

**Annual  
Overview  
2022-2023**



# Thank You

The Hope Foundation is extremely grateful to all our wonderful supporters – both individual & corporate, private & public and to our phenomenal volunteers who have assisted HOPE by volunteering on our projects in India, and also by volunteering on fundraising events in their own countries over the years.

To all the students who have fundraised within their communities, and to those who have organised and attended HOPE events – we cannot thank you enough. We acknowledge those who have provided HOPE with donations in kind, and have provided us with pro bono support.

We are extremely grateful to all our Patrons and Ambassadors, for promoting the work of HOPE and encouraging others to engage with and support us.

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**Cover Picture: Children at HOPE's Naboasha centre.**

**All names have been changed in "Story of Change"**



## From The Founding President



Dear Friends of HOPE,

As we approach 25 years of HOPE, let me begin by expressing my heartfelt thanks to all of you for helping us on our journey. From small beginnings, starting with one residential childcare centre for girls, HOPE has grown to over 60 projects in healthcare, education, protection, livelihood and emergency response, impacting the lives of over 3.2 million people in West Bengal. This could not have been achieved without you, and I am forever grateful for your generosity and support, which has made such a huge difference in the lives of so many people in difficult circumstances.

As I reflect on our journey, I think of the great success of HOPE's Community Health Care Programme, which was supported by Irish Aid and many other generous donors. This programme operated for 10 years in 35 slum areas of Kolkata. These slums presented a risky and unhealthy environment for children to live in, there was a lack of awareness and access to health services, severe malnourishment of children and no ante-natal or post-natal services for pregnant and lactating women. With health being one of our priority areas, HOPE Hospital has extended to the incredible hospital it is today, along with its outreach health projects, and continues to treat those who would otherwise be deprived of healthcare. Since HOPE's inception in 1999, over 2.9 million people have access to healthcare through HOPE.

Our achievements are a testament to the dedication of our beloved Geeta Venkadakrishnan. Geeta helped us so much to make HOPE the organisation it is today, and we miss her dearly. Her legacy lives on through the life-changing work of our programmes, led by an incredible team in Kolkata.

To our staff, volunteers, students, teachers, patrons, board members and donors from Ireland, the UK, the USA, India, Germany, Italy and all over the world, your generosity never fails to astound us, and you are the reason we can keep HOPE alive.

Our mission towards a "world where it should never hurt to be a child" is at the heart of our work. HOPE is a source of light to thousands of children and their communities, enabling and empowering them to build a brighter future for themselves and their future generations. We hope you continue to support our work and vision, and look forward to engaging with you, our supporters, again next year.

Warmest wishes,

Maureen Forrest



## From The Director, Finance & Administration

Education is the most powerful tool that can break the cycle of poverty and create a pathway to social and economic progress. Its impact on poverty is profound and multifaceted, touching various aspects of individual lives and societies as a whole. We, at The Hope Foundation, place great emphasis on illuminating the lives of children and youth by providing formal, non-formal, and vocational education support.

Throughout its 24-year journey, HOPE has impacted the lives of millions through diverse developmental initiatives in the field of child protection, health, education, and vocational training striving to secure a life of dignity for all.

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to Ms Maureen Forrest and Ms Jenny Browne for their invaluable contribution towards uplifting vulnerable communities in Kolkata in the past 24 years. It is with profound respect that we acknowledge Ms Forrest's decision to step down from her role as Honorary Director. We extend our heartfelt congratulations on Ms Forrest's new role as Founding President of The Hope Foundation's advisory board, where she will continue to oversee the organisation's operations in India.

Additionally, we would like to extend our congratulations to our esteemed colleagues, Ms. Fiona Heraghty, who has assumed the position of CEO of Head Office Operations, and Ms. Maura Lennon, who has taken charge of International Operations. Their experience, expertise and dedication will undoubtedly propel HOPE to new heights.

I am grateful to share that several Indian and Irish organisations have recognised and commended HOPE for its outstanding efforts to support marginalised communities and contribute to their development.

Alongside the invaluable support of donors, well-wishers, and supporters, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated workforce at all levels, whose tremendous contributions have brought about meaningful change for the underserved communities in Kolkata and its environs.

I would like to extend a special mention to all the staff and volunteers from Ireland, UK, USA, and Germany for their unwavering dedication in raising funds for the HOPE projects.

I appeal you to join hands in unity to bring about positive change for those in need.



Sachidananda Das





## About Us

The Hope Foundation (HOPE) is a development organisation working to provide sustainable pathways out of poverty and advocating for the rights and equal treatment of vulnerable children and communities in West Bengal, India.

The power and potential of a child is often suppressed by poverty, discrimination, and violence. However, in today's world, every child should have the right to be healthy, educated, protected, and valued in their family and society. To create long-lasting change, we empower the children, their families, and their communities to access their rights and break free of the cycle of poverty.

Since 1999, The Hope Foundation has been building a strong partnership with children, families, government departments and civil society organisations fighting for the rights of children. In 2022-2023, HOPE implemented 58 projects supported by more than 505 members of staff to achieve this mission.

