

OFUESI: Keep InTouch (KIT)

Overseas Friends of UESI (Union of Evangelical Students of India)-USA

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Financial Contributions:
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Dear OFUESI Family:

It is a great honor for us to greet and wish you all a blessed New Year 2008.

The Lord gave us a rich time of fellowship at the 8th annual National Council (NC) meeting held during Dec 1-2, 2007 in Houston, TX. The oneness in the Spirit was clearly evident and we praised our Lord for His faithfulness towards us over the past year. We as one NC body together took inventory of our ministry efforts in 2007 and planned a few goals for our ministry in 2008. As one NC body, we spent time in prayer pondering our OFUESI **vision** and **mission**.

We praised God for the ongoing growth of our fellowship through several local EGF / evangelistic gatherings and our four Regional Conferences in the year 2007. We also thanked our Lord for the continued support to UESI through your prayers and finances as well as several new and additional supporters in our OFUESI family. We also realized some of our shortcomings such as lack of communications amongst our different regions and the lack of collective evangelism / outreach efforts through us. The Lord led all of us in the NC to re-focus our priorities with **evangelism** as the pivotal point for our ministry and we all prayerfully agreed to focus our OFUESI emphasis for the year 2008 as the "**Year of Evangelism**". May we all together prayerfully consider this challenge and continue to move forward in His direction.

OFUESI Mission: *Strengthen the bonds of fellowship among OFUESI, provide prayer and financial support to the UESI work in India, and expand evangelism efforts among Indian students in the US.*

OFUESI Vision: *Fostering the UESI vision in the US and strengthening the UESI through OFUESI*

During our opening discussions, we meditated on two simple and profound thoughts:

- i) "... rather, serve one another in love." from Galatians 5:13b (NIV). That we are called to serve one another and also in love. This has been our motto for the NC and we realized the needed emphasis on the aspect of "**love**" and
- ii) "'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" from Matthew 3:3 (NIV). We recognize that our commitment needed to be on the word "**preparation**".

The first aspect reminds us of the essential ingredient for oneness amongst us, "His love", in serving our Lord faithfully. The second aspect reminds us that that our priority in the mission field should be "faithful preparation". We pray for His grace on all of us to achieve both of these characteristics in our ministry throughout the year 2008 in His strength.

We also discussed and challenged ourselves with the most recent data of the international students in the US universities. The number has been increasing at an unprecedented growth for the past three years. It is projected that in the year 2008 about 800,000 international students will enter the US from all around the world with a large representation of students expected from India (> 20%). In the year 2007, students from India were the second largest group representing ~ 95,000 (15%) while South Korea with ~ 108,000 (17%) being the leading group from a total of ~ 652,000 international students in the US. In the past, students from India represented the highest at about 80,000 (2004-2006).

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Data is taken from Houston Chronicle 22Nov07 (© PS-2007)
All International Students Entering the US (2001-2008)

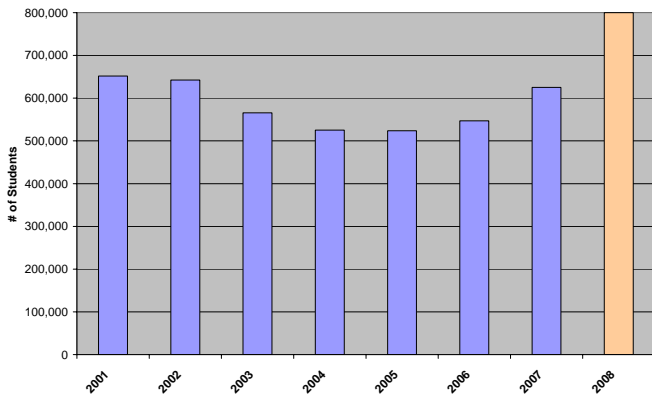
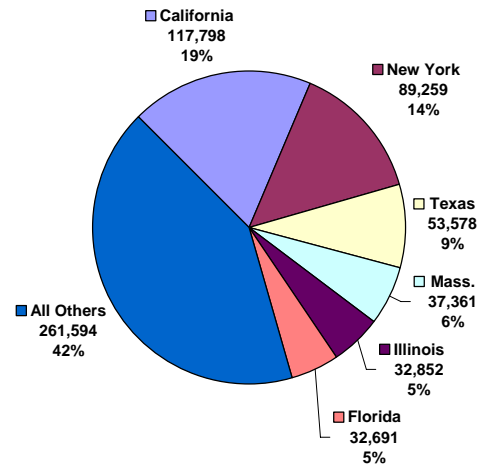


