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Annual Report 2006

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A Letter from our Executive Director:



2006 has been a year of both challenge and hope for the Sikh Panth.

Together we faced many challenges this year. Most serious of all is the loss of spirit evidenced by the rise of drug use among Punjabi youth which destroys both lives and communities. We also face discrimination against our roop and skin color, along with the tragedy of female infanticide, familial abuse and ongoing corruption and politicization in our Gurdwaras.

But this year I have seen a tremendous amount of movement forward as well. I have seen the joyous faces of Sikh Youth in many sangats. I have seen people experiencing a new depth of understanding of the Guru's Bani and the Guru's Rehit. Everywhere I travelled this year I saw people discovering and rediscovering the power of Sikhi in the Pyar of the Sadh Sangat. I have seen the Guru working miracles every day - miracles of blessing, awakening and healing. In Chigwell, UK this summer at the Sikh Student Camp, I came to understand that, without a doubt, the future of the Sikh Panth is glorious

beyond imagining and that our youth all around the world are awakening to the personal experience of their own relationship with the Guru and rising to serve His mission in many, many ways.

I saw Sikh Youth serving Guru's langar in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast. I saw Sikh Youth in Thailand serving the survivors and care providers of the 2004 tsunami. I saw unheralded and unsung Sikh Youth sevadars everywhere opening their hearts to people in need of solace and selflessly serving them.

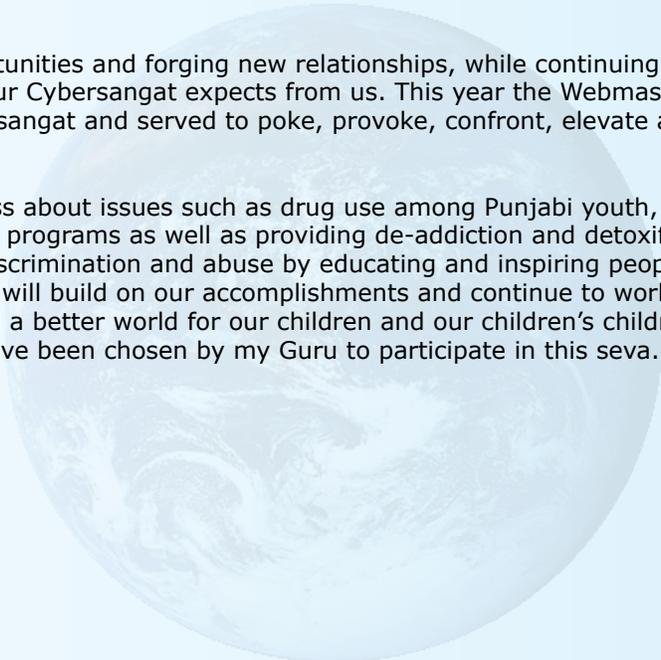
We all have the power to choose what we wish to focus our mind upon, and what we focus on becomes that which grows and prospers, for that is the Divine law of manifestation. We have the power to create our own reality through our thoughts, words and actions.

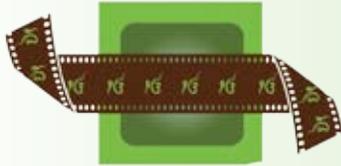
At SikhNet we consciously choose to focus on the positive - to spread good news and to create good will towards all. SikhNet provides a safe, neutral place on the World Wide Web where anyone can come and not be judged in any way. Where each person is sovereign and free to explore his or her own relationship with our Gurus and our lifestyle. Where Sikh Youth can find support and can access resources to understand the technology of the lifestyle with which our Gurus have blessed us.

For SikhNet, 2006 was a year of exploring new opportunities and forging new relationships, while continuing to deliver the high quality resources and services that our Cybersangat expects from us. This year the Webmaster's Blog blossomed into a personal dialog with our Cybersangat and served to poke, provoke, confront, elevate and inspire thousands of Sikhs.

In 2007, SikhNet will work not only to raise awareness about issues such as drug use among Punjabi youth, but will actively disseminate information about treatment programs as well as providing de-addiction and detoxification techniques. SikhNet will continue to combat discrimination and abuse by educating and inspiring people to deeper understanding of Sikh identity. In 2007 we will build on our accomplishments and continue to work closely with SikhNet supporters and sevadars to build a better world for our children and our children's children. I, for one, am blessed beyond words to express to have been chosen by my Guru to participate in this seva.

