Project Smile

SMILE CARE FOR ALL



Project Mile

SERVING HUMANITY RESTORING HOPES SPREADING SMILES

WE CARE FOR ALL



Rore

OUR AIM

Project Smile is a unique platform that aims to help and empower the destitute members of our community. At Project Smile, we focus not only on the act of charity, but also on the outcome of our contribution over the long run. Our focus is to translate temporary relief work into visible

The slums of India are a complex socioeconomic habitat. Most of the charities fail to create a viable impact in these downtrodden areas, despite years of service, mainly due to a lack of customized approach. Project Smile recognizes this fact and offers a simple, structured approach to bring about a transformation.

We work for the local communities in India to render relief to its poor and simultaneously enable them to become contributing members of the society, by providing them the necessary resources. The Project Smile team has an extensive database of deserving families after carry<mark>ing</mark> out broad surveys with the help of local community members and social workers from different areas across the state.

OUR TEAM

Mohammed Ummer Yashaswini G.S Mohammed Sherief Fathimath Nuseebha Sakhib Muddassir Khan Dr. Aysha Shariff Mohammed Mohan Kumar Aparna Kumar Maqsood khan Tausif Suleman Sarigat Sarah Iram L Indikar Naseem Akhtar Zahra Ali Syed Shais Ahmed Nazia Arief Md Khalid Anwar Badal Safina Arshin Md Azaruddin

Lateef Sheikh Arshiya Najami Abdul Sajid Nafisa Begum Waseem Bari R Syeda Umaima Yasmeen Mohammed Mutahar Aasima Samreen Noor Zehra Jamsheed Nadir Nawab

Shafia Kausar Sarah Kadeeja Rafath Shaik Sabah Shah Dr. Zeenath R Jamsheed Salman Abdul Majeed Madiha Begum Anas Mehkri Humera Sarvath Nida Zahra

OUR AIM

We aim to make our brothers and sisters in humanity smile by alleviating their hardships while preserving their dignity. Our goal is not only to take care of their immediate needs, but to make them self-sufficient and productive members of our community. We provide holistic care for their financial, emotional, educational and spiritual needs.

OUR VISION

To be a distinctive platform used to help, develop and empower people to bring about a holistic change in their lives.

To focus on making men and women self-sufficient, by equipping them with the necessary skills, education and opportunities.

To provide a loving childhood, and a safe, nurturing environment for needy children, without the discrimination of caste, creed, ethnicity and/or community.

To identify and nurture orphans, destitute young boys and girls to become social reformers in their communities.

To prepare and assist the youth to join the workforce. To motivate and involve the members of the community, to serve the identified population directly or indirectly through our work and other services, so as to enable them to grow and be productive members of the society.



"No one has ever become poor by giving."

OUR PROJECTS

1. RELIEF PROJECTS

- a. Orphan Support
- b. Widow Support
- c. Disabled Support
- d. Elderly Support
- e. Family 360

2. SLUM DEVELOPMENT

a. Home Renovation b. Home Reconstruction

3. EMPOWERMENT

a. Skill development

b. Entrepreneurship Support

4. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

a. Clean India
b. Tree Plantation
c. Health and Hygiene
d. Developing Libraries

5. SEASONAL PROJECTS

a. Winter Drive

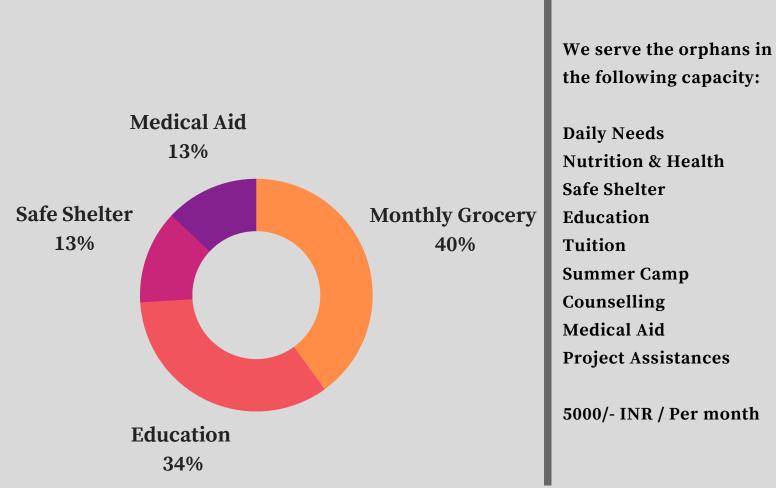
- b. Mercy Drive
- c. Feed a Meal

RELIEF PROJECTS

ORPHAN SUPPORT

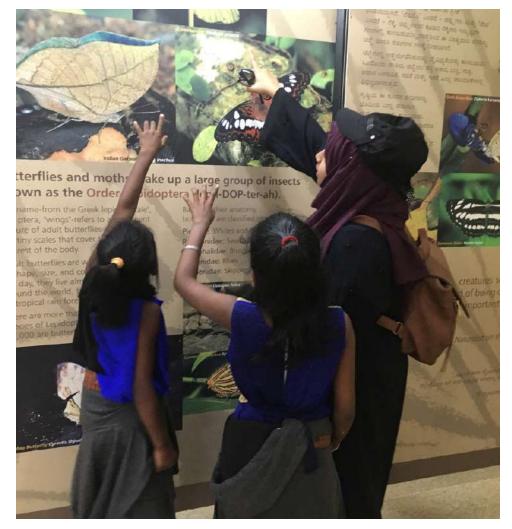
Caring for orphans is at the heart of what we do. We wish to take care of these little angels just like we take care of our own families. At Project Smile we not only provide for their daily needs such as food, clothing and medical-aid, we also spend quality time with the children we sponsor in order to raise them properly.





