

ISSUE ONE 2024

RESPONSE



Connecting Communities

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GIVEHOPE TODAY
AsianAID

FROM THE CEO



DEAR SUPPORTERS

One of the things our team at Asian Aid appreciates is when our donors contact us to share their feedback and experience.

We absolutely love sharing with each other the inspiring stories we get to hear from our supporters – we have some truly amazing people in our Asian Aid community.

I am delighted to share one such story with you about our long-term supporters – Brett and Leanne. Their whole family has been involved with Asian Aid for many years and you can read about them in this newsletter.

Every effort and donation, regardless of size, is very meaningful for us, and form the backbone of the work we do. At the same time, the generosity and kindness

you show has a ripple effect, reaching even the small villages where our programs are run. This in turn inspires young children and teenagers to also give back to their community.

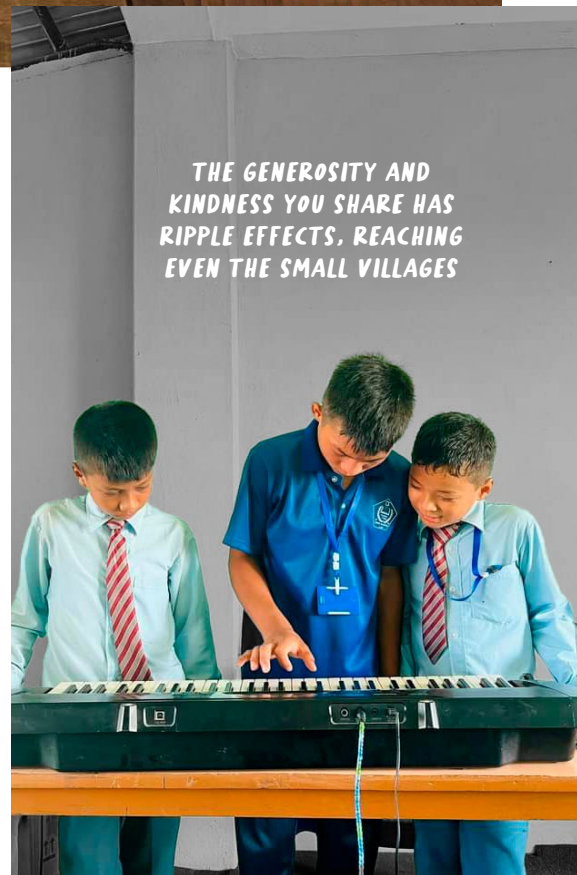
We hope you enjoy reading about these experiences, and see the deep-rooted changes you have made possible with your support.

Blessings

Paul

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul".

THE GENEROSITY AND KINDNESS YOU SHARE HAS RIPPLE EFFECTS, REACHING EVEN THE SMALL VILLAGES





Leanne and **BRETT**

ASIAN AID SUPPORTERS

Brett and Leanne, along with their family, have been long-term supporters of Asian Aid.

Leanne shares her thoughts on their journey and their little acts of generosity.

“We have been sponsoring children for more years than I can remember now, and began after the death of our first child. We started out sponsoring a child that had the same birth date as our son had. Over the years we increased from one to two children. We now also collect cans and we donate this money to help with uterine prolapse surgery for women in Nepal, after hearing a presentation by an Asian Aid representative at our church. It seemed such an incredibly worthy cause. Our family unit is our two sons and our daughter-in-law, together with my Mum and Dad, and we are all involved with collecting any bottle or can that returns 10

cents. I will pick up cans and bottles when I go walking. I have picked up bottles from the bottom of the Tweed River mouth when we have been snorkelling and carried them all the way back to the car! We will pick cans up wherever we see them and I am not too proud to grab them out of the bin if they are on top - much to the disgust of the rest of the family (except Mum, she does that too!). My Mum and Dad live along a quiet village road and have told most of the neighbours what we do

with the money. Some of them now leave their bottles out so Dad can pick them up. Mum and Dad are the main champions as they take them to the redemption centre and redeem the money from Coles and put it in a jar until we get enough to make it a worthwhile donation.

“We hope that our small contribution helps to make a big difference in the life of a woman who is suffering from this medical condition that is so easily repaired here in Australia.”

We then count it up and I get to make an exciting phone call to the office to donate the proceeds. We hope that our small contribution helps to make a big difference in the life of a woman who is suffering from this medical condition that is so easily repaired here in Australia.”



You can also Return and Earn for Asian Aid

If you are in NSW, you can collect your cans and deposit them to a depot, where you have the option to donate the money back to Asian Aid there at the machine. Asian Aid is already registered in all the machines as a charity partner. returnandearn.org.au/donate

What Children Do WHEN THEY ARE **EMPOWERED**



16 children in one of our project child clubs in Bangladesh have been extremely **proactive and self-motivated to make a difference in their community. They have a strong affinity towards social work**, and a lot of their discussions revolve around the practical steps they can take to help others.

THEY HAVE MADE A DECISION TO

- 1 Find needy students who have no educational resources such as notebooks, pens etc. and aim to support them.
- 2 Save their food money and support a small part of the fees of talented children whose poor financial situations are hindering their education.
- 3 Encourage those who are irregular to school, and reward those who come to school regularly.
- 4 Provide basic grocery essentials to those in urgent need.

Secretary of the Club, Xavier, thanked his fellow classmates saying, "This is an auspicious moment for us all that what money we have saved from our pocket money, we have submitted it to the club fund. We hope to continue this."



OUR CHILD CLUBS HELP US

- To create and ensure a child friendly environment where children can raise their voice freely.
- Build child leadership skills.
- Strengthen sharing practices.

