

## Second Annual Businesswoman to Businesswoman Breakfast a Big Success!

Women in the developing world play a crucial role as economic catalysts, despite their limited access to financial services, health care and education. How we better serve them through innovative financial products and services was the focal point of discussion during a recent event for FINCA supporters and thought leaders in New York City. The event was held at the Harvard Club with the support of Meg Blakey, Benefit Committee chair and a member of the FINCA Advisory Board.

Sandy Darville, chief of Access to Finance for the Inter-American Development Bank, addressed some of the constraints facing impoverished women as they struggle to break the cycle of poverty. Her presentation included discussion about technological advances, as well as new product and service innovations in microfinance including health and life insurance, remittances and savings accounts. She was joined by FINCA VP for New Business Development Soledad Gompf.

## Sign up for FINCA's Special Occasion Gift Registry

As the holiday season gets into full swing, why not make gift giving easier for your family and friends by signing up for FINCA's Special Occasion Gift Registry, and asking them to give the gift of hope and opportunity to a Village

Photo by FINCA staff



FINCA Kosovo Wedding Dress Vendor

Banking client in your honor? It's a simple, easy and tax deductible way for your loved ones to show their support for your dedication to FINCA's work, while providing a gift that continues to give into perpetuity. You can't say that about many gifts!

The FINCA Special Occasion Gift Registry

isn't just for the holiday season. Sign up year-round for birthdays, weddings, anniversaries – any special occasion that is meaningful to you.

The Special Occasion Gift Registry simplifies life while allowing your family and friends to make a lasting contribution to poverty alleviation in your honor. Please go to [www.villagebanking.org](http://www.villagebanking.org), hover over "Donate Now" and sign up today!



Photo by Audrey Scott and Daniel Noll

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## Transform Lives through End-of-Year Giving

As 2009 draws to a close, please consider all of the powerful and convenient ways you can support FINCA's work to provide a hand up, not a handout, for hard-working micro-entrepreneurs in Afghanistan, Zambia, Haiti, Tajikistan, and 17 other countries in the FINCA network.

**The Sustainers' Circle** The most cost effective—and easiest—way to support FINCA. Simply determine a monthly contribution amount, provide us with credit card or checking account information, and your account will be billed automatically.

**Honor and Memorial Gifts** Making a gift in honor, or in memory, of a loved one is a

thoughtful way to support FINCA's poverty alleviation work, and make a statement of care about someone special in your life.

**The Circle of Hope** By giving \$1,000 a year or more, you help us guarantee that the virtuous circle of Village Banking continues. Your gift rotates 3-4 times each year, allowing you to triple the number of lives you impact.

**Sponsor a Village Bank** Your \$5,000 contribution will support a Village Bank in one of the countries we designate that are in greatest need of loan capital and provide loans to enable borrowers to experience the opportunity to lift themselves and their families out of poverty.

**Estate Planning** The Legacy Society provides an opportunity to include a bequest to FINCA in your will. A carefully-designed estate plan can provide significant estate tax relief, allow you to determine the distribution of your assets, and let you express your values through continued support of our work.

**A Gift of Securities** Any stocks, bonds or mutual funds you've owned for 12 months or longer whose value has increased are subject to capital gains tax when sold. By giving these securities to FINCA, you receive a charitable deduction for their full fair market value and avoid tax on the capital gain.

For more information about any of these giving opportunities, please visit [www.villagebanking.org](http://www.villagebanking.org) or contact Scott Leurquin at 202.682.1510, ext. 250 or via email at [sleurquin@villagebanking.org](mailto:sleurquin@villagebanking.org).

### FINCA Ranks in Top One Percent of Best Run Charities

For the seventh consecutive year, FINCA has earned a coveted 4-star rating—the highest possible philanthropic rating—from Charity Navigator, the premier American charity evaluator.