*Support offered and Percentage of division depends on the condition of the beneficiary







Destitue children barely get a chance to take a excursion .An Outdoor excursion , a learning experience and some fun, the children under our care experienced all of these when we planned a Day long Trip to Banerghtta National Park Bangalore. It was an undefinable experience, with over 40 children witnessing the wonder and amazement of seeing various animals and birds right out of their books and thoughts.

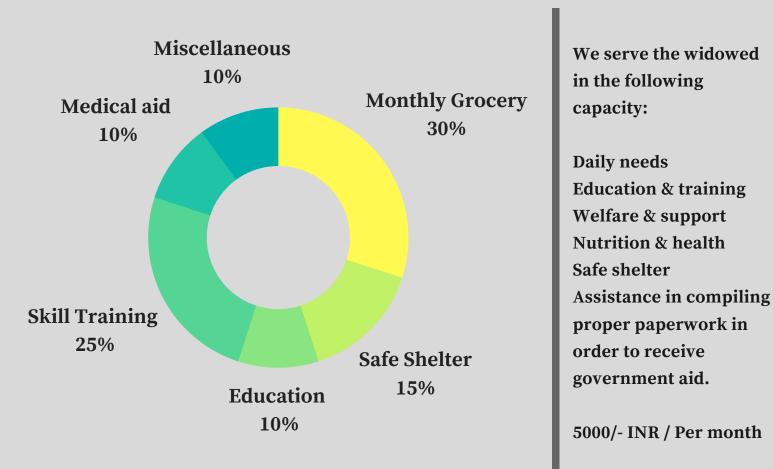
We saw them grin and twinkle their eyes as they point at the nature's choice. It helped the children build curiosity and knowledge about nature, environmental awareness. Their learning was spread across 66 acres and made friends across various localities, enriching us all with an experience to cherish.



WIDOW SUPPORT

The life of a widow, especially in a country like India, can be one of hardship, especially when it comes to earning a decent living. It is difficult for a woman to lose her husband especially if he was the sole bread winner. Lack of a support system in the family and the community makes it a struggle for them to survive with dignity. Often children of such women are forced into labor at an early age and cannot complete their education, which in turn continues the cycle of poverty. Many of these women are uneducated and are unaware of their rights from the government.





*Support offered & Percentage of division depends on the condition of the beneficiary

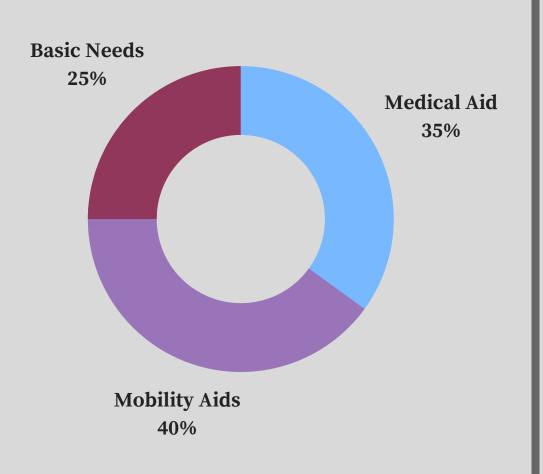
DISABLED INDIVIDUALS

Disabled individuals are among the most vulnerable members of our community. Limited mobility, mental disorders, and insufficient resources can increase the struggles of the disadvantaged individuals and their families manifold. Their care and well-being is our collective responsibility.

We at Project Smile believe that everyone deserves to live with dignity and in comfort irrespective of their physical or mental disabilities.

Project Smile accepts monthly and annual sponsorship for the disabled.





We serve the disabled in the following capacity:

Basic needs Mobility aids (or other aids) Medical expenses including hospital visits and medication Better quality of life.

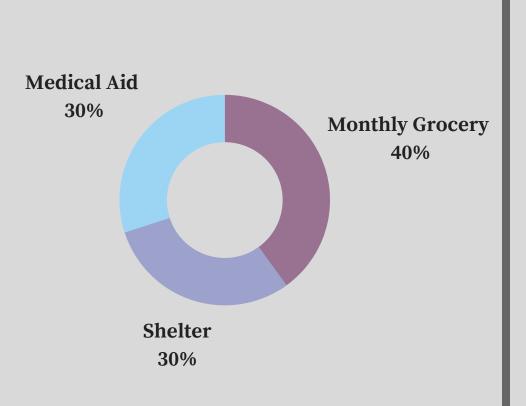
5000/- INR / Per month

*Support offered & Percentage of division depends on the condition of the beneficiary

ELDERLY SUPPORT

Project Smile considers it an honor and a blessing to care for the elderly. Their age of hard work and physical labor has passed, and it is difficult for them to earn and support themselves. Many aged people have no one to care for them and support them. We make sure we provide both financial and emotional care, so they can spend the twilight years of their lives with dignity and peace.





