

# welcome to our story

[www.projecthelpindia.co](http://www.projecthelpindia.co)



# Annual Report 2020



# this year...

- ☛ We reached slum and village communities with a population of approximately 8000 people.
- ☛ We worked in 3 cities, across 3 states of India.
- ☛ 442 students were enrolled in our 8 small schools and one Slum Disability Centre.
- ☛ Our students came from about 1350 families.
- ☛ To do this we employed 28 local full-time staff.



**In 2020 we cooked and served 237 220 meals**



**a total of 375 000**



**we helped the most**

- ☛ the marginalised
- ☛ the hungry
- ☛ the homeless
- ☛ people with disabilities
- ☛ people suffering from leprosy

**we delivered health and hygiene awareness programs as well as slum community sanitisation across 2020**







...and in 2020 we handed out ration packs providing food for families to cook approximately 138 000 meals.

# meals in 2020

## vulnerable in society

- ☛ victims of domestic violence
- ☛ those who are weak
- ☛ those devastated by natural disaster
- ☛ those who cannot defend themselves
- ☛ adult and child beggars





## our vision

Through respectful relationships we focus on education, nutrition and human rights, so that individual lives are impacted, empowered and restored. We seek to bring about holistic community change and generational transformation. We seek to grow in our impact and influence in the lives of people and communities, with a goal to ultimately expand into other cities, towns and places of need.

## what we do

Project Help India holistically addresses the issues facing India's poorest of the poor, the Dalits, otherwise known as the untouchables. The human rights of these people are severely challenged. These slum and village communities struggle with an under-resourced education system, drug dependence, human trafficking and domestic violence.

We offer essential early educational opportunities to children, many of whom would otherwise not go to school. They would be begging, fossicking or involved in child labour. Project Help India connects with these kids' families, providing parenting programs, counselling and guidance. We operate an education centre for children and teenagers with profound disability, a group tragically overlooked in Indian society – many disabled people would otherwise never leave their homes.

Project Help India is an entirely local enterprise. It is praised by community leaders and works closely with police and the local government to deliver social services. A local board of governance oversees all programs. Project Help India employs only local teachers, administration and support staff.

Project Help India strives to impact lives by breaking the cycle of inequity and intergenerational poverty. We do this through a number of programs, actions and initiatives including;

- ☛ education for children
- ☛ support for children and young people with disabilities
- ☛ meals and nutrition for children
- ☛ women's empowerment programs
- ☛ human trafficking education awareness programs and care for rescued children
- ☛ drug awareness programs
- ☛ counselling and social work
- ☛ training and professional development for teachers
- ☛ natural disaster emergency assistance
- ☛ youth leadership seminars
- ☛ COVID-19 crisis response
- ☛ medical and health care
- ☛ community road safety awareness



# 2020

the disruption of COVID-19  
grateful for the purchase of a property  
2 new schools and a new team in Chandigarh  
people cared for  
lives powerfully changed

## January

- We started the new year with 270 children who attended our 7 education centres.
- Our students celebrated the India Republic Day on the 26<sup>th</sup> January.

## February

- Our team partnered with the Uttarakhand State Police in a state-wide program called 'Operation Smile' which aimed to rescue trafficked children. 5 young local boys were rescued.
- We provided continued support and financial assistance to families in the Kotdwara Leprosy colony.

purpose  
hope  
love



### About Operation Smile

*"...At times this work was dangerous. It involved travelling long distances to cities in other states of India, following leads to locate and rescue trafficked children. Working alongside the police, Amit's role was to provide counselling to the children once they are rescued, and to assist with the process of transitioning these kids back into their homes and community. Ongoing monitoring and support continued into the future once the children are reunited with their family."*





## March

- COVID impacts India.
- A two week lockdown was announced on 19<sup>th</sup> March in Kotdwara and our schools were closed.
- Our COVID response included the delivery of a community educational awareness program.
- Our team sanitised slums and local colonies (residential areas).
- We started to deliver food to hungry people in the slums and to the homeless living on the streets.
- We hoped that COVID would be over by the end of the month.

