



[www.socialenterprise.net](http://www.socialenterprise.net)

## Enterprise in Action Newsletter Update

Fall & Winter, 2004 & 2005

### **PROFESSIONAL UPDATE:**

2004 was a fulfilling year, with great travel. I (Drew Tulchin) was in Bangladesh, Dominican Republic, Afghanistan, Malaysia, the Philippines, San Francisco, Mozambique, and Denver. Afghanistan was the most incredible; I appreciated the opportunity to understand what the news doesn't begin to tell us. This rugged country has been at war for a generation. The Afghans are a proud people who want peace. Let's hope they are successful. The Philippines is a great country. If you don't like karaoke, you will. It is impossible not to smile there, because the people are wonderful and the weather super, unless you are in rush hour traffic in Manila.

I joined Grameen Foundation USA full time in July, my largest client while consulting. This US non-profit supports growth of microfinance - banks for poor people - worldwide based on the model of the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, lending small amounts of money to groups of women. I orchestrate projects with larger partners, organizations mostly in Asia with 50,000 + customers.

In addition, I work to increase private investment in this industry. For example, we are equity investors in a \$40 million international financing, & we will lead a few more deals in 2005. As you know, I like to be passionate about my work; Grameen is an excellent place for that. We work with 50 partner institutions in 20 countries helping more than 1,000,000 poor people, most of them women. Our latest efforts are at: [www.gfusa.org/programs/capital\\_markets/](http://www.gfusa.org/programs/capital_markets/). If you are feeling generous: to support this work in time and/or \$\$\$, [www.gfusa.org/get\\_involved/](http://www.gfusa.org/get_involved/). Put 'Drew Tulchin' in the Comments Field.

For me, microfinance is not charity, but dignity - development that works. In most developing countries, 80% of the population is typically unbanked. Even in the US, that number is 20% or 1 in 5 Americans are unbanked. I believe it fair that all people have the same opportunities to create a reasonable life for themselves and a better life for their families. The Brookings Institute has done some good work on this topic, please visit them for some of their studies.

### **PERSONAL UPDATE:**

I'm hoping that 2005 is more peaceful year than 2004. Your efforts towards this goal as you can are appreciated. I am very saddened by the violence in our world. In Israel, I have hopes, but am troubled that Jewish people (myself included) have not learned from our abused past and now pass that on to others. What would Maimonides do? (Pardon from the Jewish thinker based on the expression What would Jesus do?).

The Vietnam parallels of US activity in Iraq are glaring. This doesn't diminish the gallantry of military personnel. Wouldn't it be better if no soldiers were dying? In the US, the blanket acceptance of 'defending against terrorism' smacks of '50s red scare-ism. American citizens have to wake up and ensure our leaders do the right thing.

Best.

Andrew (Drew) Tulchin

[Drew@socialenterprise.net](mailto:Drew@socialenterprise.net)

202-256-2692