

NEWS UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2022



“Be the change you want to see in the world.”

- MAHATMA GANDHI



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INTRODUCTION

HISTORY OF M S INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Manu and Rika Shah founded MSI in 1975, in the basement of their home in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. MSI is now the largest importer and distributor in the world of Premium Surfaces including granite, marble, porcelain and ceramic tiles, slate, travertine, limestone and other natural stone products from 37 countries. Most notably, MSI provided the granite for the Vietnam Memorial in DC.

Manu and Rika Shah established Sarva Mangal Family Trust (Sarva Mangal means 'let all be happy' in Sanskrit) over 20 years ago with compassion as their driving force for philanthropy. Manu's vision for SMFT is to act as a catalyst, challenge status quo, nurture passionate change-makers and support leapfrogging ideas that are scalable and sustainable. Today, all members from the Shah family are involved in social impact initiatives that are undertaken by SMFT. Manu supports VOSAP – Voice of Specially Abled People, which has created over 10,000 change makers and rated over 18,000 buildings rated for accessibility. He also supports Lend a hand India, which provides digital vocational training to over 300,000 students in 20,000 schools.

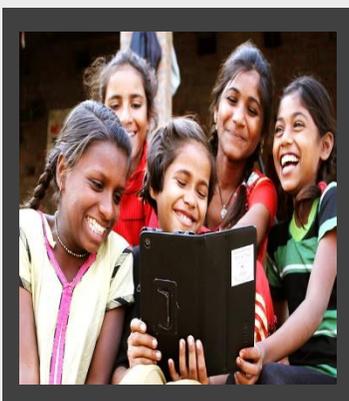
In 2007, Mr. Manu Shah was named Ernst & Young's national "Entrepreneur of the Year" in the distribution, manufacturing, and security category.

ABOUT SARVA MANGAL FAMILY TRUST

Established in 1994 by the Founders of M S International, Inc. The mission of the Sarva Mangal Family Trust is to improve and strengthen the health, education and wellness of communities and help them prepare for global jobs of the 21st century. Sarva Mangal is a Sanskrit word which means "Goodness to All."

To advance this mission, the Sarva Mangal Family Trust has donated to and is continuing to work with various organizations and programs in health promotion and prevention, assisting victims of domestic violence, empowering seniors, entrepreneurship, technological literacy, community activism, and children's education.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS



PRADIGI SUPPORTED BY SARVA MANGAL FAMILY TRUST HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE 100 MOST INNOVATIVE PROJECTS 2022

PraDigi Open Learning has been selected as one of the most impactful and scalable innovations in the world by global education non-profit HundrED for the HundrED 2022 Global Collection. The Pratham Shah PraDigi Innovation centre has been established by the Sarva Mangal Family Trust is an effort to accelerate digital transformation of Pratham and bring innovative low-tech EdTech solutions for rural India and the world.

[PraDigi Open Learning](#)

PHILANTHROPY IN FEBRUARY'22

SMFT DONATED MEALS TO HOMELESS

During COVID-19, Sarva Mangal Family Trust donated to JAINA and Sanatan Dharma Temple to provide meals and basic supplies to homeless in Orange County. Under this initiative, SMFT has been able to distribute 160,946 meals with the help of 150 - 200 volunteers. Meals have been disbursed in over 30 cities and 5 counties in Southern California. Since then there is no looking back, SMFT supports and motivates people to volunteer every Sunday (on all 52 weeks in 2022) to prepare, pack or deliver around 1500 - 2000 meals for the homeless in Orange County.



MATHRUSHREE MANOVIKASA KENDRA



Mathrushree Manovikasa Kendra is a nonprofit organization supported by SMFT dedicated for the welfare of specially abled children who are between the age of 3 months to 25 years. The organization gives appropriate training to children to enable them to live in the society confidently. Education and training provided to the children includes self-dependence, personal care and hygiene etc. Their syllabus includes basic reading writing, english, mathematics, conversation and everyday activities. Tailor made teaching methods are used for each child to suit his/her temperament and aptitude.