# VILLAGE BANK NOTES

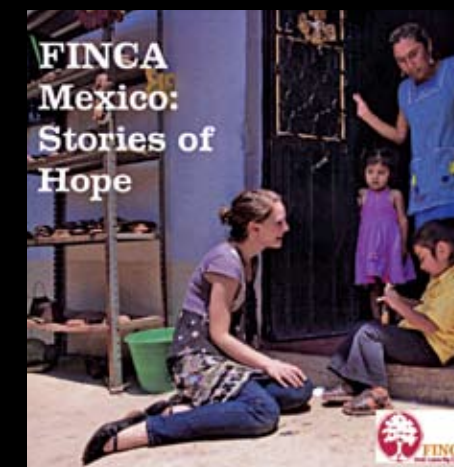


Photo Credit: © Mark Abrahams

## New FINCA Documentary Features Ambassador of Hope Natalie Portman

"FINCA Mexico: Stories of Hope," a moving new documentary featuring FINCA's Ambassador of Hope Natalie Portman, is now available on FINCA's Web site [www.villagebanking.org](http://www.villagebanking.org). The film, directed by Sundance Film Festival Grand Jury Prize-winning documentary director Juan Carlos Rulfo, provides an insightful look into several FINCA Mexico Village Banking clients' lives, and bears witness to the struggles, triumphs and determination they exhibit to craft a better future for their families.



## GE Capital Global Banking Continues Support for Village Banking Campaign

GE Capital Global Banking continues its \$1.5 million, three-year commitment to FINCA's Village Banking Campaign goal of reaching one million of the world's lowest-income entrepreneurs with small loans, insurance and savings products.

FINCA is using the second installment of \$500,000 to:

- Provide additional loan capital for poor entrepreneurs – the vast majority of them women and mothers – in two of its neediest programs, Jordan and Haiti; and
- Continue expanding its global poverty indicator database of client information, and broadening its research scope to strengthen customer relationship management capabilities across its network of 21 affiliate programs.

FINCA International President and CEO Rupert Scofield said, "GE Capital Global Banking's multi-year commitment directly supports our strategy of providing financial services in the most challenging global environments. At the same time, their support for our data collection and analysis efforts allows us to fuel the double bottom lines of social performance and financial sustainability."



FINCA Jordan clients



GE Capital Global Banking President and CEO Dmitri Stockton said, "Providing access to capital is a critical ingredient in the creation

of jobs and sustainable economic health for millions of the world's poorest individuals and families. In such a challenging global environment, FINCA's work in this area is more important than ever, and we are proud to work with them as a partner to deliver critical funding to those who need it the most."

For more information, please visit [www.villagebanking.org](http://www.villagebanking.org).

# NEWS FROM THE FIELD

## FINCA Kyrgyzstan Surpasses 100,000 Client Mark

FINCA Kyrgyzstan recently became the second program in FINCA's 21-country

global network to pass the 100,000-client milestone. Founded in 1995, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, FINCA Kyrgyzstan is helping transform the lives of over 500,000 children and adults in a country with 20% unemployment, and where 35% of the population survives on less than \$2 a day.



FINCA Kyrgyzstan client Saikal Smadiyarova

Rupert Scofield, President and CEO of FINCA International, said, "This auspicious milestone was met through the dedication and professionalism of our Kyrgyz colleagues, and we couldn't be more proud of them for their efforts. They continue to strive for excellence through service and outreach in a challenging environment and, on a daily basis, change the lives of hundreds of thousands of their country men and women through financial services that meet specific needs."

<sup>1</sup>Based on an average family size of two adults and three children.

## USAID Supports FINCA Program to Improve Rural Clients' Access to Financial Services

FINCA clients like Sylvia Lanto in Mexico are saving hours of time and as much as \$14 in travel costs because they can access their Village Banking loans through Visa-branded prepaid cards, thanks to a USAID-funded project to increase access to financial services for very poor and rural populations. Instead of racing to a distant bank to cash a check for her



FINCA Mexico staff training clients in Oaxaca on the use of the new disbursement cards

entire FINCA loan, Sylvia now enjoys the convenience and security of withdrawing her loan funds as she needs them from an ATM right in her village. She can devote more time to her family and her clothing shop business. FINCA plans to offer the card to all of its more than 115,000 clients in Mexico.

To learn more about the program, go to [www.villagebanking.org](http://www.villagebanking.org) and click on FINCA in the News!

## FINCA Armenia Celebrates Ten Years of Changing Lives

FINCA Armenia recently celebrated its tenth anniversary. The program, which is helping transform the lives of over 30,000 clients and their families, has been honored with inclusion in the prestigious *Global 100: Composite Rankings of Microfinance Institutions*, published by the Microfinance Information Exchange.

