FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

$20 a month makes all the difference!

Your financial contribution gives families a chance to look beyond their daily challenges and develop a plan to make important changes in their lives. Local animators guide families through a process of identifying key problems they face, deciding what steps to take, and developing a budget to make their plan a reality.

In addition to your contribution, our experienced field staff help families to learn all about the resources available to them through the local government.

Education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty. 16,213 children from partner families attended school this year (including primary, secondary, and higher studies) and 6,341 of these students received scholarships from their local institutions!

Health awareness was provided to 655 families. Now 4,536 families in the program have medical insurance and more than $422,000 was mobilized to support families’ medical costs!

New homes were built by 547 families, making use of contributor support, their own savings, and funds mobilized from other sources. The families mobilized more than $2,700,000 in local resources!

Women-headed households are given special consideration in the program. 3,225 families headed by widows or abandoned women were supported this year. 1,992 widows accessed pensions from the local government, totalling more than $315,000!

Here’s how families spent your donations:

- Income Generation Projects (IGPs): 72%
- Housing Repair and Construction: 11%
- Education: 7%
- Health: 6%
- Insurance: 3%
- Other: 3%

In addition to the resources available to them through the local government, the communities were able to find solutions, including:

- With the help of our field staff, villagers worked with the local government to access funds that are designated to help communities to improve their standard of living, which are often hard to access.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

To address these needs, the communities were able to find solutions, including:

6 Bore Wells Constructed
6 Community Soak Pits Constructed
7 Well Recharge Pits Constructed
2 Drinking Water Tanks Constructed
1 Road Constructed
1 Dry Toilet Constructed
16 Open Wells Cleaned
1 Pond Cleaned
5 Solar Street Lights Installed

With the help of our field staff, villagers worked with the local government to access funds that are designated for their poverty-related issues. This year, 9,676 families received monthly financial support, as well as training and regular visits from SAFP field staff to help them in achieving their goals.

The Family Development Program is SAFP’s core program, working with 37 NGO partners in 5 states in India. Every year, it partners thousands of impoverished families in India with donors to give them the chance to overcome their poverty-related issues. This year, 1,437 families received training in marketing and entrepreneurship to give them the tools needed to start a small business. A total of 2,556 families started a new IGP!

The Family Development Program is important part of the Family Development Program, providing extra income and a chance to learn new skills and build confidence!

Here’s how families spent your donations:

- Income Generation Projects: 15%
- Tailoring Centre: 14%
- Goat Rearing: 9%
- Cattle Rearing: 5%
- Cloth Business: 4%
- Poultry: 3%
- Pet shop: 4%
- Petty Shop: 4%

Not receiving letters? Please contact our office.
**SAFP’s housing program aims to help the poorest of the poor gain access to safe, secure housing. By offering a grant to each family along with support to access government funding and other local resources, the selected families are able to build a home that they can take pride in with all the important facilities. Special preference was given to families headed by widows and abandoned women and with members having serious diseases. This year, our contributors supported the construction of 152 houses with a total of $200,000. In addition, families were able to mobilize more than $800,000 from other sources, including local government programs, NGO contributions, parish support, and their own funds.**

**In 2017-2018, we were able to support the following additional projects in India:**

- “The Tiljallah Project”, (CSSAI) Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Calcutta Anglo Indian Social Services (CAISS), Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Loreto Convent, Entallay, Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Lawrence DeSouza Home, Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Smile Cares, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- Idukki Highrange Development Society, Idukki, Kerala.
- Emmaus Swiss Leprosy Hospital, Palamaner, Chittoor Dist., Andhara Pradesh.
- Organization for the Development of People (ODP), Diocese of Mysore, Karnataka.

**2017-2018 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES**

Financial Statements prepared by Hyatt Lassaline, LLP - Chartered Accountants, and approved by SAFP Board of Directors on June 18, 2018.

- Revenue: $4,634,858
- Expenditures: $3,413,190

**A Time of Change**

This is a time of change in Save A Family Plan (Canada). I want to highlight one change especially, the resignation of Lesley Tordoff, Executive Director. She and her husbandRich have moved to Germany. Rich was offered a wonderful position. Lesley was associated with Save A Family Plan for 27 years, first as a volunteer and then as a staff member, heading the Community Development Program. Her last appointment was as Executive Director (ED), then when ED, Father Sebastian Adayanthrath, returned to India when he was named auxiliary bishop to his home diocese, the Archdiocese of Ernakulam/ Angamally. It was the first time a lay person, a woman, became the new Executive Director. Lesley took up the position with zeal, commitment and dedication. She once told me that in the earlier years, she felt she was ‘flying by the seat of her pants’. She did a remarkable and extraordinary job at the helm. She loved SAFP, and especially the poor women and men that she met year after year on her annual trip to India. She was a very proud mother of Madeline, Miriam and Noah who, each at a different time, went to see what Lesley and SAFP was doing in India. It was a life changing moment in their young lives.

Lesley welcomed many visiting Indians to her home, and cooked a wonderful Indian meal. She told me that she learned from Bishop Sebastian how important it was to make that office, at all times, a place of gracious hospitality.

Lesley is an artist and used that gift to publicize the work. I had the great experience of traveling with Lesley to India for many years. It was there that I saw how importantly she viewed the work of SAFP, and how hard she worked to be faithful to the charism of Msgr. Augustine Kandathil (Fr. Gus). Transparency and accountability at all times were uppermost in her mind and practice.

We wish her well. She continues to be available for consultation, etc. She will always want to be connected to this great work. In gratitude, we continue to do what she did - work hard, be transparent and accountable, and always, grateful to all who are connected to SAFP and the poor of India.

**Marching Ahead**

Self-help groups (SHGs) have been the watchword of developmental ideology at SAFP for the last thirty years. Through a powerful process of consciousness building, training, and sharing, SAFP has been highly successful in developing self-confidence, courage, and readiness to work for common good among the women in the communities where we worked. Our recent evaluation tells us that women, after joining dynamic SHGs, have become highly empowered through the process of improving their self-confidence, eventually becoming more and more self-reliant and they are asserting basic rights of human dignity. I am extremely happy that SAFP has been leveraged in accelerating such a process of growth.

SHGs also show that they can become powerful agents of change in the society. It makes the structures more human and noble. It serves the common good along with the individual good. Coordinators and animators should be highly appreciated in accelerating this process. We may have a long way to go but we have begun the process somewhere.

I wish all the best for the year ahead. There is good number of challenges coming up: the needs are always on the increase as wealth is accumulating in the hands of many. However, we continue to work with energy and enthusiasm. We may be only making some breakthroughs but they are seeds which will sprout out in the future and will bring great fruits for the upcoming generations. May God bless SAFP and all those who make the dreams come true.