Guruka Singh Khalsa
Executive Director
SikhNet, LLC





SikhNet Youth Online FILM FESTIVAL 2006

2006 saw the debut of the all new Youth Online Film Festival which is designed to encourage and inspire our youth to get involved in media and film and use their creativity to produce interesting and educational pieces designed to spread the spirit of Sikhi. It came about as a result of seeing the power of low-tech videos that are now spreading around online. Contestants did not need a big budget or a lot of equipment to make a short video; just some creativity and a willingness to learn. Our hope was that youth all over would take this opportunity to try something new and to use their creativity to communicate a personal message related to being a Sikh. The competition was successful even beyond our expectations.

We featured the video submissions on SikhNet for all to watch as the entries came in and then in September we announced the competition winners (cash prizes). Some of the videos were also shown at the Spinning Wheel Film Festivals in Toronto, Canada and California.

We plan to hold another online youth film festival in 2007 and we welcome you to participate!

Our panel of six professional judges watched all the qualifying films and submitted their results.

- **Waris Ahluwalia** who was an actor in the American movie: Inside Man (A Spike Lee Movie with Denzel Washington, Clive Owen, Jodie Foster and others) and The Life Aquatic with Bill Murray, Owen Wilson, Kate Blanchett, and others). We also will have
- **Ish Amitoj Kaur**, producer of the film Kambdi Kalai.
- **Valarie Kaur**, writer and producer of Divided We Fall: Americans in the Aftermath, a feature-length documentary on a journey into post-9/11 America, premiering this fall. Her blog chronicles the making of the film.
- **Sartaj Singh Dhami** (Dasmesh Pictures) who has produced many great independent videos promoting Sikhi.
- **Harpreet Kaur**, Director of the film The Widow Colony.
- **Kulvir Singh Gill**, former co-chair of the Spinning Wheel Film Festival.



Prizes were awarded on the basis of creativity and originality, ability to deliver a compelling message, technical execution and entertainment value. The winners of the 2006 SikhNet Youth Film Festival Competition were as follows:

SENIOR DIVISION (18 – 25 years old)

- First Place (\$1000 US Dollars) - "The Call" by Jasmeet Singh Bansal & Baljeet Singh Bansal, from Easton, Pennsylvania - United States
- Second Place (\$500 US Dollars) - "Immortality" by Jagmeet Singh, from Wolverhampton, West Midlands - United Kingdom
- Third Place (\$250 US Dollars) - "Priceless" by Sat Bir Singh, from Espanola, New Mexico – United States

JUNIOR DIVISION (11 – 17 years old)

- First Place (\$500 US Dollars) - "Sikhi Sambhal Veera" by Harsimrat Singh Gujral and Students of Mata Jai Kaur Public School, from New Delhi, India.
- Second Place (\$250 US Dollars) - "Arpinder Kaur: Piloting A Life" by Raj Singh, from San Antonio, Texas - United States
- Third Place (\$125 US Dollars) - "Teji and Sikhi" by Tejkaran Kaur, Westbury, New York - United States

Comments by youth participants:

"I know that even beyond myself, people were touched with the effort and seva put into this film festival. The fact that it was directed towards the youth made it evident that there is a push to make the younger generations realize that it is our turn to take steps into the Sikh community and create an impact. The fact that others are allowed to now view my documentary all across the world is relieving, because that's why I put it out there for inspiration. Thank you SikhNet for this wonderful opportunity"
- Raj Singh, 17 years old, Texas, USA.

"The best thing I liked about this contest was that it helped me think that even I can do and contribute something to this amazing (Sikh) panth of ours. As you said it has and it will surely inspire the hidden talents inside the mind of today's youth. The overall experience was great. I was able to get valuable information from other videos that I watched. I have realized now that to do something is far greater than just talking about it. Once again thank you Sikhnet for opening the minds of youth."
- Karandeep Singh, 20 years old, Ontario, Canada.



Travel

2006 saw the SikhNet staff travelling to Singapore, Malaysia, the U.K., Germany and Sweden. All the trips were sponsored by local sangats in each country we visited. In April, Gurumustuk Singh celebrated the four day Basakhi celebration held by the Sikh Naujawan Sabha of Malaysia (SNSM.) There he taught workshops in Singapore and Malaysia. This summer the Sikh Youth Travel Exchange brought students from the U.K., Singapore and Malaysia to The Jaap Sahib course and Summer Solstice celebration in Espanola, New Mexico.



In August Guruka Singh travelled to the U.K. where he taught at two Sikh Youth Camps, the Sri Guru Singh Sabha Children's Sikhi Camp in Southall and the Sikh Student Camp in Chigwell. In September Guruka Singh travelled to Hamburg, Germany and Stockholm Sweden and taught there. Finally, in December, Ek Ong Kaar Kaur taught the Japji Sahib Course in Singapore.

