet #4) (Confirmed June 11, 2008)

"500 million small arms produced by 300 manufacturers in 74 countries are believed to be in circulation in the world, either legally or outside of regulatory state controls. Despite this, international trade in small arms is currently highly unregulated. 40% of the international flow of small arms is attributed to illicit trafficking."

4. Small Arms Statistics, 2007

(from "Press Release" for "Small Arms Survey 2007: Guns and The City"; see paragraphs 1 and 2)

"Large-scale and uncontrolled urbanization is often accompanied by decreasing levels of public safety and appears to be associated with increased rates of armed violence, finds the 2007 edition of the Small Arms Survey. The drug trade, the availability of weapons, opportunities for criminal gain, and the social dislocation and anonymity of large cities all contribute to armed violence. A dearth of employment opportunities and resources in some cities is a factor in the onset of urban conflicts, from Brazil and Guatemala to South Africa and India.

"'Cities are now home to the majority of the world's population and present particular challenges for tackling armed violence,' said Keith Krause, Programme Director of the Geneva-based Small Arms Survey. 'Whereas urbanization used to be associated with industrialization and economic growth, this link has been broken. Today's urban sprawl sees 25 million people each year join the one billion people who are living in slums—often sites of violence and coercion—while the wealthy retreat to gated communities,' said Krause."

(in the section "About the Small Arms Survey 2007"; in the subsection "Key Findings")

"• There are at least 875 million combined civilian, law enforcement, and military firearms in the world today.

• Civilians own approximately 650 million firearms worldwide, roughly 75 per cent of the known total. US citizens alone own some 270 million of these, with about 90 firearms for every 100 people.
• At least 60 states made what could reasonably be interpreted as irresponsible small arms shipments to 36 countries during the period 2002–04.
• The 2007 Small Arms Transparency Barometer indicates that transparency among the major exporters of small arms and light weapons remains poor in many countries. Among the most transparent are the United States, France, Italy, Norway, the United Kingdom, and Germany. The least transparent are Bulgaria, North Korea, and South Africa….

"• Large-scale and uncontrolled urbanization appears to be associated with increased rates of armed violence.
• Rapid urbanization is generally coupled with decreasing levels of public safety, posing serious challenges to the provision of security and justice."

From "Small Arms Survey 2007: Guns and The City" [from the the Small Arms Survey website (see publications tab)] (website address http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/files/sas/publications/yearb2007.html) (Confirmed June 11, 2008)

5. The Global Drugs Trade and The Global Arms Trade, 2002

 "The global drugs trade and the global arms trade are integral to violence in both developing and industrialized countries. Even modest progress on either front will contribute to reducing the amount and degree of violence suffered by millions of people. To date, however—and despite their high profile in the world arena—no solutions seem to be in sight for these problems."

From the "World Report on Violence and Health" (World Health Organization Geneva 2002) in Chapter 9 "The Way Forward: Recommendations for Action" p. 254 (at http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2002/9241545615.pdf) (Confirmed June 11, 2008)

6. Worldwide Military Expenditures, 1996-2005

"According to an estimate by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, world military expenditures for the years 1996-2005 totaled 8.327 trillion dollars ($8,327,000,000,000) (8,327 billion dollars).

(from "Table on World and Regional Military Expenditures 1988-2005" in "Sipri Data on Military Expenditure" section of Stockholm International Peace Research Institute website (http://www.sipri.org/contents/milap/milex/mex_wnr_table.html) (Confirmed June 11, 2008)

H. Concluding Comments

1. Challenge #1 from Appendix 1 ("An Assessment of the Ten Most Difficult Challenges of Our Times")

"Community building associated with energy descent (see Challenges #4, 5, and 6) (as a result of either wise decisions, key supply shortages, or lack of other options) may or may not be accompanied by an exponential increase in compassion for our fellow human beings. *Without such an exponential increase*, an <u>increase</u> in the need for emergency assistance to people with basic human needs [as a result of migrations from areas where carrying capacity has been exceeded (areas such as mega-cities), for example (see Challenge #8)] may coincide with a <u>decrease</u> in our capacity to respond to such emergencies"

2. From Chapter 53 of "Te-Tao Ching" (by Lao Tzu) (possibly written in 6th Century B.C.E., sufficient evidence unavailable) (translation by Robert G. Hendricks) Ballantine Books New York 1989

"Were I to have the least bit of knowledge, in walking on a Great Road,
it's only going astray that I would fear.
The Great Way is very level;
But people greatly delight in tortuous paths."

Appendix 5

Examples of Humanitarian Aid Which Can be Explored Through "Sister Community" Relationships

A. Introduction

Section 5 ("About 'Sister Community' Relationships") explains why this proposal encourages communities with the resources to do so to create "sister community" relationships with communities in other countries where there has been well-documented calls for assistance with basic human needs.

Here in Appendix 5, this writer offers 10 examples of organizations which provide humanitarian aid to people with basic human needs. These examples are offered as a starting point for discussion on the subject of what a community of people with surplus resources could do if even 20% of the community's population focused their efforts on providing assistance. Most readers will understand that these examples only represent a small fraction of the many forms of assistance which might be considered by the residents of any diverse community or regional area.

