



**SAVE A FAMILY PLAN**

IN INDIA SINCE 1965

# Ektha-UNITY

THE SAVE A FAMILY PLAN NEWSLETTER

Helping  
amazing  
families  
in INDIA



## MAXIMIZING YOUR IMPACT

### Learning to manage a consistent income is key to sustainable living.

Such a simple plan, and yet it is so incredibly impactful! Supporting a partner family in the SAFP Family Development Program (FDP) offers so much more than a simple financial contribution to an impoverished family struggling to survive in India. It is a life changing investment that transforms the lives of SAFP families! Our six-year program is carefully designed to invest the time, personal connections, skills and tools required to build the competence and confidence of families facing poverty and adversity, enabling them to change the direction of their lives.

During the first year of the program, funds accumulate in the partner families' bank accounts while they are educated about money management and budgeting and until they have saved enough to start their small business. Families continue to earn their daily wages as they did previously, while being taught important and valuable lessons in sustainable practices for the future.

Once the yearly planning has been completed and the families are ready to start their small businesses, funds are withdrawn to purchase the equipment required to begin their new endeavor. Your support not only provides them with the opportunity to initiate self-employment; it provides the reassurance of regular income as

the business becomes established and starts to grow. The skills and lessons learned from the program will improve the family's chance of future success. Their achievements contribute to their confidence, sense of self-worth and the knowledge that hard work and learning can lead to accomplishments previously thought unimaginable. Donors provide the opportunity and the program provides the tools that enable families to flourish!

#### A word about special gifts:

Many generous donors inquire about giving their partner family a special gift. While small gifts up to \$150 per year are sufficient, large monetary gifts do not always benefit partner families. SAFP encourages donors to assist their partner family, whenever possible, if a significant and unexpected life event has impacted them financially (ie. unforeseen medical costs, housing repairs, health and economic impacts of COVID-19). Otherwise, additional funds can actually cause less incentive for the family to fully participate in the essential components that teach them survival skills to use once they have completed the FDP.

While \$22/month is not enough to survive on in North America, in India this amount is sufficient to entice families who are interested in participating in the program to join and learn new skills. It will attract families who want to participate in self-development, work hard to succeed and who are committed to making change. If you are still looking to maximize the

impact of your donation, kindly inquire about the specific needs of your partner family prior to sending a special gift. Please also keep in mind that special gifts are not permitted in the partner family's first year of the program as they have not yet completed money management and budgeting education.

In place of donating a significant influx of funds to one partner family, SAFP also encourages donors to consider providing another impoverished family with the opportunity to be a part of this amazing program or supporting our Community Development Program.

Whatever you decide, we want to thank you again for investing in our partner families. Your support is the first step in starting their journey toward learning new skills, achieving independence, becoming economically secure, and making significant improvements in their lives to ensure a better future for their children.

### LOOKING FOR OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT SAVE A FAMILY PLAN?

Our **Community Development Program** offers villages in India:

- clean water initiatives and sanitation
- educational programs
- natural disaster funding
- housing construction

**CONTACT OUR OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION!**

**“WE WITNESSED FIRST  
HAND OUTSTANDING  
SELF-SUFFICIENCY”**

**BOARD MEMBER JERRY COLLINS  
AND HIS WIFE, MARY JANE**



**In February, 2020, SAFP board member Jerry and his wife, Mary Jane, visited one of their partner families in India.**

Author Laurie Chan details in her book *Five Loaves, Two Fishes: A Journey from Charity to Development to Empowerment* (2018) how our SAFP families participate and show independence that leads them to economic sustainability and ownership.

This theme was truly evident on February 27th 2020 when we witnessed

first hand outstanding self-sufficiency while visiting one of our partner families in Palakkad, Kerala - Deepa, her husband Prakasan, their two children, and Deepa's niece. Our journal reads: "When we arrived at their country home, they welcomed us with wide smiles. All dressed up for the occasion and with no school today, Abhitha (13) and Abbinav (12) presented us with bouquets of personally hand cut flowers. They also presented us with a gift of many pieces of their outstanding artwork. Deepa served a delicious cool drink that she had learned

how to make from her catering job. We were accompanied by the Family Facilitation Team members who support and guide our SAFP partner family throughout the six-year program. With the Team's assistance, Deepa and her family have applied for and built a cement block latrine and have developed a plan to build a more sustainable home. The children feed their 25 hens (having sold 40 at Christmas time). The family cares for rice paddy fields attached to their backyard, tending the essential crop from seeding to harvesting. For our pleasure, Prakasan and Abbinav proudly picked from their mulberry, mango, and coconut trees.

Besides taking the bounty from their small piece of land for their own sustenance, Deepa sews and Prakasan operates an auto rickshaw in the city to provide additional income.

In four years, with the assistance of SAFP, our family has made significant gains economically to obtain required medicines, better housing, a water pump on site, and the ability to support their children's education. SAFP recognizes that Deepa and Prakasan' strong family unit ultimately contributes to achieving a strong community. Based on our short visit, we believe that Deepa's family must be considered a good role model for other SAFP families.



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**PARTNERING WITH THE POOR FOR A JUST WORLD**

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