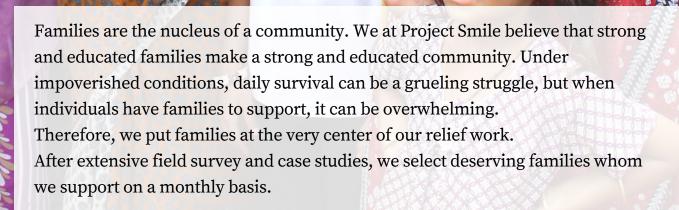
We serve the elderly in the following capacity:

Home or shelter assistance Food and nutritional needs Medical and pharmaceutical benefits Welfare and support Assistance in receiving pension benefits from the government Your donations will help us spread our support to many more people in need.

5000/- INR / Per month

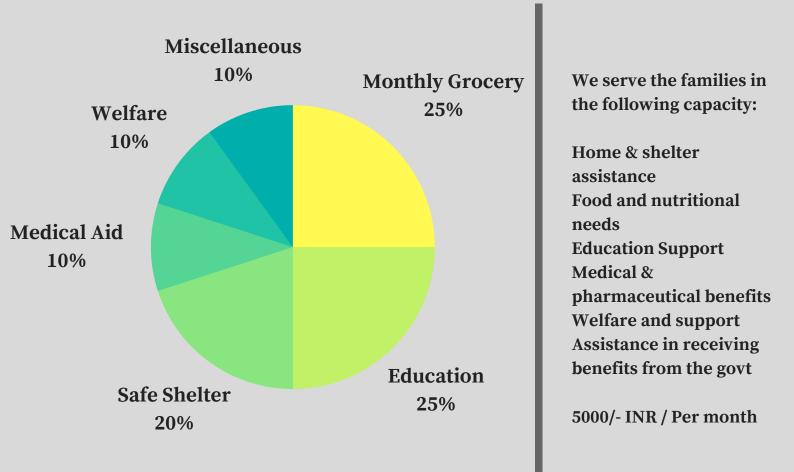
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FAMILY 360



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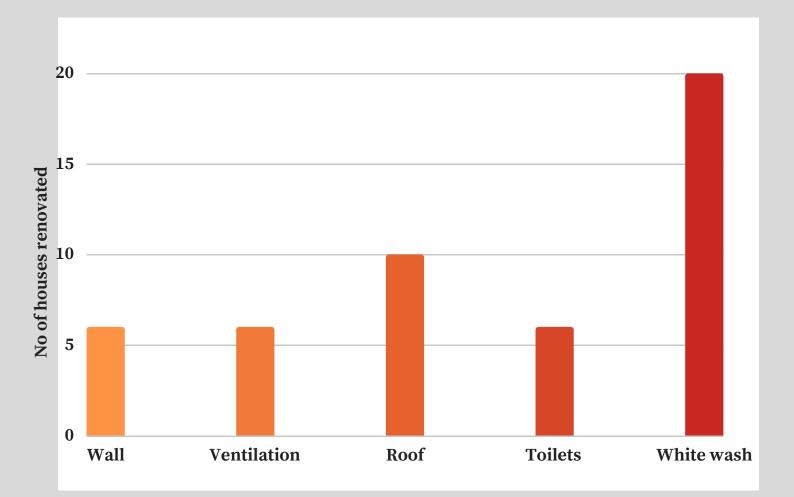
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SLUM DEVELOPMENT

HOME RENOVATION



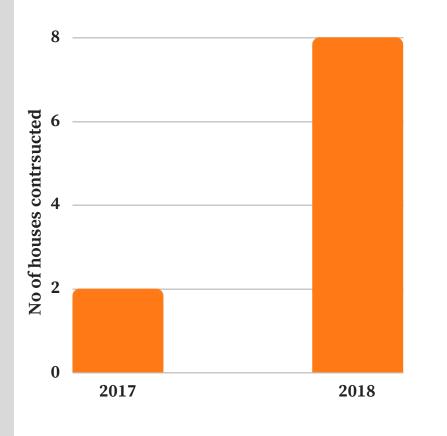




HOME RECONSTRUCTION

Majority of the sectors that we cater to lack properly constructed houses due to which they cannot withstand the changing weather conditions. During the harsh monsoons, many of these houses are easily damaged. We at Project Smile refurbish, renovate and in certain cases rebuild these damaged houses to ensure that the deserving are not denied a basic shelter for individuals and their families which they can call home, a safe one which they can rely on during harsh weather.





Total number of houses renovated : 25

Total number of houses constructed : 10

FEATURED STORY







During our survey we came across Lakshmi and her family. Lakshmi is a widow with four children who is working as a domestic helper. She lived in a tiny barren site where we could see the ruins of what was once a house that belonged to her husband. She had all the legal documents related to the land. She, however, lacked the resources to rebuild the house as she had to take care of her four children including their schooling - all with the petty wages she would obtain by working as house help. She had earlier approached the housing department for rebuilding the house but they asked her to pay deposit which she was unable to afford. In addition to this she had health ailments related to the daily physical labor and ageing like body pain and knee pain.