[**Special Note**: The inclusion of these initiatives, in the context of this proposal, does not suggest or imply any endorsement or support by these initiatives for this "1000Communities[2]" proposal.]

B. Ten Examples of Humanitarian Aid Which Can be Explored Through "Sister Community" Relationships

1. **The Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

There are many circumstances in communities around the world where the activity of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is essential for communities of people to survive natural—or human-created—disasters, and progress to a recovery and rebuilding phase. Here, this writer offers a glimpse into the Seven Fundamental Principles of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, so that readers can appreciate some of the lessons these organizations have learned from many experiences in the field of humanitarian aid.

The Seven Fundamental Principles--"Proclaimed in Vienna in 1965, the seven Fundamental Principles bond together the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, The International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. They guarantee the continuity of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and its humanitarian work.

"[The Seven Fundamental Principles (of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies)]:

> a) Humanity-- "… endeavours… to prevent and alleviate human suffering
> wherever it may be found."
> b) Impartiality—"It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious
> beliefs,class or political opinions."
> c) Neutrality—"… the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at
> any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature."
> d) Independence—"… must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be
> able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement."
> e) Voluntary Service—"… not prompted in any manner by desire for gain."
> f) Unity—"There can only be one Red Cross or one Red Crescent Society in any
> one country."
> g) Universality—"… all Societies have equal status and share equal
> responsibilities and duties in helping each other…."

From the "What We Do" section of the International Federation
of The Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies website, see the subsection "Introduction" and then
"Principles and Values" (at http://www.ifrc.org/what/values/principles/index.asp) (Confirmed
June 12, 2008)

2. **World Food Programme**

"WFP is the United Nations frontline agency in the fight against global hunger."

"Operations aim to:

> Save lives in refugee crises and other emergencies
> Improve nutrition and quality of life of world's most vulnerable people at critical
> times in their lives
> Enable development by (a) helping people build assets that benefit them directly;
> (b) promoting the self-reliance of poor people and communities"

[From the "What We Do"/"Introduction" section of the "World Food Programme website (see
http://www.wfp.org/operations/introduction/index.asp?section=5&sub_section=1)] (See
paragraph 1) (Confirmed June 12, 2008)

"WFP by Numbers

Food distributed to 87.8 million of the poorest people in the world, including 58.8 children
24.3 million people in development programmes
63.4 million beneficiaries in emergency and protracted relief and recovery operations

Operations in 78 countries around the world
90 relief operations
22 development projects and 34 country programmes in 48 countries

Total food distributed: 4 million tonnes[1]
26 percent for emergency operations
18 percent for development projects
2 million tons contributed in kind
2 million tons purchased with cash - valued at US$600 million, of which 77 percent was
       procured in developing countries

Direct expenditure: US$ 2.9 billion

Total number of employees: 10,587
92 percent of WFP staff serve in the field"

[From the "Who We Are"/"Facts and Figures"/"WFP by Numbers" section of the World Food Programme" website (see
http://www.wfp.org/aboutwfp/facts/2006/index.asp?section=1&sub_section=5)] (Confirmed June 12, 2008)

3. **Doctors Without Borders**

"Every year, Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) provides emergency medical care to millions of people caught in crises in nearly 60 countries around the world. MSF provides assistance when catastrophic events — such as armed conflict, epidemics, malnutrition, or natural disasters — overwhelm local health systems. MSF also assists people who face discrimination or neglect from their local health systems or when populations are otherwise excluded from health care…. (MSF provides independent, impartial assistance to those most in need. MSF reserves the right to speak out to bring attention to neglected crises, to challenge inadequacies or abuse of the aid system, and to advocate for improved medical treatments and protocols.)

"On any given day, close to 27,000 doctors, nurses, logisticians, water-and-sanitation experts, administrators, and other qualified professionals can be found providing medical care in international teams made up of local MSF aid workers and their colleagues from around the world.

"In 2006, MSF medical teams gave more than 9 million outpatient consultations; hospitalized almost half a million patients; delivered 99,000 babies; treated 1.8 million people for malaria; treated 150,000 malnourished children; provided 100,000 people living with HIV/AIDS with antiretroviral therapy; vaccinated 1.8 million people against meningitis; and conducted 64,000 surgeries."

From the website of "Doctors Without Borders". In the "About Us" section, see the "Activities" subsection (at http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/aboutus/activities.cfm) (paragraphs 1, 2 and 3) (Confirmed June 12, 2008) (Note: Text in parenthesis in paragraph 1 above is from the "About Us" section, "History and Principles" subsection (at http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/aboutus/) (Confirmed June 12, 2008)

In 1999, Doctors Without Borders received the Nobel Peace Prize.

[Below is an excerpt from the "Presentation Speech" for the 1999 Nobel Peace Prize]

"Few aims can be more praiseworthy than to combat suffering: to help those in the most desperate situations, whatever their race and wherever they may be, to return to a dignified life. Some persons even have the necessary strength and drive to live up to this ideal. We welcome a few of them today. We do so humbly, recognising that they are representatives of a much greater number of self-sacrificing men and women all over the world. Our thoughts go not least to those who, at this very moment, are working under the most difficult conditions, often putting their own lives at risk, in scenes of the profoundest suffering and degradation.

