

Project Help India

2017 Annual Report



www.projecthelpindia.co

The story of our work in Kotdwara - a small town in India

Our Mission

To bring love, hope, dignity and purpose to the poor in Kotdwara.

Our Vision

To focus on education, nutrition, health and human rights, so that individual lives are impacted, empowered and restored. We seek to bring about community change and generational transformation.

What We Do

Project Help India is a not-for-profit organisation that provides practical help and hope to people living in poverty in Kotdwara, North India. Our work is predominantly among people living in slums and nearby jungle villages in the foothills of the Himalayas. The work of Project Help is valued and highly respected within the local community, as we work closely with politicians, the police and other community leaders.

- Education for children
- Meals and nutrition for children
- Technology education for young women
- Anti-Human Trafficking Awareness Programs and care for rescued children and adults
- Drug awareness Programs
- Medical and Health care
- Counselling and Social Work
- Crisis care and support for families and individuals
- Natural Disaster Emergency assistance
- Leadership Development
- Women's Empowerment Programs
- Training and support for teachers, police and community leaders



Our Governance

→ 'Project Help India' is a Non-Government Organisation, registered with the Indian Government as the Panah Foundation.

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

- **President:** Amit Samuel
- **Vice-President:** Reji John
- **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. In accordance with Indian Government regulations our finances are audited annually.

Our Team

→ In 2017 we employed 16 people.

- **Amit Samuel:** Program Director
- **Daisy Samuel:** Teacher (technology classes for teenage girls)
- **Daniel Abhishek:** Kotdwara Administration (five days per week). This role ceased in August 2017
- **Amrit Samuel:** Sports Coach (one day a week)
- **Our teachers:** Kiran, Naomi, Sunjay, Rakhi, Neelam and Hamant
- **Our cooks:** Asha, Bano, Masher, Savitri, Vejyanti and Savita
- **Doug, Rowena, Roxy, Maisy and Gulliver Thomas** volunteer their support from Sydney, Australia.

Our Projects

→ In 2017 we consistently had 220 students, aged 4 to 12 years who attended classes and were fed a meal, six days a week.

- Our classes are generally held two hours a day and the children receive lessons in Hindi, English and Mathematics. Importantly, they received a large healthy meal at the end of every day's lessons and a sports and games lesson one day a week.

→ In 2017 we employed a teacher and a cook at each of our 6 schools

- The Kotdwara Riverside Slum School has 40 students, our teacher is Kiran and our cook is Asha.
- The Kotdwara City Centre School has 35 students, our teacher is Naomi and our cook is Bano.
- The Village Kadarganj School has 35 children, our teacher is Sunjay and our cook is Masher.
- The Village Parmawala School has 35 students, our teacher is Rakhi and our cook is Savitri.
- The Village Bagnala School has 40 students, our teacher is Neelam and our cook is Vejyanti Devi.
- The Village Khunibhar School has 30 students, our teacher is Hamant and our cook is Savita.

→ In 2017 we delivered technology education to young women

- The Kotdwara City Centre Technology Classes reached out to 24 young women in 2017. Their teacher was Daisy Samuel.

2017 - A year of significant progress, exciting achievements, people cared for and lives powerfully changed.

→ Some snap shots

January

- Wonderful stories emerge about the 200 children who attended our education centres in 2016. They are thriving because of their learning and the care and resources they receive.
- Amit visits many local schools to help the police educate children, parents and teachers about the sinister ways human traffickers engage with and steal children.

February

- We assist one of our teachers, Sunjay, with his Law School tuition fees. In turn, Sunjay is providing valuable guidance and advice to his village community.

March

- March is 'India Cleaning Month'. Teams of youth volunteers work with Project Help India and the local police to clean the streets of Kotdwara.
- While travelling on his bike to a remote education centre, Amrit, our sports teacher, is injured after a wild animal attack. He suffers a broken collar bone but recovers in good spirits.

April

- Krish, one of the children from our Riverside slum Centre, has his arm amputated. Krish broke his arm in an accident in 2016, and his family then fell victim to a medical scam—disastrous medical advice from a phony doctor for a fee. Project Help India paid for Krish's proper medical care in a nearby town, which triggered news stories in the press and on television. A subsequent inquiry into phoney doctors led to many closing down.
- We hold our first ever Easter Picnic for students. More than 150 kids enjoyed fun and games in the park, plus their first Easter egg, delivered personally from Australia by Doug and Rowena.
- The police ask Project Help India to assist a family living in extreme poverty who has suffered terribly: their six-month old daughter was raped by an intruder in their home. We paid for medical expenses and provided social work support, food, clothes, shoes and toys.
- We provide encouragement and financial assistance to families in the Kotdwara Leprosy Mission houses.