Rupert Scofield, President and CEO of FINCA International, said, "We are very proud of the ten years of dedication and professionalism of our Armenian colleagues, striving every day to provide hope and opportunity for thousands of their compatriots."

## Grandmother Provides Hope and Brighter Future for Her Orphaned Grandchildren

*In Zambia, where 65 percent of the population lives below the national poverty line and life expectancy is less than 39 years, Mailesi Chankonse is proud that she can raise her three grandchildren, thanks to her hard work and FINCA's "Arising" Village Bank.*

In Zambia, one of the poorest and least-developed countries on earth, 63-year old Mailesi Chankonse is raising three grandchildren on her own, after their parents—all three of Mailesi's daughters and their husbands—succumbed to complications related to HIV/AIDS. Zambia suffers one of the world's highest HIV/AIDS prevalence rates with 1.1 million people infected, out of a total population of just under 12 million.

To support her grandson (age 8) and two granddaughters (ages 2 and 5), Mailesi operates a market stall in downtown Lusaka's Bawleni market where she sells dried Kapenta, a popular Zambian fish. Knowing that she needed to increase her income so that she could af-



FINCA Zambia client Mailesi Chankonse with two of her three grandchildren

ford the fees for her grandchildren to go to school, Mailesi joined FINCA Zambia's "Arising" Village Banking group four years ago. She took out a small loan to help her buy larger quantities of Kapenta at wholesale, and to finance the expansion of her business.

Since joining the group, Mailesi has made all her loan payments on time and her business has prospered. She currently has a loan of 1,000,000 Zambian Kwacha (US\$200). Despite the challenges she faces, Mailesi is very proud that she can provide a home for her young family, and that her two older grandchildren are attending school. She hopes they will all be able to gain an education and have a chance for a better future.

## Happy Birthday Jo Ann...and Many More

Jo Ann Field of Kansas City, a long-time member of FINCA's Board of Directors, and the first chair of its Advisory Board, recently celebrated her 75th birthday in a fun and unique fashion—by asking family and friends to contribute to FINCA in lieu of birthday presents. They raised more than \$5,000 in Jo Ann's honor.

Jo Ann, a self-described community activist, also worked with other volunteers to launch Kansas City Women Go Global, a grass-roots effort to mobilize local women on behalf of FINCA's Village Banking programs in 21 countries around the world. The group has organized several fundraising events, and reached out to hundreds of Kansas City's most influential thought leaders.



(L to R): Laura Welch, Jo Ann Field, Debbie Starke, Patty Garney and Roxie Jerde launched KCWGG with Stacey Lorence's help

If you are interested in organizing a similar effort in your home town, please contact Scott Leurquin at [sleurquin@villagebanking.org](mailto:sleurquin@villagebanking.org).



VillageBanking.org

## National Peace Corps Assoc. Honors John Hatch

The National Peace Corps Association has named FINCA's founder and former Peace Corps volunteer John Hatch the 2009 recipient of its prestigious Sargent Shriver Award for Distinguished Humanitarian Service.



John Hatch making the first Village Banking loans in Latin America

Rupert Scofield, President and CEO of FINCA International and fellow Peace Corps veteran said, "It was in the Peace Corps that John developed his lifelong respect for the hardworking poor that became the foundation for his brilliant Village Banking methodology. John has been FINCA's guiding star and moral compass for nearly 25 years, keeping us focused on one thing: the eradication of poverty worldwide." Congratulations, John!

## Send Holiday eCards and Support Village Banking



The holiday season is the perfect time to make gifts to FINCA in honor of your family, friends and colleagues. When considering your gift giving plans, why not join thousands of other like-minded individuals who use this meaningful and easy way to spread holiday cheer, while providing life-changing loans to the world's industrious poor.

To send an eCard to a loved one, just visit [www.villagebanking.org](http://www.villagebanking.org) and click on eCards and Honor Gifts. Thank you for your support!

Follow the [Village Banking Campaign](http://www.villagebanking.org) on the leading social networking sites to spread the word...and help change the world. Just visit [www.villagebanking.org](http://www.villagebanking.org) and click on any or all of the links:

facebook

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myspace

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### FINCA International

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### VILLAGE BANK NOTES

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