



If the gap between the rich and poor is not narrowed dramatically, then we can kiss reconciliation, peace, stability—and all that we like and admire—goodbye.

Desmond M. Tutu

Archbishop Emeritus, South Africa World Economic Forum, February 1, 2002

Dear Friends,

In the aftermath of September 11, New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and the city's police and firefighters clearly demonstrated leadership and courage. Their acts of courage continue to be replayed around the world as the battle against terrorism continues.

Leadership and courage are the defining characteristics of Opportunity International's work globally, and these are the characteristics of those we

serve. Fighting for survival every day, our clients, 86 percent of them women, take a small loan and turn it into an ongoing source of income. Dignity and pride follow their courageous steps into an economy once closed to them.

For 31 years, Opportunity has practiced, tested, and refined microcredit and found it to be the best way to break the cycle David L. Simms Chair of poverty in an efficient, Board of Directors sustainable way. That is why the global Opportunity International Network is taking bold steps to vastly increase the numbers of poor entrepreneurs we serve. From more than 300,000 in 2001, we expect to serve 1 million in 2007 and 2 million in 2010.

To achieve such explosive growth, Opportunity is expanding operations with a new partner in Serbia and a partner to open in Mexico in 2002. At the same time, we are working to ensure that our entrepreneurs continue to receive the services that lead to

personal, social, and spiritual transformation along with economic empowerment.

We are equipping some of our partners to convert to formal financial institutions. These will have larger loan portfolios, offer savings services in addition to loans, and leverage borrowed funds to on-lend to the poor. In August 2001, we opened Opportunity Microfinance Bank in Manila—the first

microfinance bank in the Philippines.

This institution assures the poor that we believe all people who are willing and able to work are entitled to a bank that meets all their financial needs, no matter how humble. It makes a statement to the world that the poor are creditworthy and a vital part of our global village.

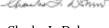
Opportunity's work requires a team effort, with leadership and courage displayed at all levels-from boardrooms to barrios. We are dedicated to maximizing the impact of your gifts, which are more crucial today than ever

before. With Opportunity loans, our clients overcome the devastating poverty that breeds despair. They, too, are heroes.

David L. Sums Mats S Perdu



Elizabeth S. Perdue Vice Chair Board of Directors



Charles L. Dokmo CEO Opportunity

Thank you for all that you have done for the poor and all that you will do this year.

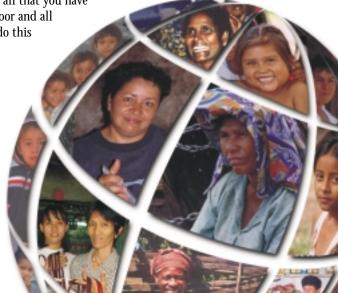
Opportunity International's Core Values

Respect

Commitment to the poor

Integrity

Stewardship





Opportunity International

Banker for the Poor

The eternal business challenge is capital: every business needs capital to get started and to grow. The most common source of capital is the bank. But what if you have no assets and no collateral to secure a loan? What if you cannot get past the bank guard to plead your case? Three billion people live on less than \$2 a day. To these people—half the world's population—the doors of the banks are locked.

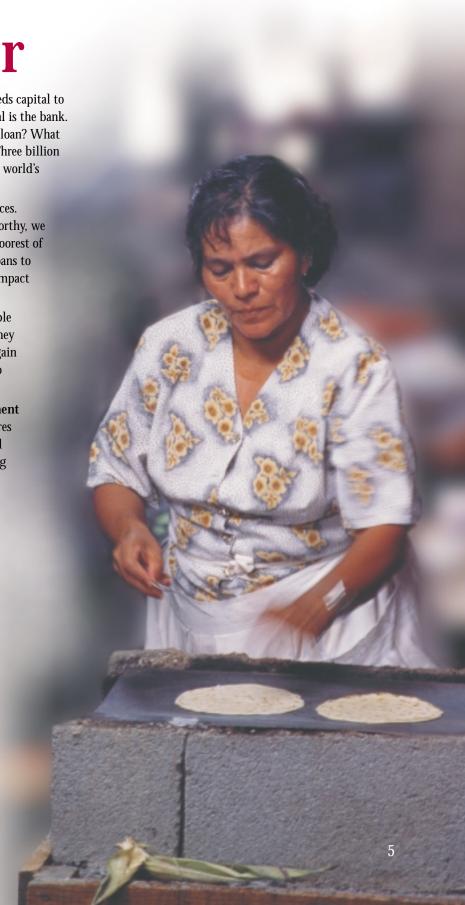
Opportunity International opens the door to financial services. Knowing that the poor are creative, tenacious, and creditworthy, we provide small business loans, often less than \$100, to the poorest of the working poor in developing countries. Making small loans to the poor is called microcredit, but the loans have a macro impact on family and community economies.

