

FIRST QTR REPORT 2022

Some have inquired about the beginnings of **Mother Foundation-US**. That story goes all the way back to the day after Christmas, December 26, 2004. On that day, an earthquake in the Indian Ocean, magnitude 9.2, near the west coast of Sumatra, Indonesia caused the worst tsunami in history, with 230,210 casualties. The most affected country was Indonesia, followed by Sri Lanka. Coincidentally, a medical student family friend, was holidaying on the east coast of Sri Lanka. She reached out, and the seed for **Mother Foundation's** tree got planted, fatefully and unplanned. What was supposed to be temporary humanitarian work in Sri Lanka took firm root and evolved into what it is today. Since 2018, Mother Foundation's humanitarian outreach programs are focused only in INDIA. It continues to be a small grassroots NGO sending 100% of all donations to India projects. The heart of its work is its *Sponsor A Child* with 25 children being sponsored, and the *Porridge Project* which was launched on April 1st.

Sponsor A Child: Between January to March, this year, 12 children found sponsors. Thank You to all 12 sponsors!! If you would like more information about how to sponsor a child, go to www.motherfoundation-us.org and click on Sponsor A Child on the home page. There are 10 children waiting in line for You.



Grocery Kits: Grocery Kits staved off starvation for countless families during the two year pandemic shutdowns and loss of jobs. This emergency food-intervention will not be discontinued even though India is completely opened up now. Occasionally, there is death in the family of the main breadwinner, generally, the father, or loss of job. Five families in crisis, and seven pregnant mothers received Grocery Kits this quarter. Each Kit generally comprises a bag of 25 kg good quality rice; 3 kg dhal (lentils); Cooking Oil; 3 kg Atta flour for making chapattis (Indian flat bread); Curry masalas for making curries; Pickles. This bundle of food supplies can feed a family of 5 for a month. But this is a very basic food program that does not provide vegetables or even a change of menu. It costs \$22 a Kit. Donations are always welcome to assemble standby Grocery Kits.



Goats: A pair of goats was given to Bharat-amma and husband. He can no longer work due to a stroke he suffered which partially paralyzed his hand. Bharat-amma is a day-wage coolie who barely makes enough to support them both. Goats are easy to rear as they are not fussy foragers. They provide milk and cheeses, and there is demand for their droppings to use as manure. Goat droppings are naturally pelleted, odorless, and when they are well composted are great organic soil fertilizers, rich in nitrogen. And goats proliferate rather quickly, essentially, a gift that gives on giving. As goats purchased at the retail market are getting quite costly, **Mother**

Foundation will begin its own GOAT FARM very likely next month. We have given goats to elderly couples to rear so they don't feel like they are a burden to the families that have taken them in. Provided with a sense of purpose, and having the ability to "help-out" economically at home, gives them happiness, and keeps them as nimble as the goats who like being herded around in search of greens and grasses.



Kitchen Gardens: ... are valuable gifts you can give to a poor family. During the two pandemic years, many families lived off their kitchen garden. If you would like to help a family start one, each Kitchen Garden start-up cost is \$165. This amount will provide fencing (from goats), seeds, and saplings for radish, beans, brinjal (eggplant), bitter gourd, cabbage, and a variety of other greens. With readily available 6-8 hours of sunlight, fertile soil and recycled water from their own homes, this is an opportunity every family will jump on. These villagers toil as laborers in agricultural fields for rich landlords and cannot afford to even start a small veggie garden for themselves. Fotos of family and kitchen garden will be sent to you if you wish to sponsor one, or more. Village families average between \$100-\$150 income per month. Average size of family is 4 – 5 members.



Small Businesses: A family whose main income provider fell ill to kidney disease and can no longer work was assisted with establishing a Petty Shop (small grocery store), carrying enough stock to provide sufficient livelihood for this family of four. The mother is one of our Village Social Workers in TMG Kote village, who continues to stay active volunteering her services even though she must accompany her husband to dialysis treatments twice a week which involves a whole day as there are no hospitals in any of the villages, and everyone depends on public transportation. The funding for this project was an outright gift not a loan.