Being present with, and being hosted by these loving Sangats around the word is incredibly inspiring and humbling. We are all one, and serving side by side, we experienced that deeply this year.





MrSikhnet.com - The Webmaster's Blog

2006 saw the blossoming of the Webmaster's Blog with over 2,600 posts and an every increasing number of Blog visitors and participants. Part of the effectiveness of the Blog is its interactivity as participants post 10-20 comments a day and interact with each other. The power of the Blog and how it serves our worldwide cyber-sangat can be best felt through the comments of our participants. Here are a few of those comments:

"I haven't words to write that show how much my wife and I are happy when we saw your great face of Sikhi and your family and friends. I do not know how I am stopping my tears from my eyes when I saw again such pure Singhs and Gursikhhs. These photos are very, very great photos and with a big meaning for me. I haven't any child but when I have children then I will show to them the real faces of Khalsa. Today is very great day for me."
-Tarwinderjit Singh (from Bratislava Slovakia)

"Veerji i have to say wow! You have left someone who can talk alot speechless. I think the reason I am writing this email is cuz i was in tears after i heard your mums kirtan. And i'm rarely moved to tears. I check your sikhnet and mrsikhnet sites twice a day. I must tell you that more I read, more I feel like to become a good sikh. I recently started growing back my hair. I cut them when I came to USA. but now I am growing them again."

"Fabulous! Thank you for sharing. Sikhnet provides such light and hope."

"I want to congratulate you on this wonderful endeavour you have taken setting up your own blog!! This may not go into the history books but such beautiful steps need to be applauded. Thank you so much for what you have done with the Sikh web portal. You inspire me."

"I'm palvinder singh. I'm leaving in malaysia. I am 17...well I would like to congratulate you for having such a great site. Trust me.. I'm inspired alot from your site and the American sikh lifestyle. It's just mindblowing."

"I've been reading your blog since the day you put it up, and although you don't know me, it seems as if I've known you for years. I grew up reading and discussing on Sikhnet. I'm 19 years old now, and attend Penn State University." -Hareet Singh

"...Quite frankly, I don't think there's any other one that compares to it either. I visit this site specially to read the Daily Hukam from Sri Harmander Sahib and listen to Shabads and Gurbani."

"I was just browsing through the web site when i read your blog and couldn't stop myself from mailing you. I am in india and see Sikhs around here and cant help comparing sikhs here in india and sikhs outside india. When i see you guys i feel the true spirit of Guruji's teachings in your life - so proud to be a Sikh, so happy, so inspiring that when i see you i can feel the grace of Waheguru in your life. You have truly achieved what we still hope to achieve. All i want to say is that may God always bring glory to his children, and children like you are the gems of God."

"I am an 18 year old student from the UK. I have been using your site for the past year and I would just like to say this site is amazing, like totally! thank you for all your hard work which has provided much knowledge for me. Guru Ram Das Ji taught us "service" and you are a great role model for us youth." - Manvia Kaur

"My name's Jasleen and I'm 17. I just wanted to share my appreciation for Sikhnet with you. This is the only website that I make sure I visit before getting to bed every night. You've posted everything the youth needs to learn and respect about Sikhi..."

"I really enjoy this new blog you have started, it so nice to see what goes on out there. I love all the pictures. I have been with sikhnet a while and just love it. It teaches a lot about our religion,. I have a nine year old daughter whom I am trying to teach about sikhism and this site really helps. This is the best project that you have started, Keep up the awesome work!!!"



SikhMatrimonials.com

Many Sikhs are looking for a spouse, and the traditions behind marriage within the Sikh community is changing. Some people are looking to arrange a match for their son or daughter. Others are assisted by family and friends in meeting someone. And still others are trying the modern Western way of meeting and choosing a spouse for themselves. Sikh Matrimonials.com continues to assist the Sikh community worldwide in helping Singhs and Kaurs to find their match. What is different about Sikh Matrimonials is that the values of Sikhi come first and foremost. Our job is to provide a graceful and easy-to-use on-line communication forum where Sikhs can begin the delicate process of getting to know someone else within a totally secure and supportive environment. By the grace of Wahe Guru, over 4,000 Sikhs have found their match through Sikh Matrimonials. Here is just a little of the grateful feedback we have received.



"We both Japjeev and me are really thankful to sikhmatrimonials.com. Its really good that we can find Gursikh people on this site as its really difficult to find it on any other site. we are thankful to you once again."

