



SAVE A FAMILY PLAN
IN INDIA SINCE 1965

Ektha-UNITY
THE SAVE A FAMILY PLAN NEWSLETTER

100%
of your
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goes Directly to
FAMILIES



HARMONY HOUSING PROGRAM

A safe and secure home is critical to the well-being of families and children.

Save A Family Plan is committed to helping families live happy and fulfilling lives. We know that a house is so much more than just a structure. A safe and secure home is connected to a family's standard of living in a variety of ways.

For impoverished families in India, their house is the most important and valuable possession that they have. It can connect them with important infrastructure, like water, electricity, sanitation, and waste disposal. Families without a proper house are at a much greater risk of illness due to unsanitary conditions. They put a huge amount of labour into overcoming challenges like getting access to water and other important resources and making frequent repairs to the structure. This effort could be directed to other important areas of their lives.

Families with insecure housing are the most at risk when a natural disaster strikes. They are the first to be impacted and suffer the greatest losses. They are more likely to take risks, like using unsafe cooking methods, which can hurt the family in a variety of ways. Without a secure structure, the safety of women and girls can be put in jeopardy.

Living in a shelter that feels temporary and unsafe can have a negative impact on the psychology of the family, especially the children. It makes it harder to go out and earn an income or succeed at school without a safe place to call home. Families struggling with the stress of constant uncertainty, fear for their safety, and increasing household labour are less likely to feel confident and empowered to make positive changes in their lives and tackle other problems that they face.

SAFP has always placed importance on helping families to build safe and secure houses that they can feel proud to call home.

Most recently, SAFP has been supporting the building of homes through the Harmony Housing Program. So far, 152 homes have been built through this program, with special priority given to women-headed families and families with individuals living with critical diseases and disabilities.

As with all our programs, the money the family receives from SAFP acts as a catalyst to encourage them to take action. Our field staff help the family apply to the local government for funding that is made available to assist vulnerable families to build secure homes. Family, friends, and other members of the community come together to support the project with funds, labour, and other resources.

**HELP US REACH
OUR GOAL OF BUILDING
= 500 =
HOUSES BY DONATING
TO OUR COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

Throughout the planning and construction, SAFP and our partners work with the family to ensure that the needs of all members are being met. They work together to plan for a new home that will support proper hygiene and sanitation, safe cooking methods, access to water, and security for everyone. They also consider the effects that the construction will have on the environment and try to make as little impact as possible. Families learn important skills like planning, budgeting, and networking with the local government and the community.

The Harmony Housing Program offers a life changing gift to families. Not only do they finally have a home to call their own, but the learning gained by working with our staff and the community gives them experience and confidence to make more changes in their lives.

**A New Place to
Call Home!**



Jincy was on her own raising her two daughters in a home that was not safe and secure. She describes the distress that she used to feel as she faced so many struggles on her own. Then SAFP's Jubilee Housing Program selected Jincy and her family to receive support to construct a new, safe home. The family received \$2,500 from a generous contributor and help from local staff to get additional funding of over \$5,500 from the local government. With additional support from relatives, the local NGO, and their parish, Jincy was able to build a beautiful, secure home for her family with access to clean water and all other facilities. The family is so grateful to everyone who helped make their dream come true!



“I DON’T THINK I’VE EVER FELT SUCH GRATITUDE IN ONE DAY AS I DID SPENDING THE TIME WITH OUR FAMILY.”

SAFP CONTRIBUTOR PANG MAKERD REFLECTS ON HER EXPERIENCES IN INDIA



Meeting with our family felt like a homecoming.

My husband and I were moved by the entire experience in Wayanad, Kerala. The first sight of meeting Bindhu, both she and I broke into happy tears. After five or so years of correspondence, there was just so much joy pouring out from Bindhu and her family. I don’t think I’ve ever felt such gratitude in one day as I did spending the time with our family.

My husband and I brought gifts with us for Bindhu and her family. We gave every family member new clothes (sarees, shirts, and shawls) and some cooking equipment (a pressure cooker, dinner sets, and cooking ware). Bindhu cooked us an organic banana leaf feast. The feast was filled with various curries, sambars, spice toppings, and starches - 80% of the ingredients were from her backyard (including yogurt made from the milk produced by the cow they have!). Our bonding activity was preparing jackfruit from the backyard. It was jackfruit season and they had picked quite a large one for us to

prepare all together. Everyone showed us how to open one and peel it (quite a laborous process!) I hadn’t realize there were so many ways to prepare jackfruit aside from eating it as a fruit. We made curries with the seeds, a base starch, and savoury curries with the unripe flesh. Bindhu was so proud to show me her harvest of yams, herbs, spices and fruits she was growing in her backyard. Her husband was kind, attentive, and helped her with the feast preparation.

The two daughters were such smart sweet girls, practicing what ever English they picked up with us. They showed my husband and I their homely home with beaming smiles. Their Grandmother (Bindhu’s mother in-law) also lives with the family. When I gave her her present (a silk shawl) she started to cry and held onto my hand the whole afternoon.

The biggest gift I took away from this day was: immense gratitude. I learned how to receive whole heartedly. Also, I was so touched by Bindhu’s resilience. As a sole earner of her entire family, she exudes true optimism,

diligence and determination on leading her family towards self sufficiency and financial independence. I’m so honoured to have met her. What an incredible female role model.

The team at Wayanad Social Service Society (WSSS) were nothing but humble superstars! The family’s designated social worker Sheena was wonderfully kind to Bindhu’s family. You can really see the genuine bond she built with them, especially in her sisterly interaction she had with Bindhu. Our ‘entourage’ from WSSS included Friar Bijo Thomas, Sister Annie, Sheena, another priest and two other social workers. This amazing staff supported us through out our four day stay in Wayanad. They organized an exciting schedule of activities (a big highlight was visiting the different Hill Tribe villagers of Wayanad). Sister Annie shared her positive experience working in partnership with SAFP, being transparent about the partnership and processes. We were completely blown away by the amount of social programs and activities being carried out!

- Pang Makerd

RECOVERING FROM DISASTER

SAFP SUPPORTS FAMILIES STRUGGLING WITH LOSS AFTER CYCLONE OCKHI



In early December 2017, Cyclone Ockhi caused massive destruction in South India, Sri Lanka, and surrounding islands. The category three storm caused more than 245 fatalities and left over 550 missing, most of which were fisherman. A large majority of the deceased and missing were from the South Indian states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu, in areas where SAFP and their partners operate.

SAFP has reached out to support families reeling from the loss of loved ones and in many cases, main income earners. These families have been integrated into the Family Development Program, through which they will receive regular financial assistance and support from local staff to overcome the emotional distress and new challenges that they face.

Janobha is a widow who lost her husband in the cyclone, along with her father and her brother. All three of them were fisherman and their bodies were never recovered. While struggling with the grief from this incredible loss, Janobha is also forced to come to terms with her new role as the main provider for herself and her three sons. She has been working as a house servant and earns less than \$50 per month. It is hard for her to meet the needs of her family, including the education costs of her children.

Janobha’s family has been selected by her community to join the Family Development Program. With financial support from a generous contributor and guidance from local field staff, she is planning to start a detergent business, making a variety of soaps and washing liquids to sell in local shops. This project will increase her income and allow her to support her family, as well as building her confidence in her own abilities to care for her family and create change in their lives.



TO SUPPORT OUR DISASTER FUND, PLEASE DONATE TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.



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PARTNERING WITH THE POOR FOR A JUST WORLD

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