

# NEWS UPDATE

MARCH 2022



“Education is the way to achieve for reaching results, it is the proper way to promote compassion and tolerance in society.”

- DALAI LAMA



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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.

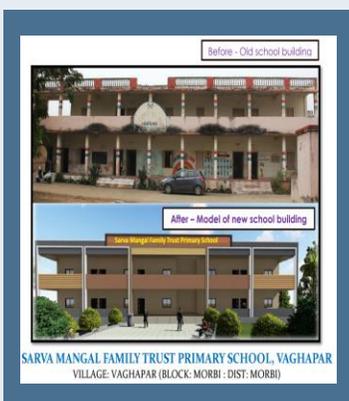
In 2007, Mr. Manu Shah was named Ernst & Young's national "Entrepreneur of the Year" in the distribution, manufacturing, and security category.

## 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



### FOUNDATION STONE LAYING CEREMONY OF SARVA MANGAL FAMILY TRUST PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mrs. Rika & Mr. Manu Shah and SMFT team members participated in the foundation stone laying ceremony of Sarva Mangal Family Trust Primary School on March 5, 2022. The school will provide support to 600 school students from Vaghpar village and children from neighboring villages to pursue education in a healthy and hygienic environment.

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## NGO VISIT – PRATHAM

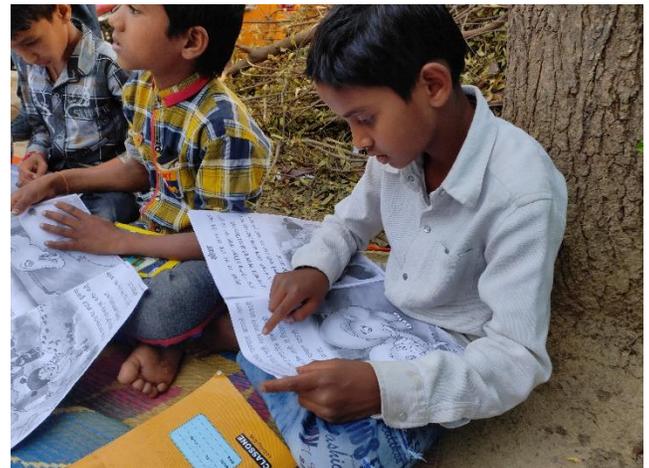
**March 1, 2022** - Sarva Mangal Family Trust team met Pratham's Hybrid Learning Program - YouthNet, Reading Camp, Open School, Science Centre and PACE Centre beneficiaries in Maharashtra.

The hybrid learning program involves children in the age group 10-14 form their own groups of 5-6 each and enable them to co-create a learning space within their community. Digital devices and content is placed directly in the hands of children providing them with opportunities to learn on their own. The program aims to create a mechanism which enables youth to prepare for school, work, and life. Under this program **500,000 learners** across **12,000+ communities** have been impacted with the help of **50,000+ tablets**.



**Hybrid Learning Program**

Pratham Reading Camp is a community-based learning campaign which focuses on early years learning readiness for children currently in grade 1 to 3. The campaign encourages parents and family members to join children, engage with them in interesting and fun activities, and help them learn. Under this initiative they have impacted **10,000+ rural and urban communities**.



**Reading Camp**

The objective of Pratham Open School is to train youth from the most vulnerable communities of India to bridge the gap between workforce requirements and skills, and provide meaningful employment. Under this initiative they have reached out to **11,000+ students** across **15 states**.



**Open School**

Pratham has come up with a science centre which has a collection of science activities and experiments, library and gardening activities for students. The centre focusses on creating learning by doing opportunities for all the students.

The Pratham Arora Centre for Education (PACE) is a residential training center created to provide industry-specific training to Indian youth. PACE offers courses in hospitality, healthcare, electrical, beautician, plumbing, tailoring, automobile, construction, welding etc. With this intervention they have reached out to **87,460 students** and with a **placement rate of 85%**.

# NGO VISIT – PRATHAM (Cont.)



Pratham Arora Centre for Education



Science Centre



SMFT Team with Pratham Team

## NGO VISIT – LIFE GLOBAL

**March, 2022** - SMFT Team members participated in the Foundation stone laying ceremony of Sarva Mangal Family Trust Primary School was conducted on March 5, 2022. The school will provide support to 600 school students and children from neighboring villages to pursue education in a healthy and hygienic environment. The expected outcomes of the school is to cater to children from low economic background, improved learning processes using technology and reduced dropout rate among girls.