"Every year, Médecins Sans Frontières send out over 2,500 doctors, nurses and other professional helpers to more than 80 countries, where they co-operate with a good 15,000 local personnel. They go where need, suffering and hopelessness are greatest, indeed often catastrophic in nature, regardless of whether the catastrophes are human or natural in origin. We find them in the world's countless refugee camps, as well as among Chinese peasants, Russian prisoners, or the western world's modern city slum-dwellers. They are present in large numbers in Africa – the forgotten continent."

From the website of www.Nobelprize.org Located by a search using the search terms "Nobel Peace Prize 1999—Presentation Speech". (at http://search.nobelprize.org/search/nobel/?q=Nobel+Peace+Prize+1999&i=en&x=8&y=10) (paragraphs 1 and 2) (Confirmed June 12, 2008)

4. **Teachers Without Borders**

a) "… a huge shortage of qualified teachers…."

"The United Nations reports a huge shortage of qualified teachers, as well as a demonstrated need for accelerated, practical, local, contemporary, and flexible teacher education."

From the "Community Teaching and Learning Centers" section of the "Teachers Without Borders" website (see http://www.teacherswithoutborders.org/html/ctlc.html)
In the subsection "A Compelling Need", from Bullet #5. (Confirmed May 12, 2008)

"… evidence shows that those countries with the desire to "leapfrog" over the gaps they face in terms of skills, knowledge, and educational opportunities cannot grow through acquisition of equipment alone. They must have consistent and practical teacher training, along with the support of national education strategies."

From the "Community Teaching and Learning Centers" section of the "Teachers Without Borders" website (see http://www.teacherswithoutborders.org/html/ctlc.html)
In the subsection "A Compelling Need", from Bullet #4. (Confirmed May 12, 2008)

b) "… the building of teacher leaders."

"Teachers Without Borders is a non-profit (501c3), non-denominational, international NGO founded in 2000, devoted to closing the education divide through teacher professional development and community education. Our organization focuses on the building of teacher leaders." [From the "Mission" section of "Teachers Without Borders"

From the "About Us" section of the "Teachers Without Borders" website. (See http://www.teacherswithoutborders.org/html/who_we_are.html#missiontwb) In the subsection "Mission", see paragraph 1 (Confirmed June 12, 2008)

"We help to grow teachers. Click on the link to read more about our Certificate of Teaching Mastery program. We identify talent and find a way of attracting, retaining, and supporting cohorts of teachers from all sectors of local communities. We find mentors for teachers to ensure subject-matter mastery and teaching technique, and then provide opportunities at our community teaching and learning centers for emerging teachers to practice. Our plan is to start from the ground up - incorporating local mentorship, distance learning, and community college offerings, then assist local talent in completion, at a high level, of course work at four-year schools. Most importantly, we provide a means of steady communication and feedback amongst cohorts of teaching talent."

From the "Community Teaching and Learning Centers" section of the "Teachers Without Borders" website (see http://www.teacherswithoutborders.org/html/ctlc.html)   In the subsection "Example Programs", see "Teachers Education", paragraphs 1 and 2 (Confirmed May 12, 2008)

c) One of the key resources "Teachers Without Borders" has created to assist with teacher development and community education is "Community Teaching and Learning Centers".

"Community Teaching and Learning Centers (CTLCs) are local, practical education centers designed to be embraced by and emerge from the community itself. CTLCs use existing facilities and are often outfitted with libraries (such as dictionaries, references, educational material of general interest) and computers, face-to-face classrooms, and break-out spaces, used primarily to serve several essential functions for community sustainability."

From the "Community Teaching and Learning Centers" section of the "Teachers Without Borders" website (see http://www.teacherswithoutborders.org/html/ctlc.html)
In "Definition" section, see paragraphs 1 and 3 (Confirmed May 12, 2008)

How can they be created?

"Teachers Without Borders provides the following value:

 Community organizing and readiness
Approvals by government
Site selection & development
Coordination of building retrofitting
Mutual plan, with CTLC leaders, for Internet access (with local and international investors)
Computer acquisition, shipping
Support for In-country leadership & CTLC Local Advisory Council
Extensive programs (educational, health, IT)
 Organization and design of service delivery
Community Outreach"

From the "Community Teaching and Learning Centers" section of the "Teachers Without Borders" website (see http://www.teacherswithoutborders.org/html/ctlc.html)   In the subsection "Definition", from paragraph 6. (Confirmed May 12, 2008)

5. **Small Scale Sustainable Infrastructure Development Fund (S^{3}IDF)**

"Our Mission: To Foster pro-poor, pro-environment small scale infrastructure services with financing and technical assistance for electricity, water, sanitation and other infrastructure (eg. transport and telecommunications) - necessary for poverty alleviation."

From the homepage of S^{3}IDF at http://www.s3idf.org/index.asp (Confirmed June 12, 2008)

"Our Approach:

We term our framework as the "Social Merchant Bank" where technical, financial and business support are linked and integrated for infrastructure enterprise development.
S^{3}IDF's approach:
S^{3}IDF produces a stream of fundable small scale for-profit utilities.
- The business must be explicitly pro-poor, cost-effective, environmentally responsible, and can demonstrate a high degree of replicability.
- Implements its mission by partnering with one or more other local entities, such as NGOs, technology suppliers, academic organizations, and financial institutions.

