

# HEART & SOUL

Spring 2022

Insider News On How You're Changing Our World



## 2021: THE YEAR YOU SHOWED UP

I only need three words to describe the work you've done these last two years through DFN: **You showed up!** These have been the most challenging years in our lifetime. We've endlessly fought physical, economic, emotional, and spiritual battles. And yet, you continued to compassionately and generously respond to the needs of children, women, and families in India.

**You showed up** faithfully even when schools shut down. Your gifts enabled teachers to be paid, remote learning to ramp up, and even provided food for hungry families.

**You showed up** with monumental COVID crisis donations that gave more than 2 million meals, established 50 new telehealth clinics (most in existing school buildings), provided thousands of PPE and home care kits, trained new community health workers, and even opened a mini-hospital for sick patients who were turned away from overflowing government hospitals.

**You showed up** in 2020 when you gave 652 girls at the highest risk for human trafficking scholarships to school, and you showed up again in 2021 by ensuring 1,203 children orphaned by COVID are safe and sound for the next year.

Indeed ...**you showed up.** Thank you!

I invite you to join us in 2022 to free more children, empower more women, and lift up more families. I am hopeful for a brighter year, yet I am aware that we still live in a state of flux. As the year unfolds, I hope you'll remember who DFN is and why we exist: to right injustice, to seek dignity and freedom for every person in every village. In short: **we show up.**

*I'm thankful for you, for your determination to freely share your resources, to generously share your compassion with those who need it most.*

Because every life is worth fighting for. ■

With Expectation, Matthew Cork | Interim President, DFN Canada



## 31 NEW CLINICS IN ONE YEAR!

Jamini, a mom of four, was giving up on life because of severe digestion problems. She had been losing weight for months and could barely get out of bed.

With one visit to a new e-clinic, doctors confirmed she had abdominal TB. Untreated, a disease like TB would eventually take Jamini's life. But because of you, there was a clinic in her village. Today, this mom is thriving! And so are her kids!

*YOUR STAFF IN INDIA ESTABLISHED 31 NEW E-CLINICS THIS YEAR. THE LARGEST GROWTH HAS BEEN IN THE POOREST AND MOST REMOTE VILLAGES WITH VIRTUAL CLINICS TO SERVE PEOPLE LIKE JAMINI. ■*

## YOU RESCUED 1,203 ORPHANS IN THE LAST TEN WEEKS OF 2021!

That's 481 children a month  
**WHO HAVE WARM BEDS AND PLENTY OF FOOD.**

121 children a week  
**WHO YOU TOOK OFF THE STREETS AND PLACED IN LOVING HOMES AND SHELTERS.**

17 children a day  
**WHO ARE NO LONGER IN DANGER OF FALLING PREY TO TRAFFICKERS.**



Shreeja's parents died from COVID last summer. Neighbors tried to take care of her, but any hope for her future was quickly fading. Even at just nine years old, she knew the horrors that awaited children without parents.

But you rescued her! You rescued her from the pit of despair, changing her life forever! Shreeja now lives in a shelter, safe and sound from the horrors of growing up on the streets. She attends school. She has sisters. And most of all, she has hope. 1,203 children, safe and sound because of you. Thank you! You really do believe that every life is worth fighting for. ■

# THE GREAT KID COMEBACK: THESE STUDENTS ARE DELIGHTED TO BE BACK IN SCHOOL!

When I returned to school after the lockdown, I was overjoyed. It was a thrilling and joyous occasion. - **RENU, AGE 14, KALKA**

*The most significant place in everyone's life is school.* It is a place where a learner can develop his or her own viewpoint. A place where we can develop our intelligence. The time spent in lockdown helped us appreciate the value of schools. The news of the schools' reopening had to bring a smile to our faces. We began calling each other to confirm our attendance at the school so that we could all meet on the first day of school. On the first day of school, there was a mixture of anxiety, enthusiasm, and nervousness. We all obeyed the rules, such as wearing masks, carrying hand sanitizers, and maintaining social distance, yet the experience of going, socializing with our peers, and taking lessons was unquestionably superior to taking classes online. - **PRIYA, AGE 15, KALKA**

I was very bored at home during lockdown. My parents forbid me from using a phone. My brother and I were both bored out of our minds. I was overjoyed when I learned that the schools would be reopened. After a long period, I reconnected with my friends and teachers. I was overjoyed!

- **GRACIE, AGE 13, JEEDIMETLA**

When I went to school, it seemed like I was returning to my true home.

- **CHRYSTEENA, AGE 13, JEEDIMETLA**

After months of remote learning, your students were thrilled to return to school this Fall. Thank you for continuing to support them throughout the lockdown. But don't just take my word for it. Here are some of the brightest high schoolers, in their own words:





DIGNITY FREEDOM NETWORK

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# IMPACT AT-A-GLANCE



Meals Provided  
**2.5 MILLION**



Children Back to  
In-Person Learning  
**26,000**



Number of 2021  
High School Graduates  
**541**



Girls Rescued  
**2,636**



Personal  
Healthcare Impact  
**630,090**



New Virtual Clinics  
**31**



Girls in Shelters  
**117**



Villages Impacted  
Through Healthcare  
**6,853**