Sarva Mangal Family Trust team also visited Life Global's Education Centers, Blood Centre and Greenfield Centre in Gujarat.

Life Education Centre is committed to provide state-of-the-art infrastructure and promotes holistic development of children for the government-run primary schools of Gujarat. Life Global has by far built **102 primary schools** which are dedicated to government in which **32,000+ students** are benefitted every year. They also provide **26,000+ merit scholarship** to students out of which **15,000 scholarships** are given to girl students.

Life Blood Centre is the first blood bank in Gujarat to provide high quality safe blood and blood components to needy patients. The facility is equipped with advanced state-of-the-art technology, well-equipped laboratory, fully computerized database and professional staff. With help of the blood centre Life Global has issued **658,000+ blood components**, conducted **5,350+ blood donation camps** and served **395,000+ lives**.

Life Greenfield Centre is committed to create awareness about afforestation, encourage people to plant trees and provide healthy and greener planet to live in. Plants nurtured here are raised until they get matured to about 6'-15' feet height. These developed plants are then distributed for re-plantation to a wide range of its users. Greenfield Centre has by far distributed **270,700+ trees for replantation**, **70+ indigenous varieties of trees and plants**, **28,400+ plants ready for distribution** and a total of **19,000+ plants** are nurtured.



**Mrs. Rika and Mr. Manu Shah grace the event virtually**



**Bhoomi Poojan**



**Old School Building**

## NGO VISIT – LIFE GLOBAL (Cont.)



**Zoom Call Participants**



**Bhoomi Poojan**



**Neknam School – Old Building**



**Neknam School – New Building**



**Navnat UK Primary School, Jabalpur**



## NGO VISIT – LIFE GLOBAL (Cont.)



**Life Blood Centre**



**Life Greenfield Centre**



**SMFT Team with Life Global Team**

## NGO VISIT – AKSHAYA PATRA FOUNDATION

**March 3, 2022** - Sarva Mangal Family Trust team visited Akshaya Patra Foundation Bhuj Kitchen.

The Centralized Kitchen is a part of the government's mid-day meal program. It has been set up in compliance with international standards when it comes to food safety and hygiene. The infrastructure is designed for cooking about 2,500 kg of rice, over 21,000 bread and 1,200 kg of vegetables per hour.

The kitchen can provide food for 50,000+ students at local schools. The purpose is to encourage underprivileged families to send their children to school to obtain a free meal. The project combines and embodies two essential pillars for the future: nutrition and education.

The Kitchen premises is very clean and hygienic where all the staff members and visitors have to compulsorily wear gloves, mask, cap and shoe covers before entering the premises. To reduce the amount of wastage (Vegetable peels, rejects and cooked food waste) the foundation has set up a biogas plant. Biogas is collected in a gas-holder and pressurized gas tank which is then piped to the kitchen to be used as cooking fuel. The utensils in which the mid-day meal is cooked and packed are sanitized before being used.

The kitchen was partially operating during COVID-19 and plans to start complete operations from June, 2022. During COVID-19 a total of **1.4 Million meals** were served out of which **9,000 meals** were served in a day. Under their COVID-19 relief work they distributed **40,000+ grocery kits** to the underserved people.

Starting June 2022, the plan is to initially prepare 20,000+ meals on everyday basis for the school students covering 180+ schools. The count of the meals prepared will keep increasing with time as and when students start coming to school regularly.



**Roti Making Machine**



**Rice Making Machine**



**Biogas Plant**

## NGO VISIT – AKSHAYA PATRA FOUNDATION (Cont.)



**Dal Making Process**



**Rice Making Process**



**Boiler**



**Utensils Washing Area**



**Food Delivery Vehicle**



**Utensils Sanitization**

# NGO IN FOCUS FOR MARCH'22 – LEND A HAND INDIA



Lend A Hand India is a non-profit organization, started in 2006, that prepares youth for employment and entrepreneurship opportunities by working at the intersection of education and livelihood. Their aim is to integrate vocational education with mainstream education at secondary and higher secondary education level (Grade 9-12 and student Age 14 to 18).

## Tech-Enabled Programs

- **Skills @ Home**

Skills@Home is an active **skills based remote learning program to expose young students to a variety of skills using the resources commonly available at home** and a customized tool kit. For example, the students learn basics of gardening by having a kitchen garden, repair tap water leakage by using basic plumbing tools etc. Such efforts are driven by existing technologies such as **WhatsApp chatbot, google forms, and curated YouTube videos**. About **500+ students** got impacted through the program **last year in Gujarat**.