Fig-1: No of International Students (2001-2007) with an anticipated higher growth for 2008

International Students in the US - 2007 (Top Six States)



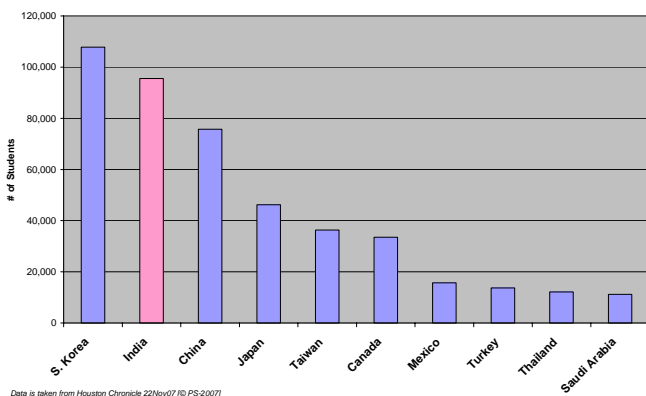
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Fig-3: Distribution of International Students in 2007

Our Mission Field: There is a huge mission field in the Universities across the U.S. and the Lord is charging us to "prepare the way for Him" in the hearts of these students. Our responsibility among university students from India, (may also be on students from Indian origin in near future), still depends on us with the mission of UESI. In this regard, please continue to pray and feel free to share your thoughts and efforts in all of your outreach programs so that we can feature these experiences in our 2008 Monthly Newsletters (KIT) as an encouragement for all of us. You may have also heard the tragedy of two Indian students from Louisiana State University (LSU), Baton Rouge, LA. Our prayers are with their families at this time. There were ~ 1468 international students admitted during the Fall of 2007 at LSU with Indian students being the highest at ~ 332 (~23%).

" Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight." Psalm 119:35 (NIV)

International Students in the US - 2007 (Top Ten Countries)



Data is taken from Houston Chronicle 22Nov07 (© PS-2007)

Fig-2: Representation of International Students in the US from Top Ten Countries during 2007

Confirmation of Executive Committee (2008): The Lord led the National Council to confirm the continuation of the Executive Committee for the year 2008 just as in 2007 and to complete their term. Due to pressing family and work related needs, Bro. Emmanuel stepped down as the Joint Secretary and Bro. Abhijit was proposed and unanimously approved to fill that role which he has been supporting in the past years. Both Bro. Subha and Bro. Abhijit need continued cooperation and input from all of you and from all of the regions to bring out the monthly Newsletters (KIT) in 2008. Bro. Joji (as Vice President) and I will share the responsibility of leading our ministry ahead along with Bro. Subha (as Secretary) and Bro. Marati (as Treasurer) just as in 2007. It is an honor for me to serve along with this dedicated EC and a committed NC this year. Please pray with us that we may continue to provide the servant leadership as demonstrated by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Himself.

OFUESI – UESI Telecon: The Lord enabled the entire NC to have a telecon (a first experience for some of us for this international communication link between OFUESI and UESI) as a part of the NC Meeting in December. As an NC body together (from Houston) with the UESI leaders - General Secretary Bro. David Jayakumar (Delhi) and our UESI Point of Contact Bro. Bala Chandra Pandian (Chennai) we had live conversations for about an hour. We experienced a wonderful spirit of oneness as we communicated and presented our current OFUESI goals and discussed the Lord's work through UESI along with the current UESI financial needs.

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Please continue to pray and please consider all your efforts prayerfully to support UESI financially.

