



THE GOOD SHEPHERD AGRICULTURAL MISSION  
BANBASA, UTTARAKHAND, INDIA

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017/2018



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The largest project of this year is the construction of our new library. The new building is nearly complete.

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If you are interested in knowing more about the mission, what we do and how you can make a difference then look no further than page 51.



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# LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR

To our supporters,

This will be my 14th year on the Board of Directors for The Good Shepherd Agricultural Mission. It seems like every year we look back and say: "How can next year be any better?"

To say we have seen incredible blessings this year would be an understatement; from the incredible development of a new library for our school to yet another visit from National Geographic, the flood gates of God's blessings continue to pour out over us!

Our 2017-18 Financial Report reflects the benefits of the deeper relationships we are forming with our partners, sponsors, supporters, staff and our children. Amazing life change is happening here on the ground and I count myself fortunate to be a part of it.

On behalf of our whole Board I would like to extend my particular gratitude to Manju and Alka from the Samartha Saxena Foundation, Century Link India and Health & Development Aid Abroad who continue to be our biggest supporters. We so appreciate the trust you have put in our organization, thank you for helping us to change so many lives!

To our other supporters who have sponsored, donated or encouraged us throughout this year, I hope that this report gives you a little insight into the wonderful life change that is happening here. Your continued support means so much to us.

I would also like to take a moment to publicly thank our incredible staff, without whom our organization could not stand. Each and every one of them gives tirelessly, often in a volunteer capacity with a love for our children that is quite literally life changing.

But most of all, I thank God for the incredible blessings He continues to pour out on us. For the good health of our staff and children. For the protection He gives us every single day. For the individuals He raises up to support us around the world. We could not do it without Him.

Blessings on you,



**Warwick G. Shipway**

Director

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors met a total of four times between 1st April 2017 and 31st March, 2018. Minutes of the Board meetings have been documented in the official Minutes Book and copies have been circulated as appropriate.



From top, left to right (name, age, position, core competency, percent of meetings attended):

**Mr. Warwick Shipway:** 65, Director, Project Management, 100%

**Mr. Eugene George:** 40, Secretary, Non-profit Administration, 100%

**Rev. Clifton Shipway:** 33, Deputy Director, Non-profit Administration, 100%

**Mrs. Priscilla Shipway:** 34, Treasurer, Social Work/Childcare, 100%

**Mr. Simeon Karada:** 37, Member, Teaching, 50%

**Ms. Josie Singh:** 75, Member, Agriculturalist, 100%

**Mrs. Paula Karada:** 42, Member, Social Work/Childcare, 100%

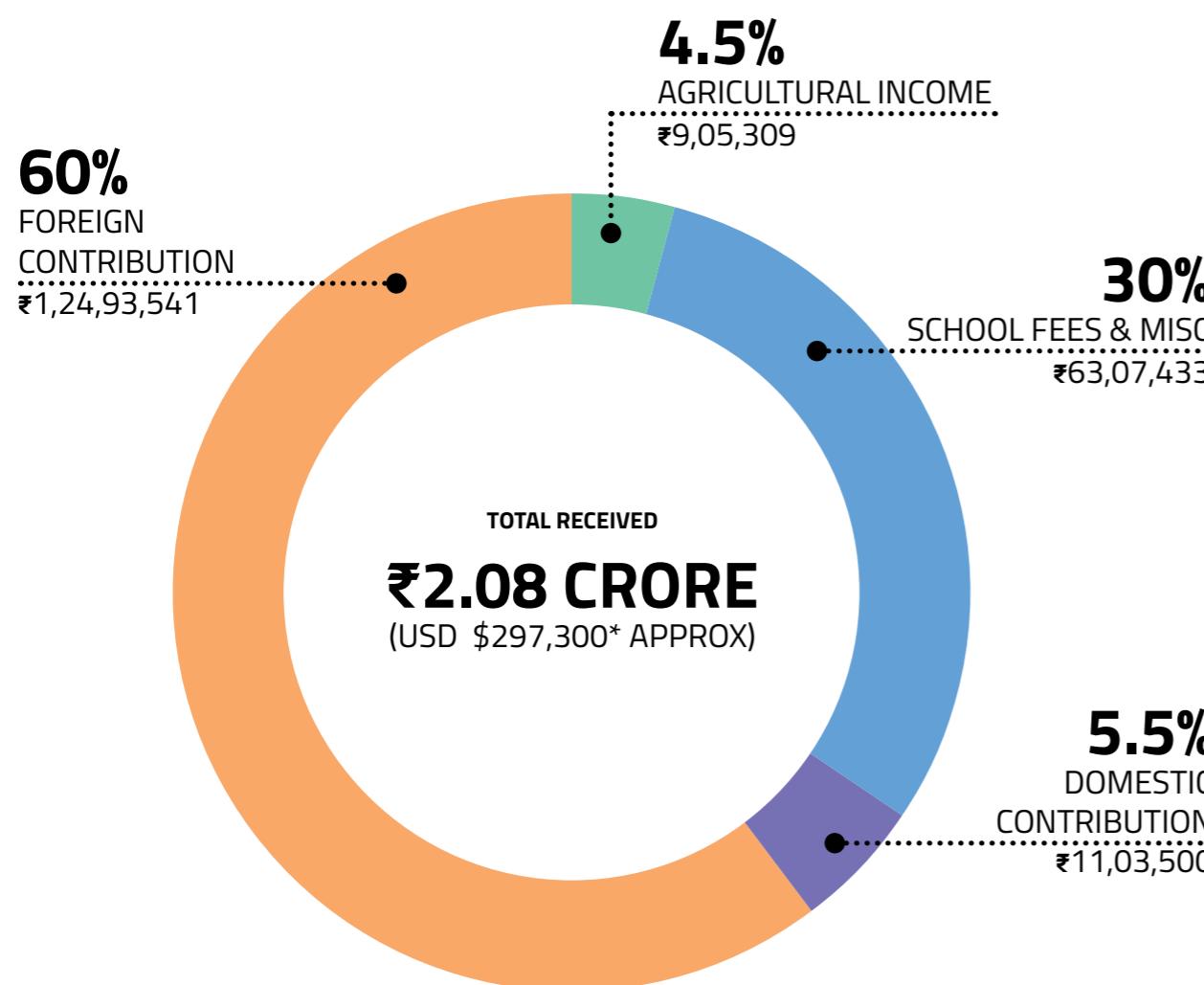
# INCOME

We have continued to see amazing growth this year with more than 2.08 crore rupees being generated and raised through the support of incredibly generous donors, our school, our farm and investments. We have utilized 2.31 crore during the last 12 months with the balance being brought over into the new financial year.