May

- The Khunibhar Village School commences, providing education for 30 children. These kids would otherwise not attend a school. We are thankful for our teacher Hamant and cook Savita.
- A nine year old girl from Kotdwara is found in another city. She was being sold into the sex industry. Fortunately, Kotdwara's Anti-Human Trafficking police rescued her and subsequently asked Project Help India to provide counselling and emotional support. The girl is reunited with her family and a close eye is kept on her ongoing safety and wellbeing.

June

- Project Help India works with the Anti-Human Trafficking team on 'Operation Smile'. This project focuses on searching for missing children at railway stations, bus shelters, roadsides and illegal orphanages across the states of Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. It continues throughout the year.
- We purchase a 4WD jeep, thanks to the generosity of our Australian supporters. This four-wheel drive makes it possible for safe access to our remote education centres, especially in the monsoon season when road conditions are very bad.

2017 - A year of significant progress, exciting achievements, people cared for and lives powerfully changed.

→ Some snap shots

July

- We build six toilets for our three village education centres. Total cost is \$2400, with \$1200 from a government grant.
- Our village education centres are repaired and extended to provide greater space and shade. One centre receives a new roof.

August

- Kotdwara's riverside slums are devastated by monsoon floods. We are thankful for our Australian supporters who donated \$3000 in just one week for emergency flood relief. The families involved in our projects receive food, clothing, cooking utensils, tarpaulins and other desperately needed supplies. Our efforts were reported by the media and commended by local government officials.
- Our school kids each receive school bags and an umbrella.
- Three girls from our City Centre School win first place in the Uttarakhand State Skipping Rope Championships.
- We support Sharafat, a young man who has become a paraplegic. We provide counselling; build a ramp at the front of his house for his wheelchair; and purchase a specialised medical bed and an air conditioner for his home. Sharafat now has access in and out of his house, and greater comfort and dignity.

September

- Our second Annual Project Help Celebration is attended by 400 people, including politicians, police, community leaders, social workers and parents and children from our projects. We are just blown away by the children's performances. It was a wonderful occasion and we received media attention, including an article in the national *Hindu Times*.
- We continue to support the families impacted by last month's floods.
- Mrs Sarita Agarwal, a legal rights advocate at the local Kotdwara Court, speaks to the girls of our City Centre Technology classes about women's legal rights.
- We donate a data projector to the Anti-Human Trafficking Police team. This will assist with their delivery of lessons in schools and in the community.

October

- Amit and Daisy Samuel provide mediation and counselling support after a young child is raped, triggering tension and anger in the community.
- All of the children in our education centres receive warm socks as the weather gets colder.

November

- Our teachers receive a winter pack of blankets as a thank you gift for their great work.
- We give the family whose baby was raped in April a gift of three beds. The elderly grandmother, parents and four children had previously only ever slept on a concrete floor.

December

- Amit Samuel is honoured with a Community Service Award from the Senior Superintendent of Kotdwara Police, for his work in anti-human trafficking, anti-drugs education and for helping the police.
- We give warm clothes as a Christmas gift to each of Project Help India's 220 supported children.
- We distribute Christmas packs of food and blankets to Kotdwara's homeless people.
- Project Help India is once again recognised in the *Hindu Times*, praising our efforts for helping the poor and needy.

2017 - Achievement of key targets and initiatives

→ The following targets and initiatives were identified in the 2016 Annual Report.

→ We are pleased to report that each has been achieved and met.

- All donations and funds transferred from Australia deposited into a registered FCRA (*Foreign Contribution Regulation Act*) account
- Open a sixth education centre for poor children in Kotdwara
- Develop anti-human trafficking programs and resources to support local police
- Develop further community development programs and events
- Improve the facilities and resources at each of our education centres
- Buy a four-wheel drive vehicle to access remote education centres
- Continue to investigate the possibility of building toilets in our remote village and slum centres
- Continue to assist individuals in need.

