



**SAVE A FAMILY PLAN**

IN INDIA SINCE 1965

# Ektha-UNITY

THE SAVE A FAMILY PLAN NEWSLETTER

Focus on the  
Family



## Poverty is complex. Our plan is simple!

And it actually can break the cycle of poverty. Mary's story is proof of Save A Family Plan's success.

Widowed at a young age, Rosy, Mary's mother, was faced with tragic and hopeless circumstances. Left alone to care for her three young children and her aging mother-in-law, she had no money for food, new clothes, or medicine. In those times, widows in Kerala were ostracized, harassed, and considered bad luck.

Though not an educated person, Rosy was a leader and an inspiration to other women in her community. Mary remembers her mother as being "poor only in the financial aspect, but rich in courage, knowledge, and spirituality."

By joining SAFF's Family Development Program, Rosy taught her children that despite obstacles, women could be empowered to rise above.

In addition to working for daily wages and starting rice paddy cultivation and a mat weaving business, Rosy reared cows, goats, and chickens.

Her mother's encouragement to acquire an education not only inspired Mary, it also enabled her to find a career with an organization that continues to empower thousands of women like her mother.

Mary has been working in the Finance Department of the SAFF India office in Kerala for the last 20 years. She only came to realize her lifelong connection to our organization when she discovered her mother's SAFF profile in historical records from the India office.

In 2017, through her work with Save A Family Plan, Mary travelled to Canada to visit our office in London, Ontario and looks forward to other opportunities in the future to meet our wonderful donors!

Although photographs of Rosy, who has since passed away, were destroyed in the 2018 Kerala floods, her memory and legacy continue on through Mary. Mary continues to live in Kerala with her husband and their children and she has good career with a bright future.

We are proud that our program works. But we are especially proud of Mary and all that she has accomplished. All in thanks to the love of her mother and her determination to provide a better life for her family through involvement in the SAFF Family Development Program.

Our plan is not only simple, it simply works!

**Last year we interviewed Mary to learn more about her story!  
You can watch the video at [www.saffp.org/marys-story](http://www.saffp.org/marys-story)**

## A Multi-generational Tradition

Dave Schiller currently supports two Save A Family Plan (SAFP) partner families and has partnered with multitudes more by investing in the Family Development Program (FDP) for close to 30 years. Donating to Save A Family Plan is a multi-generational tradition in the Schiller family as Dave's mother, Margaret, and his son, Aroki, have both supported their own partner families through SAFP. Aroki plans to continue this tradition once he starts a family of his own!

In 2015, Dave, Aroki, and Dave's oldest son, Joshua, travelled to India to meet two of their SAFP partner families. While there, they were impressed by the variety of small business initiatives that participants can establish during the FDP, such as cow rearing, crop cultivation, tailoring, bee keeping, umbrella making, and pickle cultivation.

Dave was also struck by the power of the Family Development Program. He remembers learning that thousands and thousands of lives have improved across India as a result of this program. SAFP participants generating sustainable income businesses are also empowered through full-family participation in household decision-making and involvement in community activities such as self-help groups.

Gracy, the mother of the SAFP partner family that Dave supported between 2014 and 2020, is one of thousands of success stories of FDP participants. During her time in the program, Gracy started a candle making business and a goat rearing business, constructed a new house, accessed new government resources, and provided her daughter with an education in bioscience.

Upon completion of the program, Gracy wrote a letter to Dave that stated "[I am] happy to say that I reached a sustainable condition with your generosity."

*Want to share  
your experience as an  
SAFP donor?*  
You can email our Executive  
Director, Marisa, at  
[mthorburn@safp.org](mailto:mthorburn@safp.org) to tell  
us your story!

**We recently featured Dave Schiller and Gracy on YouTube!  
To watch their videos, you can visit the Save A Family Plan Canada  
YouTube channel.**



Aroki, Joshua, and Dave Schiller



Gracy and Alphonsa



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

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