**OUR VISION:** A world where it should never hurt to be a child: A world free from poverty, inequalities and injustices. Ensuring every child and adult is afforded the opportunity to thrive with equal opportunities, contributing to long-term local sustainability, empowerment and system strengthening.

**OUR MISSION:** To improve the quality of life for the most marginalised people, primarily in India. Ensuring their basic rights and enhancing their dignity of life through protection, health, education and economic development in a sustainable life-cycle approach. Achieving this mission through fundraising activities, awareness raising and sensitisation initiatives.

### OUR GOALS

- Right to better health and access to affordable and accessible health care services for all.
- Holistic and inclusive education for all.
- Children will be in safe, protected and clean environments and can enjoy rights to learn, develop and participate.
- Enabling sustainable livelihoods through inclusive skill-based programmes for improved socio-economic conditions.
- Create an enabling environment for the children, by the children, to voice their rights.
- Strengthen and increase engagement with fundraising events across the international offices.
- Enhance and strengthen marketing and communications messaging of HOPE at national and international levels.
- Re-engagement and redesign of volunteer and school programming across the international HOPE offices.

### OUR CORE VALUES

**Accountability:** We believe in transparency and in ensuring we are accountable to all donors, supporters and individuals in receipt of our support. We are committed to the highest standards of governance and best practices in all areas of our work.

**Collaboration:** Communities are at the heart of our work, we believe in building and fostering partnerships at different levels in Ireland and abroad, in order to leverage local, regional and global change for sustainable development.

**Sustainability:** As all HOPE projects stem from the communities in which they serve, the demand for services and local ownership over these services is high. Projects investment in households and communities, offering multi-layered interventions that bring real, transformative and sustainable change, lifting people out of poverty, permanently.

**Equality:** We are committed to promoting equality by removing barriers that stop full participation of every individual, group or community in their own development. We believe in and promote inclusivity and diversity inside and outside of our organisation.



**Gender Equality:** HOPE programmes do not discriminate on the grounds of gender or disability, instead ensuring all-inclusive projects are operational. Thus, ensuring that those individuals often left on society's margins are empowered to avail of support. Although HOPE values and includes individuals across the gender continuum, it continues to place emphasis on the rights and entitlements of women and girls, who continue to be treated as inferior in India's society, as seen in high levels of early marriage, violence and assault, and trafficking. Those living with a disability are often hidden, with high levels of stigma associated with any form of disability, and therefore, HOPE operates both specialised projects for those living with a disability and ensures their full participation across HOPE programming.

**Safeguarding:** HOPE places the safety of the children, and vulnerable adults, in which it serves as paramount importance across all its programming, also heightening local and staff awareness to this crucial human right regularly.

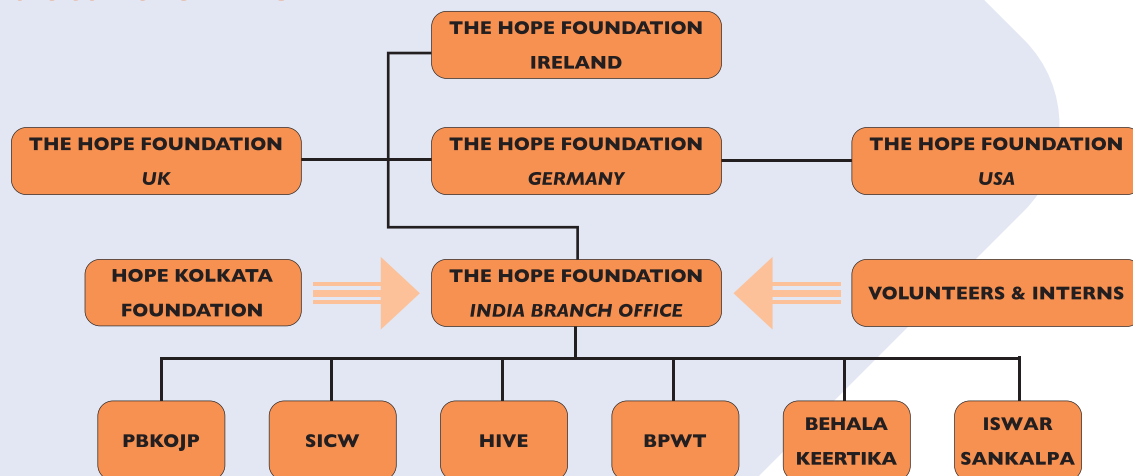
**Innovation:** We believe in the power of great ideas. We are always open to accepting and developing new and creative ideas, which will enhance systematic change for sustainable solutions, with a focus on those ideas stemming from local communities and organisations.

**Integrity:** We aspire to the highest standards of honesty and encourage critical thinking for further development. We never compromise on quality and always act in the best interests of those with whom we work with.

**Respect:** We respect the people we work for and on behalf of, we respect ourselves, our colleagues and our community. We have fostered an organisation that enables and encourages respect, and ensure that all our activities and interventions are delivered in a non-discriminatory nature.