This year we continued to receive amazing support from The Samartha Saxena Foundation, CenturyLink, Charities Aid Foundation, Health &

Development Aid Abroad, BILD, Door of Hope and more than three hundred amazing individuals around the globe who contributed to our online fundraisers as well as donating through our website/project partners.

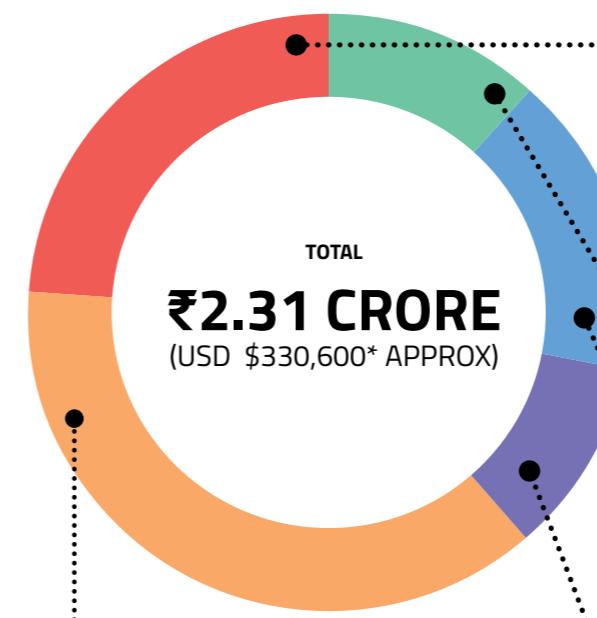
We are so grateful to everyone who has contributed throughout this year, it is only through your continued support that we are able to keep changing the lives of the incredible people who live here in this place. We could not do this without you.



\* For the purpose of this graph 1 USD = 70 INR

# EXPENSES

It doesn't cost a whole lot to run a big family like ours, while we endeavor to cover as many costs as possible through ventures like our dairy, farm and school (which provide milk, food and education) we inevitably end up having to spend funds. For those who are interested, detailed below is the summary of expenses of our organization for the year starting April 1st 2017 and ending on March 31st 2018.



Indirect Orphanage Expenditure	
Repairs & Maintenance	13,94,431
Diesel & Fuel	13,34,136
Depreciation of Assets	11,67,450
Salary & Wages	11,45,352
Water & Electricity	9,50,167
Staff & Workers Welfare	6,61,088
Legal & Professional Fees	4,76,800
Miscellaneous Expenses	3,14,464
Printing & Stationary	2,39,622
Travel & Conveyance	2,39,529
Festivals & Ceremonies	2,37,041
Vehicle Insurance	1,82,158
Telephone & Internet	1,66,491
Audit Fees	40,000
Bank Fees & Charges	14,308
Office & Admin	9,359
Postage & Couriers	7,855
Newspaper & Periodicals	7,329
Interest Paid on TDS	458
<b>Total Expenditure:</b>	<b>85,88,038</b>

<b>Asset Purchases</b>	
School Library	36,04,659
Furniture & Fixtures	4,78,512
Electrical Fittings	4,14,974
General Equipment & Machinery	3,19,646
Staff Accommodation	2,93,742
Computers and Tech	2,23,615
New Motorcycle	56,692
Library Resources	42,093
<b>Total Expenditure:</b>	<b>54,33,933</b>

<b>Agricultural Expenses</b>	
<b>Total Expenditure:</b>	<b>26,73,365</b>

<b>Expenditure of School Projects</b>	
Salary & Wages	32,82,716
School General Expenses	2,08,769
Books & Stationary	1,56,637
Software Subscriptions	82,798
Staff & Workers Welfare	46,884
<b>Total Expenditure:</b>	<b>37,77,803</b>

<b>Direct Orphanage Expenditure</b>	
Food & Consumables	9,82,231
Education & Tuitions	5,77,385
Clothing and Wearables	4,41,827
Medical & Healthcare	3,75,184
<b>Total Expenditure:</b>	<b>26,73,365</b>

\* For the purpose of this graph 1 USD = 70 INR

A view from the heavens looking down upon the Good Shepherd Agricultural Mission campus. The monsoon rains have filled the rice paddy fields with life giving water.

LEGEND	
1.	Main Office
2.	Kitchen / Dining Room
3.	Swimming Pool
4.	Mango Orchard
5.	Church House / Laundry
6.	Guest-house
7.	Nursery
8.	Small Girls Hostel
9.	Old Small Girls Hostel
10.	Big Girls Hostel
11.	Dairy
12.	Orchard
13.	Old Kindergarten
14.	Staff Accommodation
15.	Mango / Lychee Orchard
16.	Carpentry Workshop
17.	Big Boys Hostel
18.	Vehicle Store
19.	Grain Drying Floor (Kulla)
20.	Workshop
21.	Fishponds
22.	Maxton Strong School
23.	School Library
24.	Cricket/Football Field
25.	Playground
26.	Volleyball / Badminton Fields
27.	Front Entrance
28.	Generator Room
29.	Staff Accommodation
30.	Staff Accommodation
31.	Staff Accommodation
32.	Cricket Pitch
33.	Playground





## FRESH FRUIT

We have been fortunate again this year to be blessed with a constant flow of fresh fruit for our children thanks to some amazing supporters. Both from our own orchards and the local markets we have ensured that our children have regularly been getting the natural vitamins and minerals they need to keep growing healthy and strong.

We have been working to improve our orchards over the last few years and this year was no different; dozens of new trees have been planted including an orchard of mango, lychee, star-apple and mulberry trees. We look forward to reaping bountiful crops from these new trees in the years to come.

**ALL YEAR ROUND**



## BANBASA MELA

Each year the Alliance Club of Banbasa hosts its annual town fair (mela). Thousands of people from the community and surrounding villages flock to the center of town to enjoy rides, watch shows, eat food, play games and participate in the famous charity raffle.

For the first time ever we took advantage of the mela this year and bused 50 of our children in for 4 hours of fun. With 200 rupees (\$4.00) spending money each, our kids were absolutely beside themselves with joy! While many took rides on the Ferris Wheel, jumping castle, giant trampoline or merry-go-round others chose to shop. A selection of makeshift stalls provided hours of shopping fun.

**OCTOBER 2017**



## SPORTS EQUIPMENT

Our kids have been blessed this year with so many amazing new pieces of sports equipment; from cricket gear to hockey sticks, from badminton to basket ball...There is certainly no shortage of games and physical activities for them to do!

Of course everyone knows the physical benefits of sports, but one thing that is often overlooked is the team building (or in our case, family building) that comes out of playing together. Developing good mental health in our children is equally, if not more important, than physical health and playing together is a great way to develop healthy thinking and relationships.

