

India Child Sponsorship & Community Empowerment

To bring about a positive change in the quality of the children's lives as well as that of their families and communities

Family Service Center (FSC) in India, manages Wide Horizons For Children's *India Child Sponsorship Program*, as well as *Community Empowerment Projects* in Mumbai.

SPONSORED CHILDREN

- ▶ 163 children from slum communities currently enrolled in the India Sponsorship Program are able to attend school. Funds from sponsorship are used to purchase school supplies, uniforms, and pay tuition. Many children have already "graduated" from the sponsorship program, and have gone on to find well-paying jobs. \$150 per year gives these children a real chance to change the direction of their lives: <http://www.whfc.org/WHFFC/sponsorship/india.htm>
- ▶ Social workers provide an array of services including nutrition programs, counseling, training, parenting, education, medical assessments and assistance, and stress management where their cultural awareness and best practices are utilized in effective therapy.
- ▶ FSC's Social workers assist the family members in identifying their strengths and weaknesses and problem solving family issues, and advise them on community resources and services available to them. The goal is to provide intensive, comprehensive and flexible services that will meet the families' needs.

EMPOWERMENT

- ▶ One of FSC successful projects funded through WHFC has been the creation of women's groups called Mahila Mandals based in the slums. Social workers from FSC work closely with these groups from the community who initiated the process of economic empowerment through Self Help Groups (SHG). They discuss topics like healthcare, contraception, nutrition, personal hygiene, education for children and identify training opportunities that promote self sufficiency.
- ▶ The Mahila Mandals are formed in strategic locations of the slums so they can optimize community dialogue and encourage participation in many community development and empowerment projects including: tuberculosis clinics, garbage removal and community clean-up, vocational training courses (like sewing, tailoring, beautician course and basic computer training), and early childhood education programs. The Mahila Mandal women become the healthcare and pre-school educators among other staff that carry out the projects.



Shannon Joseph is the youngest of five siblings and stays with her mother in the Ganesh Murthi slum. Her mother like many other women struggled to earn a reliable income to provide sufficient food, clothing, and school supplies for her children. With WHFC's sponsorship support Shannon enrolled back in school, her mother went through various counselling sessions which have helped her save money in an account against which she can obtain a loan for Shannon's college education. Shannon raves about the impact WHFC's sponsorship program has had not just on her, but her family, her school, and many other children just like her from the community. She gives back to the community by tutoring younger children. Shannon has won many medals and certificates for her talents such as Athletics and singing. She wants to become a computer programmer and is very grateful to her sponsor who is supporting her.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT:

Generous support from our donors has made the Child Sponsorship & Community Empowerment Program a success. Together we can continue to change lives and transform communities.

To sponsor a child or make a contribution, please visit: <http://www.whfc.org/WHFFC/SponsorshipSignup.htm>

For further information about our program contact:

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