

DFN DISPATCH

An update from Dalit Freedom Network

1ST QUARTER 2017



YOU HELPED THESE THREE BROTHERS THRIVE WHEN THEIR WORLD FELL APART

STRENGTH DESPITE SUFFERING

Sandeep (*pictured center, with his two younger brothers*) is only 10 years old, but he is already a man.

A few weeks ago, their father set himself on fire in an alcoholic rage after the boys' mother, herself suffering from depression, told him the family would be better off without him. Tragically, the father died.

Now the boys' mother is so racked with guilt she is unable to care for her family, so the task falls to Sandeep. He makes sure his brothers eat, go to school, and do their homework. He also comforts his mother in her grief, assuring her she is loved.

These are big responsibilities for a small boy. But Sandeep is not alone. You are coming alongside Sandeep and his brothers.

By supporting the Good Shepherd School these boys attend, you are providing the immediate and tangible help these precious children need. Loving staff support, encourage, assist, and guide. They have become surrogate parents in the midst of tragedy, and the boys are responding with strength despite their suffering.

Thank you for standing alongside this family in crisis. You are making a world of difference to Sandeep, his brothers, and their mother.

TO SEE SANDEEP'S STORY, VISIT OUR VIDEO CHANNEL AT DALITNETWORK.ORG



Students from Sandeep's school

INSIDE: 2016 IMPACT REPORT

Thanks for your generous giving. See how your gifts impacted thousands of lives.





EDUCATION IMPACT: RESHMI

As graduation approached in the spring of 2016, Reshmi was nervous. "Will I do well on my final exams?" she wondered.

Reshmi began attending a Good Shepherd School in Bangalore in the fourth grade. Although she transferred from a highly regarded English-medium school, she could hardly read or write English, much less speak it. Her parents, laborers who never had the opportunity to attend school, were unable to help. Within a few months of her transfer, Reshmi's English skills improved dramatically, and she soon was a top student.

Reshmi didn't need to worry about whether she would pass her exam. She did ... with flying colors. Now, she is studying to be a science teacher. "Thank you so much for your support of my education, and for your prayers." Reshmi says. "Without you, I don't know where I'd be!"

MATTHEW'S MESSAGE



It was hot and sticky in South India that day. My jet lag was really kicking in, too. Groggy and tired, I peeled myself out of the van, dodged a puddle or two of who-knows-what, and headed down the alley.

Then, I heard it. "A, B, C, D, E, F, G." The sweet voices of 3-and-4-year old children singing the alphabet. I smiled. Here, in the middle of a slum, on a block where 40,000 people are crammed into one-room dwellings, is a school. Your school. I breathed a prayer of thanks, opened the gate, and went inside.

Children poured out of classrooms: "Hello, sir. How are you today?" "Thank you for visiting." "Thank you for praying for us." Smiles. Hugs. Handshakes and high fives for everyone. Each face so precious. So loved by God.

This, my friends, is what you do. You teach. You provide opportunity. Most of all, you love. And I just want to say thanks.



I could tell you about all the great things we did together in 2016, how much money was raised and where it went. Those things are important, vital even, for healthy organizations. That's why we're sending you this annual report newsletter.

But the most important thing—the one thing that really matters—is that each dollar given represents investment in a life. Every child in a school, every woman

in a training center, every life damaged by abuse but now being restored, has incredible potential to change the world for good. And that's an investment worth making.

I am so grateful for you. As we enter 2017, DFN's 15th anniversary year, I have never been more excited about the future. Thanks, my friends, for making this journey with us!