## April

- The COVID lockdown continued across all of April and our schools remained closed.
- Our project funds which would normally have been spent on feeding children at school, were redirected into starting a pop-up kitchen which cooked 800 meals a day.
- 400 meals are served both morning and evening = 800 meals a day at a cost of \$412<sup>1</sup>
- Approximately 5600 people were feed each week.

## May

- The COVID lockdown continued across May and our schools remained closed.
- We continued to feed approximately 5600 people each week.
- Our teachers monitored the wellbeing of our students and their families. School work was delivered when possible.

## June

- The COVID lockdown continued across June and our schools remained closed.
- 800 people were fed each day across the month.
- Breakfast was also served to many other needy people.
- Approximately 5600 people continued to be fed each week.
- We raised awareness for 'World Refugee Day'. In 2020 there were estimated to be approximately 200 000 displaced people living in India.<sup>2</sup> Many of the Dalit people who we help are displaced and have little or no rights.
- Mental health has significantly impacted the community, and a number of suicides in the slums were reported.
- Addicts and in the slums were particularly impacted by the lockdown. Increasing domestic violence was reported.
- A local anti-drug rally was held in partnership with the local Kotdwara police (*see image below*).



<sup>1</sup> calculation based on conversion rate at the time

<sup>2</sup> This number significantly increased across 2021 due to the recent COVID second wave crisis

## July

- Urgent medical intervention for an ear operation was provided to Nikhil who is one of our City Centre students.
- The COVID lockdown continued across July (with some easing of restrictions) but our schools remained closed.
- Our food hand-out model is changed to the provision of ration packs to the slum areas that were barricaded by the local authorities.



## We celebrated the purchase of a new house

Project Help India now has a permanent fixed address thanks to the purchase of this house. This property was paid in full (\$56,122) thanks to a special donation and a balance of excess funds. The purchase of the house means a reduction in operating expenses of \$4,000 each year currently being paid in rent.



## August

- Ration packs continued to be delivered to the slums and to other needy people.
- Our students continued to work from home, and our teachers delivered work, and provided emotional support and connection where and when it was possible.
- We celebrated India's Independence Day and our team was thrilled to be recognised and honoured by politicians for their work of responding to COVID in the community (see image below).





# September

- Over 1200 ration packs were delivered to slum and village centres this month.
- Schoolwork continued to be delivered by our teachers.
- We celebrated World Teachers' Day by honouring our teachers and cooks, for their phenomenal flexibility, compassion and effort in responding to the ongoing COVID crisis.
- 1200 hygiene packs were delivered to children and needy people. These contained hair oil, toothbrushes and toothpaste, sanitiser and soap (see image below).





## In September we welcomed 'The Hope Society' to our story

Across September and October our Australian supporters generously responded to an urgent need by helping a suffering community in the city of Chandigarh, in the state of Punjab. The HOPE Society, a registered NGO with the Indian Government, was going to be closed due to the impact of COVID on their supporter donor base. We feared for the 173 children and their very poor families who are dependant on the Hope for their education, meals, and relational support, especially during the COVID crisis. For \$3000AU a month we supported a school in Village Singha Devi<sup>3</sup> (97 students), a school in Village Maluwala<sup>4</sup>, District Ferozepur (75 students) and the team that oversees other the activities and broader administrative functions of the HOPE Society. This support has continued into 2021.



## October and November

Across October, the easing of COVID restrictions allowed us to gather in small, socially distanced groups, for student lessons, teacher training, and for celebrating and raising awareness of important community issues.

**20% of students return to school on a daily basis**



## International Day of the Girl Child and women's empowerment



<sup>3</sup> Village Singha Devi Education Centre has 97 students, a Centre Officer, 2 teachers and one cook

<sup>4</sup> Village Maluwala Education Centre has 75 students, a Centre Officer, 1 teacher and one cook.