Regional Conferences - 2008: God-willing, we will be joined by Bro. Sathkeerthi Rao for all the 2008 Regional Conferences. Bro. L.T. Jeyachandran will minister God's Word in the Midwest conference and as a keynote speaker in the Eastern Regional Conference. We should certainly continue to pray and look forward for participation in these conferences in summer 2008. In 2007 we had the opportunity to witness three of our four conferences well attended beyond our expectations and beyond the campsite limitations and May God help us to witness His presence in all these upcoming regional conferences.

National Conference – 2009: We are praying about having a National Conference in 2009 as was envisioned by several past committees. A subcommittee is being assigned to look at the possibilities of venue, dates and speakers. We would like to be ready with the detailed information on this at our 2008 Regional Conferences so that everyone is informed ahead for all the plans. Please pray for God's guidance and leading in this regard. This will mark the 10th year of OFUESI in existence after it was formally started in California by many pioneers of our OFUESI ministry.

Few Examples: We are encouraged by several updates in the last two months involving outreach to Indians students. We mention just a few as a token of our gratitude to His faithfulness and there are certainly many more which we plan to feature in detail in the following monthly newsletters and updates by Bros. Subha and Abhijit. From the **Mid-West Region:** In Columbus, OH - Bros. Venkat and Kishore witnessed an enormous impact on some of the Indian students whom they invited for a Thanksgiving dinner for the first time. At Des Moines, IA - Bro. Subha joined Bro. Anand to present gospel at a well-attended Christmas gathering to a group of software engineers and their families and some of them heard the gospel for the first time. From the **Eastern Region:** Bro. Veeraiah led an effort for a Christmas gathering through the ministry of Bro. L. T. Jeyachandran that certainly touched many lives in that gathering. From the **Southern Region:** In Louisiana Bro. Raj and his family have been touching many lives of Indian students with the love of Christ through several evangelistic gatherings. In Tennessee Bro. Raj (former NC) and his family are experiencing His presence through several of the

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meetings they held in His name. We are all certain that there are several such outreach activities which we can not comprehend in these few pages and it is our prayer that the Lord will emphatically lead all of us in these efforts for His glory by all of us in the year 2008. Few weeks ago, Bro. Emmanuel encouraged us with his eye-witness account from Hyderabad as he attended a Christmas outreach program in which more than 600 students participated and nearly 150 of these college students (~ 25% of them) received Jesus Christ as their personal Savior! God is still at work among us and He is still enabling us to witness these experiences. All praises do belong to Him. We are constantly reminded of the fact that our work ahead of us is still enormous.

Personally I thank you for your continued prayers and support. I will leave with the thought that we must be committed for His cause just as He expected from all of us. May we bring the hope of Salvation in Christ to those around us through our lives and the way we live out the gospel.

Sincerely,

Prem Saganti, President OFUESI

For all of us from the Executive Committee

"Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words." St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226)

From the desk of Treasurer -

I bring greetings to all in the matchless name of Jesus Christ. Let us praise the Lord for His faithfulness to UESI through prayer and financial support by our OFUESI family.

As we close the year 2007, we have witnessed the receipt of nearly \$ 75,000 (apart from our local and conference expenses) from all of you with specified designations and we provided \$ 70,450 to UESI. This is the largest sum in one year thus far to UESI from OFUESI. Our contribution to UESI in the year 2007 is about 14% of their annual budget. PRAISE THE LORD. At this time we have about \$ 3,000 in our OFUESI account and we will release these funds towards the Jan-2008 support. By the end of this month, several of you will be receiving year-end statements and tax receipts.

In our conference call with UESI during the 8th Annual Meeting of the National Council, we

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learned of the current financial needs in the form of a deficit of nearly Rs. 48 lakhs. This is three-fold: an accumulated deficit of Rs. 16 lakhs upto March 2007; a deficit of about Rs. 16 lakhs between April and October 2007; and accumulated arrears of Rs. 16 lakhs for the staff salaries through November 2007. The staff salaries were revised in April 1, 2007 but the staff is still being paid at the old salaries due to decreased contributions. Once again, let us look to the Lord for His provision and let us do our part in obedience to His prompting per His direction.