**ALL YEAR ROUND**



## MONSOON MADNESS

"Rain, rain, go away, come again another day" this famous nursery rhyme reflects the attitude most children have towards the rain -but not our kids! Nothing sounds more fun to our little ones than getting to splash around in the cool monsoon puddles, kick the football in the pouring rain or dive deep into the swollen waters of our jungle river. The endless stream of water from heaven over the monsoon period certainly helps them achieve this.

The monsoon is also an excellent time for growth. Our flooded paddy fields sing with green life as the plants reach towards the sky. Each monsoon we make an effort to plant more trees around the compound, this year was no different as we planted many new saplings. Flowers, shrubs and plants soak up the climate -it is almost like steroids for them.

But not all the life that the monsoon brings is fun. We are bombarded by endless legions of mosquitoes, each one seeking to sink their needle like noses into our skin and suck us dry. There is also the less bitey, but just as annoying frogs that seem to come up out of the floor like a Biblical plague; they might help to keep the creepy crawly population down... but their countless poops sure are a pain to clean up each morning!

All-in-all though we generally love the monsoon, it is a change of pace from the regular extreme temperatures we face, a chance to slow down and, just like Sonia in the picture below, watch the rivers of life flow by.

**JULY - SEPTEMBER 2017**





## EASTER EGG HUNT

Easter is a special time of year for all of us, but no one had as much fun on Easter Sunday as our Sunday School children. With the help of our older boys, Priscilla boiled, colored and hid more than 100 eggs all over the playground in preparation for the annual Easter Egg Hunt.

It is surprising how much work has to go into boiling and colouring the eggs but the shrieks of joy as the children ran around the yard in search of the yolk-filled treasures made it worth the work. They may not be the chocolate covered (or filled) eggs people use in the West but they were just as exciting and special to our kids!

APRIL 2017



## MUD-FISHING

The monsoon rains each year prepare the grounds for our kids to partake in one of their favorite activities: Mud-fishing. In a messy, excited whirl of activity they dive into the swampy grass field at the middle of the mission in search of fish beneath the murky waters.

None of us are completely sure where these little fish come from... but there is one thing we do know: our kids love catching them! You might think that 12-15 year old girls would hate wallowing around in the mud in search of slippery gill-bearing creatures -but you would be wrong!

SEPTEMBER 2017



## LIVING IN THE WILD

Our orphanage is located right next to the jungle. As a result we are often blessed to have interactions with our animal neighbors; nilgai, boar and porcupines can regularly be seen in our fields. Some nights we hear the call of a muntjac (barking deer) in our playground as it explores our compound.

When an elephant was injured during a heated battle with a fellow male in January, we assisted the forestry department in its care through the provision of grass and grain from our fields for over a month. A 17 foot long python, found in our dairy, was quickly handed over to the forestry officials for relocation to the jungle.

ALL YEAR ROUND



## NEW FACES

Three new children joined us this year: Shivam, Manisha and Niyati. If their sweet dispositions are any indicators, these children were raised with love. But in July of 2016, their father committed suicide and their mother was incapable of raising them due to a mental disability.

Whenever any child has a family we hesitate to take them in. We exist to fill the gap between the ideal and the harsh reality of the world. But once we are satisfied that no better options are available, we unapologetically and wholeheartedly dive in. For Shivam, Manisha and Niyati, we are beyond thrilled to have them with us.

SEPTEMBER 2017



## LEAVING THE NEST

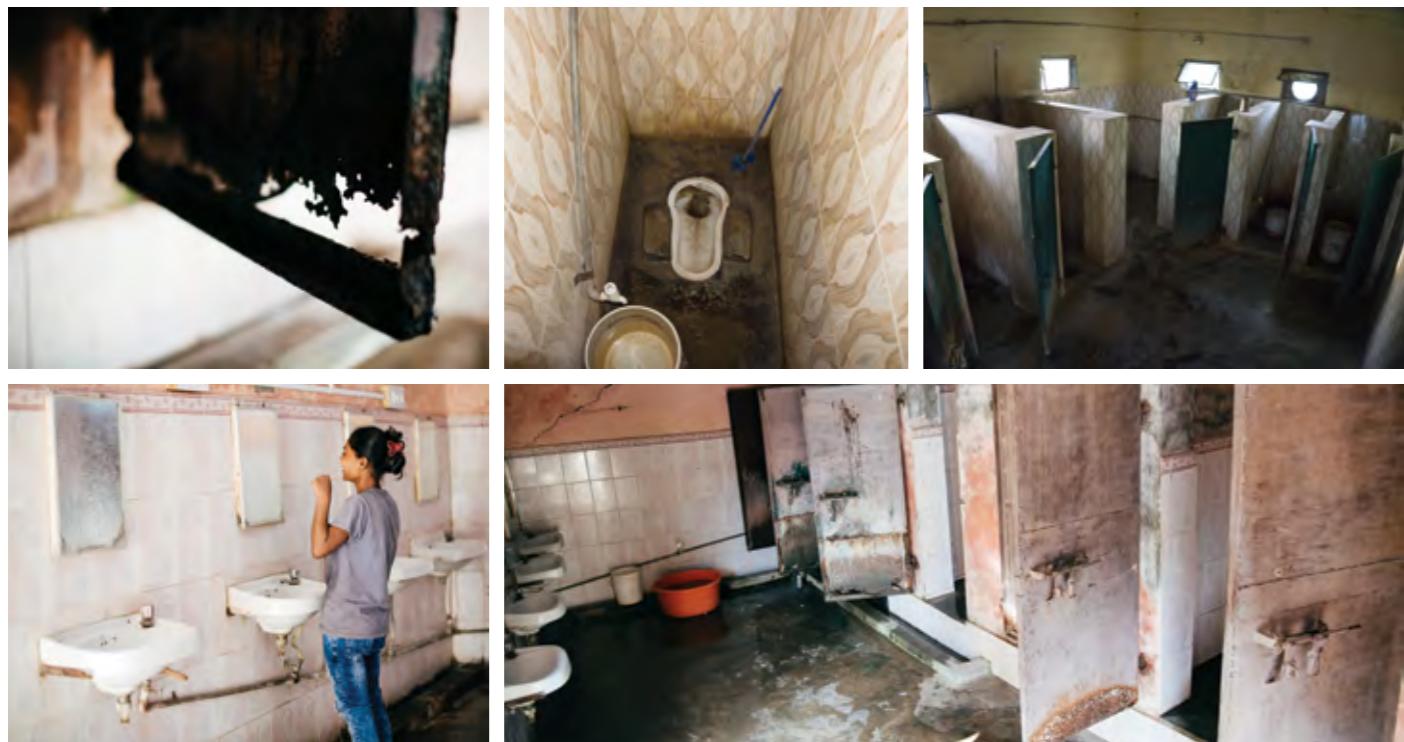
Like any parent we are both proud and heartbroken when our children make the decision to move out of home. This year it was our older boys Prem and Naresh who made the decision to move on to the next chapter of their lives.