When we explained that we would reconstruct her house, she could not believe that someone would do it without seeking anything in return and was immensely grateful. We started the process and Lakshmi accompanied us throughout the reconstruction beginning with the layout plans to the final constructed house. We also installed solar lighting so that she need not worry about the electricity bills. We provided Lakshmi with the basic furniture and kitchen utensils in order for the family to lead a comfortable life where they can focus on their personal development. This is how we fulfil the basic purpose of our Home Reconstruction project where such individuals have a comfortable housing so that they can use their hard-earned money on their children's education and focus on their self development in turn leading to their upliftment.

Adam is from an area in Bengaluru named Avalahalli. As is the norm at Project Smile, we usually survey the families in the area to understand their conditions and Adam's situation was unique; hence we took him under our Home Reconstruction project. His situation was so awful that it instantly struck a chord with us. When we first met him, we found him in a barren piece of land with just a mat and a small pillow. Adam's house had completely collapsed during the heavy monsoon about 6-7 years ago forcing his wife and children to move into her maternal home. Adam could not move from there for fear of his site being taken away from him. Adam was working hand-to-mouth, thereby not having the means to reconstruct his house.

During our survey we ensured that all the legal documents pertaining to the land were in place in order to avoid any legal hassles. We used a holistic approach to not only reconstruct the house but also to reunite Adam with his family. We, then, started the process of constructing the house which exceeded Adam's expectation. Not only was he overjoyed to have a roof over his head but also to be reunited with his family. The house had ample ventilation, and we provided them with basic furniture and utensils to lead a dignified life. We always aim to make the houses we build Eco-friendly. And Adams house was one such model house which was built with enough sunlight and fresh air needed for a happy home.

The greatest takeaway from our engagement with Adam was the transformation he underwent as a person. Formerly Adam was consumed in habits like smoking and drinking etc. However, witnessing goodness without any strings attached by Project Smile brought out the good in him and revived his belief in humanity. His experience with the team influenced him to the extent that he overcame his habit, became God-fearing and was now a reformed man who was capable of caring for his family





" This demonstrates a great lesson in what kindness can do for people. Such is the impact so powerful that it drives us to do what we do with passion ! "



FEATURED STORY

Housing Complex





The basic idea to build a housing complex came from a collapsed house in one such location. The heavy rains led to the collapse of a house thereby forcing its inhabitants to abandon it. Further, due to this collapsed house, the houses adjacent to it also got affected leading to them being on the verge of disintegrating. So we thought of building a four-home housing complex in the area of these three houses and we spoke to the three families regarding the same. After a lot of discussions and deliberation we finally reached an agreement to build a two storey housing complex with four houses, three of which would be occupied by these three families who owned the land and one would be given to a destitute woman. We constructed the housing complex with an overhead tank facility and soon we intend to install solar panels to make them selfsufficient. Moreover it was constructed with the help of expert volunteers in architecture and engineering, and the skilled empowered workers from the same local community; therefore this was an empowerment-cumreconstruction project. The concept of the housing complex was unique in that four families could be housed in one multiplex and the previous inhabitants of the collapsed house now had a dignified living space of their own with continuous water supply.



It is about making a difference."

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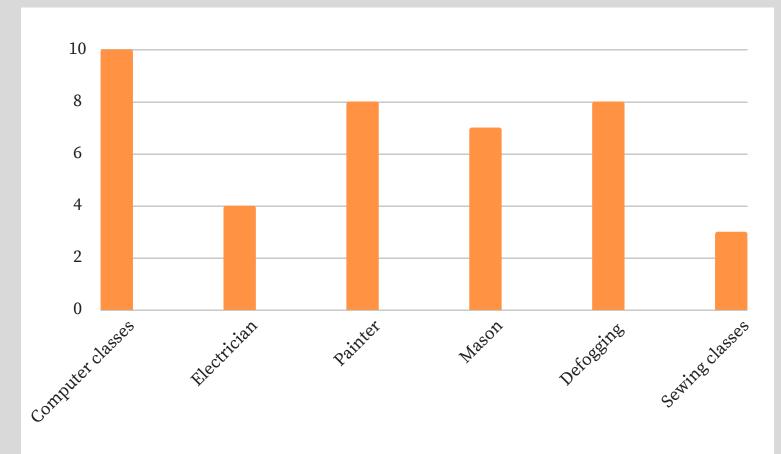
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SKILL DEVELOPMENT

We at Project Smile identify individuals from the lower socioeconomic groups who possess or are interested to learn certain skills and aid them in various ways such as delivering training, providing the latest technological equipment where necessary as well as assistance in seeking employment. This ensures self sufficiency of these individuals and supports in their upliftment.





CONSUMERS



As a part of empowerment and employment, we have introduced a line of environment-friendly cotton bags tailored by our team of destitute women. These bags also serve the environmental cause of saying no to plastic bags. These bags are up for purchase, all the proceeds of which go directly to these deserving women.