PHILANTHROPY IN FEBRUARY'22

NATURAL STONE FOUNDATION



The Natural Stone Foundation is the charitable arm of the Natural Stone Institute which is a trade association representing every aspect of the natural stone industry. SMFT has made a grant to Natural Stone Foundation that will strengthen the global standards available to the natural stone industry and help improve the standards for engineered stone and natural stone and provide the next level of global recognition and importance. The Natural Stone Foundation will lead the initiative with MSI's support to spread the movement at an international stage.



SMFT DONATED COVID-19 SUPPLIES



St. Joseph Hospital is a value-based Catholic health care provider with a tradition of and commitment to excellence, based on the vision of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange. The hospital's strong belief in the intrinsic dignity of each person commits it to be a just employer to caregivers; to provide health care for the whole person, body, mind and spirit; and to collaborate with our medical staff and other health care providers to increase access to quality care. The Sarva Mangal Family Trust donated face-masks and face-shields to Providence – St. Joseph Hospital in Orange County for frontline workers.



NGO VISIT – LEND A HAND INDIA

February 28, 2022 - Sarva Mangal Family Trust Team visited Lend a Hand India's Karigar School of Applied Learning which is based in Pune (Maharashtra) incorporates the decade long experience of Lend A Hand India in as a "Skills Hub" to showcase a model for multi-skill vocational education. At times described as "Disney Land of Skills", training in multiple skills ranging from food processing, electrical appliances repairs, food preservation, baking, gardening and landscaping, auto maintenance, information technology, media and entertainment, fabrication, carpentry and plumbing is imparted. The core objective is to make "working with hands" popular leading to the universalization of skill education. The facility is also used for Training of Trainers, incubator for young entrepreneurs, and innovation lab.

SMFT Team also visited one of the schools which runs under Lend a Hand India's Project Swadheen which focuses on skill education in schools. The project provides multi-skill vocational education and career guidance to young boys and girls from urban and rural communities as part of secondary and higher secondary school education.

Foundational level exposure is provided to the students in over 20 different skills ranging from food processing, healthcare, electrical wiring, gardening, landscaping, welding, and carpentry.

During Grade 9 - 10, students are exposed to multiple skills in a gender agnostic manner. In Grade 11 and 12, the student specializes in a skill of her/his choice.

The efforts of Lend A Hand India have enhanced employability skills, increased opportunities for girls, helped youth make non-traditional career choices, and overall acceptability of vocational education by the parents, schools, and policy makers.



Karigar – School of Applied Learning



Project Swadheen



Karigar – School of Applied Learning

NGO VISIT – LEND A HAND INDIA (Cont.)



Karigar – School of Applied Learning



Project Swadheen – Ambedkar Secondary School



SMFT Team with Lend A Hand India Team

NGO IN FOCUS FOR FEBRUARY'22 – SAHARA



SAHARA, meaning “support” in Hindi, was established in 1991 by a dedicated group of five clinical social workers and two physicians who came together to meet the underserved needs of the South Asian community in Southern California.

What began as a volunteer service has grown into a fully staffed agency supporting youth, older adults, and domestic violence support for survivors.

The mission of SAHARA is to serve survivors of all forms of abuse within the South Asian community in Southern California with culturally sensitive and linguistically specific services. The comprehensive programs of SAHARA are carefully designed to provide a path to self-sufficiency, healthy aging, and building the next generation of leaders is their promise to the community. Through intentional and consistent community engagement their programs and services reflect the evolving needs of the diverse community they serve. SAHARA’s programs are: gender based violence/shelter, elder services, legal services, citizenship, mental health and youth program.

Updates and Achievements:

Despite significant ongoing challenges posed by COVID-19, SAHARA takes pride in all the things they have achieved with the help from Sarva Mangal Family Trust. During recurring lockdowns, their clients have faced increased isolation and threats of abuse, making them need SAHARA more than ever. They continue to utilize safety protocols to offer all their services and explore new ways to empower the South Asian Community.