Both boys were fortunate enough to get positions in the vocational training school run by steel goliath Jindal Steel. Doing an array of different technical courses from welding to electrical our boys quickly rose to the top of their classes and received much praise from the school faculty and students. We could not be more proud of them.

SEPTEMBER 2017

Like Roman Candles lighting up the night sky, the Indian festival of Diwali overshadows everything as literally millions of fireworks, lanterns and lights are released into the night air each Autumn.





## BATHROOM OF TERROR

With the amazing support of more than 50 generous donors we were able to raise funds this year to see our Big Girls Hostel and Big Boys Hostel bathrooms completely transformed. From run down, leaky, dark and depressing, these bathrooms are no longer bathrooms of terror. For every pipe fixture, every tile and every tap we are so grateful to those who helped out. As a part of this campaign John Marshall teamed up with the award winning voice of Steve Stone to make a little video outlining the need, it may look a little scary but watch it to the end and you will see it was all in good fun.

You can take a look at the video here: [www.IndianOrphanage.com/bathroom-of-terror](http://www.IndianOrphanage.com/bathroom-of-terror)



We could not believe our luck when we were contacted by Playground Ideas, an Australian non-profit who use local and recycled materials to make incredible play spaces. Patrick, Claus and Socetta came out and spent a few weeks with us, working alongside our staff and kids to create 3 amazing new playgrounds for our organization.

Playground Ideas has an incredible website with step-by-step instructions on how to create your own play spaces: [www.PlaygroundIdeas.org](http://www.PlaygroundIdeas.org)





## NEW SCHOOL BAGS

Thanks to the incredible support of our new friend Pooja we received 50 Skybags school bags from VIP Bags this year for our children. These bags are of such incredible quality, so much better than anything we have been able to afford in the past. Our kids were overjoyed to receive them and the day we handed them out felt a little bit like Christmas!

OCTOBER 2017



With a cloud of dust and the roar of engines the Strong Riders took off, for the second year in a row, on a motorcycle adventure into the Himalayan mountains. The Strong Riders consists of 20 mission boys and staff, both old and current, who join together each year for a male-bonding adventure, riding their motorbikes into the mountains for a week of open road freedom.



Board Members Eugene and Clifton joined them this year along with many returning Farm boys from around India. Their destination was the fabled Valley of Flowers in the Himalayas and from all accounts it was an epic journey. 2000km of tarmac filled with tenting, rain, glaciers, landslides, freezing temperatures. Nothing could dampen the spirits of this band of brothers as they rumbled through the back mountain roads of northern India.

The boys got back together again at Christmas time for a ride through Rita Sahib, a newly opened route in the Kumaun region. This will surely not be the last you hear of the Strong Riders.

For more information and photographs check out the Strong Riders Instagram page: [www.instagram.com/strongriders](http://www.instagram.com/strongriders)





## KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA

Ten of our children have received admission into our local Kendriya Vidyalaya school this year for grades 11 and 12. For those who don't know, Kendriya Vidyalaya are a system of high quality central government schools in India that are instituted under the Ministry of Human Resources and Development. There are over 1100 KV schools in India, making it one of the largest chains of schools in the world. Our children are very fortunate to be able to be a part of it as seats in KV are highly coveted and many children are not able to obtain admission -the fact that 10 out of 10 of our kids have received admission stands as a testimony to the great quality of education they receive here in our own school.

APRIL 2017



## CASA BLANKETS

For the last decade we have been receiving shipments of amazing hand stitched blankets and quilts from an Indian NGO called Churches Auxiliary For Social Action. Each one unique in its colour and design, they are as beautiful as they are snuggly.

These quilts are such an incredible blessing to us and our greater community. Not only are they used each night to keep our children and staff warm, we also distribute many to the poor people in our local area. It is a wonderful way for us, with CASA's support to be a blessing to those who are so desperately in need.

DECEMBER 2017



## VOLUNTEER HANDS

Our lives and the lives of our children have been enriched this year by more than 100 visitors and volunteers, friends from all corners of the globe who have come to paint, weld, drill, wire, dig, read and encourage.

Volunteers make up a huge part of the reason why we are able to do so much each year. New people bring new ideas, skills and thought processes to the table. They enable us to move forward in our development at an incredible rate.

We are so grateful for them, for the countless hours of labor, for the stories they share and the love and light that they bring into this place.

ALL YEAR ROUND



## IDENTIFICATION

One thing India is big on is identification. There are all kinds of government issued ID cards that make life easier for those who have them and difficult for those who don't. Orphaned children can often have trouble with ID when birth certificates and parental records are not available...But this year we had a major push here at the mission to get all our kids all the identification documents they should have.

Many of our children were registered for AADHAAR Cards, almost a dozen were registered to vote and several also applied for and received their passports. It is a wonderful thing for them to be able to have all of this paper work done before they leave our gates.

ALL YEAR ROUND



## RETURN OF THE MARSHALL

Our good friend John Marshall returned twice to the mission this year spending a total of over 4 months with us. This is John's 11th and 12th trips to visit, each time he brings a fresh set of fun ideas to help make life exciting for our kids.

Over the years John has formed special bonds with each one of us. If he isn't found out in the yard chatting with the kids he could be helping out in the office, shooting videos for our fund-raisers or strumming his guitar and singing outside 83 year old Aunty Violet's window.

Those who regularly read our weekly newsletters will know that John also helps out with the writing and photography of most editions (even when he is off the mission).



Like a hero out of the pages of a children's book arborist Anthony from Australia came to rescue us by trimming some dangerous branches that were hanging over our heads.



NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC

# Photo Camp



In an upscaled version of the one we had last year, we hosted a team from National Geographic as they presented one of their photo camps for our kids. Once again our children had the rare opportunity to learn writing and photography from some world-renowned professionals. While the words and the images they came up with were fantastic, it was the commitment and hard work they brought to the opportunity that made us the most proud.

Twenty of our children were able to participate in the week long workshop, multiple classes were held each day and both writing and photography assignments were given out to the kids. NatGeo Photo Camp director Kirsten Elstner who led the workshop has been all over the world presenting this unique experience to kids in dozens of countries and in her words, this was her favorite group of students. National Geographic put together a complete and printed book of the work that our students came up with, covering stories of Mission life, village portraits and artistic experiments. We could not be prouder of their work.

You can download a copy of the book here: [www.IndianOrphanage.com/NatGeo](http://www.IndianOrphanage.com/NatGeo)



**From the top:** Matthieu Paley (Lead Photography Instructor), Catherine Lal, Sara Manco (Technical Director), Nancy Bhandari, Sami Chowdhary, Jen Shook (Team Leader), Kelly Bahadur, Jessica Singh, Annie Singh, Clifford Chand, Parwat Singh, Corinna Singh, John Marshall (Writing Instructor), Rick Shipway, Roma Singh, Jack Elstner (Team Leader), Pinky Singh, Sunny Kumar, April Joshi, Rosie Singh, Mel Burford (Photography Instructor and Editor), Anthea Ram, Seema Bahadur, Kirsten Elstner (Camp Director), Paul Salopek (Lead Writing Instructor), Gordon Ram, Clifton Shipway (Team Leader), Floyd Chand, Chandini Prakash, Sonia Singh.