> " An ordinary purchase of any of the bags has extraordinary purpose "



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

CLEAN INDIA

Cleanliness is paramount to good health and well-being. Unclean surroundings harbor many disease-causing germs which can potentially lead to illnesses. Moreover, the poor, in case of illness, are unable to afford medical expenses as they live a hand-tomouth existence. In such a situation they have only two options, either borrow money at huge interest rates and be debt-ridden or let their health deteriorate. At Project Smile we believe in helping these members of the community to keep their surroundings clean by not only raising awareness about cleanliness, but also clean the area along with these individuals, further promoting the importance of cleanliness. We also disinfect the area with them to prevent vector-borne diseases like malaria, dengue etc. simultaneously training them in the disinfection procedures.







During rainy seasons, slums turn into breeding grounds for mosquitoes which cause vectorborne diseases.

It is common knowledge that slums are illmaintained dumping grounds, poorly managed drainage and surroundings. The situation worsens when there is rain.

Project Smile consulted BBMP health inspectors who take up disinfection projects of BBMP. Apart from this we also consulted agriculturists to understand the use of chemicals and their technicalities. Upon numerous discussions and guidance by an advisory, we trained slum locals to solve their own problem. To aid them, Project Smile helped them with different types of pest cleaning equipments like fogging, spraying pumps and basic insecticides . It's our collective responsibility to work on this, and as an NGO we would like to scale up this activity for a better and healthier living.

FROM CLEANING SLUMS TO RECONSTRUCTING HOMES, THIS GROUP IN BENGALURU IS HELPING THE NEEDY & YOU CAN HELP TOO

A not-for-profit organisation, Project Smile Trust, brings the truth to us while giving us an opportunity to give back to the society. Founded by a group of individuals bound by a common goal – to spread happiness – the organisation is empowering those who need support to sustain life.

"We see a lot of people struggling with even basic necessities which are their rights. We began helping people out according to their needs in order to bring smiles on their faces. The entire work of our NGO revolves around that – to make people happy. We firmly believe that if we make others smile, God will smile upon us," said Yasha Achar of Project Smile to The Logical Indian.

Mercy Campaign:

During the Bengaluru rains, which are still ongoing, the worst affected were the slums in the city. They have been a witness to clogged drains, causing sewage water to flood the streets and, in turn, entering their homes. This standing water has become a breeding ground for mosquitoes which cause deadly diseases and take many poor lives each year. People are unable to sleep at night because their homes are submerged in water. They sit on buckets because water is everywhere.

Project Smile aims to end this suffering."We started the mercy campaign with the aim to clean up the slums. One by one we started fogging these places with disinfectants which are government approved and harmless while educating people how to keep their neighbourhood clean," said Yasha.

The ultimate goal of Project Smile is to empower people to be able to take care of themselves. They have different support projects for widows, orphans, elderly and the differently-abled.



PLANTATION

Roject

Sect nile

We believe in leaving behind a legacy for our future generations and what better way to do that than plant trees! We at Project Smile organize tree-planting drives in order to promote a clean and green environment, for us as well as the future generations.



Project Smile has done a wonderful task with the lake bed in the area of Byrasandra, by planting the saplings and also taking care of those plants.
"Planting everybody will do, maintaining is more important, so Project Smile is more keen to maintain whatever was done, that being their main objective".
They took up the arduous task of preserving the saplings, for the betterment of the environment. I see their volunteers watering the plants.
If BDA implements sprinkler, we can do wonderful things at the lake.

TESTIMONIAL

Mr. Venkat Subba Rao Former RBI Manager Lake Warrior, Social Activist



FOR THE MOTHERS....

HEALTH AND HYGIENE



Health plays a very important role in the growth and development of individuals. It also ensures productivity and thereby improves their overall quality of life. We at Project Smile conduct awareness programs on the importance of Health and Hygiene in our daily lives.

Personal hygiene is paramount to avoid diseases. Women play a pivotal role in maintaining the hygiene at home; in addition, they need to be conscious of their menstrual hygiene. We conduct awareness programs on personal and menstrual hygiene for women and also provide them with a basic hygiene kits, thereby motivating them to follow these practices. Project Smile has already started focusing on preventive methods of interventions like Health

Screening Camps, Medical awareness seminars further reinforcing their knowledge of health and well-being.

Tobacco and alcohol addiction are the most common concern of the people in the lower strata of society .These habits are a paramount danger to the individuals and their immediate families. Hence we have stepped up our efforts to conduct Tobacco/Alcohol/Substance abuse Cessation Workshops for bringing about awareness and the importance of discontinuing it in order to remain healthy. We are a feeder service to not profit de-addiction centers to help individuals start a fresh life and bringing about a positive change in them and their families .

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HEALTH CAMP

HND

SE



Prevention is better than cure

In order to prevent something, the identification of an underlying cause is imperative. Hence, we conducted a health camp at one of the areas of north Bangalore with different units i.e Cardiac, Diabetology, Dentistry and Ophthalmology, and so on, catering to a crowd of over 400 people. With the help of professional expertise from various tie-up hospitals, we could create awareness of the existing health issues and their consequences. The recipients were given free medicines with follow-up details of their respective hospital, helping them avail minimal expenses on the treatment and healthier living.