Mushroom Microloan: The family to whom a microloan was given to start a mushroom cottage industry last year has worked so hard at it that this year it was required to move the business from their house “verandah” to an actual shed. Land was leased, father and son built a shed with coconut leaves for roof (mushrooms need cool air circulating) and now this business has gone commercial. The donor for the microloan is kept in touch with this family’s business progress. You can also sponsor a microloan for a small business and stay in touch with the business you have started.



Extra teachers for Adakurukki village: We continue to pay for two extra teachers in this village. Interior remote village schools do not get nearly enough government funding. A class often averages 50 students. The primary/middle school teacher makes \$45/month, and the high school teacher makes \$70/month. If you would like to take over sponsoring one or both of these teachers, it will release these two monthly financial commitments into our general fund for other needed programs.

SHE (sexual health education) Workshop: was held on March 13, with 40 female teenagers attending. It was conducted by Dr. Gayathri who was such an enthralling instructor, she managed to keep the attendees’ attention for six hours! Many myths and taboos saw the light of day, and many questions got answered. This workshop was deemed necessary as a result of

two child marriages and two pregnancies which could have been avoided. This kind of education or conversation is mostly discouraged or forbidden at home. A similar workshop will be held for male teenagers, sometime in the 2nd quarter.



Bicycle Project. 5 bicycles were given to 5 High School girls who now no longer have to walk miles to school one way. Walking is often not safe. Besides which, all the time saved from walking gives the kids more time for homework and helping with home chores. From my own personal experience, owning a bicycle gave me tremendous confidence and a sense of independence. \$100 will purchase a good, strong bicycle complete with tire pump and a basket. It is also strong enough to carry a younger sibling on the back of the bicycle. Many children have been gifted bicycles but many more bicycles are needed. In 2019, I went with them to a bicycle shop in big town Hosur, to check out the bicycles myself, and to negotiate for better prices. It was lovely to share the children's excitement but what touched me most were the tears in their mother's eyes. The cost of one bicycle is what their husbands make in one month. A good quality bicycle is most likely the grandest thing a village family can own. Here is an opportunity for you to do something grand and lovely for one of our families in India.



General Health Camp: Mobile clinics have been established for all the 15 villages. However, once a year several doctors volunteer their services at a weekend Health Camp for all the villages. This year, a Pediatrician, Gynecologist, Ophthalmologist, Dermatologist and a GP from St. Peter's Medical College attended to the villagers, and some were found ill enough to require admission to hospital. Government hospitals are free, however, some medicines are not. Dr. Fernandes knows he can approach us if such financial assistance is needed.

Last but not least ... our latest ...

Porridge Project: The pilot project was launched in January with such good results that it was decided to extend it a full year with twice as many children. On April 1st, 100 of the most malnourished children began a new breakfast program – eating a bowl of nutritious porridge every morning before going to school, and on the weekends too. This porridge project includes and will continue to include pregnant women and lactating mothers. \$10 will feed an individual for a month (this amount covers distribution, transport and admin costs).

www.motherfoundation-us.org outlines the program in detail. All donations no matter how small is very much appreciated.



Conclusion: Our children, as all children in the world, have suffered a terrible loss of education from schools being closed near two years. Not only that. Attending school ensures at least one free meal which the government provides. NGO's scrambled around the clock to replace this meal and only by your generosity, no child starved to death. Dr. Fernandes and his team are still scrambling to provide make up tuitions. Many children have not returned to school. It is possible they were put to work to help with family income which became a very desperate situation. In June, the new academic year will begin. Dr. Fernandes will get a truer picture then. Rest assured, all our sponsored children have returned to school. Their end of year school report will be emailed to each sponsor in June.

Thank You for supporting **Mother Foundation-US**. When you do so, you become an integral part of the humanitarian work, and can participate on a personal level – decide how you would like to contribute, and observe your efforts manifest by way of reports and fotos directly from Dr. Fernandes, founder of MASARD, our partner in India. The children thank you, the parents thank you, and we thank You, so much. *Pranams* and blessings for a healthful life filled with peace and joy, and all the love that you give to us, so generously.

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