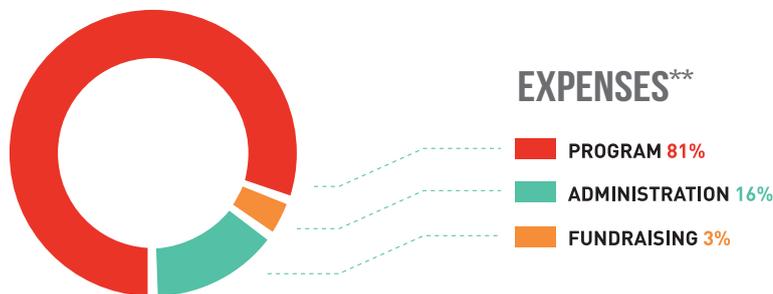
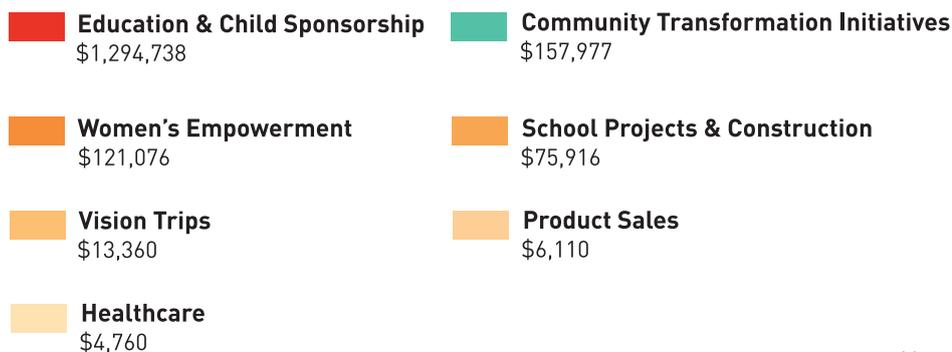
Matthew

MATTHEW CORK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2016 IMPACT

TOTAL REVENUE* = \$1,673,937

FUNDS DESIGNATION*



EXPENSES**



THANK YOU!

You made an incredible impact on the lives of Dalits all over India in 2016. These graphs show DFN's 2016 finances, how contributions were designated and how expenses were allocated.

**figures shown are pre-audited
**expenses are audited percentages from 2015*

ECONOMIC IMPACT: VENNAMMA



Vennamma's hands move swiftly over the cut pieces of fabric, as she makes uniforms for students in Good Shepherd Schools. She takes pride in her work at the Lydia Project, located in Hyderabad. Not long ago, her future was not this bright. She had to leave school at a young age and become a domestic servant so she could help support her large family. Thanks to your support of economic development, Vennamma attended a tailoring course where she learned more than just a skill. She learned her worth as a human being. She says, "Because of this course, I can support my family, I have confidence, and a better life. Thank you!"

HEALTH IMPACT: AYUSH



Ayush was coughing and his mother didn't know why. No matter what remedies she gave him, he simply was not getting better. Fortunately, Ayush is a student at a Good Shepherd School in Maharashtra, and the community health worker there noticed his cough. She arranged for medical testing, and tuberculosis was the diagnosis. Ayush's mother said, "I am so grateful the health worker noticed Ayush's cough! She helped us get the right treatment, and now my son is getting better." Thanks to your support of healthcare in Good Shepherd Schools, Ayush is now well on the road to fully restored health.



CHILD SPONSORS SPEAK

Several months ago, we asked DFN child sponsors what it means to your family to sponsor a child. Our hearts were so touched by your responses we wanted to share a few with you. Thank you, sponsors, for changing lives!

"I know that God has created the Dalit people with value and dignity. I was heartbroken when I first learned about their conditions and treatment because of caste. Supporting the education of a student and knowing that I am part of providing hope for her future is one of the most important things I could do with my money."

"We have been given so much, including freedom and opportunity, just because of

where we were born, that others don't have and we want to do what we can to influence change and justice. We also chose a boy to sponsor because we have three sons and our sponsored child looks like he could be part of our family!!"

"The life transformation of a Dalit by an education in English is amazing. We want to be a small part of that transformation."

"Our family enjoys sponsoring a child because we know we are making a difference to a little girl in a far away place who otherwise would work as a child and never get an education. I have heard of children in India working in the trash dumps trying to find things to sell or working in brick factories at a very young age. We sponsor a child so this will not happen."

If you're not currently sponsoring a child, please consider making a difference through a one-on-one relationship with a child. Find out more at dalitnetwork.org/sponsor



Cultivation of mind should be the ultimate aim of human existence.

B.R. Ambedkar (architect of the Indian Constitution and advocate for Dalit rights)

Dalit Freedom Network USA
PO Box 3459
Virginia Beach, VA 23454

Phone : 757.233.9110
Media : media@dalitnetwork.org
Info : info@dalitnetwork.org

DALITNETWORK.ORG