Specialist

- Cardiologist
- Gynecologist
- Diabetes,
- Dentistry
- Ophthalmologists
- Nutritionist



KERALA FLOOD RELIEF

From 9 August 2018, severe floods affected the south Indian state of Kerala, due to unusually high rainfall during the monsoon season. It was the worst flood in Kerala in nearly a century. Over 483 people died, and many went missing. About a million people were evacuated and all 14 districts of the state were placed on red alert.

The Indian government had declared it a Level 3 Calamity, or "calamity of a severe nature". Thirtyfive out of the fifty-four dams within the state were opened, for the first time in history. All five overflow gates of the Idukki Dam were opened at the same time. Heavy rains in Wayanad and Idukki have caused severe landslides and had left the hilly districts isolated.



There was no drinking water, lakhs of homes were submerged people were moved to relief camps, many areas were completely cut off - this was the predicament that Kerala saw.

PROVIDING RESCUE BOATS, FOOD, MEDICINES, WATER PUMPS, REHABILITATION AND RE-BUILDING SCHOOLS

Within 24 hours of the distress call, Project Smile mobilized boats to rescue the stranded people and move them to relief camps. Our rescue team visited the remote flood affected areas and provided food and relief materials up to 4 tonnes.

Project Smile also provided the relief camps with medicines as required.

All of this was done based on direct collaboration with affected local population.





After rescue operations, in phase 2, our team focused on providing on-ground relief to the affected families directly and help them with rehabilitation.

We deployed cleaning equipment to avoid epidemics post-flood to the most remote flood-affected areas.







Project Smile Team also helped in opening a makeshift school for the children whose school was badly damaged during the floods.





The little ones had a safe haven and good learning during the times when the rest of the city was being re-built.



"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

SEASONAL PROJECTS

WINTER DRIVE

Thousands of families suffer tremendously every year during the harsh winter months. Not only do they live under the distress of the cold, the health of their children and the well-being of adults is also affected. Project Smile provides basic winter gears to the needy individuals and families in order to make their lives more comfortable.

The process is done very meticulously taking into consideration the number of members in the families, their age and the individual needs.



Winter Kit

- Sweater / Jackets
- Blankets
- Beds and Bedspreads
- Bead caps
- Mat
- •
- No. of families: 1500

Our surveys play a very important role in all our drives.

It's painstaking, yet diligent in order to make sure we reach out to the families that are genuinely in need.

List of number of members in the family, their approximate proportions, amenities they will need et al is taken into consideration in order to make our winter kits.

MERCY DRIVE

Ramadan is a time of sharing and caring. Each year, Project Smile distributes 'Ramadan Kits' to many needy families. We try to relieve them of their gruelling daily needs and help them enjoy the blessings of the holy month of Ramadan with utmost dignity. Through your support, we hope to reach out to more families each year.

rC

THE JOURNEY OF A MERCY KIT

- SURVEY
- FUND RAISE
- PROCUREMENT
- PACKING
- DISTRIBUTION





SURVEY

Surveys are an integral part of all our projects especially during Ramadan and are done in an attempt to reach out and serve the most deserving families in need. We identify the vicinity from the state board of published slums. We then identify reliable social workers and local guides in order to gain an in-depth understanding and demographic knowledge.

Our volunteers along with the local guides, do a scrupulous house-to-house survey to assess the needs of each family and spend some time with them in their homes to understand them, their struggles and make sure every recipient feels cared for and honored.

PROCUREMENT

Project Smile always ensures commodities of highest quality which are procured directly from the wholesale dealers; hence giving us pricing advantage and helping us serve more families. Project Smile Procurement Team always shortlists the most reliable and trustworthy vendors and also tries o empower the farmer by directly buying from them.

The products given are of

- Best quality
- Reasonable price
- Pro-charity vendors











PACKING

The packing of the kit is in itself a massive task wherein numerous volunteers work together in a synchronized manner to ensure the uniformity of the contents in each kit (mentioned below). It is accomplished over a couple of days with the help of our kind volunteers working for almost through out the day. Each packet contains a measured amount of grains, pulses, fruits etc to ascertain that each individual has a balanced nutritious meal.







DISTRIBUTION

On distribution day, smaller vehicles like rickshaws are used to transport the kits into the slums. After a certain point, even rickshaws can't go any further. That's when our volunteers offload the kits from the rickshaws and either transport them with hand drawn carts or carry them on their blessed shoulders for hundreds of meters until they are delivered. Just so you know, each kit contains 3 bags weighing a total of 60 kg approximately. They walk over unpaved roads, pot holes, open sewage, broken stairs; in sweltering heat, thunderstorms, or cold.

This is the journey of one kit. Now multiply it by 2500 families, over 5 different locations. Some of these locations are 10 to 15 km apart from each other.