## INTRODUCING **OUT OF EDEN WALK** The journey of humankind

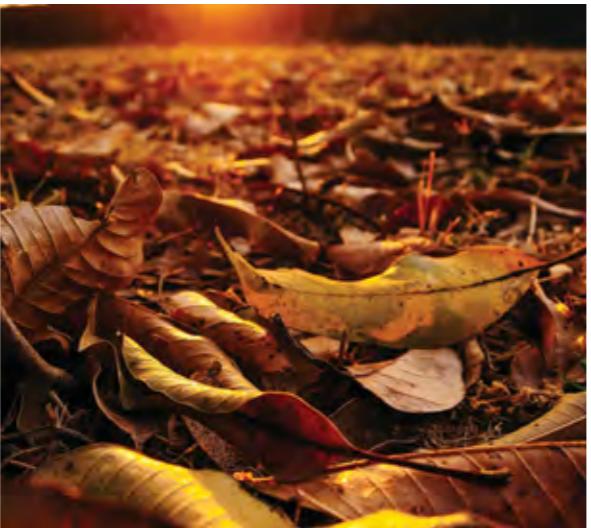
The Out of Eden Walk is Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and National Geographic Fellow Paul Salopek's multi-year, 33,000+ kilometer storytelling journey across the globe in the footsteps of our ancestors. The journey began in Ethiopia and will end at the tip of South America. Supported by National Geographic Society Paul is traveling across the globe by foot revealing the lives of the people he encounters along the way -nomads, villagers, traders, farmers and fishermen who rarely ever make the news. When his journey is complete he will have woven a tapestry of stories, faces, sounds and sights: a snapshot of humanity like never revealed before. More info at:

[www.outofedenwalk.com](http://www.outofedenwalk.com)



Photograph: John Stanmeyer/National Geographic

# Photo Camp



All of these photos were taken by our children as a part of the National Geographic Photo Camp held in March 2018. During the camp our children learned about photography and journalism from some of the worlds leading phographers and authors. It was truly a once in a lifetime experience for them.

A Photo Book of the camp along with the stories written by our kids was produced by NatGeo and is available for download for free on our website here:

[www.IndianOrphanage.com/NatGeo](http://www.IndianOrphanage.com/NatGeo)



A large group photo of approximately 30 children and four adults (Priscilla, Rick, Clifton, and a young man) posing outdoors in a lush green mango orchard. The group is arranged in three rows: a front row sitting on the grass, a middle row kneeling, and a back row standing. The children are dressed in casual clothing like t-shirts, shorts, and tank tops, while the adults are in more formal attire like button-down shirts and trousers. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is filled with dense tropical foliage and trees.

Priscilla, Rick and Clifton sit along the front row for a group photo with a handful of kids on a lazy Sunday afternoon. The mango orchard, where this photo was taken, is a favorite spot for selfies and snaps like this one.



# MAXTON STRONG SCHOOL

## SEVEN YEARS OF STRENGTH

In 2011 our school was started with the goal of improving the quality of education that was being given to our 100 orphan children. In just a few short months, at the request of local friends, we opened the school doors to the general public. Since then we have seen un-imaginable growth. Every year our admissions have filled fast, our reputation has grown from strength to strength and we now set the standard for English medium schools in our area.

For us, our school is about so much more than just reputation. First and foremost it is about giving education to our orphan children and the children from the poorer communities of the Banbasa area. Thanks to outside admission fees from students our school is able to provide free education for more than 100 students within its walls, students who, without this support, would simply not be able to afford a good education. It is our hope that our school can lift these students up, provide them with a bright future and break the poverty cycles of their families. With each new success, our vision expands and we're excited for what the future has in store for this great community resource of ours.



## THE FUTURE



### A CONSTANT STATE OF DEVELOPMENT

With our LRC now as good as completed our attention turns to our Kindergarten. It is our plan to continue the development of our campus with this new building: purpose built to give our youngest ones the best possible entry into the education system. You can see more on our website: [www.IndianOrphanage.com/future](http://www.IndianOrphanage.com/future)

### WHAT COMES NEXT?

In addition to the construction of new buildings we are also looking to develop our campus grounds. We have already begun constructing playgrounds and gardens, in 2018 we hope to install a 8ft high security fence around our entire 4 acre campus. Once the school grounds are secure we will begin development of pathways, seating areas and drainage.

Looking further ahead we'll be building a senior secondary building, an assembly hall and possibly even a swimming pool! It will truly be a campus environment that will rival anything in the area. Now, we know this won't happen overnight and that's just fine with us. As with our initial school launch, with faith and boldness, we'll create a school we all can be proud of.

[www.MaxtonStrong.com](http://www.MaxtonStrong.com)



## DEEPEST CONDOLENCES

In September this year our school suffered the tragic loss of one of our staff members, Mrs Sunita Chand. Mrs Chand had been a teacher at our school for some years and was beloved by all of our school family.

We want to once again offer our condolences to her family, her daughter and son are both students in our school. She was a favorite teacher to many of our children and will be deeply, deeply missed by all.

SEPTEMBER 2017



## NEW PRINCIPAL

We are excited to welcome Mr David Chirag Din to our school family. Mr. David Chirag Din comes to us from 30+ years of teaching and school management experience with Delhi Public School, Allahabad and already is making some great changes in our school.

We are thrilled to have him on our staff and eager to see what new levels of excellence he can help us reach in the coming months and years.

JULY 2017



## NEW ADMISSIONS

As our school continues to develop a great reputation our student body strength increases. This year we received over 120 new admissions to our school bringing the strength of our student body to almost 700! Our school clerk, Micah, has been busy assisting parents with the filling of admission forms, entry of the data into our online school management system as well as handling his everyday regular duties.

We count it as a true privilege and honor to have the education of so many amazing young people as our responsibility. It is our firm belief that we are providing these students with the very best education, instilling strong values in them and that through the lessons they receive both in and out of the classroom they will grow to become upstanding citizens of India.

APRIL - MAY 2017



## NATIONAL PRIDE

Teaching our children the importance of national pride is a responsibility we do not take lightly. Each year programs are held to celebrate and recognize important national days: Independence Day, Republic Day, Ghandi Jayanti... etc. Certainly the most spectacular event of this year was an all-school-march that took place in celebration of Republic Day. Traditionally, it's a time for schools to hold special programs to honor the Indian Constitution and the country, but this year, the Maxton Strong School went a step beyond. More than 700 students and staff marched the 2km into Banbasa, raising their voices and their hand-made signs, declaring their national pride.

