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**BUCKELEW HOSTS FREE EDUCATIONAL SESSION JAN 22
ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES AND SERVICES
IN WORLD'S POOREST COMMUNITIES**

(SAN RAFAEL -- Jan 15, 2010) Buckelew Programs will host a free educational session and global discussion on Friday, January 22 from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. featuring the work of BasicNeeds, a non-profit group that provides community mental health services to some of the world's poorest communities in Ghana, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, India, Sri Lanka, Laos, and Nepal. The event will be held in the Connection Center of the Marin Health & Wellness Campus, 3240 Kerner Blvd in San Rafael. Food will be available from Blue Skies Cafe, Buckelew's green-certified social enterprise that creates employment and hope to people with mental illness in Marin.

"Like Buckelew, BasicNeeds' programs create opportunities for people with mental illness to live and work successfully in their communities," said Buckelew Program Executive Director Steve Ramsland. "BasicNeeds' approach can add a cross-cultural perspective to efforts in Marin to link mental health, social, and economic issues to bring about and sustain positive change."

For millions of people in developing countries, mental illness is a world of poverty, stigma, pain and isolation. It is not uncommon in parts of Africa and Asia to find people with mental disorders or epilepsy chained to a tree, banished from their communities or badly beaten according to BasicNeeds US President Richard Dougherty, Ph.D. Often this is the result of desperate attempts by loved ones to protect an ill family member in the absence of accessible and appropriate treatment. By ensuring that basic needs are met and basic rights are respected, BasicNeeds aims to give hope to people who struggle daily with a lack of treatment and the stigma surrounding their disease.

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About Buckelew Programs

Buckelew Programs is a non-profit organization that creates homes, jobs, and hope for transition-aged youth and adults with mental illness in Marin, Sonoma, and Napa counties. Its mission is to assist individuals with mental illness to live, work, learn, and participate fully in their communities. Established in 1970, Buckelew Programs had revenues of \$9.5 million in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009. There are 120 employees throughout the three counties. For more information, visit www.buckelew.org