CONTENT OF A MERCY KIT

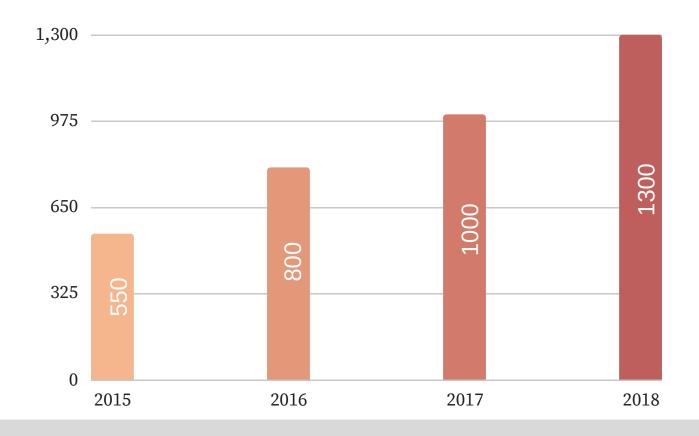
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• RICE	25KGS
• WHEAT FLOUR	10KGS
RAGI FLOUR	5KGS
• TOOR DAL	2KGS
• MOONG DAL	1KGS
MASOOR DAL	1KGS
GREEN MOONG	1KG
• SUGAR	5KGS
• TEA	1KG
• SABZA SEEDS	250GM
• SEVIYAN	500GM
• SEMOLINA (RAVA)	1KG
• ROOHAFZA	2LTRS
• OIL	5LTRS
• GHEE	500ML
• DATES	2KGS
• MILK	4LTRS
• FRUITS	
• VEGETABLES	

• GIFTS



NO. OF FAMILIES SERVED



Mercy Kitchen

Spreading mercy the entire month of Ramadan, at Mercy Kitchen we cook fresh Iftar meals for a deserving group of identified elders and destitute families who find it difficult to afford a honorable meal. We want to ensure that they are not left out of the Mercy of Ramadan and have a sumptuous meal during this holy month. They are provided with balanced meals which include a fruit and beverage.

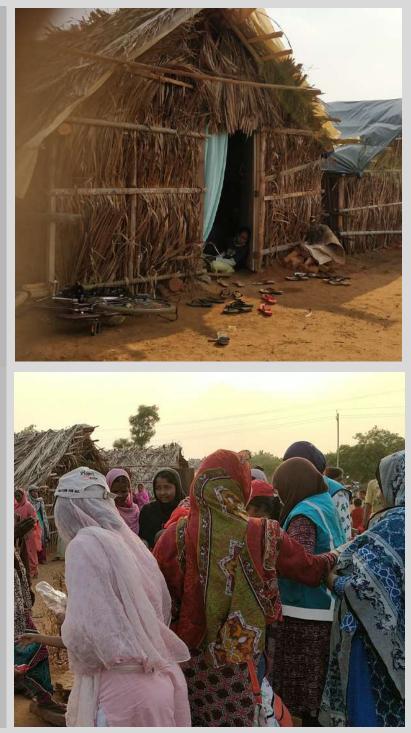
FEED A MEAL

One of the major challenges in India is malnutrition, and many children succumb to it. Majority of the people in the downtrodden sectors of our society are malnourished. Project Smile facilitates feeding a dignified meal to underprivileged families. We serve them cooked, hygienically packed meals delivered to their doorstep. These meals are sponsored by our donors. Till date over 24000 meals have been served and we wish to continue by the grace of Almighty .

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FEATURED STORIES

Staying in cities, we often forget how lucky we are to have all the luxuries along with the basic necessities of food, shelter and clothing. We visited this village for our "Feed a Meal" project and realized how the basic necessities that we take for granted are actually luxuries for these underprivileged individuals. Many of these individuals lack a dignified living space, often living in houses with thatched roofs. It was a very humbling experience for us to serve them a nutritious meal and to see the heartfelt gratitude on their faces. Looking at the happiness on their faces, it filled us with joy and this is what drives us to do more for the society.





FINANCIALS

2015 - 2019(Feb)

22,14,028 /-

Relief Project consists of Orphan Support, Widow Support, Disabled Individuals, Elderly Support and Family 360.

Relief Projects

8,59,154/-

Empowerment

Empowerment consists of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Support for both Men and Women alike

Slum

Development

36,35,540/-

Slum Development consists of Slum Renovation as well as Slum Reconstruction.

1,60,21,095/-

Seasonal Projects

Seasonal Projects consists of Winter Drive, Ramadan Mercy Drive and Feed - A - Meal .

Community Outreach

10,77,337 /-

Community Outreach consists of Clean India campaign, Plantation Drive, Health & Hygiene Drive and Library Development

Note: "0" Administrative Charges, Its a Project Smile promise that we shall not utilize any donations for the poor for Office, Executive staff salaries or any other administrative expenses.All your donations go 100% to the causes



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are at the heart of Project Smile are an integral part of our humanitarian work. They make it possible to give assistance to those who need it.

You Can Volunteer with: Field surveys Photography Procurement, packaging and distribution of relief materials Offer expert consultation for our projects Coordinate for special events and activities

DONATE

Monitory assistance makes it possible for us to continue our services, increase our outreach efforts, and spread more smiles! Choose a donation method below, remember that 100% of your donation will go directly to the needy.

