

Daan Programme

The **Daan Programme** (donation) provides a channel through which people can support our work, but also raises awareness of effective ways of giving. This year, the first fundraising initiatives proved fruitful with money raised being channeled into small but vital projects with our Partner Organisations.

New Levels of Funds

We have successfully raised funds which have supported carefully selected projects with our Partner Organisations. Our own research has shown that donors from the British Asian community sending money to South Asia have many concerns surrounding how well money is spent.

Being mindful of this, we have chosen to work closely with a small number of charities on specific projects. All the projects we support are carefully monitored and evaluated to ensure the

investment in the project will generate considerable benefits for the wider community.

Case Study

We have supported the Kitchen Gardening project run at Banvasi School (part of Vidya Nikethan).

Children who attend this school in rural Bangalore, are amongst the poorest. They walk 6 km to school to receive an education. The Kitchen Gardening project supports the midday meal programme at the school, for many children the only meal they have all day, it therefore is an essential source of nutrition.

The project also supports the families of the 200 children as children are allowed to take the produce home. Many families are below the poverty line, so this food makes a real



Before Donation



After donation

Daan Programme

Other Projects Funded by AFP

Provision of a fridge and inverter for Hope School in Karnataka. There are many issues with the local electricity supply, making storage of fresh produce to make meals difficult. For many children, this is their only daily meal and hence important for their nutrition standpoint. The beneficiaries have been the 200 children at the school, and their families.



Children of Hope School, Bangalore

Provision of educational materials and infrastructure building at the Jafarpur school Amarpurkashi, Uttar Pradesh. The school is in the heart of the rural area, with few facilities. The open grounds around the school meant children were exposed to wandering animals. A new wall built around the school grounds has considerably students.

improved the school facilities for the students

Services

AFP ensures that monies being channeled



Students of Jafarpur School, Uttar Pradesh

back to India are effective, through encouraging the donors to play an active role in projects. We provide information for donors on how they can monitor and evaluate the impact of projects over its' life cycle. We also play an advisory role in raising awareness about tax effective giving, and providing support and facilities for individuals and families who wish to open trust accounts.

Effective Giving

Giving is an inherent part of Asian culture and this is clearly demonstrated through remittances – money sent back to a person's country of origin to support family, friends or the local community. AFP aim to raise awareness of remittances and its impact on development through the Daan Programme. Last year India received \$26.9 billion in remittances (World Bank, 2007) more than that received as international aid.

Daan - How your giving has made a difference

AFP's Daan programme enables the Asian Diaspora a secure channel to donate funds towards AFP projects. The main purpose of the Daan programme is to ensure that contributions are made to manageable and sustainable projects in India.

Hope after the Earthquake

The area of Bhuj in Gujarat is slowly rebuilding itself after the devastating earthquake in 2001. Nila Gosrani and her family decided to make their own contribution to these efforts by organising a fundraising event to support AFP partner organisation, HOPE foundation school. They successfully raised over £2000 towards their projects.

Where the money goes

The money raised was put towards hardship grants for students. For many families in the area, living from day to day is their means of survival. Working as rickshaw drivers, home help and small traders is their only means of income. Having to pay for school fees, books and uniforms is another expense on top of many others. For parents, tough decisions have to be made. Not all their children attend school even though many are desperate to provide a better life for their children.

For HOPE, this grant provides them with that lifeline. For 43 students, it made the biggest difference to their life - they were able to continue with their education. For these children, education is the only way out of poverty and the support from Nila Gosrani and her family have enabled them to move one step closer to that.



“For me, a donation should be an investment which is used effectively to better the life quality for a community rather than a handout” - Nila Gosrani

Amarjit Kalsi's (pictured left) £4000 donation to Bangalore-based partner organisation, Richmond Fellowship Society India (RFS(i) pictured right), supported their work in the field of mental health.

Their outreach work in the surrounding 243 villages of the district of Sidalghatta (population of over 200,000) is vital. Amarjit's donation enabled regular check-ups to be carried out, and support and counselling for both patients and care-givers. The donation also supported awareness-raising activities, which are crucial in breaking down the stigma surrounding mental health in India.



Staff at Richmond Fellowship Offices

What difference has it made?

Mr N is a widower and sole provider for his and his brother's family. Suffering from schizophrenia for the past seven years, he could no longer support his family, becoming both physically and mentally abusive. With Richmond fellowships support, and the donation that helped him get medication, he has re-learnt skills in silk reeling through attendance at the day centre and can now support both his and his brother's family again.

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| <p>Achievements of Daan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £20,000 raised for our development activity work • Over 500,000 people in Gujarat, Karnataka, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh have directly benefitted from these donations • Feasibility study done in Jamnagar of slum communities development projects with the £10,000 contribution of Anantbhai Shah and friends |
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What can YOUR money do?

A generous donor recently contributed money towards building a wall marking out the school grounds from the fields at The Jaffarpur School in Uttar Pradesh.

This was an important project for the school, as they have often faced problems with animals venturing onto the school grounds. This was not only disruptive for the children and teachers, but could also be dangerous.

In the rural communities it is also difficult to persuade parents to send their children to school instead of working on the land. By creating a school which the local community can be proud of, parents are more likely to want send their children to school instead of being full time labourers.



