

Ektha-UNITY

THE SAVE A FAMILY PLAN NEWSLETTER

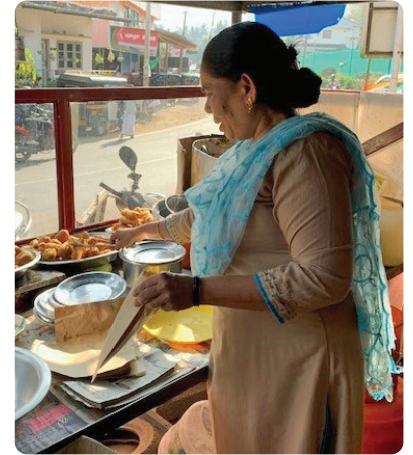


SAVE A FAMILY PLAN

IN INDIA SINCE 1965



Serving up Success



As a full-time caregiver for one of her daughters who is hearing and speech impaired, Chandrika was unable to work outside the home. Her husband, Sivayyan, worked long hours as a rickshaw driver.

Before they partnered with Save A Family Plan, they struggled to meet their family's basic needs plus extensive medical expenses. Their home was unlivable, with neither sanitation nor drinking water.

Through the **Family Development Program**, Chandrika and her family opened a small petty shop—then Covid struck and the income plummeted.

Thanks to the generosity of donors who contributed to the **SAFP Covid Rehabilitation Program Fund**,

the family was able to make a new start. They opened a small restaurant, which now provides a sustainable income for the family.

Customers travel from afar to enjoy her famous *Baji*, a sought-after specialty.

With a newly-built home next to the restaurant, and both their daughters attending school, the family is thriving!

In February, while in India, SAFP Canada office staff and volunteers met with Chandrika and Sivayyan! SAFPC Executive Director, Marisa Thorburn, interviewed Chandrika about their success story. We will share the video later this year.

Chandrika's letter to her partner donors (translated):

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all the help you have given to our family for the last six years. You came to our family when we were in a most distressed state. The restaurant that we started with your help runs on a huge scale.

The biggest blessing and achievement in our life is that we were able to build a home with facilities. We were living in a rented house and you helped us to give our children more attention and good education.

The classes and seminars I received through Save Family Plan empowered us to face life with confidence and get our rights met.

We thank you for all the blessings and benefits you have given in our lives and pray that God blesses all of your work.





Early this year, volunteer Greg DeSouza visited India along with Save A Family Plan Executive Director, Marisa Thorburn, and Board President, Lois Cote. We've asked Greg to share some of his first-hand experiences with you...

My journey began when Save a Family Plan invited me to travel to India for twenty-six days in January and February. I eagerly agreed. India, vast and complex, with a population of 1.4 billion, presents a rich tapestry of languages and cultures.

As a Canadian, I was struck by the widespread poverty in India. There, 83.8% live on less than US\$5.50 a day (2019 statistic). The roads, filled with vehicles, people, and animals, are utter chaos. One trip of 250 KM journey to Sultan Bathery in Wayanad District took 11.5 hours. It was rough going.

In the Mykkara tribal colony, we met Chandrika, a Paniya tribal woman, her husband, and two daughters, (one of whom is both hearing and speech impaired). Indigenous villagers, the original inhabitants of the forests, are among the poorest in India. SAFP Field Coordinator, Lilly, has spent years building trust among the women of this community, and together they lead initiatives advocating for better schools, water, and housing.

In Shimoga, I came face to face with the reality of shocking violence when visiting a small shop run by a woman who had participated in the SAFP Family Development Program. As I was buying some gifts to take home for my grandchildren, I observed scars on her neck and arms. She explained that she had been lit on fire and abandoned by her husband. Partnering with SAFP, she has rebuilt her life and is now earning a stable income by running her own business.

I was able to witness the work of Save a Family Plan on multiple fronts where we have partnered with poor, hard-working people to improve and transform their lives. Projects for water purifiers that prevent disease, secure toilets for women and girls, and building decent homes.

Working with SAFP and each together, program families empower themselves to provide for themselves and their families. While poverty, domestic violence, and access to clean water are also issues in Canada, the scale of these challenges in India is staggering. We can't do everything, but we must do something. I am honored to be associated with SAFP.

Please tell a friend about SAFP, which truly provides families with an opportunity to break the cycle of poverty. They can learn more at www.safp.org.

Dear donors: effective April 1, 2024, we are asking you to increase your support from \$22 to \$25 per month per family. For the people we serve, this small difference will have a huge impact! Read more at www.safp.org/increase-of-support.



Thank you!

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



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Poverty is Complex. Our plan is simple.

CANADA: c/o St. Peter's Seminary, 1040 Waterloo Street, Suite 307, London, Ontario, N6A 3Y1
USA: P.O. Box 610157, Port Huron, Michigan, 48061
Website: www.safp.org | Phone: 519.672.1115 | Fax: 519.672.6379 | Email: info@safp.org



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