With access to capital, the poor establish and enlarge humble businesses like street-market vending and home sewing. They increase their income and provide for their families. They gain the dignity of self-sufficiency and the pride of being able to solve their own problems.

A contribution to Opportunity International is an **investment** not only in microbusinesses but in families and in the futures of those who are working hard to improve their lives. Small loans are the big answer to global poverty. Small loans bring large returns as lives and whole communities improve.

Philippine President Launches OMB

On August 17, 2001, President Gloria Arroyo announced the opening of Opportunity Microfinance Bank (OMB), the first bank for the poor in the Philippines. Said President Arroyo, "We will make Opportunity International microfinance a cornerstone in our fight against poverty." The President presented checks to three women who are new clients of OMB. She described Opportunity International as "one of the top microenterprise development providers in the world."



Tools for Solving Poverty

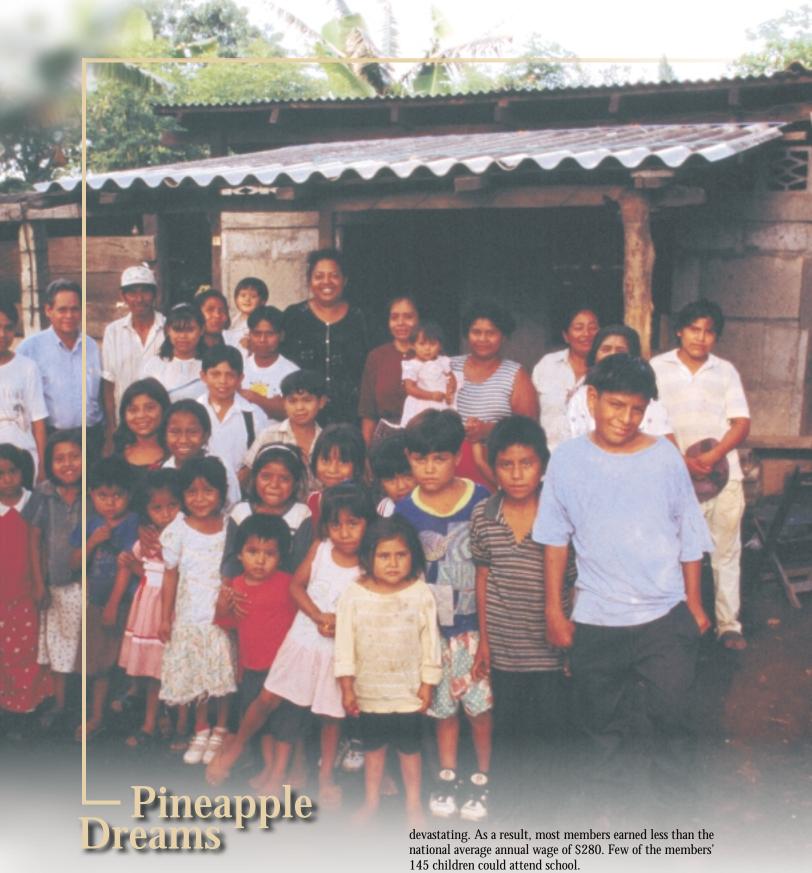
The Opportunity Trust Bank program is an innovative group-lending model that provides small business loans to the poorest women in developing countries. Initial loans range from \$25 to \$500, and the 15 to 40 members of each Trust Bank guarantee each other's loans. Members meet weekly to make loan payments, deposit savings, address community concerns, and receive training. Each Trust Bank is managed by elected leaders. After repaying loans on time, members can qualify for larger loans. Since the program began in 1992, Trust Bank members have maintained a repayment rate of 97 percent or better. The program was designed to meet the needs of women: 94 percent of Trust Bank members worldwide are women.