- Provides technology/know-how, financing and business development assistance to small/fledgling entrepreneurs and community NGOs seeking to sell infrastructural services (water, energy, sanitation, transport, information) to India's urban and rural poor
- The poor benefit in multiple ways, either as infrastructure owner/operators/employees and as consumers of infrastructure services"

From the "About Us" section of the S³IDF website, see the subsection "Our Approach" (at
http://www.s3idf.org/dynamic/about-ourapproach.htm)   (Confirmed June 12, 2008)

6. **International Development Enterprises (IDE)**

"IDE is a unique international non-profit organization that has been helping poor farmers in developing countries escape poverty for more than 25 years. IDE has pioneered a market-based approach that has enabled millions to permanently escape poverty. IDE uses business principles to facilitate unsubsidized market systems in which the rural poor can participate effectively as micro-entrepreneurs and earn income. In this way, our programs create an environment that helps small farmers progress from subsistence agriculture to commercial farming, beginning an upward spiral out of chronic deprivation and vulnerability."

From the "About Us" section of the IDE website. (see
http://www.ideorg.org/aboutus/index.php) (paragraph 1) (Confirmed June 12, 2008)

"Our Method

Based on more than 25 years of experience, IDE has developed a unique market-oriented development model that benefits the rural poor. We call it **PRISM** (Poverty Reduction through Irrigation and Smallholder Markets). Using PRISM, IDE integrates small farm households into markets and develops sustainable businesses that reduce rural poverty worldwide.

PRISM is a set of tools that are used to develop an understanding of the unique situation of the rural poor and to create sustainable solutions to rural poverty. PRISM creates opportunities for increased income by:
- Creating networks of small enterprises to provide agricultural supplies needed by poor farmers
- Working with small farmers to improve productivity
- Linking small farm families to markets for their produce

The Prism Approach

PRISM develops enterprises that improve small farm productivity and integrate small farms into markets for effective and sustainable poverty reduction.

PRISM Principles

The goal of PRISM is to enable the rural poor to transform their knowledge and skills into sustainable income through effective market participation and improve the natural resource base upon which their livelihoods depend. PRISM projects are guided by the following principles:

<u>Benefits reach the disadvantaged.</u> PRISM is responsive to the unique opportunities and needs of the rural poor and emphasizes listening to, learning from and benefiting those who live in extreme poverty.
<u>Water control is key to income generation.</u> Innovative low cost small scale irrigation technologies enable farmers to access, store and control water in order to increase farm income, improve water use efficiency, and reduce labor.
<u>PRISM projects are entrepreneurial.</u> Creative market driven, business oriented solutions to poverty enable the rural poor to participate fully in markets, creating efficient, sustainable income increases.
<u>PRISM emphasizes sustainable resource management.</u> The PRISM approach preserves the soil, land and water resources upon which both the rural poor and the market depend."

From the "About Us" section of the IDE website. See the subsection "Our Method" (at http://www.ideorg.org/method/index.php) (Confirmed June 12, 2008)

7. **Alternative Gifts International (AGI)**

"AGI is a nonprofit, interfaith agency. AGI provides education for people of all ages about global needs and raises funds each year in its Alternative Gift Markets and from individual donors to respond to those needs. Designated grants then are sent to the established international projects of several reputable nonprofit agencies for relief and development."

[From the "About AGI" section of the Alternative Gifts International website, see the subsection "Mission Statement" (paragraph 2) (at http://www.alternativegifts.org/pages/about/mission-statement/)] (Confirmed June 12, 2008)

The current catalog of humanitarian assistance projects which people can donate to is at http://www.alternativegifts.org/projects/

8. **Peace Corps**

"The Peace Corps traces its roots and mission to 1960, when then-Senator John F. Kennedy challenged students at the University of Michigan to serve their country in the cause of peace by living and working in developing countries. From that inspiration grew an agency of the federal government devoted to world peace and friendship."

"Since that time, more than 190,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have been invited by 139 host countries to work… (in the following areas): Education (36%), Health & HIV/AIDS (21%), Business (15%), Environment (14%), Youth (6%), Agriculture (5%), Other (4%)."

From the website of The Peace Corps, see the section "What is the Peace Corps?" (at http://www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm?shell=learn.whatispc) (paragraphs 1 and 2) [Note: Statistics from the "Fast Facts" subsection of "What is the Peace Corps?" (at http://www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm?shell=learn.whatispc.fastfacts) (see "Volunteers by Work Area"] (Both confirmed June 12, 2008)

9. **Foreign Student Exchange**

a) About foreign student exchange programs

"A student exchange program is a program in which a student, typically in secondary or higher education, chooses to live in a foreign country to learn, among other things, language and culture. These programs are sometimes called 'exchanges' because different countries participating in the program will trade off students in this fashion. The students live with a host family, who are usually unpaid volunteers and often have a child the same age who has also participated (or is going to participate) in a similar exchange program. Host families are usually vetted by the organization co-ordinating the program.

"Student exchanges became popular after World War II. And have the aim of helping to increase the participants' understanding and tolerance of other cultures, as well as improving their language skills and broadening their social horizons.

"An exchange student typically stays in the host country for a relatively short period of time, often 6 to 10 months, in contrast to international students or those on study abroad programs which often last for several years.