**International Day of People with Disabilities** We celebrated our 14 beautiful students in Kotdwara.



### World Food Day special celebration

Nutrition lessons were held in our centres, and 450 children a week continued to be fed across the month.



### November

We were thankful for the success of Nikhil's second round of ear surgery. Nikhil has been a student at our City Centre since he was a small boy. We discovered during the year that an ear drum infection was not only going to cause permanent deafness, but the infection was beginning to impact his skull and brain. We were so pleased to see the smile on his face.





## December

We celebrated World Environment Day with lessons and a tree planting program in the jungle villages.

We finished the year with 442 children enrolled in our 9 Education Centres.



## We celebrated Christmas

- We gave Christmas gifts warm sweaters to each of our 270 students in Kotdwara and Bijnor.
- We gave Christmas gifts to all our teachers and we of course we had a wonderful Christmas party.





## Achievement of key targets and initiatives in 2020

The following targets and initiatives were identified in the 2019 Annual Report, and we are pleased to report what was achieved, noting that COVID-19 significantly disrupted most of our plans.

- X Improve our educational provision to better meet the needs of children with disabilities by developing individualised learning plans for disability students and provide parental support.
- X Hold our third annual SHINE Conference.
- X Continue to improve facilities, the provision of resources and quality teaching at each of our education centres.
- ✓ Investigate property purchase for Project Help India Centre in Kotdwara.
- ✓ Continue to develop our partnership in programs with the local Kotdwara and State Police.

## Key targets and initiatives for 2021

The following targets and initiatives have been identified for 2020

- ☛ Hold our annual SHINE Conference
- ☛ Respond to the immediate needs of those impacted by COVID-19, particularly the children who attend our schools, and also their families,
- ☛ Work in partnership in programs with the local Kotdwara municipal government and police department in our COVID-19 response and other programs
- ☛ Respond with agility to the uncertainty of COVID-19, exploring and creating opportunities which will enable Project help India to expand the scope and depth of our impact, in Kotdwara, Bijnor and beyond.
- ☛ Prioritise the wellbeing, health and safety of the Project help India staff

## Our Governance

'Project Help India' (a unit of Panah Foundation) is a non-government organisation registered with the Indian Government.

Our Board membership is comprised of the following respected citizens and community leaders from Kotdwara and neighbouring towns:

- **President:** Amit Samuel
- **General Secretary:** Daisy Samuel
- **Treasurer:** James Singh
- **Board Member:** Narendra Hamilton
- **Board Member:** Vishal Singh
- **Board Member:** Ester Dass

The Board of Panah Foundation meets four times a year and the address of the Panah Foundation office is registered with the Indian Government. Our finances are audited annually in accordance with stringent Indian Government FCRA regulations.



# Our Finances

## Donations and Expenses

In 2020 we were thrilled by a significant increase in donations received, compared to 2019

