

HEART & SOUL

Spring 2023

Insider News On How You're Changing Our World

THIS IS YOUR 2022 COMPASSION IN ACTION



Two, most of our students come from unimaginably difficult family circumstances. As I sit in my comfortable office, I am struck by the contrast of my life with theirs. I heard stories that would break your heart: abandoned girls, boys witnessing crime in their own home, loss of parents to illness or suicide, poverty so extreme that family members must beg for a few rupees to feed their families. Or worse, resort to selling their bodies.

But you, by putting your passion into tangible action, are changing these tragic pasts into bright futures. One of the most inspiring moments during that call was to see one particular principal in her humble office, fans blowing, the laughs of children in the background.

She said this about her students: "Difficult paths often lead to beautiful destinations." What an attitude. What a perspective! Instead of being paralyzed by her students' difficulties, she was motivated, actively engaged in making a difference.

You do the same thing every time you give to Dignity Freedom Network. You make beautiful destinations out of difficult paths for children, for women, for entire families.

Thank you for putting your compassion into action. You are the best part of DFN, and I am grateful.

Matthew Cork | Interim Executive Director, DFN Canada


A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO

I had the joy of participating in a Zoom call with seven of our principals from all over India. The highlight was hearing the stories of our students. Each time I have the privilege of interacting with our principals, teachers, and students I am struck by two things.

One, we have top-notch teachers and administrators guiding our students and leading our schools. Many of our staff have multiple advanced degrees, and even in humble surroundings like a rural village, they show up each and every day. They, as much as anyone, embody compassion in action combined with determination, dedication, and professionalism.

YOUR COMPASSION FOR VULNERABLE GIRLS

THE GIRLS MOVED IN!



Look! We have our own closets!

Saritha, age 12

In October, 50 girls moved into the new shelter. This was a monumental feat by you! You've been building this 100-bed shelter for the past several years. This year, you gave even more.

Two generous gifts in December totaling \$132,400 ensured the shelter has everything the girls need, from food, beds and caring staff, to clothing, healthcare, mental health counselling, and, of course, education. Well done! ■



This feels like a palace.

Bindi, age 7



I was amazed with the beautiful beds. I had never slept in a bed before.

Vaggula, age 11



I am home.

Kumari, age 10

YOUR COMPASSION FOR HEALTH

Your compassion for the health of women and children impacted 1,433,135 people in 2022 - amazing!

You opened 11 new clinics for a total of 65 clinics all over India.

Shanti, a mom of 3, developed an itchy and painful rash that spread to her chest, back, and even her face. Desperate, she turned to the local witch doctor who told her she was cursed. She would need to "satisfy the spirits" if she wanted to get better.

Thankfully, the local health worker heard about Shanti's suffering and visited her in her home. Shanti was moved that the health worker wasn't afraid to touch her. She felt genuine compassion and care.

Through one of the new telehealth clinics you built, Shanti was prescribed a cream and is now rash-free! No more itching. No more shame! All because of your generosity! ■

Prayer matters

Did you know you can be part of DFN's prayer team? Prayer partners receive about one email a month. To join, please email contact@dfncanada.info.

PROMISE PARTNERS

One of the easiest ways to extend your compassion year-round is by giving monthly. If you are not already a monthly sponsor, please consider becoming a Promise Partner.

Promise Partners give monthly to expand their compassion work all year long. You'll provide education, healthcare, skills training, and safe shelter for girls when needed.

It's the best way to make the most immediate and eternal impact. You can join for as little as \$45/mo.

TO LEARN MORE, PLEASE VISIT [DFNCANADA.INFO/JOINPROMISE](https://dfncanada.info/joinpromise). ■

YOUR COMPASSION FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

You provided monthly food kits to 87,945 families.

That's 2,638,350 meals in 2022!

Noori was almost done with her last year of high school. She would be the first in her family to go beyond 8th grade, and she was already accepted to attend university in the Fall.

Unfortunately, her family's income dwindled to almost nothing.

Malnutrition and hunger threatened to shatter her dreams of a better life.

That's when the local community health worker heard about the struggles of Noori's family. Because of you, they received monthly food kits until they could stabilize their income. Now, Noori is about to finish her first year of college. This girl is going places, all because of you!

Samaya is growing up in an orphanage near Bangalore. Her story is hard to read. As a young child, her father murdered her little sister because he wanted a son. Samaya's mother ran away, afraid for her life. Samaya suffered trauma too early, too young.

Thankfully, her house parents enrolled Samaya in our DFN school, where she is thriving! Teachers describe her as spunky and bright, with a little bit of a rebellious streak. As the top student in her class, Samaya pours all that energy into her studies and every after-school activity available.

You keep children like Samaya safe. You help them reimagine a bright future beyond poverty and abuse.

Well done! You're giving life to Samaya and more than 23,000 other children like her. ■



YOUR COMPASSION FOR EDUCATION

FULLY FUNDED

New Computers for School Staff

Because of you, and a very generous gift from one of our supporting churches, all of our school administrators have brand new laptops. This is a game-changer for our schools. Let's hear a big, giant THANK YOU for all of them!

FULLY FUNDED

24 Sanitary Napkin Dispensers for Our Schools

The lack of personal hygiene products forces girls to hide at home, causing them to miss almost three months of school a year. Thank you for giving bright girls, like Samaya, their dignity.

FULLY GRADUATED

740 High School Graduates in 2022

That's the largest class ever!





DIGNITY FREEDOM NETWORK

GCF

PO Box 14006

Abbotsford BC V2T 0B4

DIFFICULT
PATHS LEAD
TO BEAUTIFUL
DESTINATIONS.
CHITTOR

OUR NEW
SHELTER FOR
VULNERABLE
WOMEN AND
GIRLS IS OPEN!