Individual Loans

Many entrepreneurs in developing countries have a good understanding of business basics but are too poor to borrow money from a bank to start a business. Others have a small business that they are running capably, but they do not qualify for a bank loan to expand their business. Both groups may need larger loans than Trust Banks provide. Most Opportunity partners offer individual loans of up to \$5,000 for more sophisticated businesses; these are particularly valued by our clients in Eastern Europe and Russia. Trust Bank members often graduate to individual loans, and many individual loan clients eventually outgrow the Opportunity program. With their increased collateral and good credit history, they become eligible for bank loans.

Visionary Investors

Opportunity International acts as a banker for the poor. Visionary investors in the Western world build loan portfolios and microcredit programs in poor countries through their contributions to Opportunity. These funds are distributed to implementing partner organizations that are led and staffed by professionals, most of them indigenous, who understand the local culture and economic challenges. Many programs have, or are in the process of achieving, national scope. At the end of 2001, Opportunity had more than 300,000 active clients. We expect to reach 1 million clients by 2007 and 2 million by 2010. Because 98 percent of all loans are repaid, a contribution to Opportunity is recycled into more loans and gives hope to other poor families.



High in the hills behind Managua, Nicaragua, are endless steep rows of pineapple, papaya, and banana plants, most from huge plantations. These crops are the food of life for the members of Opportunity's San Ignasio Trust Bank.

The 35 Trust Bank members support their families by growing, buying, or selling tropical fruits. But in Nicaragua, farming is risky business even in the best of times. In 2000, floods destroyed crops. In 2001, a severe drought was just as

Opportunity International loan officer Nora Carmona visited the area and helped form the San Ignasio Trust Bank. With small loans, the Trust Bank members bought fertilizer for their crops, and some started a side business to bring in money between harvests. The group formed a co-op to sell their produce to a supermarket. Together, they have saved \$340. Today 90 percent of their school-age children are attending school.

Opportunity International

2001 Entrepreneurs

Nicaragua

Four years ago, 52-year-old Blanca Rios was earning \$2 a day selling fruit and vegetables in Masaya. Today, she is president of her Trust Bank and makes a weekly profit of \$218. With a series of Opportunity Trust Bank loans beginning at \$52, this tiny but determined woman successfully runs five businesses: a grocery store, a restaurant, a fruit and vegetable stall, a roadside food stand, and a telephone service. With her profits, she has been able to move her family from a tiny wooden hut to a larger home with a concrete floor.

She credits her success to the principles of her faith. "When you read the Bible, you find ordinary things in life that you can do. And because I live by these, I see God's blessings," she says.

In 2001, Opportunity enabled 24,598 Nicaraguan clients and their employees to move out of poverty and into self-sufficiency with loans averaging \$167.

Honduras

Esmeralda Castaños used to be president of her Trust Bank, but after a loan of \$62 and a subsequent, larger loan, she needed a larger loan than the Trust Bank could provide. She became an individual loan client and received a \$622 loan. She expanded her tiny store into a small supermarket with a café and a freezer full of beef. In June 2001, she saw how the drought and the

sharp drop in coffee prices hurt poor families in her town. After a life of powerlessness, she decided that she would fight back. With encouragement from her husband,

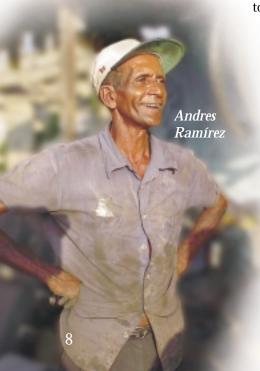
three sons, and members of her former Trust Bank, she decided to run for mayor of her town of 5,000, San Mateus. When a poor woman finds within herself the self-esteem and courage to run for public office, she is transformed.

