

Ektha-UNITY

THE SAVE A FAMILY PLAN NEWSLETTER



SAVE A FAMILY PLAN

IN INDIA SINCE 1965

Partners across the world

When a family in India joins Save A Family Plan's Family Development Program, they are matched as a "Partner Family" with a donor (or donor household). Together, they embark on a six-year journey that empowers the family to gain valuable skills and training, connect with community and local supports, start their own small business, and earn a sustainable livelihood.

During this journey, the donors and partner families often develop a strong emotional bond. Although the donor's monthly contribution of \$25 is essential, the connection is more than charity; it is a personal partnership in the shared mission to break the cycle of poverty and build a brighter future.

Despite barriers such as literacy, language, and remote geography, the partner families, with the support of the coordinators, are able to share their progress and achievements through photos, personal messages, art and poems. It is very exciting to receive mail from friends halfway across the world. In some cases, donors are even able to meet their partner family when they travel to India. It is a life-changing experience for everyone involved.

Donors can expect correspondence from their partner families once or twice per year. The exchange of letters must be done through the Canada office. If you did not receive a letter from your partner family, please contact our office. Each coordinator must assist 200 families with writing letters and delays can happen when field staff are off due to sickness or staff transitions, or if families are unavailable because of their work schedule to meet with their coordinators.

Actual art shared:



Reasons for sending letters through the Canada office:

For many years, donors and partner families would correspond directly through the mail. Postal systems remain an important service, but the world has changed and our needs with it.

This change was put in place to:

- o Reduce postage & paper costs for the India offices
- o Offer an electronic option for those who want to avoid paper waste
- o Avoid postal strikes in both India and Canada
- o Lessen the risk that mail is intercepted in India by someone looking for cash or gifts

If you receive a letter mailed directly to you from India, with a request for money, please contact the office immediately.

How it works – Mail from India

Our field coordinators in India work with each family and know their unique circumstances. He or she guides the family—including the children—in writing letters, and translates them into English.

They scan the notes, artwork, etc. and upload them digitally into the SAFP computer network. The network is secure and only staff with authorization are able to access the documents. Staff at the Canada office then relay the correspondence to the donor household.

How it works – Mail to India

If you would like to correspond with your partner family in India, please send your letters or cards in care of our Canadian office either by email to info@safp.org, or by post to 1040 Waterloo St., London, Ontario, Canada, N6A 3Y1.

Because the items are scanned on a flatbed scanner, we cannot accept bulky items or gifts (such as stickers or notepads). We will upload your letter into the computer system and our colleagues in India will print and personally deliver your mail to your partner family.

Guidelines

Please include your SAFP donor number, if you know it.

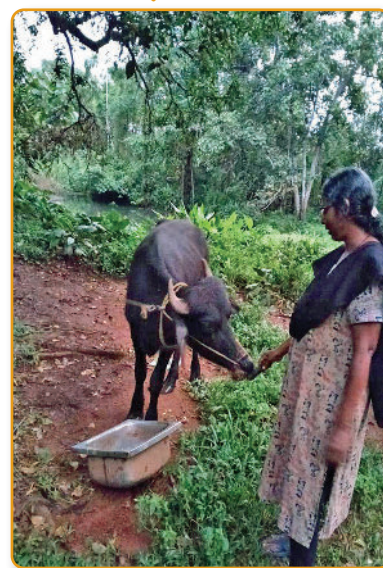
Email is the fastest, least expensive, and most secure way to transmit your mail.

Photos should be sent digitally in JPG or PNG formats. If you send prints in the mail, these will be scanned and uploaded. Please do not send originals, as they cannot be returned to you.

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions:

- o In India, some people do not have a surname
- o Sometimes letters may seem difficult to understand or use outdated terms, this is because of language and cultural differences
- o Sometimes letters may seem short or repetitive. It can be difficult for your partner family to know what to share about everyday life. To assist them, we often prompt them with suggestions of topics to write about, so you may notice some common themes. We encourage you to write to your partner families and ask them questions that they can respond to.

Actual photo shared:



“This is me and my buffalo”

With thousands of letters to share, donations to help cover costs are welcome. To donate, visit www.safp.org/donate or send a gift by cheque or e-transfer.

Please direct your gift to “Most Urgent Needs.”



Thank you!

Thank you for your generosity and caring. Since 1965, generous donors like you have worked together with impoverished people and communities in India as partners against poverty.



Poverty is Complex. Our plan is simple.
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