- **Responding to Domestic Violence amidst COVID-19**

In 2021, SAHARA provided 224 Domestic Violence survivors with linguistically and culturally sensitive supportive services, including crisis intervention, safety planning, comprehensive and highly personalized case management, and counseling essential to prepare survivors to next steps in their journey of empowerment.

SAHARA empowered 94 survivors of Domestic Violence with legal resources and referrals to access consultation and support in addressing issues of divorce, child custody and restraining orders.

In September 2021, SAHARA piloted a new Education Initiative to further embolden the survivors they serve through English and Financial Literacy classes and support enrolling in community colleges. Survey feedback from participants of pilot programs will fuel efforts in 2022 for even more robust and effective programming.

NGO IN FOCUS FOR FEBRUARY'22– SAHARA (Cont.)

- **Building Healthy Communities by Caring for Seniors**

SAHARA's Older Adult Program responded to the increased isolation among elders during the Pandemic by conducting virtual workshops, counseling, and support groups, checking in regularly by phone and offering educational programs, cultural celebrations, and discussions on a variety of topics to foster both physical and mental wellness.

In 2021, SAHARA assisted 256 elder seniors impacted isolation, abuse and neglect navigate the health insurance system for enrollments, renewals and continuity of health access and in-home Supportive Services. 23 elders provided with legal support and immigration application assistance.



- **Supporting the Path to Citizenship**

SAHARA, in collaboration with the New American's Campaign movement, helped many Legal Permanent Residents successfully obtain citizenship. During 2021, SAHARA advocates completed the Comprehensive Overview of Immigration Law test and provided Naturalization application assistance to 79 clients. 65 of these applicants qualified for the fee waiver program amounting to a savings of \$47,125 to their clients. SAHARA is also in process of Department of Justice Accreditation to better serve the immigrant community.

“Living as a refugee I understand the importance to be a citizen, I have lived through the experience of not belonging somewhere and have been denied citizenship due to language constraints. SAHARA helped me overcome that challenge and today I am proud to hold this certificate and live in freedom. I am proud to belong to this community and my voice matters.”



- **Engaging a Generation of Activists**

SAHARA youth volunteers comprised 15 active high school seniors engage in community events aimed at creating awareness about teen dating, violence prevention and establishing foundations for healthy relationships. 2021 accomplishments included a successful Toy Drive benefiting children of the clients they serve, production of 2 public service announcement videos and implementation of Peace over Violence curriculum for relationship violence prevention.

NGO IN FOCUS FOR FEBRUARY'22– SAHARA (Cont.)



Building Healthy Communities by Caring for Seniors



Supporting the Path to Citizenship



Engaging a Generation of Activists

SUCCESS STORY – SAHARA

In India, I was the brightest child in my family, always happy and passionate to be successful. In 10th grade I lost my dad and started working as a tutor to support my family. My family supported my education but after earning my master's degree my uncle arranged my marriage and told me I was going to USA.

Name: Kay

Program: Gender Based Violence

My life changed totally after my marriage. Like other Indian women our life is surrounded by my husband and children. I wanted to work but was told to, stay home and take care of my three kids". I sacrificed many years; he was very possessive and controlling. I was not allowed to purchase anything without his permission. One night he came home drunk and started verbally shaming me, name calling and demanding to know which guy I was sleeping with. Many days he verbally abused me in front of my 15 years old son. My son witnessed him grab a kitchen towel put it on stove and start a fire. He put the towel on his head and said he is going to kill himself. He started punching me and all my kids were scared. I quickly took my kids in a separate room and called the police. He was arrested and was taken to the mental hospital. I decided to leave him and went to Domestic violence shelter in Orange County with my three children

My father-in-law insisted that my children need father and assured me that my husband would change. It was very challenging and not having enough confidence I went back to him. My kids started hating me more because I went back to him. I was helpless and the abuse and control never stopped both for me and my children.