"I was so sceptical about meeting someone on the Net, but I have been truly transformed. It is possible to meet Mr. Right and I never thought I would, at least not this way. This whole experience still overwhelms us, it's like a dream. So if you are reading this, don't ever give up, cos I am 100% convinced that Waheguruji has someone out there for everyone!"

"Thank you so much. I was not a paid member just wanted to try my luck on this site and i am so happy i did cause this is where i found my soul mate."

Facts about SikhMatrimonials.com

- Worlds Largest Sikh Matrimony site
- Thousands of Successes
- Over 4,000 *Sikhs* Married
- First matrimonial site just for Sikhs.
- In operation since 1996
- Free registration and profile creation
- Live customer support
- Emails answered within 24 hours on weekdays
- Profiles approved within 24 hours on weekdays

GurSikh Speed Meeting

2006 also saw the debut of a new way for single Singh's and Kaurs to meet gracefully. GurSikh Speed Meeting events were held in New York, and Toronto. This event is organized by an anonymous volunteer. Most of the revenue goes just to pay the cost of holding the event and any extra is donated back to SikhNet.

Participants attended from the United Kingdom, Texas, New York, Pennsylvania, California, Alberta and Toronto. The idea for this project came from the ever popular '8 minute dating' which has spread throughout the major cities of the world. GurSikh Speed Meeting is intended to help single Sikhs find their match, the proverbial "CLICK". The purpose is to formalize a meeting process for GurSikh individuals.

The concept is quite simple. An equal number of Singh and Singhni register. On the event date, each Singh will meet a Singhni one-on-one and chat for a specified number of minutes rotating till they have met all the Singhnis. This face to face style of meeting has spurred much interest.

We have received over 450 appreciative emails to date and the support, feedback, energy and optimism that was shown prior to and at all three events has been incredible!

Some of the feedback we received from the Toronto event is below.

"Thanks for the speed meeting event tonight. It was quite nice, hassle-free and laid back. This made for an enjoyable evening."

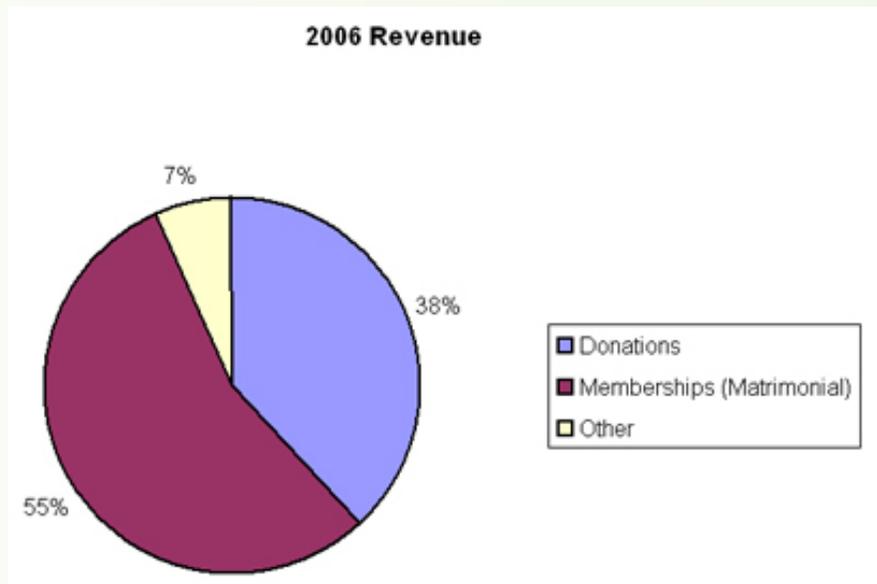
"Nice effort. Great job. Thanks and well-done"