How can we sustain our 100% promise?

We are very lucky that we have patrons who cover all running costs, from staff costs to stationery and everything in between. Their contribution and kindness allow us to deliver our '100% Promise' each year! This means 100% of your donations goes directly to beneficiaries.

SPREAD THE WORD

If you want to support our cause, but don't know how to :

Get in touch with the Project Smile family, get to know us and our message so we can share a common goal

Get access to our outreach material, links and brochures

Spread our website information, Facebook page, among your social circles Advertise our upcoming drives through social media

FUND RAISE

Help raise funds for Project Smile by getting active, getting together and getting creative. Your effort will help us improve our services and save families and children from the grips of poverty. Get in touch with us with your ideas on how you can help us raise funds and spread smiles

TO OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

You are all amazing, thank you for everything!

We hope you continue to be so hardworking and helpful to many people in need. God bless you more each day!

Every drop of your sweat will go towards building the foundation of someone else's life.

Wages in the form of love, perks in the form of hopes and promotions in the forms of blessings – this is your reward for volunteering with all your heart. Perhaps we may not have told you lately, but it's true that every single day we are so grateful to God for having the best team in tow. Indeed, you are a blessing.

For some people, volunteering is about giving. But for the likes of you, it is a way of living.

We strongly appreciate your support and assistance during every event. Thank you so much for your incredible support. We're so grateful that you've become a part of us.

You may not realize this but you are the real life Superm TON OFRIVOLUNTEERS! people you have helped. Thanks for volunteering.

Heartfelt

Meet Mariya



Project Smile team met Mariya 1.5 years ago during one of its seasonal drives in the slums. She is an orphan, who was living in a tiny room without a bathroom and kitchen. Mariya is a disabled individual who was born with Spinal Bifida which left her unable to walk. She is a skilled seamstress and was earning her livelihood through sewing.We analyzed her needs through extensive interviews with her and decided to sponsor her. True to our objective of wholesome approach, we undertook to resolve all of her concerns in a systematic way.

Financial:

Mariya was using an old, manual sewing machine, which was not only restricting her income, it was also difficult to operate and was causing her pain. Through our Women Empowerment Initiative we provided her with Industrial scale machine fitted with motor and also all the necessary accessories that any professional seamstress would require. This included over-locking machine, usually used in boutiques; rolls of fabric, threads etc. We also connected Mariya to a small business to bring a steady flow of income.

Medical:

When we met Mariya, she was using a broken caliper that was not only ineffective and useless, it was also causing her a lot of pain whenever she used it. Hence, she had stopped walking at all and had resorted to crawling around the house and hardly left her room. She only crawled out of her room to use the toilet of her neighbors that was 50 meters away and facing the streets. Under Project Smile's Disability Support Project, we started taking her to different physiotherapists and specialists in order to provide her with orthotics that were custom made according to her needs. After a long series of hospital visits, we provided her with Orthotic calipers with which she can walk using crutches.

Due to neglect and her sedentary lifestyle, Mariya had developed sores all over her body. This needed a hospital stay, medications, dressing, and a caretaker to help dress her sores. Project Smile took care of that critical phase of Mariya's health and she is on the road to recovery now.

Residential:

The next essential step for us was to move her out of her shack to a more dignified living. We moved her out of the slums to a new home that is equipped to meet all her needs. We built in customized ramps so that she can maneuver her wheelchair in and out. We renovated the bathroom to make it customized according to her needs. This includes special railing, support, toilet seat, bath seat etc. The kitchen was also customized to make her independent and access all the utilities with ease. The entire house has been fitted with 'grab handles' to help Mariya walk with ease.

Project Smile is still supporting her with her rent and also frequent hospital visits she has to take up for physiotherapy and other ongoing issues due to her disability.

Mariya is now independent, earning for herself, happy, confident, and smiling.

Mariya's case is an example of many thousands which need immediate attention and care. Project Smile has a data base of most desperate cases in need of support.





Love for your brother, what you love for yourself.

Growing up, all I have seen is helplessness very closely; not just in myself but also in my parents and family whenever it concerned me. Hence all I ever wanted for myself is to live life with dignity.

I shifted to Bangalore after both my parents died. My tiny room had nothing & nobody around me, but just a belief in myself. With time, my frailing health started giving up too. I was at a stage where I had lost almost everything.

Project Smile came into my life at this juncture, bringing along with it a beacon of hope. I never ever had imagined that my life would take such a turn filled with happiness. I found friends in the volunteers who came to visit me. They became my strength because they took care of my livelihood by providing me with groceries and gifting me with sewing machine, not one but two. They became my family as they took me to the best hospitals and prosthetics centers to fix my leg. Every time something went wrong with my health, they were there to take me to the hospital.

I have a home now because of them! This home is renovated to my needs; the rent is taken care of.

Now they are more than family. I never imagined that I would be living life like this! **Project Smile has given me what I needed most – Dignity!**

- Mariya Pushpa

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NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION (NGO) REGISTERED UNDER THE SOCIETIES REGISTRATION ACT (1960), CERTIFIED :80G(5),12A AS PER IT ACT 1961



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