**Caring for the Environment:** We must act decisively and responsibly to identify and acknowledge our part in aiding climate change, and implement mitigation plans to protect the environment. We will aim to assist in a clean and green environment and reduce and compensate for our carbon footprint.

## Structure of HOPE



## Implementing Partner



### Hope Kolkata Foundation (HKF)

The Hope Kolkata Foundation was set up in 1999 to improve the lives of children surviving the difficult circumstances they faced living on the streets of Kolkata. For the protection and development of these underprivileged children, Hope Kolkata Foundation manages 4 Residential Childcare Centres, 2 Crisis Intervention Centres, a rehabilitation centre for addicted boys, Mother & Child Care Unit and provides early adulthood support, a Quality and Inclusive Education Programme in government schools, 7 Naboasha

education centres, 4 crèches, 2 resource centres for children with special needs, a mobile education centre (Education on Wheels), a Life Skills Training Centre, a hospital, pharmacy, community clinics, Night Round Mobile Medical Unit, Blindness Eradication Programme, Child Watch, and a Sponsorship Programme.

## Our Local Partners



### 1. Paschim Banga Krira-o-Jana Kalyan Parishad (PBKOJP)

HOPE partnered with PBKOJP at the time of its inception in 1999 and collaborated with PBKOJP in various interventions such as education, vocational training and early childhood care and education. Currently, HOPE supports Prerona Residential Child Care Centre for girls, which was set up in 2003 for children in need of care and protection, including children of sex workers.



### 2. HIVE India

HOPE has partnered with HIVE India since 2006 to support the Emergency Response Unit, set up to rescue any person at risk on the streets, involved in accidents, suffering from physical or mental illnesses, victimized by harassment or abuse, or involved in child labour and domestic violence.



### 3. Society for Indian Children's Welfare (SICW)

Since 2005, with the support of HOPE, the UMEED Special Needs Unit has worked with children with special needs to ensure their development and to bring them into mainstream society. HOPE also partners with SICW to support the Education Sponsorship Programme.



### 4. Iswar Sankalpa (IS)

HOPE has supported the Naya Daur outreach programme since 2007, a city-wide community-based programme providing treatment and support to address the needs of homeless people with psychosocial disorders on the streets of Kolkata.



### 5. Bhoruka Public Welfare Trust (BPWT)

Snehneer Residential Child Care Centre was established in 2005 in partnership with HOPE. Snehneer ensures the holistic development of children affected and infected with HIV/AIDS through protection, healthcare, nutrition, education, and recreation in a loving and caring family environment.



### 6. Behala Keertika

HOPE collaborated with Behala Keertika in the year 2008 to support "Keertika Home". Girls in need of care and protection are provided with holistic support to flourish into independent and empowered women.

## Good Governance

The Hope Foundation recognises our responsibility to those whom we support and to donors, sponsors and fundraisers who support us. HOPE, therefore, insists on transparent operations in all activities in Ireland, our international satellite offices and in India. This is highlighted through HOPE's membership of Dóchas, Comhlámh (signatory with a high level of compliance to the Code of Good Practice), The Wheel, IDEA (Code signatory and compliance to) and the Consortium for Street Children.