It was a solid walk with nearly constant shouting, but the kids rose to the challenge. To avoid any meltdowns, the youngest children got to ride the school buses, though this did not diminish their enthusiasm one bit.

It was quite a spectacle that stopped traffic with a local police escort clearing the way. Through the market, past shopkeepers and shoppers, it was a raucous, patriotic parade. Take a look at a few snaps here on this page or follow this link for a beautiful video of the day: <https://vimeo.com/252994340>



The Maxton Strong School staff and children celebrating Republic Day at the school with a special assembly complete with speeches from students and staff, dances and patriotic skits/performances.





## WHITE WATER RAFTING

For the first time ever we teamed up with Life Is Adventure, Tanakpur to take our students on a school outing they will never forget! 80 students along with a team of staff and parents made their way up the Sharda River by jeep, it was a dusty bumpy trip but no one minded as they knew the adventure they were about to undergo. After conducting a 45 minute training session nine teams loaded into inflatable rafts and braved the swirling river currents on what was, for most students, the biggest adventure of their lives! After her rafting trip, Anthea, one of the grade 8 students said with a huge smile, "It was the best thing I have ever done!"

Adventure is an extremely important part of a healthy childhood development. Through activities like this our students develop confidence, leadership skills and courage to overcome the unknown. We want to say a special thanks to Mr Moni Baba, owner of Life is Adventure who created a safe -yet challenging- environment for our children. He went above and beyond to instill a sense of safety in our children -dispersing any fear and replacing it with excitement.

MAY 2017



**"It was the best thing I have ever done!"**



## SWIMMING LESSONS

With some great renovations to our swimming pool last year this years lessons were taken to a whole new level. Daily classes were run for a period of around 2 weeks as students learned a variety of in-water skills.

The importance of swimming can not be understated. Swimming is the only sport which can save a child's life. Drowning is still one of the most common causes of accidental death in children under 15, so being able to swim is an essential life-saving skill. Swimming is also fun, builds confidence and is extremely good exercise.

APRIL - MAY 2017



## KABBADI CHAMPIONS

This year our students again participated in an Inter-School Kabbadi competition. Dozens of teams turned up at the event held in Tanakpur, our boys fought hard and both our teams, Under 14's and Under 16's placed first in their events. We could not be happier or prouder!

This result is a testament to the hard work that our Physical Education teacher, Avinash Kumar, has put into training our students; teaching them to work as a team rather than individual units, to engage in tactics and, most of all, to have a whole lot of fun along the way. Great job team!

SEPTEMBER 2017



## ROAD SAFETY WEEK

We were honored this past year to have local police and government officers come and spend some time with our school children teaching them about how they can keep themselves safe on the road. It was a great week in which our kids were able to partake in various programs aimed around road safety. From the importance of wearing seatbelts and helmets to the difference speed can make to the likelihood of an accident, this dynamic week of workshops and the teaching our students received will not be forgotten any time soon.

MARCH 2018

Staff and Faculty of Maxton Strong School gather for a photo after a successful 8th Founders Day Celebration. In just a few short years our school numbers have grown to almost 700 students.





## Samartha Saxena Memorial Learning Resource Center

Construction of our schools new library now draws to a close; the official opening will be held on 19th May 2018. Furniture is being constructed in our carpentry shop, gardens planted, electricals installed and the final touches added to get it ready for our students to use.

The LRC, as we call it, shall be home to our school library and computer lab. E.B. White, author of Charlotte's Web, once said, "A library is a good place to go when you feel unhappy, for there, in a book, you may find encouragement and comfort. A library is a good place to go when you feel bewildered or undecided, for there, in a book, you may have your questions answered. Books are good company in sad times and happy times, because books are people. People have managed to stay alive by hiding between the covers of a book." That is the real power that this project represents, it is inspiration that will be its legacy.

Not only are the students of the Maxton Strong School excited to use this new facility, but who knows what ideas, what dreams, and what inspiration will be found within these walls. And not just with the current students, but with generations and generations of students to come. In this way, our new library represents so much more than a place to read; it is a place to grow.

You can take a look more on the LRC here: [www.indianorphanage.com/lrc/](http://www.indianorphanage.com/lrc/)



# Christmas Celebrations

## THE EVE

Christmas is a time of warmth and love, of wonder and excitement that fills the cold starry filled nights with a joy like no other. Each December the lights are hung, the trees are put up and evening carols fill the air as our children count down in excitement and anticipation the remaining days to the 25th. The season is made even more special by the countless visitors and returning mission children who come back to enjoy the celebrations with us; and this year was no different.

We had over 100 guests come by during Christmas and New Years week, many bringing with them treats and snacks for our children. It was truly a time to celebrate the love of our friends and family.

Our celebrations kick off this year with a special Christmas Eve carols service, filled to capacity, with lots of great music, a short message about Christmas and a chance to remember the true meaning of this very special time of year.

Afterwards, everyone in attendance was invited to join us for Christmas Eve dinner. It was an intimate, delicious chance to share a special meal with over 200 members of our sprawling family.

Once dinner was complete and dishes were washed, We had a disco dance extravaganza, giving our kids the chance to rip it up until midnight when the plug to the speakers was pulled and everyone settled down into their beds to prepare for Christmas Day.



## MORNING FUN

On Christmas morning, all across the mission, from the hostels to the staff homes, children awoke on Christmas morning to begin the unwrapping process. If wonder and excitement could be bottled and used to power the Mission, our electricity troubles would be over!

Our children receive two presents each and a Christmas stocking filled with treats. The first present is given just as they wake up and the second when we join together for brunch in the Dining Room.

