

Tender Heart Update

Jan- May:2019



Dear prayer partners and supporters, We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your prayers and support for our work among the broken people of India, I trust you will be encouraged, as you read through these touching stories and testimonies of people being reached with the good news of Jesus Christ and of transformed lives through learning new skills.

Over the months we have been greatly encouraged by the responses we have received from our staff and pastors whose lives have been touched through our various projects.

In December 2018 our FCRA (permission to receive donation from abroad) was renewed for 5 more years. We were concerned because over 11,000 NGOs licenses have been cancelled in India. Without any questions being asked by authorities our permission was renewed. Many of you prayed for this request and we want to thank you. God is a good God and he answered our prayers.

In spite of many challenges and uncertainties in 2018 we had great year. Every time we hear testimony of a child, women or young person whose lives have changed and making a living because our projects, we are encouraged knowing our hard work is not in vain.

We trust that as you read this update you will be blessed and encouraged knowing your support is changing and transforming lives.



Tailoring Centre: An Initiative to Change the Lifestyle of Women

At present we have 4 centres and over 80 girls are going through six months training. Since January we have had four graduations; over 75 girls have graduated. At the graduation students shared wonderful testimonies of how the tailoring training was a turning point in their life. On the 15th of April, we had a graduation ceremony for the 22 women from two centres who had completed their 6 months training in tailoring and embroidery. All the students testified how the six months course changed their lives. It was great to see family members accompanying them.

New Beginning & Hope



Radha was dedicated to be a Devidasi (temple prostitute) when she was just 10 years old, so when she turned 17 a few months ago, it was time for her to leave. She didn't want to go but she was being forced by her mother to carry on the family tradition and she did not want to be disobedient. Radha's mother suffers from HIV/AIDS and knows that it is because of what she did in the past. In spite of this, she was still forcing Radha to be a temple prostitute. This was also the only way for Radha to leave home as no man would marry her as she is the daughter of a Devidasi.

Thankfully, God had a different plan for her. At this time a local pastor came to know about Radha and visited her mother to tell her about our tailoring centre and benefit of the training.

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He explained that the six months training would help her to be independent and give her a better future. Radha's mother re-considered her decision and told her daughter to join tailoring.

Radha completed the six months training in tailoring and graduated. Now she is very happy. We asked her what her future goals are, and she told us that she wants to bring awareness to others about temple prostitution and help rescue innocent girls. Please pray for Radha that she will know God.

Since January we have had four graduations & over 75 girls have graduated

Sangitha who is 19 now lives in a village with her parents and relatives. The profession of entire family is to go out every day, to the railway station, bus stations and temples for begging. Begging for Sangitha was a lifestyle and she was begging from an early age.

Deep inside of her she does not want to beg, she wants to be like other girls; she wanted to go to school and get education, but her dream of going to school was far distant.

When she heard about the Tender Heart tailoring course, she wanted to join but she thought to herself that it is not for her. When she came to know that this tailoring centre takes everyone and doesn't charge any fee, she was happy and approached our teacher.

Now Sangitha has completed six months course and graduated. On the day of graduation, she was in tears and testified how the training has changed her life and gave her hope and joy.

Since joining tailoring, she left begging and started making clothes for others and earning money. From Tender Heart we were able to give her a free sewing machine so that she stand on her own feet and earn money.

From Street to Skill



Day Care Centre: Empowering the Dalit Children through Education

At Tender Heart foundation our dream is to give the opportunity to underprivileged children to fulfil their highest potential. This means education first. At present we have five day care centres, in total 340 children are getting free English education.



340 Children getting free education

Parents meeting: During the month of March we had parents meetings in all our day care centres where the children put on a programme for their parents. We displayed some of the children's work and after each introducing themselves in English the children sang the alphabet song, a poem, and various bible songs and shared what they have learnt. At the end of the programme the parents were overwhelmed to have seen their children sing and speak in English.

Just about year ago some of these parents were taking their children with them to collect old bottles, waste paper and whatever else they could find on the streets to recycle

Sports day and picnic: We were able to take the Day Care Centre children for a picnic. For some of the children it was the first time they had been on a picnic and when they saw the play area and the toys they were very happy. From morning until afternoon the children played and then had lunch together. We organised games and played with the children. Whoever won in the competition received awards and prizes on annual day.





Celebration of Annual Day: All five-day care centres celebrated Annual Day 1st week of April. It was great opportunity for the parents to see their children's performance. Almost for a month during free time, the children learnt songs, actions songs, dramas and dances.

Each day care centre had a theme for the Annual Day. All the songs, dances and dramas were performed according the theme. We focused on saving a girl child, saving nature and honouring parents.

The Annual Day was very colourful, all the students of the parents and siblings attended the program.

It was also time for us to say good bye to over 110 children who went to the mainstream school. We gave an opportunity for parents to come forward to share about their children studying with Tender Heart.

End of the program all the students who did well in exams, sports and took part in various completion received awards, prizes and certificates.

The Annual Day was very colorful, all the students of the parents and siblings attended the program.

Life changed stories ...

Dannama: “Three years ago, I was worried about my daughter and her education. I am not financially well off enough to send my daughter to school. I was thinking to take her with me every to work, because I have no one to look after my daughter. Thanks to Tender Heart who gave 3 years of free education to my daughter and looked after her while I was at work in the mornings. Now I am happy that she has got a good foundation and I am going to work hard and give best the education to my daughter”

Malamma: “I am very happy that my son studied 3 years with Tender Heart. In my village we don't have school so every day I had to walk three kilometres to come. Many times I thought of giving up bringing my son to school but at the same time I know how important education is for children. While my son was in school I was able to learn tailoring also at the same time. Thank you tender heart for transforming my son and my life with education and skills”



Computer Training: Equipping for a Better Future

At present we have 2 computer centres, 16 young people are on the 3 months training course. This course equips them with a basic knowledge of computers allowing them a better chance of gaining employment to help them to earn money for their families. Some of the young people on the course are still students but have had no experience of using a computer and never thought that they would have the opportunity to learn because of the backgrounds they are from.



"I always wanted to learn computer course, but it was not possible for parents to pay and send me to private class. I was discouraged and thought never in life would I learn computer. Thanks to Tender Heart who gave me free computer training for three months. This training has increased my knowledge and I am happy now." **Manjunla, age 16**

In the month of March, we had graduation for 8 students who completed three months basic course.



We are planning to open 3rd Computer training in Ghataparbha in the month of July

Loving you neighbors: Help during the monsoon



When the monsoon starts in Goa, it rains heavily. Life is hard and difficult for the people living in the slums. Every year we provide tarpaulins, blankets and mats. Before the monsoon starts we provided tarpaulins to over 50 families and we built over 20 temporary tents. For the next three to four months all these people have shelter to live in and can sleep warm during this monsoon season.

A big thank you

Thank you for your financial support. Every seed that you sow is used to help fulfill our vision of "Releasing children from poverty and transforming lives". Philippians 4:10-18: "How grateful I am and how I praise the Lord that you are helping me again. I know you have always been anxious to send what you could, but for a while you didn't have the chance. I am generously supplied with the gifts you sent me. They are a sweet-smelling sacrifice that pleases God well." (The Living Bible)

Thank you for all you do and don't hesitate to contact us if we can pray for you in any way.

Francis, Alison, Abigail and Joel



Thank you so much

To support Tender Heart Foundation financially

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