From the very beginning of the project our partner team have worked hard to reach these goals and bring a positive change among the young children through child awareness and leadership training. We believe that young children are more impactful when they are given important roles.



SO FAR, IN THIS COMMUNITY IN BANGLADESH

- 140 child representatives receive monthly tuition fees so they can continue their education.
- 5 child clubs are functional, where children gain development, and leadership training. Besides that, they are being directly involved in raising awareness on social issues.
- 5 deserving students have received emergency educational support.
- Children know their rights.
- Children are becoming skilled in decision making, planning and solving problems, and are able to bring positive change in their lives.

STAFF
PROFILE



MEET JAMES

Meet James Stevenson, Asian Aid's IT guru and go-to person for all things tech.

How long have you been with Asian Aid? 15 years.

Tell us about your family. I have an older sister. Her and her partner have two children. They and my parents live locally, and we have lunch together most Sundays.

What motivates you? Solving problems.

What do you like to do in your free time? Running, walking, orienteering, geocaching!

What do you enjoy most about working at Asian Aid? My favourite part of working at Asian Aid is the variety of problems I get to solve and knowing that each and every one I solve helps make it easier to support children and their communities. Best experience so far would be bringing the annual general meeting (AGM) to everyone via the live stream.

Our **OP SHOP**
is open!

We are delighted to announce that our Give Hope Today op shop is now open and running. If you are in the area, do drop in. Our lovely staff and volunteers will be happy to welcome you. You can find the Give Hope Today op shop at

📍 48 Cameron Street,
Wauchope, NSW.



growing UP AND GIVING Back

The change agents in our urban project in Chennai, India continue to impact their community in different ways. Some of them are now sharing their time helping at the after-school program, monitoring, mentoring, and helping slow learners with mathematical concepts.



Prathiksha, one of our change agents spoke to the officials in her college and helped admit five less advantaged students into classes.

Older children within the after-school program have been involved in program planning, mobilizing, and supporting tutors regularly. 57 children were also involved in various awareness programs with regards to safety, drug abuse, and protection of women and children.

Karthik, 16, from Bengaluru, has also been an active volunteer in his community, doing his best to influence the young people around him in the right way. He has been learning to be a mobile phone technician, and takes sessions for students in our programs on diagnosing a faulty mobile phone. He even dismantled a mobile phone to show them the various parts and advised them on how to take care of these gadgets.

But Karthik has not always been this positive and enthusiastic. When he was six his father passed away due to health issues, and his mother worked in an incense factory to make ends meet.

His mother was very upset because of his behaviour (low school attendance), being out with friends all the time and coming home late at night. Eventually, his school cancelled his enrolment and barred him from the exams as he was not regular to school and did not complete any of his assignments or project work.

This is when partner staff intervened, counselled Karthik on the importance of education, addressed his teenage

“When he was six his father passed away due to health issues, and his mother worked in an incense factory to make ends meet.”

issues, and explained the importance of completing his education and the future of his family. He was later referred to a mobile technician training at a skill training institute nearby, where he has performed

extremely well. Partner staff continue to follow up on his well-being and track his performance.

Through our connection with a local school, Karthik has also been granted permission to face the school-leaving exams next year. He is regular at school and is prompt in submitting his assignments and homework.

“I wasn’t interested in school earlier - I was very happy to roam with friends, but now I realise the problems I will face if don’t have an education,” says Karthik. “I also have a new skill as a mobile technician and now I am very happy going to school regularly. Thank you for your support.”

SPONSOR A CHILD

A couple of our new child-focused programs are up and running in North India. These projects provide a holistic approach to improving children's lives in our Seventh-day Adventist schools. By sponsoring these children, you will help the communities where the child attends school as well as provide training and economic opportunities for parents to gain a meaningful income, improving not just the quality of the child's life but the prosperity of the community as a whole.



ROSHNI
H102866 - \$55

Four-year-old Roshni is the youngest daughter in the family. Her family is struggling financially as her parents often have to hunt for jobs, and don't find adequate employment during the year. She loves her parents and at times when all of them go for work, she feels lonely. But she loves coming to school and is very happy at school. A steady sponsorship will help her family break this cycle of poverty.



ASMITA
H102859 - \$55

Asmita is the only child at home and, although only four, her daily routine is very hectic. She wakes up by 4:30 AM to do some housework and help her mother in cooking. She then gets ready to go to school. Once she returns home, she works in the farm to help her father. Your sponsorship will not only help Asmita with her education, but will help other children like her access a better future.



SAHIL
H102956 - \$55

Sahil's family is under financial strain due to his father's low farming income. The occasional illness of his mother adds more challenges to the family, but despite these difficulties their unity and determination to invest in their children's education is inspiring. Your sponsorship will help Sahil fulfil his dream of becoming a doctor.

I WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR (child's name) _____

Sponsorship at \$49 a month Sponsorship Plus* at \$55 a month

*Plus helps us run additional child-focused activities in vulnerable communities

I WILL GIVE MY DONATION BY

- CHEQUE (Make payable to Asian Aid Organisation and post with this form)
- FUNDS TRANSFER call us on (+61) 02 6586 4250 for banking details
- CREDIT CARD

Name on Card _____

□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
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Expiry _____ / _____ / CSV _____ Amount \$ _____

Signature _____ Date _____ / _____ / _____

YOUR DETAILS

Name _____

DOB ____ / ____ / ____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

ID _____



You can also take a photo of your filled-in form above and send the image to us by scanning the QR code.

All donations above \$2 are tax-deductible

If you do not wish to receive updates or promotional materials from Asian Aid please tick this box. This excludes our quarterly newsletters. Promotional materials will be sent by email unless otherwise requested.