	Month	Amount
1	Jan-07	\$ -
2	Feb-07	\$ 4,900.00
3	Mar-07	\$ 4,900.00
4	Apr-07	\$ 3,850.00
5	May-07	\$ -
6	Jun-07	\$ 4,000.00
7	Jul-07	\$ 1,732.00
8	Aug-07	\$ 3,100.00
9	Sep-07	\$ 3,368.00
10	Oct-07	\$ 10,000.00
11	Nov-07	\$ 7,000.00
12	Dec-07	\$ 27,600.00
TOTAL-2007		\$ 70,450.00

Table-1: Monthly total amounts sent to UESI in 2007

Distribution	Amount
1	UESI General Fund \$30,732.00
2	UESI HighField Project \$10,457.00
3	UESI-Kerala \$7,552.00
4	UESI-Andhra Pradesh \$4,506.00
5	UESI Staff Support \$3,500.00
6	UESI Staff Travel to US \$5,100.00
7	UESI/EGF-Chennai \$2,500.00
8	UESI-Karnataka \$1,800.00
9	UESI/EGF-Coimbatore \$1,300.00
10	UESI/EGF-Mumbai \$1,050.00
11	UESI Staff Retirement \$650.00
12	UESI-Haryana \$500.00
13	UESI Misc Exp \$352.00
14	UESI-Maharashtra \$150.00
15	UESI/EGF-Nagpur \$101.00
16	UESI Conferences Exp \$100.00
17	UESI-Meghalaya \$100.00
TOTAL-2007	\$70,450.00

Table-2: Distribution of the designated amounts sent to UESI per the request of the donors

January 2008

Few months ago, we have received an anonymous gift of \$ 10,000 from former EU/EGF families who are now living in San Diego, CA area. Our own NC members contributed generously towards local travel and accommodation of our UESI-Staff during their visits to our Regional Conferences.

You may also realize that in December 2007 alone we received nearly \$ 25,000 from several of you. In all, UESI received \$ 27,600 during December 2007 from OFUESI. This is the largest sum in one month from OFUESI to UESI; let us praise God for this provision in our ministry. I believe that when we pray together (like we could do at the annual NC meeting via telecon with UESI), we reap together.

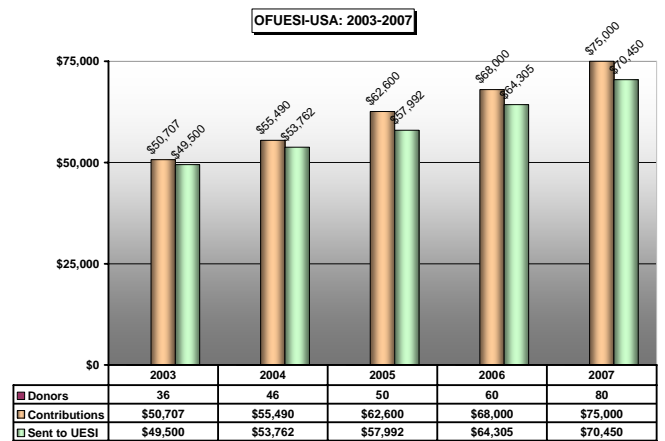


Fig-4: Illustration of God's faithfulness to UESI through OFUESI during the past five years (2003-2007)

I'd encourage each of you to be systematic in your giving to OFUESI as the Lord leads for the current UESI needs. Your personal mailing as in the past is just fine but you can make your work easier and more efficient of your specified monthly giving via direct deposit to our CHASE bank a/c. Any information regarding this can be obtained from me at any time. May each of you abound in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Sincerely,
Paramjyothi Marati, Treasurer OFUESI

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. II Corinthians 9:8

Note: The name "Keep - InTouch (KIT)" was originally suggested by Bro. Mash in September 2007 during his visit to keep all of us informed on a regular basis and we attempt to do so from now on by the first week of each month.

