

Ektha-UNITY

THE SAVE A FAMILY PLAN NEWSLETTER



SAVE A FAMILY PLAN

IN INDIA SINCE 1965



The SAFP Family Development program, cornerstone of all the work that we've done since our beginnings in 1965, offers a special kind of magic in knowing that a particular family in India is receiving your direct support. This special connection means journeying with your partner family over the years as their lives are transformed through occasional letters, photos, and often a Christmas card.

Ensuring that your partner family's greetings, written in a remote village, thousands of miles across the ocean, arrives at your doorstep is no easy feat. The challenges of poverty requires that families work long hours daily, attending to family obligations and ensuring food is on the table, leaving very few opportunities for other tasks. High illiteracy rates mean having to rely on field staff to physically write down, translate, and then type letters being dictated. Reaching the homes of most partner families requires traveling vast distances for field staff with their cameras in tow, often over rough terrain on unreliable and crowded public transportation, and during extreme weather conditions of high heat or monsoon rains.

Over the last two years, due to the pandemic, there have been incredible hurdles for our field staff to simply to meet face-to-face with families, and the mail service has been disrupted to a degree that is difficult to measure. We understand the disappointment and concern some of you have

experienced in not hearing regularly from your partner families. It's been a difficult time and it can feel painful to be cut off from the people we care about, especially when we are so far apart.

We have received the good news from our colleagues in the SAFP India office that things are slowly starting to return to a sense of normalcy, even though dire after-effects of the pandemic continue to affect people in India. (To read about our appeal to help those affected, please visit www.safp.org/category/news-and-events/)

Bishop Sebastian gave us the wonderful news that Field Coordinators are now able to resume their normal schedule of visits, catching up with families face-to-face after years of often only-remote communications. They are doing their all to ensure that communications will continue.

We are delighted to share with you that mail from India is expected to start arriving more regularly. Hopefully by the end of 2022, you will once again start to see the flow of stories, pictures, and messages that you have enjoyed in years past.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. Despite the challenges and hurdles over the past few years, we are excited to think about those bonds of caring and friendship starting to renew and grow again in 2023.



Although communications have been disrupted between most partner families since mid-2020, our operations in Canada and India have continued all throughout that time. Please be assured that we continue to appreciate your generous support and we remain as grateful as ever!

Despite the challenges of writing, translating and sending letters, and photos through the post, there has been no disruption to the actual support received by every participant in our Family Development and Community Development programs. These programs continue full-steam-ahead and in our upcoming

Save A Family Plan Annual Report, we will highlight the incredible impact that your generosity has had on the lives of impoverished families and communities in India.

For now, here are two examples of letters that have reached our Canadian team from India. In sharing these with you, we hope that you will feel, once again, personally connected to the people whom Save A Family Plan serves on your behalf. Thank you for all that you do!

Gratitude is a simple word, but it is the most powerful thing a human can give to someone.

We give our sincere gratitude. Thank you so much for being with us and helping us.

The past six years changed our lives. From a situation where we starved for a single meal a day, you gave us everything we need. You gave us a reason to live. You gave us our own business, if my family is getting a regular income, you are the only reason. Children are happy about their present situation.

You showed us the purpose of life. You are the true reason for all the happiness moving around. Your presence is felt in every part of our lives.

When we were unsupported by our family too, you extended your support from thousands of miles away. You bared our burdens and shared our responsibilities also. You will never be forgotten. This program might end, but our bonding has no end. You and your family are always kept in our prayers.



I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude towards you for your greatness and generosity that has brought growth and development to my family.

It is your support that made my life different. I am able to achieve the growth otherwise I could not dream of. I am so

proud to be a part of this programme.

You have taken the risk to accompany us whom you have not even seen or heard personally. The inclusion in to this programme brought chances to attend various awareness programmes and we could fulfill many of our dreams like a livable house and better education for our children.

It is only because of your initiative and goodwill that we have reached up to this level. We cherish the goodness in you. For all your encouragement and support together as a family we say a big thank you and we hold you dear to our hearts.

