

Update

April 2020 to March 2021

tenderheart
small things done in great love!



WORD OF THANK YOU

Dear friends,

Greetings from India!

Thank you for your financial and prayer support during this lockdown. Your financial helped enabled us to reach out to struggling families, widows and children.

The COVID-19 pandemic has thrown life as we know it off balance. In India the long lockdown and new restrictions will continue to be very challenging, socially and economically. It is especially difficult and most severe for the poor, the homeless, the migrants and the Dalits for whom life, even in normal times, was very difficult.

Many migrant labourers have been left with no job, no money, no wages to buy food, and no shelter. Even though the situation in India seems to be returning to normal the underprivileged people are continually struggling to find their feet.



Groceries Distribution during COVID-19

With the donation we received from friends we were able to **distribute groceries kits to over 6000 families** in the slums in Goa and in the villages of North Karnataka.

The people who received groceries are very poor, they work for daily wagers. While distributing groceries, we met people who had been sent out of their house because they could not pay the rent. People lost jobs and life was hard.

Testimonies of the people:

Manjula, age 34 said.

“ I am a widow with two young children, I lost my job and was worried, how I was going to survive. I was helpless and I thought my children and I were going starve to death. I am thankful to Tender Heart that seven times I received groceries during lockdown. My children and I are alive because of the help I received”



Shekar, age 40. I am a father of two children and I work as a daily wager in construction. As a family we live at the construction site along with other families from North India. When the lockdown was announced, our boss came and told us that he no longer had a job for us and no money to pay us. He told us to leave Goa and go to our home town.

We were around 20 families along with small children, We were totally heart broken and in tears when we heard the news. We did not know what to do or where to go. We wanted to go to our home town but there were no trains or any kind of transport to get us there. During this worrying time Tender Heart reached out to us with groceries. Four times we received groceries and we also received money to go our home town once transport was available.



Groceries distribution to village Pastors:

During this lockdown another group of people who were badly affected were the village Pastors. Tender Heart helped over 250 Pastors in North Karnataka from April to December.

The Pastors from the villages have very small churches of 20 to 40 people. Most of these Pastors are not part of any organization and work independently.

During lockdown it was very hard for them, they did not know when churches would reopen. The Pastors earn their living by the financial giving of the church members through their offering.

Tender Heart thought, when we started distribution, that we would be able to give groceries to these Pastors just once or twice but due to your giving we were able to give groceries to over 250 pastors for nine months.



Groceries set contains 5kg Rice, 2kg Dal (lentils) 5kg Roti Powder, 1liter oil, sugar, tea powder and other essentials. With one grocery set a family of 4 can eat for 20 to 25 days.



Pastor Jagadish

Pastor Jagadish said: When the lockdown was announced I thought it was just for two or three weeks. But when it continued longer than anyone expected I started panicking. All our savings were over and we had nothing left to eat. I asked my children to bring all their coins (money) they had so that I could go and buy groceries. But with all their coins I could not buy for even half a kg of rice.

I went to my room and I started to pray and asked God to provide for my family. My prayer was “Lord I preached many times about your faithfulness, I will not leave this room till you answer my prayer and show your faithfulness to me”.

After two hours of spending time in prayer and crying out to God I got a call from a Tender Heart representative. He asked me to come and collect groceries. Through this time I have learned that God is faithful, no matter the situation God will take care and provide for us.

Testimony from Pastor Ruben,

We had enough food left to cook one last meal. Once we cooked and had that last meal I was worried how as a family we were going to survive till the church reopened. I started to pray and ask God to provide for the family. God is faithful! He heard my cry. I got a call from a Tender Heart representative asking me to come and collect a set of groceries. I thought it was just a one off gift and still I worried about what to do when it got over. But God is faithful and during this lockdown we received groceries till my church reopened.



Computer Training Center:

At present we have 2 computer centres where 14 young people are completing a 3 months training course.

This course equips them with a basic knowledge of computers. Allowing them a better chance of gaining employment, helping them to earn money for their families. Some of the young people on the course are still students but have had no experience of using a computer and never thought that they would have the opportunity to learn because of the backgrounds they are from.

After lockdown restrictions lifted, we had two graduations and over 18 young people graduated.



Update from Tailoring training Centers

During the lockdown our tailoring centres were closed for 2 months. When the lockdown rules relaxed, we reopened our centres using all the safety precautions necessary. At present we have 4 tailoring centres and over 70 girls are going through the six months training.

Since we reopened we have had six graduations and over 110 girls have received certificates. Graduation students shared wonderful testimonies of how the tailoring training was a turning point in their life. It was great to see family members accompanying them for their graduation.



Radha, age 32 said “Since I don’t have any basic education I always had a dream to learn a skill so that I can stand on my own feet. I always wanted to learn tailoring so that I can earn some money. Tender Heart fulfilled my dream by giving me this opportunity”.

“Tailoring training planted hope and gave me confidence to build my life” said **Sangitha, age 22**. Sangitha said to us that before joining the tailoring course, family and friends were mocking her and putting her down. They told her, you don’t have any education or skills, how you are going to make it in life. Now with her new skills Sangitha has an answer for her family and friends

Update from Day Care Centers

We were into the last few weeks of the school year when lockdown hit. Our staff had planned a graduation, sports day and annual day for the children who were leaving us to join main stream schools. But everything had to be cancelled due to the lockdown.

Like everyone else we thought that this situation would only last for a month or two but even though shops and businesses' reopen we are now coming to the end of one full year of school closure due to covid 19 and we still do not know when the day care centres are going to reopen physically.

Online class for the first time:

From the month of June 2020 we started a new academic year online. We had many concerns about how online class were going to work because we had never done it this way before and our teachers had never taught in front of a camera before. We were also concerned because most of the children are underprivileged and the parents would not have mobiles or internet.

But we decided to started online class and we got a good response from the parents. Parents worked extra hours and took on extra jobs so that they could earn money to buy a smart phone for the children to use. Now 99% of the parents have a smart phone and children are doing online class.

One parent said "I was not interested in online class's because I have never used a mobile before and was afraid of how it is going to work but when we saw your online class teaching from neighbouring students I realised that my son was missing out so I was determined to help him learn, today I am happy that my son is enjoying online class's"

The Teachers also rose to the task and have produced some fantastic videos for the children to learn from. We are blessed to have a great team of teachers.



Thank you so much for your financial gifts. It is having an immediate and purposeful impact in providing quality education to children and adults who live in the slums or communities with limited educational opportunities.

During this lockdown we are thankful that because of your faithful giving we did not need to cut anyone of our staff's salary. We also did not close any of our projects due to lack of funds. In fact, we did more in the lockdown than we were doing before. It is only possible because of friends like yourself.

Thank you again

Francis and Alison Pidugu
On behalf Tender Heart

To support Tender Heart Foundation financially

Please mention that donation designated to Tender Heart
For information and for gift aid form you can sent email to

Janet janet@amentrust.co.uk OR Robert Perry rperry4851@aol.com

Account Name: AMEN
National Westminster Bank
Sort Code 60-06-33
A/C No. 71161465

Account Name: Love India
HSBC Bank
Prenton Branch
SORT Code 40-10-26
A/c No: 41533746