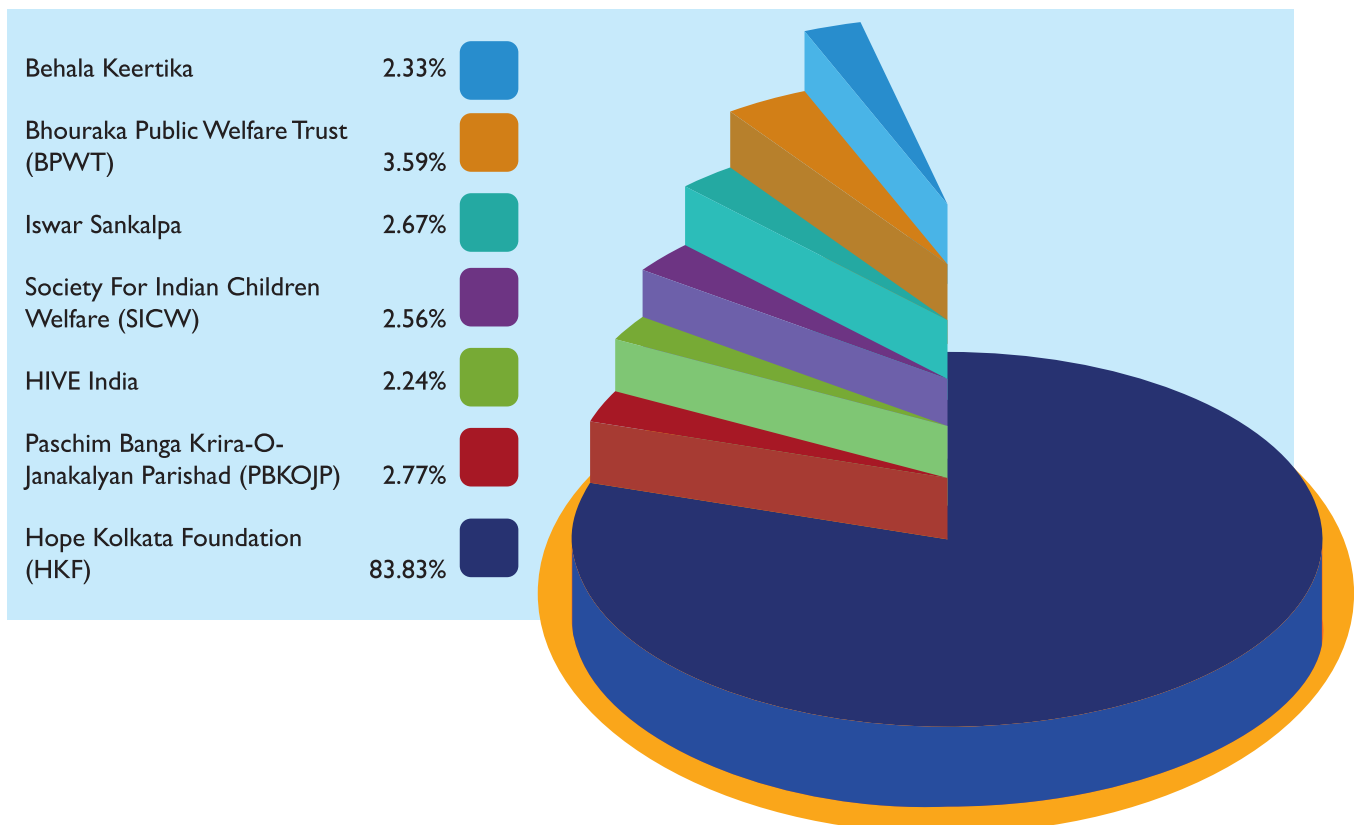
HOPE ensures that transparency and compliancy with governance best practices are at the forefront of all our operations, and therefore are fully compliant and collaborate closely with the Governance Code, Charity Regulatory Authority, Credibility Alliance and Charities Institute Ireland (CII).

HOPE also has a Due Diligence Policy in place for its partner organisations and projects, ensuring the effective delivery of services in a transparent and accountable manner. HOPE has Triple Lock certification, which is the highest standard awarded by the Charities Institute Ireland, reflecting excellent and ethical fundraising practices, financial reporting and Governance.

## 2022-2023 Major Achievements

- **34,789** individuals across Kolkata have been direct beneficiaries of HOPE healthcare programmes and interventions in street-connected and slum communities, including over **12,169** who have been treated in HOPE Hospital's Inpatient and Outpatient Departments.
- **8,552** children received educational support through HOPE crèches, Naboasha centres, special education projects, educational sponsorship, and our Quality and Inclusive Education Programme.
- **1,651** children and adults have been protected from abuse and neglect by our Residential Childcare Programme and Child Watch.
- **762** young women and men have engaged in HOPE's vocational training, skills enhancement, and income generation programmes to provide sustainable pathways out of poverty.

## Fund Allocation to Partners of Financial Year 2022-2023









# EDUCATION

India is committed to provide free and compulsory education to all children between six and fourteen years through the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009. The New National Education Policy 2020 aims to provide universal education from preschool to secondary level with a 100% Gross Enrolment Ratio by 2030. In accordance with these aims, HOPE, through its various education programmes, has been working to achieve a) Early childhood care & education, b) School enrolment, c) Mainstreaming, d) Retention, and e) Inclusion.

Finally, in 2022, all the schools and education centres could function with pre-COVID time schedules and syllabus. The HOPE staff were happy to welcome the children back to the centres. Experts were apprehensive about the learning levels of the children, as the schools were shut due to COVID-19, and many of them could not regularly avail digital devices for online classes for the last two years. The Samagra Shiksha Mission, Kolkata, started a

‘Reading Festival’ to determine the educational levels of the children post COVID-19 and provide the necessary support to improve their reading and comprehension capacities. Hope Kolkata Foundation – supported by HOPE - was a part of the core team of the Reading Festival and steered the programme for the children with special needs. It supported tool design to assess the learning levels of children with special needs, conducted trainings for utilising these tools with the Head Teachers of all the Government Schools based in Kolkata and supported the implementation of the Reading Festival in 14 schools. The Reading Festival was a great success and received much appreciation from the Education Department. In the culmination programme at district level, Hope Kolkata Foundation was given the opportunity to display and demonstrate its Teaching Learning Materials for all the children, including the specially designed ones for children with special needs.



Since 2020, HOPE has been supporting an innovative initiative of the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, West Bengal, to reach all the underprivileged street-connected children with remote education through Community Radio. HOPE supported audio lessons on different subjects taught in Government formal schools. This support was acknowledged by the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, West Bengal by felicitating Hope Kolkata Foundation.

To reach out to more children with special needs, HOPE has started another Brian's Way Resource Centre in Bhagar, Howrah, and has been working in five additional government resource centres as the next step towards inclusion of children with special needs.

