

Ektha-UNITY

THE SAVE A FAMILY PLAN NEWSLETTER



SAVE A FAMILY PLAN

IN INDIA SINCE 1965



Working together
to partner
against poverty

Save A Family Plan was founded in 1965 in response to the dire poverty experienced in India. In a time before the communication marvels that we have today, many people across the world were genuinely unaware of the suffering taking place. It was during the Mumbai papal visit of December, 1964, that Pope Paul VI drew the attention of the world to the plight.

Father Gus, an Indian-born priest teaching in Canada, heard the plea for help and took action. Together with Dr. Leo Ferrari, a "Plan" was envisioned that would solicit donors to help impoverished people in India to meet their most basic needs. Save A Family Plan was born. The word "Save" reflected, with great sincerity, the dire urgency of the times.

In those early days, we operated under a simple model of charity: there were people in great need while others, who had the financial means to respond financially, were moved to help.

Over the years, that simple model has evolved.

Today our focus is sustainable development, working directly with program participants in developing areas where poverty and hardship are part of their

everyday life—all that they have ever known.

Villagers determined the need for clean water, toilets for the health of their family and community, and safe homes that provide basic shelter.

Save A Family Plan emphasizes the grassroots approach rather than a "charity" handout. In other words, the need is identified by the people themselves. Also, the people in these villages are involved in processes such as financial planning and acquiring local materials.

Our family and community programs are built on the principles of **compassion**, **community**, **courage** and **commitment** (see the following page for more information). These are essential elements for sustainable development, dignity, and hope for a brighter future.

We hope that this newsletter can share with you the good news of what we can accomplish by working **together** to partner against poverty.

We are proud to share this important distinction about development, in which you as a supporter play a very important part. Thank you!

Donor Visit

From time to time, some SAFP donors travel to India and are able to visit their partner family.

Recently, the Pinto family had one such experience:

We were greeted with open arms by Shymol & Vinod, their three kids, and the father & mother-in-laws. Their humble dwelling was decorated just for our visit, and they put out an array of treats and juices. We were humbled to have received such treatment.

The hard work and progress made by this one family is testimony to the impact we can all make one family at a time. The family is now running a tailoring shop and are rearing rabbits for additional income.

We cherish this trip and will cherish the memories of it for the rest of our lives. Thank you Save A Family Plan. Job well done!



Thank you!

Since 1965, generous donors like **you** have worked together with impoverished people and communities in India as partners against poverty.

Compassion

We all experience, at times, forms of hardship, but for the people whom we serve in India, hardship and suffering arise from daily struggles due to poverty, illness, and other obstacles.

Fortunately, people are moved by humanity, compassion, and faith. They recognize and journey with others who suffer in ways that are sometimes difficult to even comprehend.

Courage

It takes incredible courage to face extreme poverty and dream of a better life, especially when facing illiteracy, stigma, and barriers within your own community. With support, program participants work hard to achieve results they may have never thought possible: gaining employable skills, creating a small business, or gaining clean water and safe housing.

Community

Save A Family Plan programs are much more than simply providing start-up funding for a small business or skills training for employment. We also provide a network of support that includes local resources, peer support through Self Help Groups, and connections to the wider society. Families are able to break the cycle of poverty to achieve independence and a sustainable future.

Commitment

Indian families are welcomed into our Family Development Program based on criteria that include: poverty, young children, and a family member with physical or mental challenges.

After six years of commitment and hard work, they are able to transform their lives.