Finally, I had found the courage to end the abuse after twenty years of marriage. When I came to shelter, I felt I was home. I could make my own choices. I felt safe and peaceful.

Finding a job was challenging because of COVID-19 pandemic and not having any work experience for twenty years. With help from SAHARA, I started working as a caregiver while studying to obtain Caregiver's license. My goal was to support my children and save money.

Currently, I am working as a HR manager and weekends I am working as a caregiver. I would like to recognize SAHARA for supporting me during my challenging time by providing resources to follow my passion, SAHARA provided me legal referrals as well as private attorney as needed.

Today I am financially stable, and my kids are with me. My son who had left me is back and said he is proud of me for my achievement. I would like to thank everyone who support SAHARA from bottom of my heart not just me there are women suffering with difficult time can get help and achieve their goals.

SUCCESS STORY – EKAL VIDYALAYA



Name: Dipika Dinesh Phuphane

Program: Ekal Vidyalaya

Location: Sagpada Village, Maharashtra

“I joined Ekal Vidyalaya as a teacher. I was very inspired by the social service aspect of Ekal that really emphasizes making a difference in the lives of the villagers. There are not many opportunities in this village. Often the parents go to other towns to earn a living. The children often live with their grandparents or other family members and hence there was very little emphasis on education. I was very motivated to help bring education to these children” says Dipika Phuphane, who was trained by Ekal to become a teacher.



“Ekal’s teaching is very holistic in nature. We not only teach reading, writing and arithmetic but also teach values to the children. The values they learn here also have an impact on their family”. Amit, a young student in her class attests to her impact. “My father used to drink a lot. I told him that my teacher said that drinking is really bad and that he should give it up. I told him that if he gave it up I would touch his feet and respect him. He heard me and he does not drink anymore. I am so happy” says Amit. Yet another boy talked about his grandfather giving up drinking because of his sharing his teacher’s message.

Since Sagpada is very remote, there were no tailors in the village. Dipika took tailoring lessons from Ekal. **She has not only started providing tailoring services to the villagers but also started a tailoring training center for other women in the village.** “Ekal guided me to get a loan and purchase machines. I am getting a good income from my training. More importantly I am training other women. We now can wear decent clothes that fit right without going far away. Ekal’s work is truly transformational. I am grateful for the opportunities it has given me and for the children in the village.”

SUCCESS STORY – VOICE OF SPECIALLY ABLED PEOPLE



Name: Meet Solanki

Program: Individual Enablement with Assistive Devices

Location: Gujarat

Meet Solanki is a 14 year old vibrant boy who had speech and hearing impairment since birth. Life was never easy for Meet in terms of his student life. Multiple schools had rejected him, or sent him back home. Meet's father said, "Meet was always very good at home, with all of us. He has a lot of love for all of his family members, but I don't know why all the schools where he was sent for education didn't allow him. Perhaps, his vibrancy, his activeness wasn't absorbed properly in that environment."

Frequent rejections become unbearable for young minds! But, everything has an end. Meet received hearing aid from Voice of Specially Abled People and life took a great turn! Now, he got

an extra power of hearing, hearing the outer world, hearing all the sounds and vibrancy of the universe! Meet's father told that, "When Meet had put on his hearing aid, if we speak a little louder, he understands what was told. He now enjoys watching TV. He also shared that Meet enjoys being with his maternal grandfather and helps him in all the agricultural activities on his farm at the village. Meet works out daily, he is into bodybuilding. He wants to develop his biceps! He is always happy and makes others happy.

We don't know whether being an agriculturist is the mission of Meet's life or not but we can surely say that the hearing aid has changed Meet's life and helped him gain self-confidence.

This is just one example of the transformative power of assistive technology.

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Know more at

www.sarvamangalfamilytrust.org/

www.msisurfaces.com/corporate/charitable-trust.aspx