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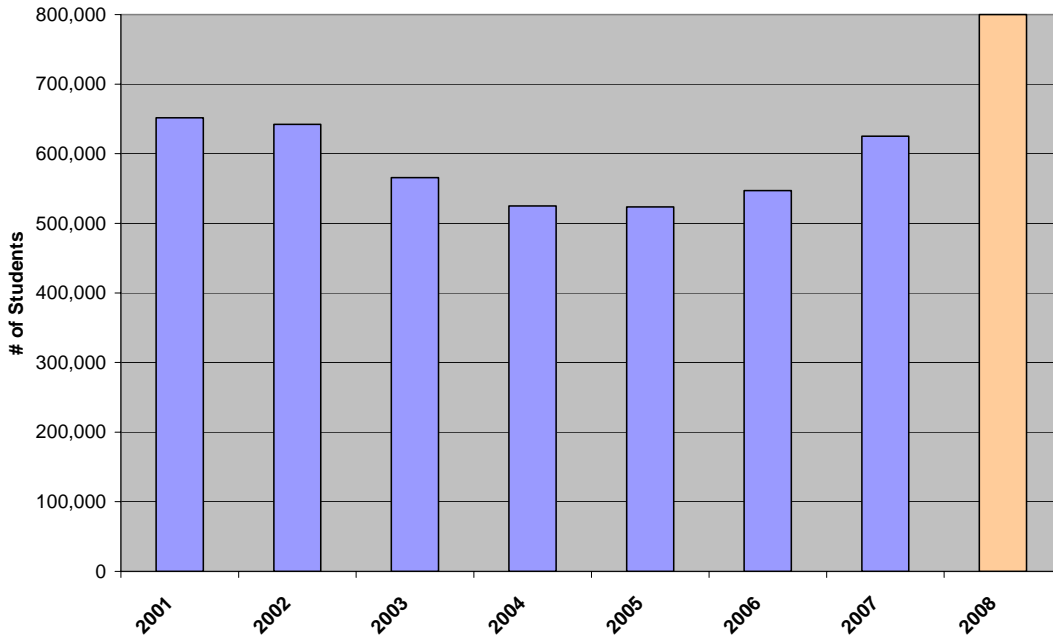
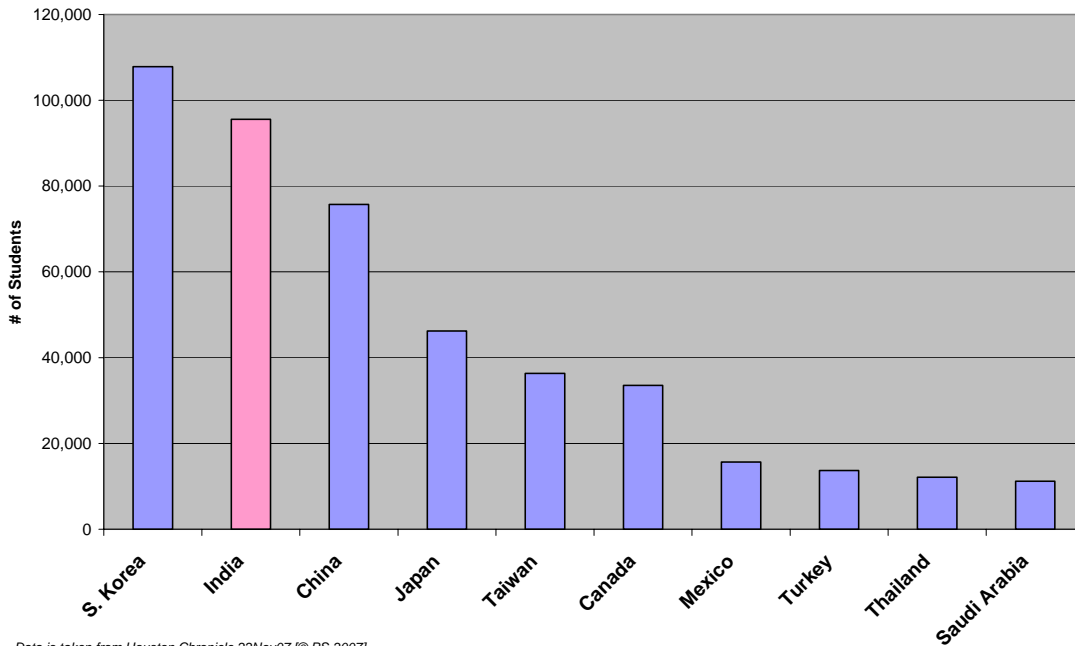