**Innovative Gardening & Drip Irrigation Technique Implementation**

- **Lighthouse @ Project Catalyst**

Lend A Hand India takes an inside-out approach to **deepen partnerships with state governments** through Project Catalyst. They recently launched a **tech platform to collect data, view reports, and give visibility** to the state government of the operations on the field in one dashboard.

- **Pathways (Internship)**

Students of Grade **11th-12th** are introduced to the **“World of Work”** through internship opportunities with micro enterprises close to their schools or homes. To be able to map students with relevant employers, track the daily progress, learnings and outcomes of the students they are working on creating a mobile application.



**Students Interning in a Cafe**

## Other Innovative Initiatives to Impart Skill Education among Youth

- **Skills on Wheels**

It is a pioneering prototype which equips a school bus with necessary tools and equipment accompanied by trained vocational trainers. The Skills on Wheels is focused towards urban and rural schools where conventional skill development efforts are not able to reach due to lack of space and trainers. It imparts skill training in varied areas such as welding, plumbing, electrical wiring, food processing, basic healthcare, mobile repair etc. Apart from the required tools and equipment, it is a self-contained unit with requisite furniture, AV facility, computer with Wi-Fi connectivity, power generator and PA system for outreach and spread awareness about various career options available post Grade 10th and 12th.



**Skills on Wheels Project Demonstration**

- **Karigar**

“Karigar – School of Applied Learning” based in Pune incorporates the decade long experience of Lend A Hand India 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.



**Gardening Class**

SMFT has been a great support in the digital era of Lend A Hand India. As an organization, Lend A Hand India looks at technology as an enabler while keeping the human intervention active to get the maximum outcomes for the students. The initiatives supported by SMFT helped big time, especially during pandemic when schools were shut and students were at home.

# NGO IN FOCUS FOR MARCH'22 – LEND A HAND INDIA (Cont.)



Extension board making using empty card box



Students Internship



Jewelry Making Using Quilling Paper



Electrical Class Project Demonstration



Skills on Wheels



Skills on Wheels

## SUCCESS STORY – LEND A HAND INDIA



**Name:** Anjali Sharma

**Program:** Skills @ Home

10th Boards. There is no person on earth who wouldn't have planned 100 different things to do after finishing their first board exams. Same was the case with Anjali. But to her bad luck, lockdown was implemented soon after she finished her 10th board exams. With the whole world inside their rooms, unsure of their future, Anjali had an excessive amount of free time and nothing to do with it. It was then that Lend A Hand India reached out to schools and informed them about this initiative. After learning more about it, she realized, it would allow her to spend time doing something new and productive and hence, she joined the program.

The program was 6 months long and was divided into two parts. Students were taught the fundamentals of electrical, fabrication, carpentry, food processing, baking, pottery, and architecture in the first part. The second part was advanced level, which covered product design, costing, labeling, marketing, and documentation. The trainers encouraged students to learn by studying relevant industries in the markets and strategies adopted by them.

Anjali was extremely happy to learn how relevant everything she was taught was and how she was able to use her learnings in real life. From changing bulbs to making jams and chikkis, pots and earthenware key holders, she was able to make it all. There were numerous operational challenges, yet she was encouraged to think creatively and find solutions on her own. As she was doing all this, Anjali says, she found confidence in herself and a sense of achievement after completing every practical.

The most memorable for her in the entire program was when she prepared "Thank you" cards for frontline COVID-19 workers such as municipal workers, doctors, and police as she realized they deserved appreciation for their work during the lockdown. "When I handed them the cards, they were so happy. That was an unforgettable event." recalls Anjali.

When asked, her parents were so proudly talking about their daughter. They were glad that she was constantly learning new things and putting her time to good use. They mentioned how her siblings also would often join her in class and were excited about doing practical. She also inspired a number of kids in her neighborhood. They were impressed by her cakes and pots and wanted to learn how to make them. Anjali, continuing the entrepreneurial spirit, helped them in learning these skills. Because of this, she believes people in her neighborhood are now more aware of the importance of vocational education.