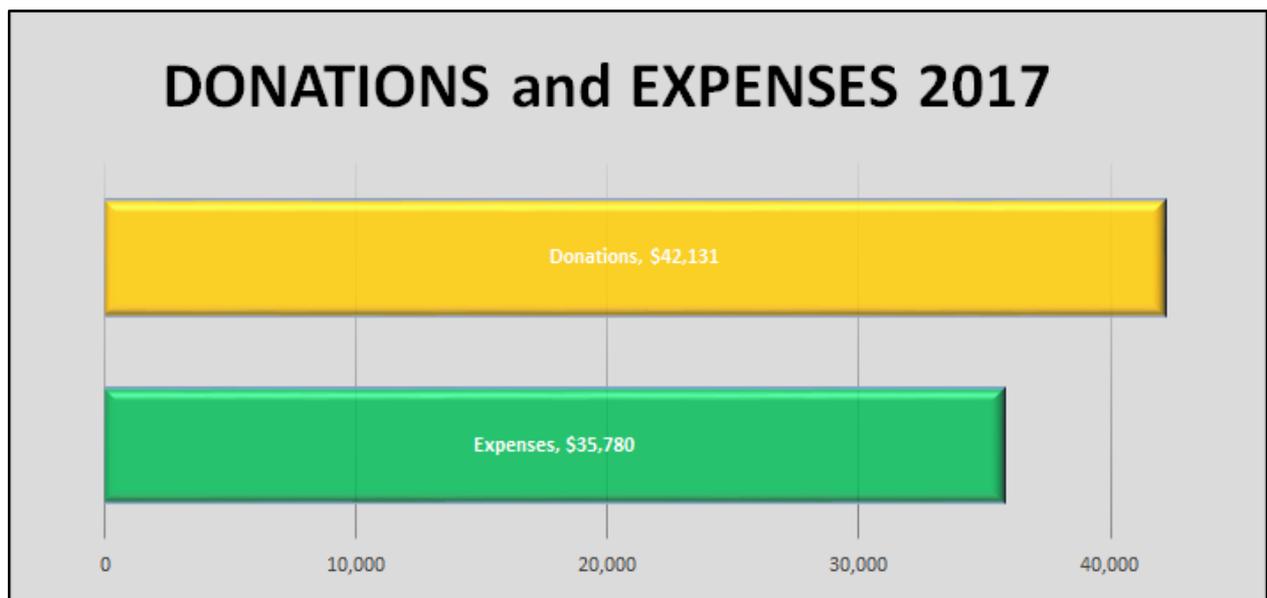
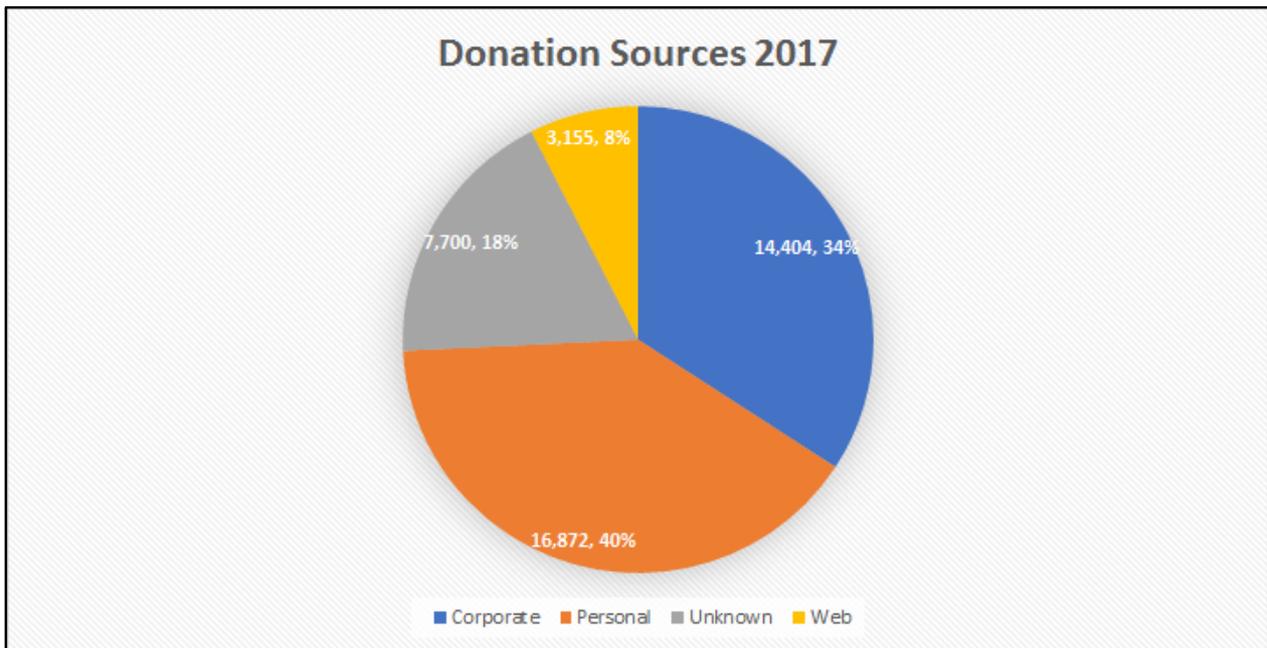


