

Ektha-UNITY

THE SAVE A FAMILY PLAN NEWSLETTER



SAVE A FAMILY PLAN

IN INDIA SINCE 1965

Partners in the field

Great things are happening thanks to you!

Save A Family Plan programs, made possible by donors like you, make an incredible difference in the lives of impoverished people in India.

Working on your behalf with 30-plus NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) across Southern India, we know that local families and villages best understand their own needs, and we directly partner with them to break the cycle of poverty.

The grassroots NGO staff are the “hands and feet” of the generous donors who fund all of our work. In this newsletter, we are going to spotlight one NGO Field Coordinator to illustrate how this partnership works.

Sister Lovely has devoted over 30 years to social service since entering religious life. As many SAFP field coordinators do, she holds a master’s degree in social work (MSW). She serves as the Director and Project Coordinator of the Krupanialaya Social Centre, Cowdally, India, alongside her fellow religious sisters.

In her own words:

“My vocation as a Field Coordinator gives me the opportunity to be present among the people, understand their realities, accompany them in their difficulties and support them to improve their lives. I consider it a privilege to listen to the cries and concerns of the poor and to walk with them in their journey towards a better and more dignified life.

“For me, this work is not merely a profession; it is a meaningful expression of my vocation and commitment to serve humanity.”

As a field coordinator, Sr. Lovely’s responsibilities include preparing project proposals, identifying and selecting eligible participants, coordinating



Sr. Lovely and SAFP staff visit a children’s tuition centre

the implementation of projects, and submitting the reports.

She regularly visits the SAFP partner families to understand their needs, monitor their progress, and provide guidance and support.

Additionally, Sr. Lovely works closely with local government authorities, village self-government groups and leaders, and other community representatives. These relationships with local stakeholders help her to understand the needs of the community, coordinate activities effectively, and ensure that the benefits of the projects reach the right people.

“My work is both challenging and deeply rewarding. One of the main challenges is traveling to remote villages where there are no roads or transportation. Sometimes the families are not available because they have gone for daily-wage work or other responsibilities. Illiteracy is also an issue. I need to explain everything patiently and in a way that can be understood.

“The opportunity to accompany the families, understand their struggles, and see positive

Continued...

NGO Field Coordinator Spotlight: Sr. Lovely

changes in their lives gives me great satisfaction and encourages me to continue my service.

"I say to SAFP donors: each family remembers you with deep gratitude and keeps you in their prayers. Even though they may not know you personally or have the opportunity to meet you, they know that someone cared about them and helped make their dreams come true.

"I have witnessed many beautiful and touching moments that show that your generosity means much more than material support. You are giving families hope, security, dignity and a new sense of confidence in their future. Your kindness has touched their lives in a very meaningful way.

"On behalf of all the families, I sincerely thank you for your generous hearts and for standing with them."



Sister Lovely

Meeting the 'Famous' Sr. Lovely

Submitted by Christine Rickey, SAFP (Canada) Gift Processing & Administrative Assistant

I traveled to India this summer and had the *absolute* pleasure and honour of visiting Save A Family Plan India staff, NGO partners, and program families. One of the highlights was meeting Sr. Lovely; in Canada we had heard so much about her hard work and dedication.

I will admit that it was like preparing to meet a celebrity. Getting off the bus in Mysore (in Karnataka state), after a very long journey by plane and bus, we were looking for her in the crowds. *There she was!* Bright, smiling from ear to ear and waving frantically! No time to be awkward as her "loveliness" (sorry, there is no other word more apt) just engulfs us with no inhibition! I told her that she was famous to our team in Canada and she just giggled!

I spent a few days with her and was struck by her passion, kindness, and love for the poor. On one of our outings, Sr. Lovely explained that she "loves the poor, but is firm with them." I understood as I watched her do what she does. Her firmness, when needed, instructs program participants and encourages them to grab the opportunities before them, and to be responsible for their own success.

In my opinion, Sr. Lovely is the epitome of what our founder, Fr. Gus Kandathil, was hoping for when he started Save A Family Plan: truly helping the poorest of the poor. I am forever blessed to have met her and all of the other incredibly dedicated sisters.



Sr. Lovely (DSS), Mary (SAFP India), and Christine (SAFP Canada) visiting participants



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.



SAVE A FAMILY PLAN
IN INDIA SINCE 1965

Poverty is Complex. Our plan is simple.

info@safp.org 519-672-1115 1-855-333-1115

Canada: 1040 Waterloo Street, Suite 307, London ON N6A 3Y1

USA: P.O. Box 610157, Port Huron, Michigan, 48061

www.safp.org

