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Dear Friends of SalvAide:

Thanks to your tremendous acts of solidarity and support, Salvaide is able to continue to carry out invaluable work in El Salvador.

It has been an incredibly busy, yet productive year, for us demonstrated by our different capacity building initiatives in El Salvador; new and on-going partnerships and projects; the many important Salvaide delegations from Canada; our continued success with the twinning program and our effective Urgent Action Network. This year these Urgent Actions proved to be of the utmost importance.

Because of your generous solidarity, as well as, our partners' strong capacity to organize and resist repression and injustice, we have seen clear victories for human rights in El Salvador. All charges related to the 'Suchitoto 14', who were arrested on their way to a peaceful demonstration against water privatization, were dropped in April of this year. While this is an undeniable victory, our diligence and resistance to injustice will also be required as we enter into the elections period in 2009. SalvAide's participation and contribution to democratic development in El Salvador is outlined in our newsletter.

In addition, Salvaide's new and on-going projects have been an undeniable success. With the tremendous support of our *twinned communities*, we have expanded our micro-credit project in Chalatenango, which has a repayment rate on the small loans of 97%. In addition, we are in the initial phases of our ecologically sustainable 'Trees for Prosperity' project and our civic education program during the elections. Finally I am pleased to announce that in 2009 we will be working with Canadian International Development Agency, (CIDA), on a capacity building project related to local governance issues in the provinces of Cuscatlán and Cabañas.

Please join me in celebrating Salvaide's successes in 2008. As a united force we can tackle the on-going and new challenges for 2009. Because the struggle for human rights, dignity, self-determination, humanity and basic needs is a continued battle in El Salvador, we are most appreciative that you have joined in our common cause for an accessible, just, sustainable, and peace-affirming future for all.

On behalf of the staff of SalvAide, our Board of Directors, and most importantly our partners and communities in El Salvador, we sincerely and most-truly thank you for placing your trust in us. Together, with your continued support, we can ensure that 2009 is our most successful year yet.

Kindest regards,

Laura Haylock  
Executive Director