Key targets and initiatives for 2018

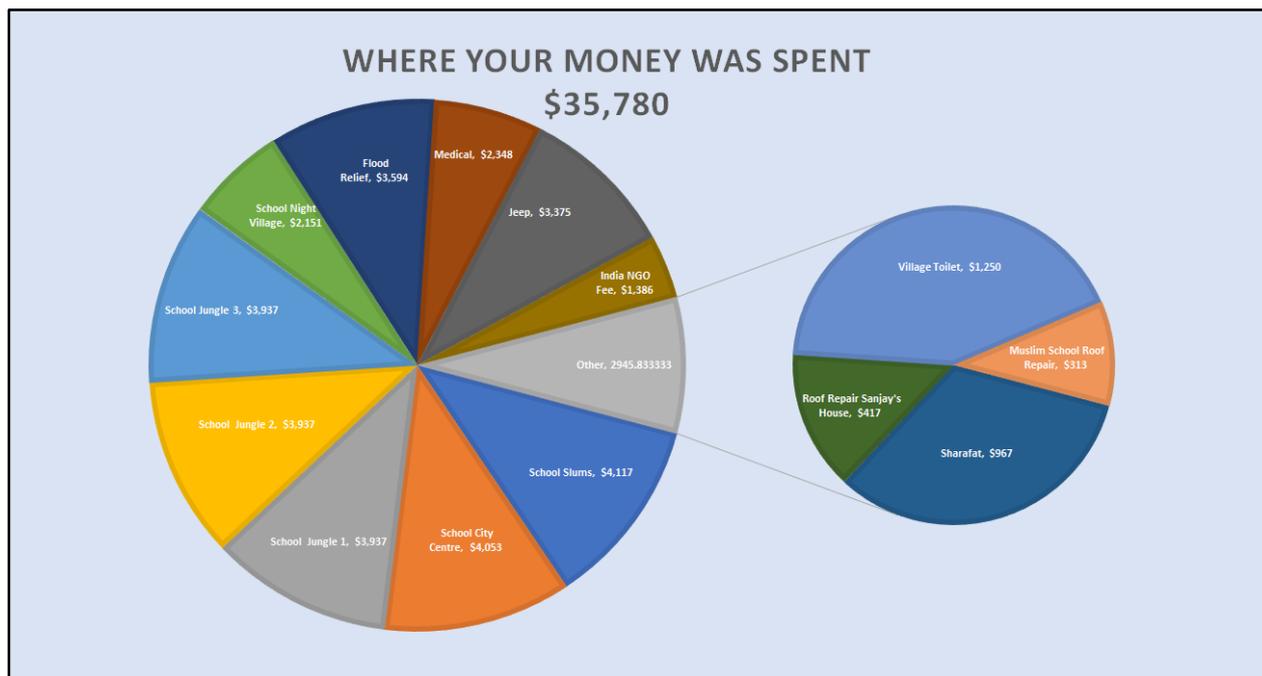
→ The following targets and initiatives have been identified for 2018

- Open a seventh education centre in the neighbouring town of Bijnor
- Further develop anti-human trafficking programs and provide resources to support police
- Develop further community development programs and events by holding our first Women's Conference
- Investigate how we can better meet the needs of children with disabilities
- Provide training for teachers, NGOs and community workers
- Continue to improve facilities and the provision of resources at each of our education centres
- Continue to assist individuals in need, particularly those impacted by poverty and in crisis
- Register Project Hep India as a charity in Australia, allowing Australian donors to receive tax deductibility for their support.

2017 – Finances



2017 – Finances continued



Thank you for being a part of our story

We are indebted to many people, both in India and Australia who support our work. Your encouragement and generosity makes all that we do possible. Doors are opening and lives are being changed. Thank you for being a significant part of this story.

Please consider making a donation or give monthly as a regular supporter

EFT Donations

Account: Project Help India

BSB: 062230

Account Number: 11341909

Please include your name in the reference section.

At this point in time, we regret that donations are not tax deductible.

Your donation goes directly to our people and projects in India, with 7% held as a *Foreign Contribution Regulation Act* account transaction fee after funds are transferred from Australia to India.

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