

January 2018

Dear Shared Blessings Supporter of Odisha Program:

On behalf of all of us at Shared Blessings, children and staff members at Adarsh Girijan Pragati Vidyalaya in Dasmantpur, India, I want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your support. Your contribution - whether monetary, goods or volunteer time - has been invaluable in providing the much needed resources to the school. Every penny we have raised has gone to the specific program it was designated for. As you know, Shared Blessings does not deduct any funds for administrative expenses; that means 100% of your donation will go to India.



Visiting the children in December 2017

In 2017, we received \$29,870; \$25,380 was sent to Odisha. Most of this was for sponsoring the forty-five children, meeting their needs for food, clothing, medical care and education. Thirty-seven children are in Dasmantpur attending primary, middle and high schools. Seven children are in higher education – including our first ever undergraduate student attending college in Bhubaneshwar. One child completed his trade school, and has just started his apprenticeship. There are three students who dropped out of the program; but we are still assisting these children – looking at various opportunities to enroll them in training programs so they can become independent, contributing adults.



Children who are attending college in Bhubaneshwar: Amanath, Mamata, Sara and Uja

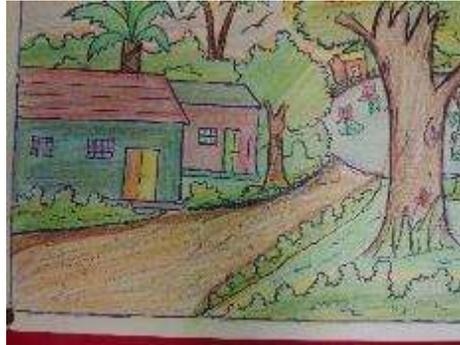
We were able to send money to finish the kitchen building and additional toilet facilities for growing children. A fundraiser held in November raised this money; remaining funds will be utilized for solar panels and building security wall around the perimeters of the school land – as safety of our children is critical. We are seeking funds to add to the second floor to the building so it can house more students. Every time I go to Odisha, we are

met by so many destitute families who have children that need our support. Hope to have some positive news about the feasibility of this by spring of 2018.



Completed Kitchen and Dining Hall

Someone once told me that the best part of this work was seeing children being children... doing things that should be normal! Our children are not only going to school to be educated, they are involved in sports, arts and crafts, cultural programs, volunteering and gardening. It is heartwarming to see each one of them happy, self-assured and cooperative and kind towards one another. They have a student led governing body at the school with various children taking on leadership roles – such as education minister, sanitation minister, cultural minister, etc. They usually hold a cultural program for visitors that the children themselves produce and oversee.



Some of the artwork by children



Sunita and Napi's families received goats – gift from the Kobasics family



Urkudi with his science project



Cultural Program





Every child receives gifts at Christmas – backpack filled with new clothes, school supplies and two personal items



It is a privilege to be a part of these children's lives. With God's Grace and your continued sharing of blessings, hope to see them grow up and become contributing members of their community. Happy New Year to each one of you.

- Shaila Rao, Odisha Program Manager