## Integration of Quality Education to ensure Improved Learning in Primary Schools

### Hope Kolkata Foundation

HOPE started its school-based intervention in 2015 based on the study findings that there has been a significant increase in the school enrolment rate after our community-based projects. However, retention continued to be a challenge.

Currently, HOPE implements its school-based education project in 47 Government Primary Schools in Kolkata and Howrah (Bhagar) and 15 Government Resource Centres in Kolkata, impacting 5,685 children from underserved communities.





The objective of the school education project continues to ensure quality education at primary level for all children, including children with special needs. After almost 2 years of school closures due to COVID-19, when the schools reopened, it was identified that there had been a gap in the children's education. Thus, HOPE started working intensively to encourage schoolteachers to practise activity-based learning using teaching-learning materials. The Government Resource Centres also started functioning and providing need-based therapies to children with special needs.

### Achievements

- **4,599** children benefited from joyful activity-based learning.
- **1,318** children were enrolled in school, including **54** children with special needs.
- **858** children are receiving support from Government Resource Centres supported by Hope Kolkata Foundation, including **787** children receiving need-based functional therapies such as physio, occupational, speech, behaviour and movement therapies.
- **662** children with learning gaps have made progress.
- **84** children with special needs have made progress.
- **290** teachers are using activity-based learning methods for children with learning gaps.
- **4,288** parents attended Parent Teacher Meetings, were informed of their children's progress and became more involved.
- **868** community members were reached through awareness programmes and informed on different issues related to children, focusing on children with special needs.

### Story of Change

Ranjana, a 9-year-old girl studying in Class III, has autism spectrum disorder. Ranjana lives in a slum with her parents and older sister, where her father makes paper cups and glasses, and her mother works as a domestic helper. Ranjana's family used to keep her tied with a rope at home as she often left the home unnoticed. Due to her hyperactive nature, she was not taken to school every day, and at school, she failed to complete her lessons. Due to her speech impairment, Ranjana didn't communicate at school or with her family.

On the recommendation of Ranjana's school principal, the HOPE special educator assessed Ranjana's activities and informed her family about her disability. They informed the parents about the government resource centre to help her with speech and movement. Simultaneously, the HOPE special educators oriented her schoolteachers on facilitating her socialisation by setting appropriate goals and using inclusive and innovative teaching learning materials. With HOPE's support, Ranjana's family and the school administration are aware of her special needs. The family no longer ties her with a rope and takes her to the school and the government resource centre. At the resource centre, Ranjana is receiving occupational and speech therapy. There has been an improvement in her concentration, and she can perform selected activities independently. After regularly attending speech therapy at the resource centre, she can pronounce "father" and express herself. She can follow verbal prompts given by the therapists and respond to them. Ranjana's social behaviour has also improved, and she no longer leaves the house without supervision. She interacts with her peer groups and actively participates in family gatherings. Most importantly, Ranjana's daily activity skills have improved.

The efforts of HOPE have led to her inclusion in society and provided her family with the support to ensure her well-being.

# Naboasha

## Hope Kolkata Foundation

The Naboasha programme ensures enrolment and retention of the slum and street-connected children between 6 - 14 years of age in the formal school system through 7 centres. The programme focuses on the education and holistic care of children. Children are encouraged to participate in various creative activities such as drawing, painting, handicrafts and dance to keep them engaged. Their creative skills are highlighted during celebrations of multiple national events and cultural festivals. The programme also motivates parents to actively participate in the education and well-being of their children.

The Naboasha counsellors use different play therapies, art therapies, one-to-one and group counselling to support the children and channel their energies into learning skills through activities. They continuously work with the children and their parents to ensure the family stays interested in the formal education system and simultaneously gain knowledge about government schemes and fellowships for higher education.

Furthermore, Naboasha strengthens community volunteer groups of adults and children through awareness programmes and training to build a community safety net. In addition, it makes the community aware of the public schemes, services and social entitlements they can avail of and links them with the local authorities to process their applications.

## Achievements

- **535** children were enrolled in the Naboasha programme and received education support and supplementary nutrition.
- **377** parents were motivated to become involved in their children's education through **124** meetings. These parents attended parent-teacher meetings at their child's school and enquired about their child's educational development.
- **167** fathers opened new bank accounts and are saving for their children's education
- **236** parents and **166** children were linked with various Government social schemes.
- **342** community members were addressed through **28** awareness sessions.

## Story of Change

Mina is a ten-year-old girl living with her grandmother and younger brother on the streets of Kolkata. Her father was an abusive alcoholic, and her mother left the family very early in her life. Mina and her little brother were often left hungry with no one to care for or protect them. Their grandmother brought the children to Kolkata but had to leave them alone while she went to work. Mina looked after her brother and did the chores. The Naboasha teacher identified Mina on the streets while she was cleaning utensils. First, the Naboasha team motivated her grandmother to allow Mina to enrol in the Naboasha centre and study.