"These programs are available from a number of service-oriented organizations, such as World Education Program WEP) Australia, Rotary International's Rotary Youth Exchange, EF Foundation for Foreign Study, AFS, AIFS's Academic Year in America and Youth for Understanding, which offer some of the more popular programs. Other organizations such as the Kiwanis or Lions Clubs offer similar programs."

From keyword "student exchange program" at Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia (at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Student_exchange_program) (See paragraphs 1-4) (Confirmed June 12, 2008)

b) About the "American Foreign Exchange" (AFS) program

AFS Statement of Purpose

"AFS is an international, voluntary, non-governmental, non-profit organizztion that provides intercultural learning opportunities to help people develop the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to create a more just and peaceful world."

The Core Values and Attributes of AFS

"AFS enables people to act as responsible global citizens working for peace and understanding in a diverse world. It acknowledges that peace is a dynamic concept threatened by injustice, inequity and intolerance.

"AFS seeks to affirm faith in the dignity and worth of every human being and of all nations and cultures. It encourages rep sect for human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction as to race, sex, language, religion, or social status.

"AFS activities are based on our core values of dignity, respect for differences, harmony, sensitivity and tolerance."

"Adopted at the 1993 World Congress."

From the "What We Do" section of the AFS website (at http://www.afs.org/afs_or/view/what_we_do) (Confirmed June 12, 2008)

10. **Sponsor a Child—Children International**

a) What is Children International?

"Children International is a nonprofit humanitarian organization dedicated to bettering the lives of impoverished children, their families and communities."

 From the "Who We Are" section of the Children International website. (See http://www.children.org/whoWeAre.asp?sid=B8D60C04-224E-4707-8B70-778EC0637971) (paragraphs 1) Confirmed June 13, 2008)

"Our mission is to help children living in dire poverty. This is accomplished through the generosity of our contributors, by providing children with program benefits and services that meet basic needs, enhance their self-esteem and raise their physical and educational levels in a meaningful, lasting way."

From the "Who We Are" section of the Children International website, in the subsection "Vision, Mission, Goal" (at http://www.children.org/vision.asp?sid=B8D60C04-224E-4707-8B70-778EC0637971) (see "Our Mission")   (Confirmed June 13, 2008)

b) What does Children International do?

"Our child sponsorship solution provides health, educational, material and emotional aid to impoverished children around the world. One-to-one sponsorship gives these children the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty and realize their full potential." (from the "How Help Children" section)

"Children International's sponsorship program is designed to impact every aspect of a child's life. Sponsored children receive life-changing assistance in areas such as:

> --Health: access to a doctor, dentist, vaccines and medicine
> --Education: uniforms and school supplies, tuition assistance, access to libraries
>   and tutoring
> --Nutrition: malnutrition screenings, feeding programs, supplements and
>   educational programs
> --Youth: peer education, leadership and vocational training, civic responsibility
>   and scholarships
> --Community: clean water incentives, sanitary latrines and micro-enterprise
>   programs and grants
> --Family: household items, income-generation programs, educational
>   opportunities and housing and home-repair assistance"

From the "How We Help Children" section of the Children International website. (See http://www.children.org/howHelpChildren.asp?sid=B8D60C04-224E-4707-8B70-778EC0637971) (paragraphs 5 and 4) (Confirmed June 13, 2008)

"Our sponsorship program currently benefits more than 300,000 impoverished children and their families in 11 countries throughout the world, including Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Mexico, the Philippines, the United States and Zambia."

From the "Who We Are" section of the Children International website. (See http://www.children.org/whoWeAre.asp?sid=B8D60C04-224E-4707-8B70-778EC0637971) (paragraphs 3) Confirmed June 13, 2008)

c) Realities of Poverty

"Poverty is reality for nearly half the world's population… almost 3 billion people. And of those, more than 1 billion subsist on less than $1 a day. For them, the smallest of necessities seem impossible—every step is another obstacle to overcome. The statistics tell a grim tale:

> --Poverty is the number one killer in the world (British Medical Journal)
> --Six-million children under the age of 5 die as a result of hunger and malnutrition
>   every year (UNICEF)
> --More than 1 billion people live without access to safe drinking water (UN)
> --More than 78% of the developing world's urban population now lives in slums
>   (UN-Habitat)"

From the "How We Help Children" section of the Children International website. See the subsection "Realities of Poverty" (at http://www.children.org/poverty.asp?sid=B8D60C04-224E-4707-8B70-778EC0637971) (Confirmed June 13, 2008)

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Notes and Source References (Appendix 5)

1. As noted in three different contexts in this proposal (Appendix 1, Note #5; Appendix 2, subsection E, #5; and Appendix 3, subsection D, #3), an estimate exists which suggests that the population of London, England throws away 560,000 tonnes of food per year.

Appendix 6

Integrating Spiritual Wisdom into the Everyday Circumstances of Community Life

A. Introduction

1. Appendix 4 provides evidence of a profound and critical need for an exponential increase in compassion for our fellow human beings. This profound and critical need is especially urgent when viewed as only a part of the challenges listed in Appendix 1.