Opportunity International served 6,480 entrepreneurs like Esmeralda in 2001 in Honduras. Average loan size was \$134.

Dominican Republic

Andres Ramírez is a happy man these days. For 15 years, he ran a tire business in the Dominican capital of Santo Domingo—with no inventory of tires. When he needed a tire, he would borrow money from a loan shark, at 5 percent interest a day, and send his son into town on a bus to buy a tire. Today, thanks to an Opportunity loan, he has an average of 40 tires in stock at all times. He has increased his profit by 400 percent. "God has been so good to me!" he said.

Opportunity International issued 6,230 loans to 5,966 entrepreneurs in the Dominican Republic in 2001.





India

Renuka Jamboti, 24, lives in a small village in the south of India. The culture in her village has changed little in thousands of years. At 13, her parents married her off to an older man. She was not asked if she was ready for marriage or if she liked the groom they had chosen. The union was an unhappy one, but Renuka had two children in the next four years. When she was 17, her husband deserted the family. Renuka returned to her parents who, although extremely poor, took on the burden of providing for her and her children. Her chance for dignity and self-sufficiency came through an Opportunity loan, which she used to purchase a buffalo. With the profits from selling its milk, she is now able to send her children to school, and she is saving money for a house. "I was deprived of my childhood," Renuka said, "but I am determined to make it in life."

In 2001, Opportunity served more than 30,000 people in India's impoverished rural villages and squalid urban slums. Loans averaged \$91, and 80 percent were made to women.

Uganda

Catherine Kamuli is a chicken farmer in a poor district outside the capital of Kampala. She struggled to support her family with her stock of 150 chickens. Today, thanks to a series of Trust Bank loans, she has more than 2,000 chickens. She sells chickens, eggs, and manure in the local market. This hardworking mother of six also cares for four young children orphaned by AIDS. As poor as Catherine is, she does what she can to help others. She encourages her friends in the Trust Bank to do the same. "Being able to help others," says Catherine, "is a gift from God."

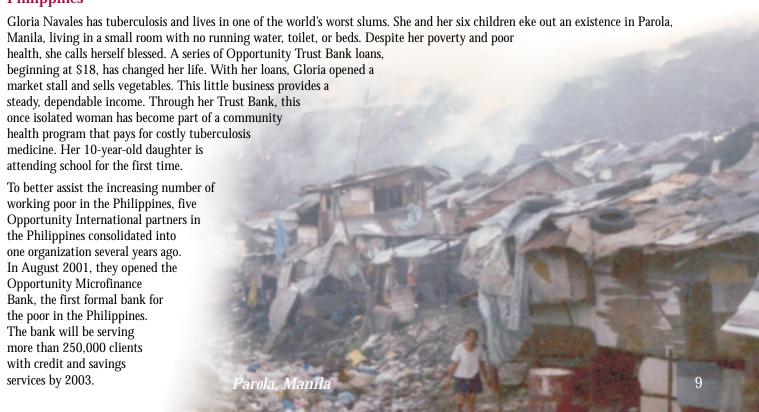
Meeting the deadly spread of AIDS head-on, Opportunity is preparing to launch a microenterprise initiative in Africa that will combine AIDS education and training with loans. To be relevant to the unique needs of our African clients, Opportunity plans to lower the minimum age for loan eligibility from 18 to 14, giving orphaned teenagers who are heads of household access to credit. Opportunity also encourages older clients to take on AIDS orphans as apprentices and offers funeral insurance to loan clients.