Financial Summary

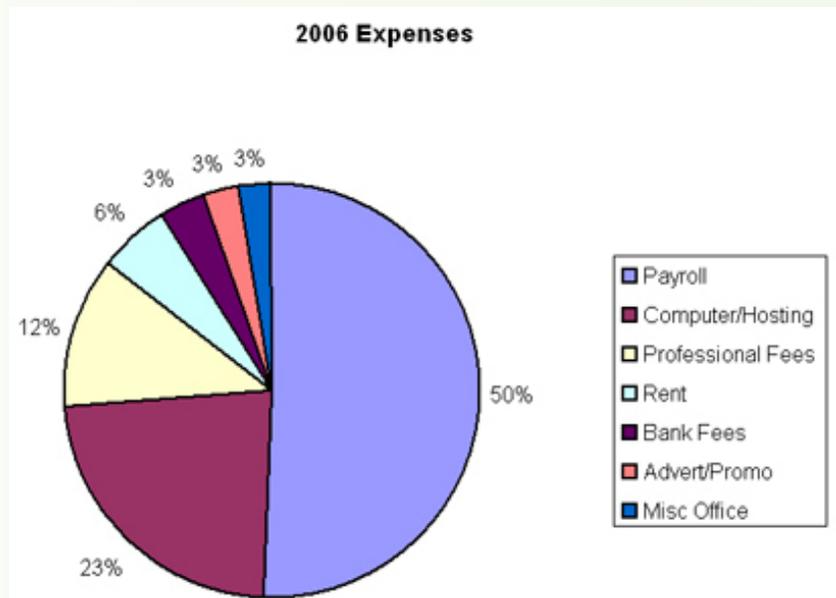
This summary shows Sikhnet's financial status and activity for the year ending 2006

Note: Sikhnet is a limited liability company, whose sole member is Sikh Dharma International. As such, Sikhnet LLC does not receive any funding from any other entity or organization. Sikhnet is wholly funded by its own activities and the generous support of the Sikhnet global community.

Revenue	2006
Donations	105,261
Memberships (Matrimonial)	153,603
Other	18,399
Total	277,263



Expenses	2006
Payroll	105,939
Computer/Hosting	48,650
Professional Fees	24,947
Rent	11,828
Bank Fees	7,300
Advert/Promo	5,681
Misc Office	5,485
Total	209,830



SikhNet Staff



Gurumustuk Singh Khalsa - Webmaster

Since a young age Gurumustuk has had a desire to network and inspire Sikhs, and especially the youth. He started a website as a hobby which has grown to become the current SikhNet.com. SikhNet was founded in December 1995 as a non profit organization.

Gurumustuk Singh lives with his wife, daughter, and son in Espanola, New Mexico and continues to develop the SikhNet website with the rest of the SikhNet team. Periodically he travels to different cities around the world to participate in Sikhi camps, network with other Sikhs, and share his experiences. You can read his daily Weblog (www.MrSikhNet.com) which chronicles his life.

Gurumustuk's tasks include but are not limited to system administration, video creation, fundraising concepts, business networking, programming and application development, project management, and creative directing.



Guruka Singh Khalsa - Executive Director

Guruka Singh founded SikhNet in 1984 as a computer bulletin board system before the internet as we know it was implemented. He is a teacher, writer and inveterate punster. In this incarnation, he met Yogi Bhajan in 1971, began teaching Kundalini Yoga, and has taught ever since. He has served as the head of the 3HO Ashram in Columbus Ohio, and created computer software, and founded a computer consulting firm.

Guruka Singh has been with SikhNet.com since 2004. He does management, administration, business networking, fundraising concepts and creative directing. His strengths are creating a mutual understanding and being exceptional in fostering communication. He is a source of inspiration to SikhNet staff as well as the entire "cyber sangat".



Joginder Singh Khalsa- News Director

Joginder came from Bombay in 1988, he lived and worked in Chicago. Then he came across Yogi Bhajan when he went to his first Winter Solstice in 1998. That's when he got involved with Kundalini Yoga, and 3HO. Then he started working at SikhNet where he is continually helps to expand it.

Joginder Singh has helped bring an Eastern perspective to SikhNet since 2003. He posts the daily SikhNet News, as well as updating the SikhNet homepage and maintaining the Gurbani Archive, as well as being a back up for customer support.



Gurujot Singh Khalsa - Customer Service Rep.

Gurujot worked previously at Miri Piri Academy as a staff member from 2001-04. He is a certified Kundalini yoga teacher, a cofounder of the Sikh Espanola Volunteer Association (SEVA), and a Kirtan and Bana enthusiast.

He started working at SikhNet in April 2005. He takes care of SikhMatrimonials customer service; answers customer emails, reviews and approved matrimonial profiles. He also assists other staff with tasks and projects, and does graphics work.



Guru Nam Kaur Khalsa - SikhNet Accountant

Guru Nam spent 8 years in Amritsar, India as a staff member to MPA and both of her children went to school there. She loves working at SikhNet and has a love for the punjabi culture, which she feels SikhNet has a big connection to. She also thinks that SikhNet is universal for every sikh, and thus has a globally united leadership role.

Guru Nam is the SikhNet accountant and she brings creative ideas to the SikhNet weekly meetings. She is the "Aunti ji" of the SikhNet staff.