2.   And yet arriving at a full appreciation of the difficulty of our current circumstances is an unpredictable and potentially dangerous proposition, as arriving at such a point *without also having* sufficient faith and wisdom—<u>and</u> access to appropriate resources—could be overwhelming, and could lead to many people losing hope and becoming desperate. After all, consider that in one of the documents which has assisted many people to a fuller awareness of the implications of "peak oil" (the "Hirsch Report"), the suggestion is made that successful risk management of such a profound change in human affairs will require that large scale mitigation activity commence ten years before the actual "peak" occurs.[9]

How much more time, might we imagine, will be needed for the profound changes in human affairs necessary to overcome all the challenges described in Appendix 1?

B. "… bringing to the fore what is often hidden…."

1. The challenges of our times are such that it is now critical for us to access the storehouses of wisdom which have accumulated over the many centuries of human experience, and which have been confirmed again and again as essential to individual well-being and social harmony by the saints, sages, spiritual leaders, and sincere practitioners of all faiths and moral "world views".

2. Even now, as you are reading this, truly inspiring contributions of genuine goodwill are being generated in a variety of ways—and in a variety of circumstances—by countless numbers of people in communities around the world.

3. *And yet*… much of the real treasured wisdom of religious, spiritual, and moral traditions now seems to be hidden—and thus in need of being re-discovered. These "hidden" resources include teachings which inspire and encourage people to

>   a) place a high priority on the development of truth, virtue, love, and peace—and live disciplined lives for the purpose of adhering to truth, cultivating virtue and love, and maintaining the pathways to enduring peace

>   b) sacrifice personal desires for the greater good of the whole

>   c) find contentment and quality of life while consuming less material goods and ecological services

d) prefer peacebuilding which supports and actualizes mutually beneficial understandings, forgiveness, and reconciliation—*and which abstains from violent conflict resolution*—as a way of bringing cycles of violence to an end

e) use resources carefully, so that there is surplus available for emergency assistance

f) support community life and cultural traditions which '… bring to the fore what is often hidden: how many good people there are, how many ways there are to do good, and how much happiness comes to those who extend help, as well as to those who receive it.'"

What can we do—at this particular point in time—in the everyday circumstances of our lives, to bring the best ideas *from* the storehouses of accumulated wisdom now accessible to us and *"through the mist"*, so that our community building processes will be most effective in helping us overcome the challenges of our times?

C. The Interfaith Peacebuilding and Community Revitalization (IPCR) Initiative

1. This writer is the founder and outreach coordinator for The IPCR Initiative.

2. The IPCR Initiative is an effort to apply the accumulated wisdom now accessible to us towards the general goal of integrating spiritual wisdom into the everyday circumstances of community life—and towards the specific goal of generating practical responses to the challenges of our times.

3. The IPCR Initiative is aware of an urgent need to build bridges and increase collaboration between diverse communities of people; both as a response to the implications of global warming, ecological footprint analysis, and the "peaking" of our finite supplies of oil—and to be proactive about individual spiritual formation, interfaith peacebuilding, and the creation of ecologically sustainable communities.

4. The IPCR Initiative understands that the complexity associated with building bridges and increasing collaboration between diverse communities of people, the urgent need for resolutions to a significant number of critical issues in the near future—*and the seemingly chronic nature of many of the challenges of our times*—suggests a need for problem solving on a scale most of us have never known before.

5. Assessments of the challenges of our times such as the one offered in Appendix 1 provide evidence that there is a profound and critical need for human beings—collectively—to be

a) much more organized and deliberate about "… bringing to the fore what is often hidden: how many good people there are, how many ways there are to do good, and how much happiness comes to those who extend help, as well as to those who receive it."

b) much more multifaceted and participation-friendly in our approaches to peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecological sustainability

c) much more resourceful in the use of the storehouses of accumulated wisdom and "embodied energy" which are now accessible to us.

6. Specifically, the contributions The IPCR Initiative hopes to make along the lines described by the three goals listed above are as follows:

a) inspire, encourage, and support the creation of many local community specific and regional specific variations of this "1000Communities^2" proposal—so that the Community Visioning Initiatives take place in as many ways and in as many communities as possible

b) introduce The Eight IPCR Concepts through workshops offered at the local community level

c) actively develop the concept of "Questionnaires That Help Build Caring Communities", administer such questionnaires at the community and/or regional level, and then share compilations of the responses (with summary and conclusions)

d) help to establish, and contribute to, local community points of entry acting as "clearinghouses", where residents can discover more about the countless number of "things people can do in the everyday circumstances of their lives" which will contribute to peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecological sustainability in their own communities and regions—and in other parts of the world

e) identify, develop, and create enough descriptions and examples of the 105 fields of activity

and generate enough regular feature material in categories such as local community and regional good news, workshop and conference listings, committee reports, resource reviews, letters to the editor, "community journal" postings, and links to other useful information and organizations

to justify monthly local community specific publications of an IPCR Journal/Newsletter (or a similar publication with a different name….)

f) and combine the resources created by "clearinghouses," and "community newsletters" to link many associated efforts—such as those in "A List of Related Fields of Activity" (see Appendix 7)—and thus assist with outreach, partnership formation, consensus building and development of service capacity associated with a significant number of peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecological sustainability efforts, all at the same time.