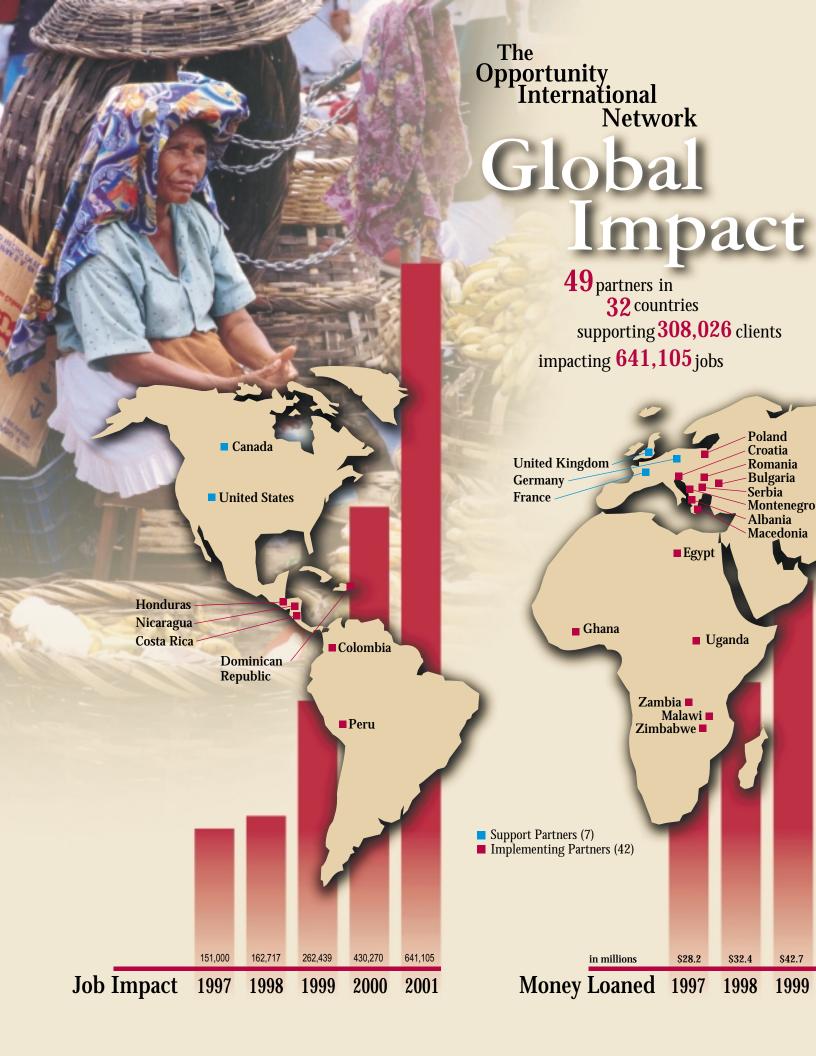
Catherine

Kamuli

In 2001, Opportunity International served 63,275 clients in Ghana, Malawi, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Philippines





Transformation

Opportunity International is concerned about the whole person, not just about the person's economic well-being. Ending poverty requires more than increasing family income; it requires permanently easing the myriad of difficulties experienced by poor families. The mission of Opportunity is to ensure not just that its clients are better off but that they have opportunities to transform all areas of their lives.

Transformation is an all-consuming change in a person's economic, social, political, and spiritual condition. Transformation becomes evident when a person who had no hope, no help, no power, and no resources blossoms into a person who experiences the wholeness of life as God intended. Transformation and biblical values drive every Opportunity program. Without these, there can be no lasting solution to poverty.

After 31 years of testing and refining microcredit services, Opportunity has seen that one of the most accurate indicators of transformation is when a poor person, instead of looking only to his or her needs, begins to give to others.

Transformation in action

Maria Calix from Juticalpa, Honduras, is 58, has a large family, a tiny business, a dirt-floor home, a seasonally employed husband, and uterine cancer. She despaired when she learned that lifesaving surgery would cost \$1,866—this in a world where even headache tablets are

purchased one at a time. Maria's Trust Bank decided to raise the money for her surgery. The members sold lottery tickets, held fund-raisers, went door-to-door, and contributed from their own nearly empty

pockets. They raised \$933, the exact amount the hospital required as a down payment. Maria's Trust

Bank friends plan to raise the balance. This group of women, who throughout their lives thought they were powerless, found that they could help a friend in need by raising what is to them an enormous amount of money. The Trust Bank

members and

Maria have been transformed.