A child-friendly environment at the Naboasha centre, positive peer support, motivational sessions by the counsellor, and positive reinforcement by the teachers helped Mina feel welcome. Mina was enrolled as a non-formal student first. As her interest in learning and studies grew, the Naboasha teachers enrolled her in formal school. However, Mina used to panic at times and could not concentrate on her studies. Relaxation techniques - yoga and counselling - helped her to reduce anxiety and restlessness. She often felt disinterested in her studies. After repeated counselling and continuous activity-based learning, Mina became more confident and regained her interest in studying. She is now studying in Class V. She participates in many co-curricular activities at her school and the Naboasha centre. Mina socialises with the other students and helps them in studies when needed. Her younger brother has also enrolled in the Naboasha centre.



# Crèche facilities for Children without Parental Supervision

## Hope Kolkata Foundation



HOPE runs 4 crèches in Kolkata (Chitpur, Panditya and Kasba) and Bhagar, Howrah, providing early childhood education and supplementary nutrition for children under 6 years of age.

Early childhood care and education aims at the holistic development of the social, emotional, cognitive, and physical needs of children to build a solid foundation for lifelong learning and well-being. The project focuses on children living in slum areas without parental care for a long time during the day as both are engaged in work.

The crèches provide child-friendly and joyful learning through play and Froebel methodologies. The parents are motivated to send their children to the crèche and practice learning at home. Health check-ups, including eye check-ups, deworming, and general health camps are organised to ensure the children's health. Awareness camps and programmes are conducted for the parents and children on child rights, protection, and the importance of education. Efforts are given to involve fathers in the meetings, thus ensuring the fathers develop an understanding about supporting the child's education and become involved in the care and education of the children. The children are enrolled in formal schools at an age-appropriate level.

### Achievements

- **236** children were supported in **4** crèches for early childhood care and education.
- **104** children were enrolled in formal schools.
- **224** parents improved their knowledge of child education and the importance of finance management. Thus, parents support their children at home, especially when a new education approach is being implemented.
- **1,224** community people were made aware of different issues for ensuring basic rights and a safer childhood for every child.

### Story of Change

Md. Sohail is a 4-year-old boy living with his grandmother, mother and two sisters. His mother courageously left his father last year due to the daily physical violence and abuse from Sohail's father, who is a drug addict. His mother works as a daily wage labourer, and Sohail's older sisters often engage in the hazardous job of sorting glass from medical waste for the recyclers to help the family.

When Sohail first came to the crèche, he was panic-stricken. He used to pick a corner in the crèche and did not interact with anyone. He feared loud noises as he related it to the violence at home. Due to the HOPE teacher's warm, loving and caring nature at the crèche, his anxiousness gradually reduced. The continuous efforts from the crèche teachers and joyous learning methodologies immensely helped him. He started participating in all the activities and bonded with the teachers and other children. He is an enthusiastic child who loves to sing and actively participates in rhyme classes. There are even times when he comes to the crèche after his session to talk with the teachers.



# Brian's Way Resource Centre

## Hope Kolkata Foundation

HOPE started its first Brian's Way Resource Centre in 2019 in Lake Gardens to provide access to therapy for children with special needs from the under-served communities of Kolkata. In September 2022, based on the need, HOPE started its second Brian's Way Resource Centre in Bhagar, a dumping ground in Howrah. 132 children with special needs from the under-served communities of Kolkata and Howrah benefit from the support provided by the two centres. Out of them, 132 are receiving therapeutic support (physiotherapy, occupational, speech and dance movement), and 98 children are receiving special education. The project aims to improve the quality of life of children with special needs through access to therapies and special education. The parents are informed about disability and its different forms, inclusive education and government schemes. They are also informed about supporting the children and motivated to support their children to make improvements. Preliminary counselling is also provided to the parents to manage their children at home.

HOPE has set up barrier-free centres for children with special needs, and a disability-friendly customised bus service is provided for the children attending the Lake Gardens centre.

## Achievements

- **132** children with special needs benefitted from the project.
- **116** children have progressed through functional therapies.
- **88** children with special needs have progressed in special education.
- **37** children were linked with government entitlements.
- **306** community people were informed on disability, social inclusion, government schemes, and facilities for children with special needs and their families.
- **8** children with special needs were identified through community awareness programmes and enrolled in Government primary schools.

## Story of Change

Mithi, a 5-year-old girl, lives in Bhagar and was identified with Hydrocephaly (intellectual disability). She has difficulty in holding her neck properly and in coordination or balance. She has vision problems and cannot give any facial expressions.

Mithi's mother learned about the Brian's Way Resource Centre from the community and enrolled her. Initially, based on assessment, Mithi received physiotherapy and occupational therapy. After 6 months of therapy, she started sitting upright with support for a few seconds, independently controlled her head/neck and made efforts to respond by smiling. Gradually, she was introduced to movement therapy, which helps her follow instructions, improve eye-hand coordination, and make eye contact using high-intensity light and sound. She enjoys dance movement therapy classes, these exercises have led to physical and mental improvements. Due to the encouragement and reinforcement methods in the special education classes, she has started to cooperate and follow the instructions of HOPE's special educator. Mithi and her mother are very happy with the functional and behavioural improvement.



