

A World Touched by Virginia

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Chair, 100,000 Hearts Campaign



Credit: Janet Christy-Seely

Janet Christy-Seely drew this picture with her small group during a workshop at the 2005 Avanta Conference in Canada. It depicts possibilities for Avanta's future and is so very relevant today. Here is what happened next with a little history for background.

Avanta was founded by Virginia Satir in the 1980s and was funded for many years by a legacy she left to the organization. No matter how it looked at various times, everyone involved did their best to keep Virginia's work and Avanta alive and well. Over the years, Satir institutes were formed in far flung corners of the globe with a variety of services such as teaching, counseling, supervising, publishing and coaching. Over distance, time, and diversity, it became more and more difficult to stay connected. It even has become difficult to know the people all over the world who are practicing and furthering Virginia's work.

In 2007, the Avanta Board examined the state of the organization, its purpose, mission, membership, funding and its future. They even went so far as to examine the name Avanta. Out of this courageous effort rose a renewed and vibrant organization renamed, The Virginia Satir Global Network. They rewrote the **Mission** to "further the creation of healthy and just relationships, based on the teachings of Virginia Satir." They focused on two **aims**:

1. To provide an inclusive forum to support and encourage the creativity of individuals, groups and institutes in the use, sharing and development of the Satir Growth Model.
2. To promote global networking of individuals and groups who espouse the teachings of Virginia Satir.

With a new focus as the trunk of the Satir tree, Satir Global set out to identify the branches and names on the individual leaves. By 2014, progress toward more connections was underway. Old connections were renewed and many new connections were made. But the Board President, Sharon Loeschen, knew more was possible, much more.

With Board members already doing their share, Sharon Loeschen asked a few others to help her find a way to honor Virginia's legacy and her 100th Birthday coming up in June 2016 along with raising much needed funds to sustain Satir Global's networking efforts and support initiatives to further Virginia's work. Over a long weekend, Sharon worked alongside Joyce Rauth-Fears, Margarita Suarez, Eileen Strider and Wayne Strider to find a way to honor Virginia as well as raise funds. But they quickly

realized they didn't want the campaign goal to be only about raising money. They wanted it to be about growing connections. They wanted to find and connect with individuals and groups in every corner of the globe, including counselors, social workers, therapists, consultants, educators and individuals whose lives were touched in some way by Virginia herself or by those practicing and furthering her ways. They started out with a goal of 10,000 and quickly realized there were thousands more touched by Virginia's work. Thus was born the 100,000 Satir Heart Connections Campaign.

The campaign was launched in June 2015 and will run until the end of 2016, with Virginia's 100th birthday being June 26, 2016. The goals for the campaign are two-fold:

1. To connect with 100,000 people across the globe touched by Virginia's work in some way.
2. To raise \$100,000 to continue the work of Satir Global.

Here are some examples of how donations will be used:

- Provide a way to connect with Satir practitioners through our website member search feature, Facebook page and LinkedIn group.

- Sponsor conferences, such as the upcoming one honoring Virginia's 100th birthday, [Becoming More Fully Human: The Evolution in Vancouver, Canada in June 2016](#)

- Co-sponsor trainings for continuing education credits.

- Offer online education such as the Satir Process course and the Enriching Program.

- Promote other organization's trainings, books, articles and research.

- Encourage and support translations of books by and about Virginia's work.

- Connect people, such as linking a Saudi Arabian author of the Arabic version of Satir's *The New Peoplemaking* with a Jordanian professor who found a publisher for him.

- Support the development of a digital Satir Archive in order to provide access to videos of Virginia working with families and teaching and to Satir-related resources, including articles in this Satir International Journal.

- Offer an online bookstore where you can easily find and purchase books by Satir and by others about Satir.

If you believe these services would benefit you, your organization and the world, please connect with us and donate to the Satir Global gofundme campaign. Join us in making all that we saw possible for Satir Global in 2005 a reality as we celebrate Virginia's 100th birthday.

Here is a link to the campaign: <http://www.gofundme.com/satirglobalnetwork>