### 2019

Donations \$45 774

Expenses \$61 014

### 2020

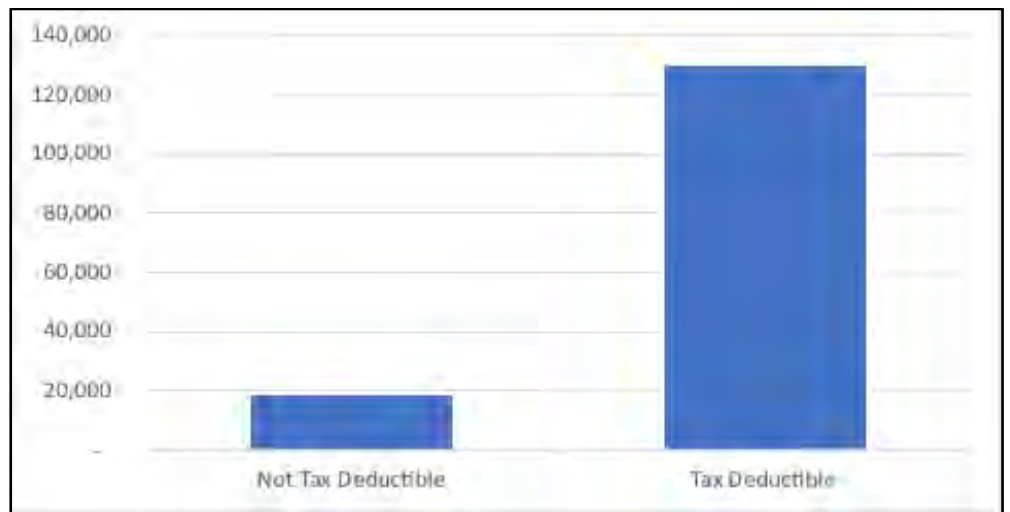
Donations \$149 539

Expenses \$130 702

### Tax status of donations

tax deductible \$130 297

non-deductible \$19 242



## How your money was spent in 2020

### Admin

\$3 531 = 4.73%

### Community

\$23 673 = 31.74%

### Schools

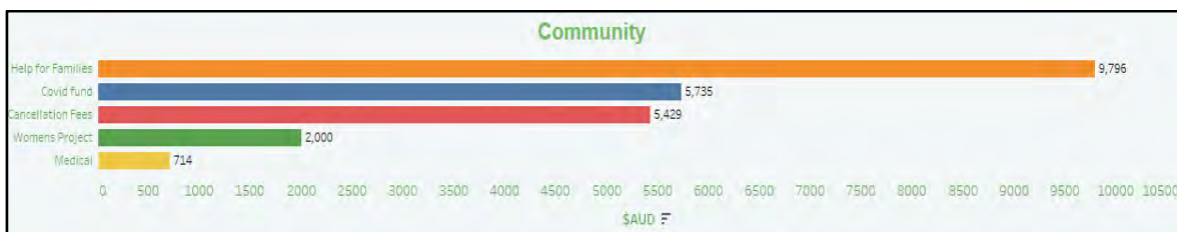
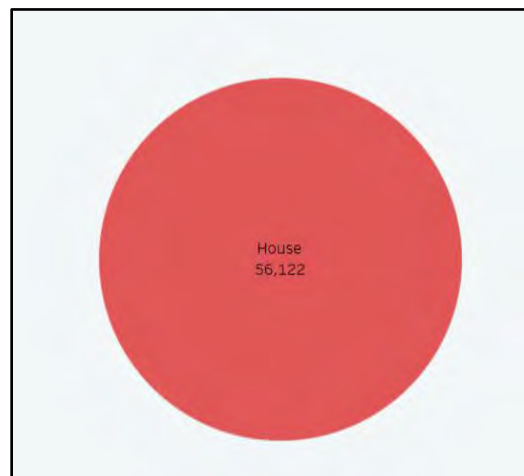
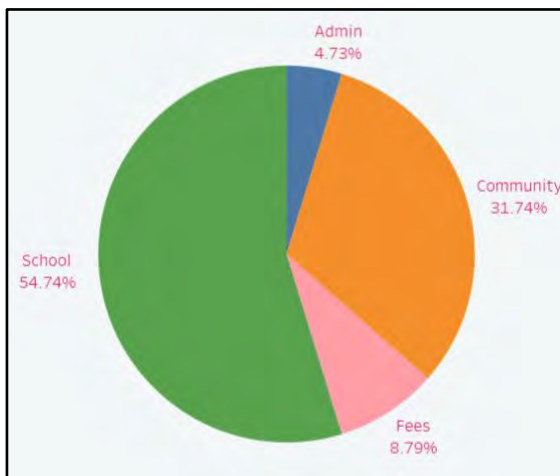
\$40,824 = 54.74%.

### Fees

\$6,553 = 8.78%

### Capital Purchase - House

\$56,122



In 2017 Project Help India purchased a new jeep on a five-year repayment plan. The jeep enables us to safely drive into jungle areas, as well as having a reliable means to visit our projects, travel and do our work.