7. The IPCR Initiative is providing this assistance as a result of believing that any community of people, however small in numbers, who follow through on most or all of the practical assistance described in the seven steps mentioned above, will contribute a "multiplier effect" of a positive nature on *whatever goals are decided on at the local community and regional levels.*

D. Filling in the Blank

1. This writer believes that the "multiplier effect" of a positive nature referred to above will contribute to

    a) re-affirming the real treasured wisdom of religious, spiritual, and moral traditions

    b) demonstrating the truth of the following propositions

        i)   There are countless numbers of "things people can do in the everyday circumstances of their lives" which will contribute to peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecological sustainability efforts, in their own communities and regions—and in other parts of the world.

        ii) People can, one by one, decide to deliberately focus the way they spend their time, energy, and money so that their actions have positive repercussions on many or all of the action plans which emerge from Community Visioning Initiatives.

        iii) The result can be that there are countless 'ways to earn a living' which contribute to the peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecological sustainability efforts necessary to overcome the challenges of our times.

and thus create many meaningful answers to the challenge of filling in the blank in the following statement:

    In the best of times, even the most profound challenges can be overcome; for in the best of times, _____ is/are nurtured, supported, and sustained by family, friends, teachers, mentors, elders, and the everyday influences of community life and cultural traditions.

E. Ongoing Revitalization of a Communities' "Moral Compass"

How can local communities arrive at practical definitions of "right livelihood"? What local institutions would be most appropriate as commissioners and overseers of a resource guide to "right livelihood"? How can leaders at the regional and local community level assure residents that they understand the challenges of our times, if they themselves do not participate in the very activities they advocate for overcoming the challenges of our times? How can our communities change "the way things get done" so that more people can live in accordance with their moral convictions? Workshops associated with The IPCR Initiative can identify, discover, create, support, and sustain comprehensive and practical answers to these very relevant questions— and provide a system by which the answers can be re-evaluated and re-stated on an ongoing basis. *Therefore, it may be said that by its very nature The IPCR Initiative includes a built-in and ongoing process for re-evaluating and re-stating the "moral compass" of a community or region.* And it may also be said that such a "moral compass" would incorporate any genuine and sincere contributions from participants associated with any religious, spiritual, or moral tradition without any damage to the genuine and sincere parts of the "framework" which gives meaning to their lives.

F. Our Particular Moment in Time on This Planet Earth   *Could Be*   the Best of Times

There are many important initiatives which are critical to overcoming the challenges of our times, but which are not quite "coming through the mist as much as they should be." The IPCR Initiative can be very helpful in exactly these kinds of circumstances, as it encourages and facilitates a "constellation" of initiatives by which the best (*in the view of the participants using these processes*) associated with individual spiritual formation, interfaith peacebuilding, community revitalization, ecological sustainability, etc. can bubble up to the surface, be recognized as priorities, and therefore be brought forward as appropriate recipients of peoples' time, energy, and money. Many people can realize the wisdom of deliberately focusing the way they spend their time, energy, and money so that their actions have positive repercussions on the fields of activity described by the IPCR Mission Statement goals, and on other related fields of activity (see Appendix 7). As the ancient Chinese proverb says: "Many hands make much work light."

One of the most persistent ironies in life is that with so many opportunities to provide real assistance to fellow human beings—and with the potential for such assistance to result in happiness "to those who extend help as well as to those who receive it"—there are still many, many people in this world who cannot find a "way to earn a living" providing such assistance. The IPCR Initiative can help to remedy such an unfortunate irony by helping to create "caring communities", which are defined here as follows:

> "Caring communities" are communities with residents who are aware of the
> depth and range of the challenges of our times, and therefore do their best
> to take actions which will have positive repercussions on the fields of
> activity described by the IPCR Mission Statement goals (see Appendix 8),
> and on other related fields of activity (see Appendix 7).

The most advanced societies are the ones which are successful at integrating spiritual wisdom into the everyday circumstances of community life.

Our particular moment in time on this Planet Earth   *could be*   the best of times.

G. Peacebuilding in its Most Compassionate Form

Peacebuilding in its most compassionate form is not a competitive field of activity. Viewed in this light, the most valuable forms of peacebuilding will nurture, support, and sustain the development of an infinite variety of other forms of peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecologically sustainability initiatives. The IPCR Initiative is an effort to nurture, support, and sustain peacebuilding in its most compassionate form.

Appendix 7

105 Fields of Activity Related to Peacebuilding,
Community Revitalization, and Ecological Sustainability

accountability indicators
alleviating hunger
alleviating poverty
alternative gifts
appropriate technology
barter networks
biodynamic agriculture
building civic skills
building community
car-free zones
character education
citizen participation
citizen peacebuilding
co-housing
community banks
community development
community economics
community gardens
community good news networks
community journals
community land trusts
community membership agreements
community revitalization
community revolving loans
community self-awareness
community service work
community supported agriculture
community supported manufacturing
community visioning initiatives
consensus decision making
cottage industries
creative commons
cultural diversity
development assistance
disease control
eco-classifieds
ecological architecture

(continued)