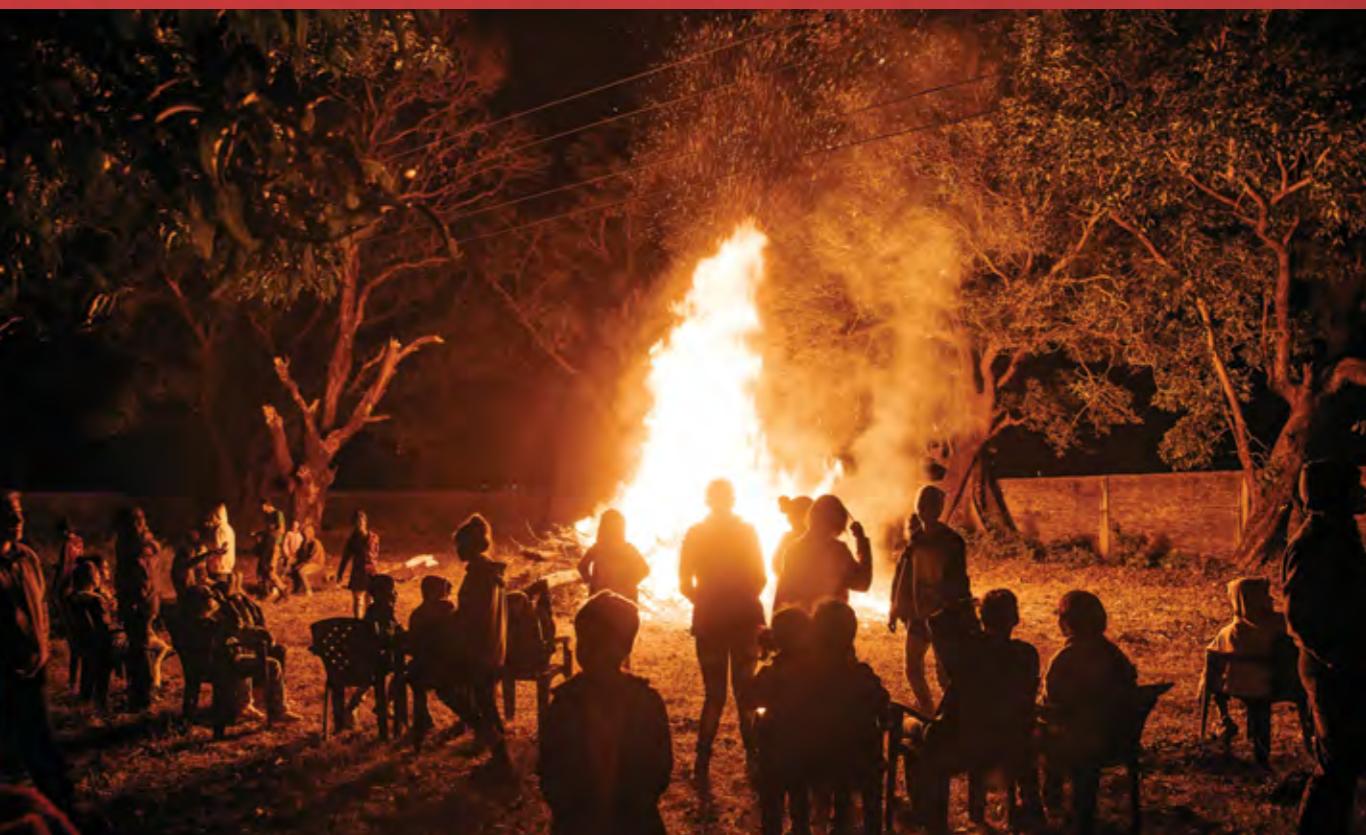
After brunch it was time to play, with children of all ages breaking their new gifts in. Even simple gifts resulted in great fun, when a little imagination is added to the games. It really is fun to watch the joy that new toys can bring.



## CHRISTMAS DAY

When the last of the wrapping paper was unwrapped, it was time for some picnics in the afternoon. The jungle is always a bit of an adventure and a great way to run around to release some of the Christmas energy. One of the favorite pastimes is to collect beros, a small pale orange berry that are a bit of an acquired taste. Bland, chalky, sour and fermented are just a few of the words many have used to describe these little wild treats that our kids just cant seem to get enough of. Those who were less than interested in the berries could relax by the river, try to catch little fish or generally just splash around.

Christmas Night saw a raging bonfire that lit up a starry sky with a million sparks. Bonfires, big and small, have become something of a nightly tradition around the property from the big boys hostel to the mango orchard. Each time they are lit, these fires are a chance to sit and unwind with friends, soaking up the heat as another chilly evening settles in. On Christmas day, our fire was a magic end to a celebration filled day, and another reminder of how much we have to be thankful for.





Staff members Sunny and Anish take a break from work to weigh up the amazing rice paddy crop we had this year. Good rains and hard work led to an excellent yield. We thank God for His provision.

# Agricultural Department

The Farm is a broad term that describes many activities here on the Mission. Of course it includes our 60-acres of fields that we use to grow crops throughout the year. But it also includes our dairy that produces milk for our orphanage children each day, our countless fruit trees, our fishponds, workshop, carpentry shop and a plethora of other micro-projects in between. It would simply not be possible to mention all of the happenings on the Farm this year without making this report into a book long read but here are a few of the more significant stories we have selected.

For more information about our farm visit: [www.IndianOrphanage.com/agricultural-projects](http://www.IndianOrphanage.com/agricultural-projects)



## DHAL CROP

In addition to providing a steady flow of income to our orphanage our farm provides much of our daily food requirements through our regular crops. The yummiest of these is our dhal (lentils); a crowd favorite, we eat lentils at least once every week (combining it with rice that we grow ourselves and home made mango or chili pickle).

This year we had an excellent dhal crop, one that we look forward to enjoying for lunch throughout the year. The dhal is harvested by hand and then thrashed in our own thrasher to separate the grains from the chaff.

OCTOBER 2017



## WHEAT YOU WAITING FOR?

One of our biggest crops each year is our wheat crop. The majority of our wheat is harvested by combine harvester but some is still harvested by hand. The process for hand harvesting is longer and much more work but it allows us to collect more of the straw which makes up a huge part of our dairy cows diets.

Last year we purchased a wheat cutter for our farm arsenal. This machine cuts the wheat and neatly stacks it in rows ready to be collected and tied into bundles by our hired labor. It is a huge time and money saver, with labor being hard to get these days we are not sure how we survived without it.

APRIL 2018



## CARE FOR SOME MUSTARD?

Thanks to almost perfect weather this year we had a bumper mustard crop. Most people don't know that mustard grows as little seeds on a waist high plant. To harvest the crop the entire plant is pulled from the ground by hand, dried out and then fed into a thrashing machine that removes the mustard seeds from their pods.

The mustard seeds can be cooked whole (as a sort of spice) or, as we more frequently do, taken into our local market and pressed to remove the oil. This oil is then used for food preparation and makes up about 50% of the cooking oil that we use each year.

FEBRUARY 2018



## FISHY BUSINESS

Our fish tanks have given us a great supply of fresh meat this year; not to mention a whole lot of fun for our children who love to get in to the muddy waters with nets to catch the big fish.

We also catch with cast nets, rods, bamboo poles to add a little more fun to the day and allow those who don't want to get wet to participate.

The waters may be murky, and you might not be able to see them, but the fish are in there, growing bigger and bigger until the day our kids finally catch them.

ALL YEAR ROUND



## NEW LIFE IN THE DAIRY

The birth of a healthy young calf is something we celebrate here; it means more milk as well as gobar for our gas tanks. We were excited to have 8 new calves born over the 2017-18 period bringing our number of cattle up to 56. Most of these cattle were delivered by our Director Rick, who has been doing this work since he was a child on his families dairy farm in Australia.

