



Saving Children from Pollution

Dear Friends:

Blacksmith Institute has had some groundbreaking successes this year in reducing disease and suffering for people in the developing world. **We've initiated a dozen new projects that will tangibly improve children's lives on 4 continents and in 12 countries.** We are continuing work on 30 previously established projects, each in places where pollution is causing children illness and misery.

A sample of our projects initiated or completed in 2005 include:



- A partnership with the United Nation's Global Mercury Project, through which Blacksmith was able to help a community **mitigate mercury emissions** resulting from gold mining in Manica, Mozambique. Thanks to appropriate technology and training, the residents are able to retain their livelihoods without endangering themselves or the environment.

- Blacksmith provided a drinking water filtration system to Pyra, Russia, the former center of Soviet chemical weapons manufacturing, ensuring **clean and safe water** for village residents, the local hospital and school system.



- Work is well underway on a pilot groundwater remediation project in Kanpur, India, where bioremediation technology will be utilized to **remove hexavalent chromium from the groundwater.** A cluster of approximately 350 tanneries has contaminated the groundwater, and successful implementation of this technology could hold the key to solving a major environmental problem that has plagued India for decades.

I recently returned from site visits to many of the regions in which we work, and saw first-hand how our efforts are succeeding. We are now launching **new initiatives with local partners** to:

- Address some of the worst **industrial pollution** I have ever seen - in Hann Bay, Dakar, Senegal;
- Stop **mercury poisoning** in children in northern Guinea;
- Expand our pilot groundwater remediation of **tannery effluents** throughout India; and
- Remove obsolete **pesticides and radioactive wastes** in Russia.



Furthermore we have launched work in **China**, which will be a major area of focus for Blacksmith in the coming years.

I am encouraged by Blacksmith's ability to use our modest funds to leverage significant resources directly to our project partners. Towards this end, we are currently collaborating with the Government of India and the World Bank to initiate roughly \$100 million for clean-up work in polluted communities throughout India. We have our sights set on similar partnerships in the Philippines and Senegal.

A small investment by Blacksmith can lead to very large funding for clean-up projects.

All we need is help from you. **Every dollar you donate to Blacksmith Institute contributes directly to the health, security and vitality of children and families at polluted sites throughout the developing world.** Our overhead is already paid for, so your donation goes directly to the project work.

We have enclosed an envelope reply card and a bookmark with a link to our new website launching this month.

Please feel free to call me anytime and I truly hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RHF', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard Fuller
Chairman

P.S. Please check out our new website at www.blacksmithinstitute.org. It has over 100 polluted sites listed and assessed to date.