Sharafat, Lata, and Nikhil are local people from the Kotdwara slum community who at some stage, have required urgent crisis help. 'Project help India' is committed to supporting their ongoing medical care, counselling and other wellbeing needs.

Amit and Daisy Samuel, our Project Directors live in Kotdwara. They have 2 children Jonathan and Jasmin. Expenses for the 'Samuels Family' include payment of their house rent to June, salaries and the children's school fees.

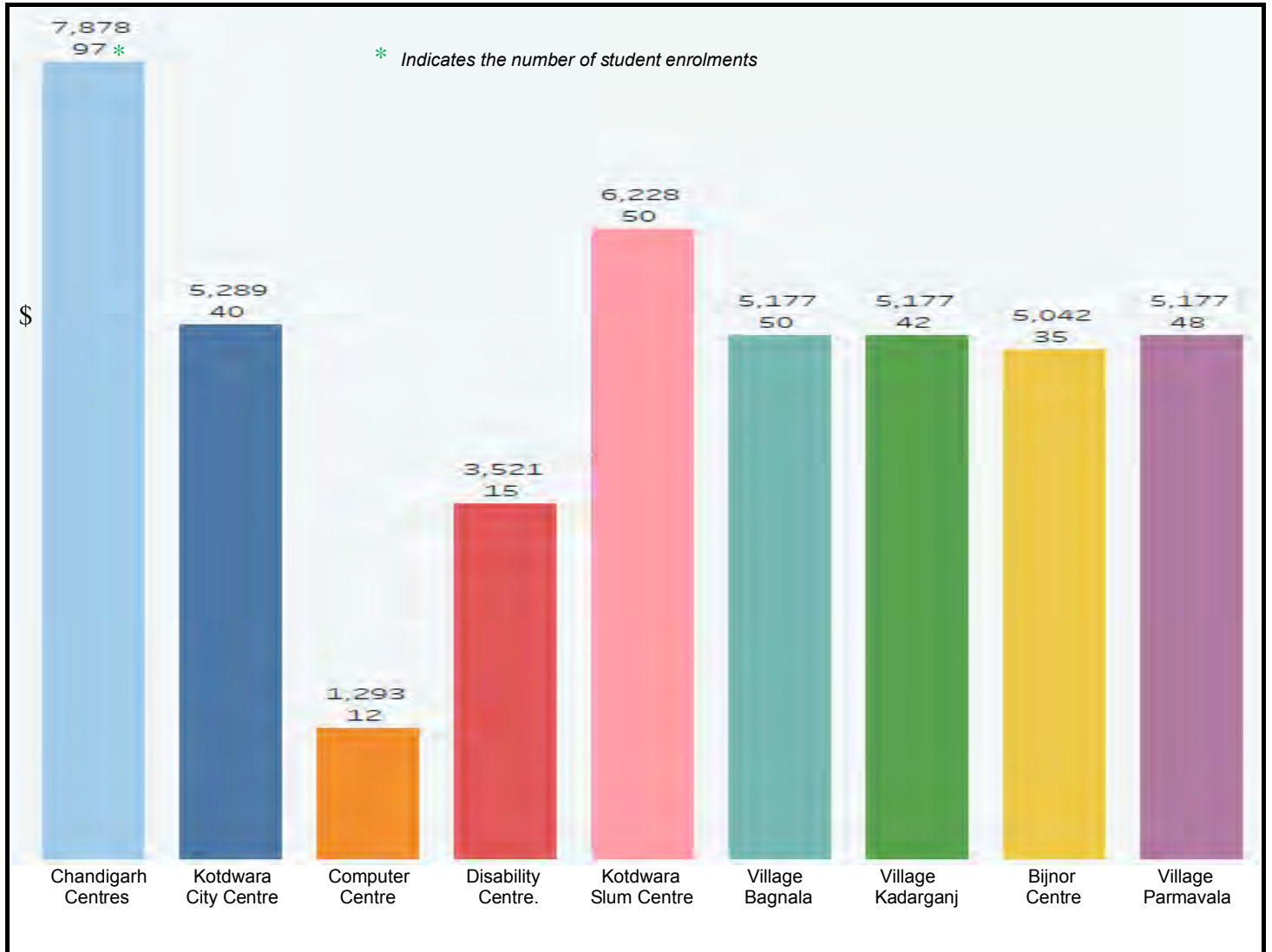
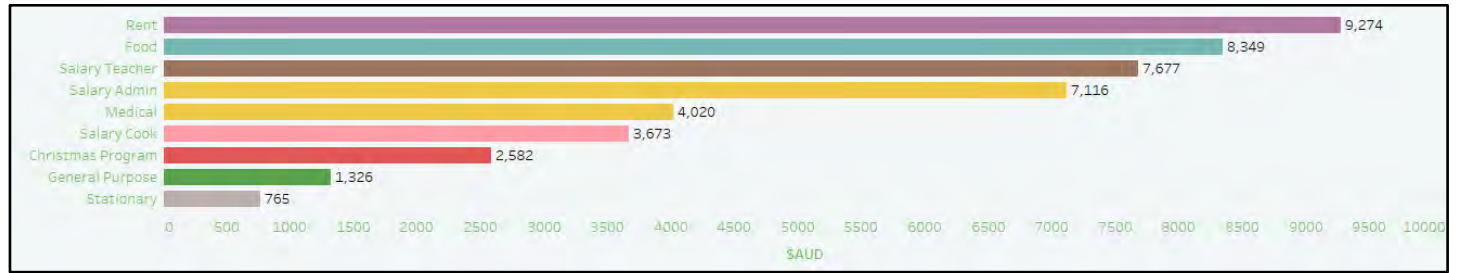
A family in Village Parmawala required emergency assistance after their house burnt down.