## Education on Wheels

### Hope Kolkata Foundation



The Education on Wheels programme provides educational support to underserved children aged 6-14 in Chitpur slum and the surrounding areas in Kolkata. It is a unique project which operates in a bus. Education support is provided to children with learning gaps to facilitate their intellectual development, empowering them to reach their full education potential, enhance individual talents and look forward to a life out of poverty.

Counselling services are provided to the fathers as well on the importance of education and the well-being of their children. They are encouraged and supported to save money for their children's education rather than spending on addictive substances.

### Achievements

- **73** children received support from the project. **13** new children were enrolled, and **60** children continued throughout the year.
- **60** children showed learning improvement and were promoted to the next class.
- **60** children enjoyed and celebrated several cultural events throughout the year. This improved their social inclusion and participation.
- **43** children obtained Aadhar cards and **4** obtained ration cards from the Food Distribution Department, which ensured free ration from the government distribution system. **48** children were linked with the Government Health Department for the MMR vaccine, and **12** children were supported to open new bank accounts.
- **47** adults/parents were assisted in updating their Aadhar Cards, **24** opened new bank accounts, and **5** updated their Voter Card information.

### Story of Change

Pakhi is a 13-year-old girl who lives with her parents and two older brothers. Her family moved from the rural parts of Uttar Pradesh (another state of India) to Kolkata, hoping to find a better life. Both her parents work as daily wage labourers. Being patriarchal and due to lack of adequate earnings, the family prioritised her brothers' education over hers. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Pakhi had to drop out of school and was engaged in household chores while her brothers continued their studies. This made her feel neglected, and she developed behavioural issues such as anger, frustration, poor self-confidence and poor socialisation skills.

The teachers of the Education on Wheels project identified Pakhi and spoke to her parents about continuing her education. Initially, she was reserved and had no interest in making friends. The teachers identified her behavioural issues and referred her to the counsellor. The counsellor took individual sessions and engaged her in activities such as meditation, counting techniques, play therapy and Mandala art therapy to improve her social skills and confidence. The counsellor also met with the family and counselled them on childcare (focusing on girls), prioritising education, and a supportive environment at home. The counsellor also motivated her parents to send Pakhi to the Education on Wheels centre regularly and explained the importance of consistency in a child's life. Due to the counsellor's continuous efforts, Pakhi started participating in various activities and displayed her talents. Gradually, her interest in studies returned. Pakhi is in Class VIII now and enthusiastically participates in events and activities at school and the Education on Wheels centre.

# UMEED

## SICW

UMEED classes support the development of motor and cognitive skills, communication and personal hygiene practices of children from the Childcare Unit of SICW who are between the ages of 2 to 6 years. Children who have been orphaned, abandoned or surrendered, are placed in the childcare unit of SICW. Most of the children in the UMEED programme have special needs or learning disabilities. The children are also provided pre-school education through the UMEED classes. These classes are conducted by certified special educators and teachers through joyful, interactive methods using teaching-learning materials, flashcards, and “Gupshup books” according to the pre-set milestones of each child. Based on the requirements of the children, they receive physiotherapy and speech therapy. Notable days are celebrated, and cultural programmes and social outings are organised to develop meaningful inclusivity.

## Achievements

- **35** children were supported by the programme; **15** children with special needs and **20** children with learning difficulties who were in the safe refuge of SICW received support from HOPE.
- **10** children were adopted following the Government guidelines and were rehabilitated to new families.
- **5** children were restored to their own families after judicial intervention.

## Story of Change

Jishu, 3 years old, was abandoned as a baby and was found in the PALNA (open cradle) of SICW in December 2021. He has Cerebral Palsy. The doctors and physiotherapists diagnosed him with gross developmental delay, intellectual disability, and speech and seizure disorders. Jishu joined the UMEED classes in January 2022. His functional assessment indicated delayed social and developmental milestones, lack of social skills, and partial control of head movement with neither speech nor eye contact.

Half-yearly goals were set, and interventions were introduced to ensure his social, emotional and cognitive development. The special educators recommended various therapies such as games, group activities, music, visualisation techniques and followed his interests. From the beginning, he received physiotherapy and speech therapy. Additionally, the educators trained him to visually track objects moving from one side to the other and recognise some visual stimuli in the class. The teachers focused on positive reinforcement and rewarded him for trying or completing the given activities. The special educators also helped him express his feelings and improve his social skills.

Jishu enjoys different social functions and loves to watch his friends dance and sing. He can recognise familiar people, sit without support, and has improved his eye contact. He is improving his motor, communication and social skills with constant support and activities







# HEALTH

Healthcare services in the private sector are very costly and beyond the reach of the people living below poverty line. A WHO factsheet published in April 2021 stated, "About 930 million people worldwide are at risk of falling into poverty due to health spending of 10% or more of their household budget!". In this factsheet, WHO advocated for more Primary Healthcare Centres worldwide. India has gone through rapid expansion of its Urban Primary Health Centres under its National Urban Health Mission. However, the street-connected community, and especially those engaged in earning a daily wage, find it difficult to avail the Urban Primary Health Centres.

