

SOPE SUDS Summer, 2001



We are not simply building an organization. We are creating an electronic grassroots community of everyday people who, together, will have a great influence on children of all ages and on the health of this nation!

Growing Fame!

From Massachusetts: "I've been looking for something like this for a long time!" From Alabama: "Your posters are an excellent, striking reminder to wash up." From New Jersey: "Your posters have been a big hit." From Georgia: "I thought the idea of using your adorable puppy was very creative and would attract more people to cleanse themselves before eating." From California: "It is very difficult to find a Spanish handwashing poster. I was very glad to find your site." From Kentucky: "Thank you, this is a great public service!" From Minnesota: "What a great idea!" From Texas: "I love SOPE!" So far we have nearly 500 members of the Handz Network stretched from Hawaii to England, Washington State to Florida - a number that grows each day from the tens of thousands who view our site! A hearty Thank you to state DOT's who have mounted our posters across the nation!

Sope goes underground

Have you ridden light rail near Baltimore? If so, you have probably seen SOPE. The SOPE Project is now in 200 subway and light rail trains throughout the state of Maryland, thanks to generous permission from the Maryland MTA and donated space from Gateway Outdoor Advertising. But it wouldn't have happened were it not for a donation of the poster printing costs by our own board member Sylvia L. Peters. Each month SOPE is being seen by more than 2 million riders. Watch Maryland for signs of better health thanks to their support!

Museum Quality!

Our new brightly-illustrated handwashing book *Germs on their fingers! / ¡Gérmenes en tus manos!* has not only found its way into hundreds of schools and daycare but also onto a resource table within the traveling exhibit EPIDEMIC!, currently on display at the San Diego Natural History Museum. We hope it will find its way to Milwaukee and then Detroit!

Peyback Time...

The Peyback Foundation has awarded SOPE a generous grant to help us develop a range of educational materials and make them available nationally, especially to schools and Boys & Girls Clubs in Tennessee and Indiana. If anyone knows Peyton Manning, you can guess why these states were targeted. Do you have a location needing sponsorship?

Knoxville Boys & Girls Clubs Pilot SOPE

John Lee, President of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Knoxville (TN), was eager that his clubs pilot The SOPE Project this past winter. So, not only did we find a benefactor to place SOPE posters and *Germs* books in his 10 clubs, but his energetic staff also developed a handwashing project around those materials that included whole family involvement and contributed helpfully to the Parent/Teachers Guide. We can help you too!

Look for the seal

If you come to the Smoky Mountains this summer, stop for gas and food at the Citgo convenience center at Exit 407 on I-40 or grab some pancakes at the IHOP in Pigeon Forge

or sit down for dinner at the upscale Park Grill or Peddler restaurants in Gatlinburg. Why? Because you will be served by people who wash their hands before they touch your food! They are all participants of our SOPE Seal Program. If you want to know more about this program that has been designed for food-service operations anywhere, whether school cafeterias or fast-food restaurants, check out our Website or call us. (865) 546-5764

One step at a time...

Simone Thompson, a social worker with Catholic Charities' Center for Family Services in Baltimore, and part of the Handz Network, wrote: "In treatment foster care we work with children and adolescents that have a serious emotional disturbance, severe behavior problems, are medically fragile, or are otherwise difficult to care for. Parents become frustrated dealing with big issues - school failure, hallucinations/delusions, aggression, etc.... Having a 'small' project, such as handwashing, on which to work allows for the possibility of success. And the outcome is so positive - improved health, for instance."

More resources!

Thanks to a generous grant from the Soap and Detergent Association, the book *Germs on their fingers!/iGérmenes en tus manos!* has a companion. The book's author and illustrator have teamed up to produce an amazingly useful self-directed **Parent/Teacher Guide**. The resourceful educator will find several activities appropriate to their student's learning ability. Reproducible art and writing activities, a content quiz, vocabulary and language exercises, research activities with websites and health and safety enrichment are included along with an audio CD of the book in both English and Spanish. The Guide will sell for \$9.95. BUT, if you order your copy directly from The SOPE Project by August 31, you can get it for the pre-publication price of \$8.95! Better yet, for every 20 copies of *Germs* that you order, you will get one Guide FREE!! Either way, we'll ship to you FREE!

\$PECIAL OFFER!!!

Germs on their fingers!/iGérmenes en tus manos! is now available in hardcover, too. If you would like one or more copies, do we have a deal for you! As a SOPE SUDS reader you can get either the softcover or hardcover version at a 20% discount. Write, call or email The SOPE Project and let us know you saw this offer here, tell us how many books you want, and we'll send them right away. In fact, if you order before August 31, 2001 we'll even ship the books FREE! If you need an official invoice, just let us know. www.sope.net

WE'VE MOVED (Don't ask!)

Please ignore the printed address and phone number on this page. We aren't there anymore. We can now be reached by writing to The SOPE Project, 5201 Kingston Pike, Suite 6 #302, Knoxville, TN 37919-5026 or by calling (865) 546-5764. Our new fax number is (865) 521-9058. Of course, you can still email us at info@sope.net. Because the Internet has become our umbilical cord, and we can be anywhere, these numbers will probably change again! But since we are a non-profit, you wouldn't want us to waste this adorable paper, would you?

ARE WE BOTHERING YOU?

If you don't want to get this newsletter anymore, please let us know. We get enough unwanted mail ourselves. Please tell friends who might like to know about The SOPE Project: www.sope.net and Thank you for reading to the end!