

HEART & SOUL

Summer 2020

Insider News On How You're Changing Our World



FEEDING MINDS AND FEEDING FAMILIES

MONDAY, MARCH 23RD BEGAN LIKE ANY OTHER DAY. 10-year-old Ashi and 8-year-old Karina headed to school by foot, meeting up with friends along the way. Teachers stood at each door warmly greeting children with a hearty “Namaste!” and genuine smiles. Excitement pinged through the air a little more than usual. The girls could sense it. The teachers were dreading it. This “virus” had everyone talking.

IT ENDED WITH THEIR LIVES BEING TURNED UPSIDE DOWN. The announcement came at 8pm. In just four hours all of India would go into lockdown. That’s 1.3 billion people who would not be allowed to go beyond a 3km radius from their homes. That means no construction, no teaching,

and no farming. Tea shops and tailors closed. Making bricks ceased. Sweat shops emptied.

To children, the announcement of no school always brings whoops and hollers. But to Ashi and Karina’s mom, it brought worry. She knew it meant her husband would be out of a job immediately. They had enough food for about a month. Then what?

Manoj, the girls’ dad, is a migrant, working about 144 miles from their village in northern India. With no way to pay rent on his small room, he needed to get home. When the government shut down transportation five days later, Manoj had no choice. He would walk. It would take an entire week, sleeping on farmland or under bridges. But

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on the other side of those 144 miles, through villages and across valleys, his family waited.

ONCE HE ARRIVED HOME, THE WEIGHT OF HIS FAMILY'S PREDICAMENT GREW. Of course, they were all glad to see him. Their reunions were always sweet and full of laughter. But they also knew that since he had no income, their food would run out quickly.

THANKFULLY, ASHI AND KARINA ATTEND ONE OF YOUR SCHOOLS. A teacher told them about the food distribution available on campus. They eagerly passed along the news to Dad and together they made the familiar trek to school. With proud smiles the girls introduced their dad who was warmly greeted and given a month's supply of rice, beans, wheat, oil and spices to feed his family of six.

Your schools give children the opportunity to learn every day. But they do so much more. Even without a classroom, DFN teachers are still reaching out to their students. Principals are



walking to homes, checking on families, bringing a face of comfort and care to children and their parents. They feed the hungry and heal the sick.

SCHOOLS BECOME COMMUNITY CENTERS THAT STAND WITH VULNERABLE PEOPLE GIVING THEM HOPE FOR A BETTER TOMORROW.

That's education at its finest. That's DFN. That's you. ■

DRIVING INNOVATION

A Letter from the Director

We've been living in an upside down world since March, haven't we? Working from home, Zoom meetings, and physical distancing have become routine. Well, almost.

I have been completely blown away by the creativity and resourcefulness of our India team. With no warning, limited resources, and under stringent lockdown measures, they figured out a way to meet the needs of students and families all through our network.

Our teachers are more than teachers. Our healthcare workers deliver more than patient care. Each one is

committed to compassion. To service. To holistic transformation. They seek out the most needy, the most vulnerable people in communities, and that's where they go. Instead of hunkering down, they are looking forward, asking the questions, "What's next? How can I do more? Who needs me today?"

Sometimes living in an upside down world drives innovation. It certainly has for our India team. I hope you are inspired by their stories. And I hope you will join me in cheering them on!

With Hope, Jacquelyn Cork ■



THE REASON I GIVE

This Spring, child sponsors sent countless notes of encouragement to frontline workers in India. You can send your own to info@dfnusa.org. Here's one of our favorites:

What you do during normal times is commendable. What you are doing during these trying times is beyond commendable, it is courageous and sacrificial and deserves more than just a simple thank you. May God bless you and keep you safe. Stay strong and know you are in our prayers.
Blessings, Paul & Kim ■



EDUCATION IN THE TIME OF COVID-19



When you sponsor a child's education, you give the entire family access to a team of people dedicated to holistic growth.

SINCE MARCH 24 WHEN SCHOOLS SHUT DOWN IN INDIA:

- 26,000+** children and their families have access to healthcare
- 1,000+** upper level students are continuing their education on-line through WhatsApp
- 507** DFN teachers stay in touch with families to ensure health and welfare
- 5** DFN schools were converted to mini-clinics and food centers

All over the world, students and teachers turned their classrooms around. Rather than in-person lectures, teachers took over virtual platforms for daily lessons. Your teachers in India are in the process of making that same pivot to online instruction. Summer classes are in full swing for students in 9th and 10th standard.

Using WhatApp, teachers schedule zoom meetings, communicate with parents, and send friendly reminders about missing homework. That's a long way from the personal chalkboards lower elementary students use. This new wave of innovation for the students you sponsor will make them tech-ready for their future! ■

Because of your generosity to COVID relief

**DFN WORKERS HAVE
FED 8,000 FAMILIES**
THAT'S 32,000 PEOPLE → 960,000 MEALS
**EQUIPPED 68 COMMUNITY
HEALTH WORKERS**
REACHING 70,000+ PEOPLE IN 1,150 VILLAGES
**TREATED 18,000+ PATIENTS
IN CLINICS**
AND 3,000 PATIENTS THROUGH VIRTUAL MEDICINE

Thank
you!