We do not sell the milk from our dairy, during seasons when there is excess we make paneer and dahi (yogurt) for our children. The health benefits are great for our kids, lots of dairy means healthy bones and development for them.

ALL YEAR ROUND

## OUR STAFF

We often say that if our children are our heart, then our staff are our muscles. They are the constant driving force who work tirelessly to create the safe, nurturing environment that exists here. We are so proud of our staff, they are truly special individuals and deserve so much more than just to have their names printed in our Annual Report once each year.

## VOLUNTEERS & SUPPORTERS

Not much happens here without the loving support of so many people from around the globe. We would like to thank the following volunteers, supporters, sponsors and donors who have helped to make this year so special. There are so many people who work to make this place so special.

Aarti Chand  
Andrea Rencontre  
Anil George  
Anish Singh Rana  
Anjali Bhatt  
Anju Adhikari  
Anokey Lal  
Anurag Chandra  
April Joshi  
Arun Goswami  
Ashokwati Singh  
Avinash Kumar  
Babita Chand  
Benny Chand  
Catherine Lal  
Chandini Rencontre  
Clifton Shipway  
Deepa Bisht  
Elsie Mark  
Eugene George  
Fakira Ram  
Frankie George  
Ganesh Sharma  
Girish Chandra Joshi  
Girdhari Prajapat  
Hema Kashyap  
Hema Lal  
Janki Singh  
Joey Singh  
Josie Singh  
Jyoti Baij  
Jyoti Kumari

Kathleen Singh Rana  
Kullu Singh Rana  
Lakshmi Devi  
Lucy Chand  
Mamta Sharma  
Maya Chand  
Micah David  
Michael James  
Munni Baij  
Nancy Bhandari  
Paula Karada  
Peggy George  
Phillip Chand  
Phyllis George  
Prakash Kumar Chandra Arya  
Rakesh Bhandari  
Reeta Chand  
Rochelle Mark  
Rodney George  
Sarswati Chand  
Satish Kumar  
Saurabh Chandra Bhatt  
Silvester Thomas  
Simeon Karada  
Stella Singh  
Sunita Devi  
Sunita Joshi  
Sunita Lawrance  
Sunny Thomas  
Usha Kholiya  
Violet Stagg  
Warwick G. Shipway

Aanchal Narang  
Aaron Tuthill  
Alison Legor  
Allan Goodman  
Amit Arya  
Amy Cavanagh  
Amy Higginbottom  
Ana Katsuya  
Andrew Swift  
Andy Kizzie  
Annette Khoury  
Anthony Lyle  
Arjun Singh Rana  
Ashley Pittman  
Barbara Gard  
Ben Kromkamp  
Blanche Bejah  
Brenda Plasz  
Brian Powell  
Bronwyn Chapman  
Byron Turk  
Cameron Stratton  
Century Link  
Century Link Technologies  
India  
Charities Aid Foundation  
Chris England  
Col. Senthil Ramadurai  
Craig Spaulding  
Daniel Sleigh  
David Burgess  
David Griffin  
Dawna Wunder  
Denise Cripps  
Diane Laidler

Donna Hartly Turner  
Douglas Heckathorn  
Ebony Bejah  
Emily Quinn  
Evan Fong  
Frank Barta  
Gail Singh  
Gary Singh  
Gladys Matthew  
Harriet Stevens  
Health & Development Aid  
Abroad  
Heather Myers  
Immanuel Ray Eilee  
Jack Elstner  
Jamie Noll  
Janelle Hutt  
Jennifer Kennedy  
John Marshall  
John Poxon  
Joshua Franner  
Joshua Upston  
Joye Harris  
Joyce Wetmore  
Kelsie Youd  
Kirsten Elstner  
Lalita Balasubra  
Leigh Ann Van Dyke  
Lisa Coventry  
Daniel Sleigh  
David Burgess  
David Griffin  
Dawna Wunder  
Denise Cripps  
Diane Laidler

Marian Quinn  
Marilyn Qualie  
Martha Coulter  
Mary-Jane Pereira  
Matt Moyer  
Matthew Horton  
Mattie & Zeko Wezah  
Michael Fabbro  
Michelle Greenhalgh  
Miriam Platts  
Monisha Vasa  
Natalie Graham  
Natasha Todd  
Nathan Jennings  
Neville Stott  
Nicholas Runyon  
Paige Marquard  
Paul Quinn  
Pedro & Fernanda Aidar  
Peet De Jong  
Peter Cripps  
Peter Harback  
Peter Kennedy  
Phil Laidler  
Philip Sitoboli  
Phil Laidler  
Punam Narang  
R. K. Sanwal & Family  
Ravendra Kumar  
Rebecca Robinson  
Richard Bejah  
Risto & Marja Lindqvist  
Robert Wetmore  
Rohini England  
Rosey Barta

Rosie Thandu  
Ruth Heggen  
Sam Haberle  
Samuel Geddie  
Sanmugam Natasha Nalini  
Sarah Poxon  
Sarah Woodard  
Satish Mallesh  
Scott Wunder  
Seth Brown  
Shafeena Yusuff Ali  
Stacie Quinn  
Stuart Midson  
Sue Heckathorn  
Surjeet Roul  
Susan Breen  
Susanna Porter  
Tablez Food Company  
Tania Deguara  
Tom & Hege Smegy  
Trevor Willmott  
Vision Workshops  
Wendy Goodman  
Whitney Runyon  
William & Esther Marshall  
Winston Quaile





## HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED...



### VOLUNTEER | [www.indianorphanage.com/volunteer](http://www.indianorphanage.com/volunteer)

Traveling to India? Looking for a way to connect with the world? Though we receive far more applications than we can ever accept, we encourage you to visit our website and reach out to us. If the timing and fit feel right, we look forward to meeting you soon.



### FUNDRAISE | [www.indianorphanage.com/projects](http://www.indianorphanage.com/projects)

There are always projects going on at the Good Shepherd Agricultural Mission. Whether you'd like to help gather supporters to achieve a big idea like our upcoming kindergarten, or perhaps you'd like a smaller more personal connection, let us know. The truth is: We can't do it without you!



### DONATE | [www.indianorphanage.com/donate](http://www.indianorphanage.com/donate)

While we strive for as much self-sufficiency as possible, it takes a large family of supporters to keep the Mission running. Consider sponsoring us on a monthly basis at a level that feels comfortable. Or make a one-time donation to honor someone you love. We'd love to hear from you.



### SUBSCRIBE | [www.indianorphanage.com/subscribe](http://www.indianorphanage.com/subscribe)

We produce a newsletter each week that is full of beautiful photography and updates from the field. If you've ever wondered what it takes to run an orphanage, sign up and take a look. Our "Prayer Letter" leaves here every Saturday evening and will be a bright spot in your week.



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