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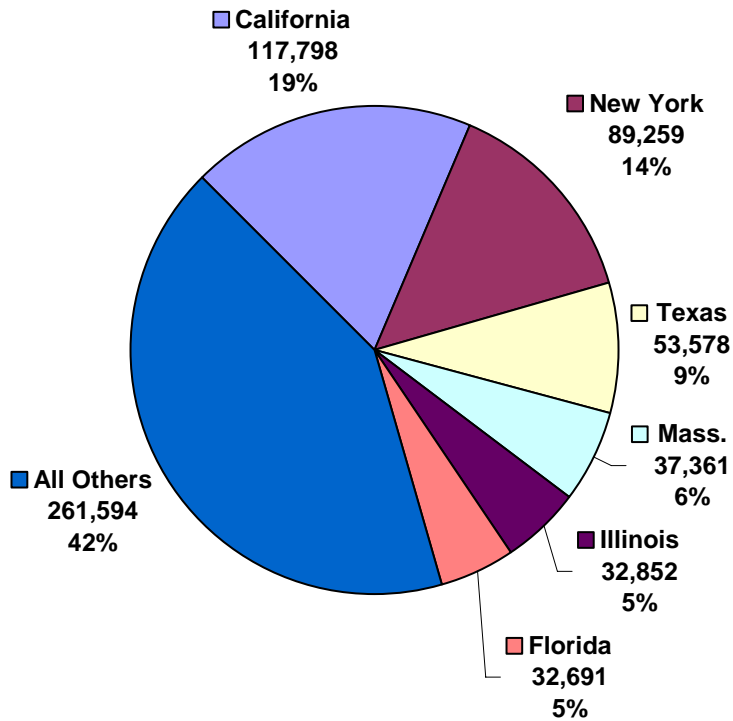


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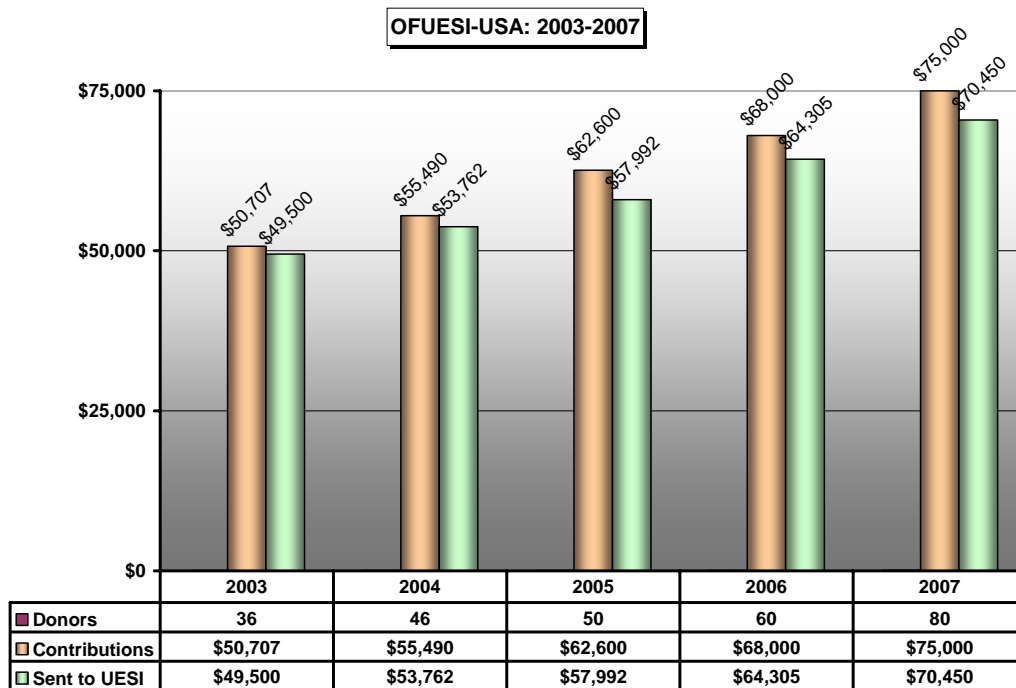


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