

Ektha-UNITY

THE SAVE A FAMILY PLAN NEWSLETTER



SAVE A FAMILY PLAN
IN INDIA SINCE 1965

Celebrating 60 years!

This is the second newsletter in a series celebrating the 60th anniversary of Save A Family Plan. Last time, we looked back on the origins of Save A Family Plan and its earliest days when Fr. Gus and Dr. Ferrari matched five North American families with five impoverished families in India.

INTRODUCTION

Since our beginning 60 years ago, Save A Family Plan has continued to focus on working directly with impoverished families and communities. Our mission is also our call to action: "Partner with the poor for a just world." Our vision has not changed, however the ways in which we pursue it have changed and evolved over the decades.

The world was shocked to learn of the widespread famine and starvation in India and other nations. In response, millions of dollars were donated and organizations, including Save A Family Plan, were established.

Looking back on the awareness of poverty in India in the mid 1960s, our founder Fr. Gus Kandathil wrote about "the desperate situation that led to the starvation and untimely death of many in the third world countries. This was a shocking revelation to many [...]."

TAKING ACTION

As a professor of chemistry, Fr. Gus was tireless in his efforts to raise awareness and funds. He wrote numerous articles and newspaper submissions, and gave presentations whenever he was able. During the spring and summer

months, he would get in his humble car and travel tirelessly to spread the mission of Save A Family Plan across Canada and the USA.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

As conditions changed in India, and as Save A Family Plan matured, the ideas of long-term independence and sustainable development began to emerge. Earnest discussions in the 1970s reflected an evolving way to provide the same caring and generosity that had always been in place since the beginning.

It became apparent that, in addition to helping impoverished families meet their immediate needs, more could be done to sustain them in the long term.

"Save A Family Plan is not a welfare agency taking care of people for a day at a time. Its goal is to help people attain some measure



Early photo of program participants

of self-dependence. The aim of Save A Family Plan is [...] to encourage and promote self-help projects."

The world has changed incredibly since those

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days, and Save A Family Plan has adapted with the times. Technology that would have been unimaginable 60 years ago is now part of the everyday operations. Donations can be made directly on the website, securely, day or night. Social media provides a means of connection through pictures, stories, and information.

What hasn't changed since 1965 is the spirit of Fr. Gus and others. Save A Family Plan continues to raise awareness through word-of-mouth and grassroots outreach, without spending large sums of money on paid advertising and slick marketing.

Volunteers remain our strength. The way to inspire people to join the cause remains the same: personal contact, in-person presentations, and heartfelt witness. New technology augments, but does not replace that ethic.

FAMILY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Today's Family Development Program (FDP) has a sharp focus on sustainable development. Working closely with impoverished families through field staff, Save A Family Plan works together with the program beneficiaries, helping them to lift themselves from poverty through education, improved health and hygiene, financial literacy, personal development, and earning a sustainable income through small

business initiatives.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Similar to the Family Development Program, the Community Development Program (CDP) projects address various issues related to poverty.

Each CDP project begins with an assessment of what is most needed in the area, working with the people who actually live and work there. Our grass-roots endeavours are a cooperative effort by local staff and the citizens themselves as the means to improve their socio-economic development and health.

By design, each project makes a point of using local talent, materials, and eco-friendly methods.

Thanks to the generosity of Save A Family Plan donors and a network of local supports, impoverished communities are able to transform their lives with initiatives related to clean water and sanitation, house and toilet construction, women's empowerment, children's education, disaster management, and more.

See our newsletters at www.safp.org/news-and-info



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Save A Family Plan 1965 – 2025: Celebrating 60 years!

Thank you!

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

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.