Children at the Jaffarpur School

Charity Profiles - An insight into some of the charities we work with

Belaku Trust

Belaku Trust works with 15 villages in Karnataka, focusing efforts on women, children and underprivileged families. The work includes supporting micro enterprises run by vulnerable women. Two challenges they face is ensuring these enterprises are sustainable, and also effectively marketing their products.

Amar Jyoti Research & Rehabilitation Centre

The school was set up by Dr. Uma Tuli in 1981 to cater for the needs of children with disabilities. Disabled people are still treated very differently in India and not offered

the same opportunities as able-bodied mainstream society due to their disability through helping rehabilitate people. Amar Jyoti takes a unique approach where 50% of the 400 them and teaching them arts and students, and 30% of the teachers at crafts skills through which they can the school have some kind of earn a living. There is also a medical care unit which caters for disabled people and seeks to rehabilitate them.

Mitra Jyothi

A rehabilitation centre for people with visual disabilities. Many beneficiaries of their programmes come from rural families who are not aware of how to provide care which leads to rehabilitation. They seek to work closely with women, who are more likely to be excluded from

Udayan Care

Udayan Care is committed to sustainable social development through working with the disadvantaged children and women. Through their Ghars (Homes) in Delhi and surrounding areas they offer opportunities to children from underprivileged backgrounds.

All our charities work in one of our four development areas: Education, Health, Livelihood & Disability.

Every little bit helps... Giving up one latte a week for a year can raise over £100 which can:

Provide a midday meal at the Hope School for one year

OR

Support one year training for an unemployed youth through the Saath Project

FUNdraising Achievements!

Shalin raised a cool **£250** through a sponsored bike ride! That's 21,000 Indian Rupees and could help AWAG with a telephone helpline service. Paropkaar Volunteer **Chandni Davda** raised £500 which will contribute towards resources for an IT centre at the Vidya Niketan School.

Where does your money go?

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The development of the [Daan](#) Programme has been extensive . Funds donated to AFP have been allocated to small but important projects with our partner organisations. Here is one example:



Patients visiting a rural outreach clinic

Richmond Fellowship Society (RFS)

[RFS](#) offers care and support to people with mental illness. Located in Bangalore, RFS' s rural branch, Pragati, supports patients in 70 surrounding villages. The Pragati

branch provides free consultation and medication at a monthly outreach clinic for those with mental illness and epilepsy. After a steady rise in attendance, there are now approximately 400 people per clinic. Through the Daan Programme, AFP allocated £4000 for the extra staff needed to maintain this clinic. The expert staff provide support to the patients between the monthly clinics through home visits.

FACTBOX

UK

- Depression is prevalent in the Asian community compared with non-Asian communities.
- Suicide rates among young Asian women is 2 times higher than the UK national average.
- Most cases of people suffering from mental illness are unreported and therefore untreated. To find out more click [here](#)

India

- Over 90% of people suffering from mental illness never receive a diagnosis.
- An estimated 25 million people are in need mental health services.

It is difficult to obtain accurate figures of the number of people suffering from mental illness in both the UK and India due to the stigma and discrimination associated with such illnesses. .

The Story continues.....

In our last newsletter, we spoke about Amarjit Kalsi's donation to Richmond Fellowship. This donation paid for four full time community workers and a part time psychiatrist for a year. We spoke with Amarjit and asked him about his thoughts on giving.



"For me, the most important thing is to really see your money making an impact. With AFP, I knew that I would be able to see the difference my donation would make.

Being part of the Asian Diaspora, I believe that I am fortunate. I am in a position of power to make a small contribution to improve the lives of those less fortunate. Making a donation enables me to contribute in my own way. AFP's work resonated with my company's policy that

any charitable donation made should not be towards projects which should be covered by government spending in a country. **For me, a donation should be an investment which is used effectively to better the life quality for a community rather than a handout.**

I am pleased to hear about how my small contribution has helped. It makes me realise that we can all be a part of alleviating poverty in India."

Amarjit's donation has definitely improved the quality of life for the people in the village of Sidlaghatta. In the village of Sidlaghatta in South India the women toil away for many hours a day to produce the gorgeous silk sari's that adorn their counterparts in the city. They spend many hours a day toiling away over wood burning stoves and vats of boiling water to harvest the thread from the silkworm cocoons.

Some of the 150,000 who live around Sidlaghatta have been affected by chronic mental illnesses such as schizophrenia and bi-polar disorder. A basic infrastructure to provide support for those affected does exist, however the cost of transport, care and treatment make it inaccessible for many. The Richmond Fellowship Society (RFS) of India has been working for years towards making care available to those who need it most. By providing access to mental health care and treatment for some of India's poorest communities they have been striving to improve the quality of life for both sufferers and their families. In a country where approximately a third of the population survives on less than £1 a day, an additional factor such as mental health issues can result in a crippling situation for a family.



Take the example of Mr N. As a widower and head of his family, his income was their lifeline. Suffering from Schizophrenia for the past seven years, he could no longer support his family and became physically and mentally abusive. His brother and his family were also dependent on Mr N, after being diagnosed with AIDS.

With the help of RFS, he receives regular medication, has learnt skills in silk reeling through attendance at the day centre and can now support both his and his brother's family again. Without the RFS team of dedicated volunteers and

staff, Mr N and his family would become just more people struggling to survive in India. Amarjit Kalsi's donation has literally changed lives. If you would like to make a donation to AFP, please contact Bala Thakrar.