Australia



■ Russia

■India

Women's Opportunity Fund—a special fund of Opportunity International

Loans and a vision make a leader

Maxima de Leon, of Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic, is an excellent example of a loan client who benefited fully from the Trust Bank group-lending program and recently made the transition into an individual loan program.

Maxima, who teaches at a public school in the morning, started an afternoon school five years ago with her first Trust Bank loan. Housed in two open-air rooms attached to the back of her house, her program serves children with special needs. With her first loan of \$100, she bought school supplies and chairs. Recently, she received an individual loan for \$2,000, and her school has grown to 40 students!

"I miss sharing my concerns with my Trust Bank," Maxima said, "but I am happy to have expanded my business and to have been able to bring my two sisters in to teach with me. I've even gotten my mother involved—she prepares the snacks. And with the income from my business, I've been able to pay off my house and build the schoolrooms. Next, I want to add a second floor to my house to use as classrooms. I love working with these children!"

Nelly de Brito, director of the Trust Bank program in the Dominican Republic, said her Trust Bank clients make the best individual loan clients. They have grown as leaders and know how to manage loans and business growth. Nelly believes that the individual loan program has a higher repayment rate because at least half of the borrowers started as Trust Bank clients.

The Women's Opportunity Fund directs funding to programs throughout our global network that empower women. Funds are raised for

- activities that promote women in leadership
- crucial training of Trust Bank clients, loan officers, and supervisors that meets the special needs of women
- Trust Bank loan programs that set an example of women in leadership, reach the poorest women, and foster social and spiritual transformation as well as economic improvement, and particularly programs that field-test training materials and do cutting-edge research

The Women's Opportunity Fund Committee of the Opportunity International—U.S. Board of Directors directs the allocation of these funds.

"The Women's
Opportunity
Fund is proud of
its role in
developing strong
women leaders
whose energy and
vision help to
transform their
communities."



— Julie Hindmarsh, Chair Women's Opportunity Fund Committee of the Opportunity International–U.S. Board of Directors



Beth Houle, Director www.womensopportunityfund.org

Accomplishments of Women's Fund dollars in 2001

- The Dominican Republic Trust Bank program grew 130 percent and is serving more than 3,600 Trust Bank clients.
- In Honduras, 31 transformational trainings were developed for loan officers to use in Trust Bank weekly meetings around the world.
- A Tool Kit for Training New Loan Officers was developed and published.
- A program for securing crucial feedback from clients was piloted in several countries and will be used to design programs that better serve clients; the program was presented at the Latin America and Caribbean Microcredit Summit in Mexico in October.
- Research on monitoring and improving the impact of microfinance on women's lives was used to prepare a paper on empowering women through microfinance for the 2002 Microcredit Summit.
- Four grant projects on best practices in ensuring gender equity were completed; results will be shared with other microfinance organizations.
- The International Gender Task Force presented its first annual report on gender equity to the Opportunity International Network's management committee and board; the task force developed a policy on gender equity that was approved by the Network's board.



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Sharing, caring, daring is the heartbeat of Opportunity International.

- The Honorable Fidel V. Ramos

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Breaking the cycle of poverty

The Opportunity Mission

is to provide opportunies for people in chronic poverty to transform their lives

The Opportunity Strategy

is to create jobs, stimulate small businesses, and strengthen communities among the poor

The Opportunity Method

is to work through indigenous Partner Organizations that provide small business loans, training and counsel

Opportunity International's Commitment

is motivated by Jesus Christ's call to serve the poor

Statement of Intent Regarding Poverty and Women

Opportunity International—U.S. strives to reach the world's poorest people through its microenterprise development programs. Recognizing that the large majority of the world's poorest are women and that they contribute decisively to the well-being of their families, Opportunity makes it a priority to support programs that serve the particular needs of poor women.



OPPORTUNITY INTERNATIONAL

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