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ecological footprint analysis
ecological tipping points
economic conversion
edible schoolyards
emergency humanitarian aid
emergency medical assistance
energy conservation
energy descent pathways
energy farms
fair trade
faith-based educational institutions
faith mentoring
farmers markets
food co-ops
green living
green politics
green purchasing
green retrofitting
holistic health care
homesteading
identifying problems and solutions
inclusive decision-making processes
individual spiritual formation
inspiring role models
interfaith dialogue
interfaith peacebuilding
intergenerational projects
local community points of entry
local currency
locally based food processing
locally grown organic food
low impact transport systems
medical assistance
meditation
mentoring
neighborhood revitalization
non-profit human service organizations
non-violent conflict resolution
oil depletion protocol
peace studies programs
peak oil
permaculture
positive news

(continued)

powerdown projects
preventative health care
questionnaire construction
recycling
relocalization
renewable resources
right livelihood
right livelihood employment listings
rural renaissance
socially engaged spirituality
socially responsible investing
solutions journalism
spiritual discipline
spiritual diversity
spiritual friendships
spiritually responsible investing
sustainable health care
vegetarian nutrition
village design
village industries
violence prevention
voluntary simplicity
water conservation
win-win conflict resolution
world population awareness
yoga
zero waste
etc.

1) Special Note: The excerpt below is from the Spring 2007 issue of The IPCR Journal/Newsletter (at http://ipcri.net/images/4-The-IPCR-JN-Spring-07.pdf)

The Potential for a Wide Range of Workshop Offerings

The IPCR Initiative is currently offering workshops with the goal of introducing The IPCR Initiative, and The Eight IPCR Concepts—and the goal of making the resources of The IPCR Initiative as accessible as possible, so people can make use of them. There does exist, however—and it is worth emphasizing here—both the need and the potential for people (including myself) to provide workshops at the local community level on all of the 105 fields of activity, so people
can make best use of *resources associated with those concepts*. Such a wide range of workshop offerings would, I believe, be most accessible as workshop offerings from some kind of community center. If there are any readers of this IPCR Journal/Newsletter who would be interested in developing the idea of a "wide range of workshop offerings," please contact me—Stefan Pasti—at stefanpasti@ipcri.net. Thank you.

"The more we realize the repercussions of our actions on our neighbours and strive to act according to the highest we are capable of, the more shall we advance in our spiritual development." [J.C. Kumarappa in "Why The Village Movement?" Rajchat, Kashi (India) 1960 p. 73]

Everyone is involved when it comes to determining the markets
that supply the "ways of earning a living". (SP)

Appendix 8

The IPCR Mission Statement

The Interfaith Peacebuilding and Community Revitalization (IPCR) Initiative is an effort to facilitate the practical application of the Eight IPCR Concepts ("Community Good News Networks," "Community Faith Mentoring Networks," "Spiritual Friendships," "Questionnaires That Help Build Caring Communities," "Community Visioning Initiatives for Peace," "Spiritually Responsible Investing," "Ecological Sustainability," and "IPCR Journal/Newsletters)—at the community and regional level—as a way of contributing to the following goals:

1) "… bringing to the fore what is often hidden: how many good people there are, how many ways there are to do good, and how much happiness comes to those who extend help as well as to those who receive it."
2) increasing our collective capacity to encourage and inspire individual spiritual formation—with all the beneficial consequences that follow for individuals, communities, regions. etc.
3) building trust among people from different faith communities and cultural traditions
4) increasing our capacity to be responsible stewards of our time, energy, and money
5) increasing our capacity to access what is necessary for basic human needs and quality of life through principles and practices of ecological sustainability and permaculture, especially in light of the implications of global warming, ecological footprint analysis, and the "peaking" of our finite supplies of oil
6) increasing our awareness of the countless number of 'things people can do in the everyday circumstances of their lives' which will contribute to peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecological sustainability efforts, in our own communities and regions—and in other parts of the world
7) reducing the incidence of violence—and all the costs associated with war
8) increasing emergency assistance to people with basic human needs
9) reflecting an understanding of the value of silence
10) creating local community and regional publications that provide a format for sharing the good news which would be identified, encouraged, supported, and sustained by contributions to the first 9 goals

[Note: Descriptions of The Eight IPCR Concepts are provided in the document "Brief Descriptions of The Eight IPCR Concepts" (at http://ipcri.net/images/1-Brief-Descriptions-of-The-Eight-IPCR-Concepts.pdf) For other related information, please visit the website of The IPCR Initiative at www.ipcri.net]

About the Writer of This Proposal

Stefan Pasti has been actively involved in peacebuilding and community revitalization work for over 20 years—as a writer (project-related correspondence, short novel, short story); an editor (newsletters, quotation collections); an advocate of ecologically sustainable communities; a practitioner of voluntary simplicity; and, more recently, as founder and outreach coordinator for The Interfaith Peacebuilding and Community Revitalization (IPCR) Initiative (www.ipcri.net). Mr. Pasti has been employed in many different settings—door-to-door canvasser for citizen action groups; field worker on organic farms; activity director, companion, and transportation provider for elders with special needs; etc. The most important influence in Mr. Pasti's life has been, and continues to be, the teachings of Sri Sathya Sai Baba (age 81, with a main residence in Puttaparthi, India). In 1997, Mr. Pasti completed a 301 page arrangement of selected quotations from "Sathya Sai Speaks" (Vol. 1-11, first U.S. editions) (discourses by Sri Sathya Sai Baba from the years 1953-1982).