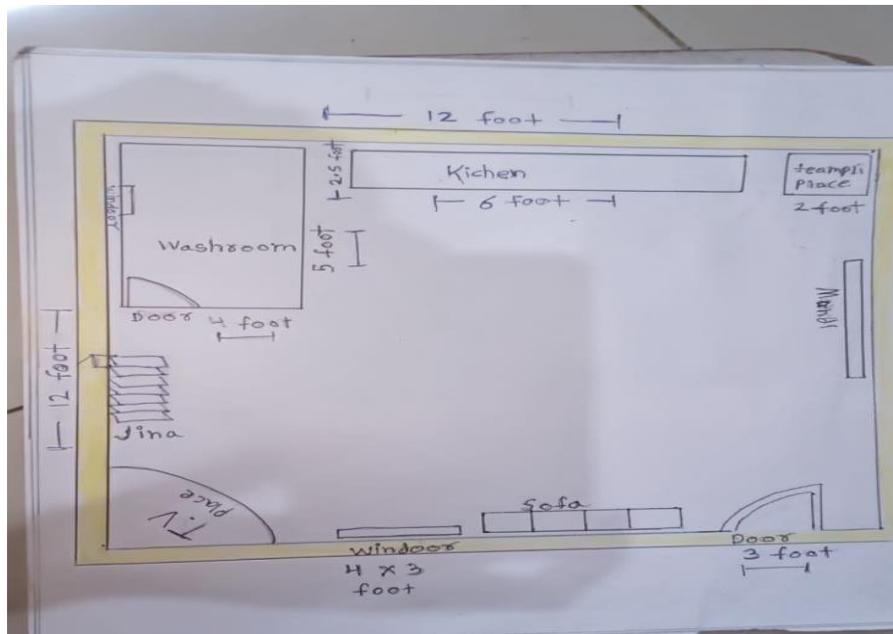
Her biggest takeaway from this program, according to her, is communication skills. She feels much more confident talking to people now. Her decision-making skills have also improved and she is confident that she

## SUCCESS STORY – LEND A HAND INDIA (Cont.)

can make a successful career for herself. She is now constantly eager to learn new things and approaches everything with an open mind. You never know how one experience can completely transform your life. Anjali believes that after participating in this 6-month program, she is a whole new person. A better version of herself and will always try to be the best version of herself.



Anjali teaching her Siblings to make Paper Bags



House Layout Prepared by Anjali

## SUCCESS STORY – SAHARA CARES

Shamim Fazal is a 70-year-old mother and grandmother spent most of her life struggling singlehandedly to raise her 4 children in Pakistan while her husband worked as a security guard in Los Angeles.

**Name:** Shamim Fazal

**Program:** Gender Based Violence

Being a migrant worker, struggling to survive in LA, Mr. Fazal would send money whenever he could to his wife and children. Ms. Fazal lived at the mercy of her in-laws. Sometimes she would receive money, and sometimes she wouldn't. Throughout her marriage Ms. Fazal endured great physical and mental abuse from both her husband, when he was with her, and her-laws as well.

When Mr. Fazal grew too old and ill to work, he filed for Ms. Fazal to join him in America. Although husband and wife were reunited after 25 years, Ms. Fazal became nothing more than Mr. Fazal's servant. The couple were both senior citizens with increasing health issues. Shamim, who had no understanding of life in America took care of her abuser who was now bed-ridden and required an IV and Oxygen, yet his physical and mental abuse toward her did not stop.

They lived in a cramped LA Studio apartment surviving on a mere \$250 each month. That was all that was left from their social security income after paying for rent. In the 15 years Shamim was living in America, she was never supported in taking care of her own medical needs. She never learned English, how to read or write, or take public transportation, effectively making her completely reliant on her abuser.

SAHARA came to know of Shamim's situation when her abusive husband was hospitalized during the height of the pandemic and eventually passed away. Although she was finally free from her abuser, Ms. Fazal was alone in a country she knew nothing about. SAHARA assisted with funeral expenses. With less government support, Ms. Fazal was unable to pay rent and faced eviction. SAHARA provided Shamim with emergency rental assistance as well as assistance negotiating a fair rent with her landlord. After years of not being able to address her own medical concerns, Ms. Fazal had a lifesaving heart procedure done, throughout which SAHARA staff accompanied and translated for her. She now regularly goes for her checkups and physical therapy. Through our support she now receives appropriate government assistance for food and shelter. A recent exciting development in Shamim's case is that after much trial and tribulation and hours upon hours of personal accompaniment and advocacy, Shamim Fazal became an American Citizen this summer.

The road ahead for her may not be easy, she understands that, but is a survivor! Our mental and emotional health support services have granted her the self-confidence to now start talking classes at the local adult learning school and visit her children whom she hasn't seen in years. Shamim Fazal is just one example of the many of elder community members SAHARA supports.

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