A donation of \$2000 was received in October, and this enabled us to start a tailoring program as part of our Women's Empowerment Centre, which was officially opened in 2021.





# Our Schools





# thank you for being a part of our story

We are indebted to many people, in India, Australia, and around the world who support our work.  
Your encouragement and generosity make all that we do possible.

your **tax-deductible donation** can be made from our website

or follow this link to our [GDG project page](#) where you can make your payment in the following ways;

[Secure credit card donation](#)  
[PAYPAL](#)  
[Direct Bank EFT Transfer](#)

Please consider setting up ongoing regular weekly, fortnightly or monthly payments.



**bank transfer**  
(not tax-deductible)

**Account Name:** Project Help India

**BSB:** 062 230

**Account:** 1134 1909

Please include your name in the reference section.

**contact us**

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[www.projecthelpindia.co](http://www.projecthelpindia.co)

**some examples of where your dollar goes** (approximate costs)

- our Jeep fuel = **\$25 a week**
- a child's education and meals = **\$20 for one month**
- a child's education & meals at Slum Disability Centre = **\$30 for 1 month**
- a teacher's salary = **\$100 month = \$1200 a year**
- a cook's salary = **\$40 month = \$480 a year**
- project officer's salary = **\$300 month**
- our combined classroom rents = **\$320 month**
- jungle village classroom repair and maintenance = **\$1500 year**
- our Disability Centre = **\$3500 a year** to rent and resource
- our Women's Centre = **\$5000 a year** to rent and resource

## please consider making a donation and become a regular supporter





The people we help and work alongside are known as the Dalits or the 'untouchables.' They are marginalised and vulnerable. We dream of a better life for them. We choose to fight with, and for them. 'Project Help India' is all about friendship, learning and growing with each other. As we get to know these beautiful people, we also learn about ourselves. And as we bring love, hope, dignity and purpose to their lives and circumstances, our lives are changed and we too, become better people.

**Isn't this what the world needs?**



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