HOPE supports partners to bridge the gaps between the available Government healthcare facilities and street-connected communities. HOPE's outreach health projects organise awareness programmes for the community on the available Government healthcare services and how to access them. Families living on the streets, homeless people with psychosocial disabilities and people abandoned on the streets are all supported by various HOPE programmes.

2022-23 marked a new chapter in HOPE's healthcare services. HOPE, with support from Specsavers, had started supporting youth from underserved communities to pursue a 2-year diploma course in Optometry in 2020. The first 8 students graduated from the course in 2022 and they have started their first job in eye care. This initiative is a step from HOPE towards capacity building in underserved communities. These communities historically lacked ophthalmic healthcare providers and their vision health was often neglected. With optometric professionals available in their communities, these communities will get better access to eye health. Supporting underserved youth for optometry diploma course is a continuous process for HOPE, and two more groups of students are undergoing the training. HOPE wishes, in a short time, this programme will produce adequate optometry graduates who will use this skill to earn a livelihood and give back to their community.



## HOPE Hospital

### Hope Kolkata Foundation

The HOPE Hospital was established in 2008 to cater to the secondary healthcare needs of street-connected and slum-dwelling children and adults. It comprises of inpatient, outpatient and surgical departments, and a diagnostic centre. The Hospital's services are structured so that the disciplines can support each other and ensure patients receive a high-quality service. Hope Pharmacy was established in 2014, and the hospital has set up enhanced treatment facilities for eye and dental care. In addition, HOPE Hospital inaugurated a multi-facility pathology laboratory in April 2022 in the new extension. The laboratory comprises biochemistry, clinical pathology, microbiology, immunochemistry and histopathology facilities. The laboratory supports testing for both the outpatient and inpatient departments.

HOPE Hospital maintains a network of 90 charitable organisations from all over West Bengal and similar organisations working with street-connected communities in Kolkata. These organisations rescue patients abandoned on the streets and admit them to HOPE Hospital, where they receive treatment at a subsidised rate. The outreach projects of HOPE Hospital, such as the Night Round Mobile Medical Unit, also rescue patients from the streets of Kolkata and admit them to HOPE Hospital, as necessary, for treatment.

### Achievements

- **10,662** patients received medical consultations in the outpatient department at a very low cost.
- **1,507** patients received secondary medical treatment, medication and nutrition at the inpatient department.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/primary-health-care>



- **746** patients underwent surgeries.
- **19,240** pathological tests were carried out.
- **495** dialysis sessions were conducted for **179** patients.

### Story of Change

In February 2023, Monami, a 6-month-old girl, was admitted to HOPE Hospital. She was referred by one of HOPE's networking organisations from Birbhum, approximately 200km from Kolkata. She is from a rural tribal family; her father is a daily agricultural labourer.

She had a lump on her neck, which was getting bigger every day, and there was no dependable healthcare service to diagnose and treat her near her village. The family approached the organisation in Birbhum, which referred Monami and her mother to HOPE Hospital.

After her admission to HOPE Hospital, Monami was referred to the neurosurgeon. The surgeon recommended a CT scan and other medical tests after the first check-up. All the tests were completed in the hospital, and Monami was diagnosed with a Meningomyelocele, a congenital malformation of the central nervous system. The blockage of cerebrospinal fluid created the ever-growing lump. The neurosurgeon advised surgical removal of the Meningomyelocele, followed by drainage path repair of the cerebrospinal fluid under general anaesthesia. Monami went through the surgery in the same month. After the surgery, the central nervous system drainage path became clear, and the lump was reduced. Monami was discharged from the hospital after 15 days of post-operative care.



## Blindness Eradication Programme

### Hope Kolkata Foundation

The National Blindness and Visual Impairment Survey of India (2015-19)<sup>1</sup> found that the most prevalent cause of early visual impairment was refractive errors (70%), and for blindness was cataract (66.2%). Both these causes are easily avoidable, and the survey further indicated that 92.9% of cases of blindness and 96.2% of cases of visual impairment in India were avoidable.

One of the successful outreach programmes of HOPE Hospital is the Blindness Eradication Programme, supported by Specsavers. The programme ensures high-quality, sustainable eye care through primary eye check-ups, medication and free spectacles. Patients referred through the camps are also provided with high-quality eye surgeries to improve their vision at the ophthalmology department of HOPE Hospital.

The Blindness Eradication Programme aims to ensure the holistic vision treatment of underprivileged communities in Kolkata and the neighbouring districts (families below poverty line, remote villages, street-connected dwellers, nursing homes or rehabilitation centres) who would otherwise be deprived of the necessary vision care. HOPE Hospital conducts eye clinics within the premises and organises outreach camps for eye screening and consultation where medicine and spectacles are provided free of cost.

This programme also supports underprivileged young adults to study a 2-year diploma course in Optometry from government recognised institutions and learn marketable skills to support their families. 8 students have completed the course and are now working as an optometrist. 16 students are undertaking the course to develop a career in this field.

<sup>1</sup> National Blindness and Visual Impairment Survey- Vikaspedia.



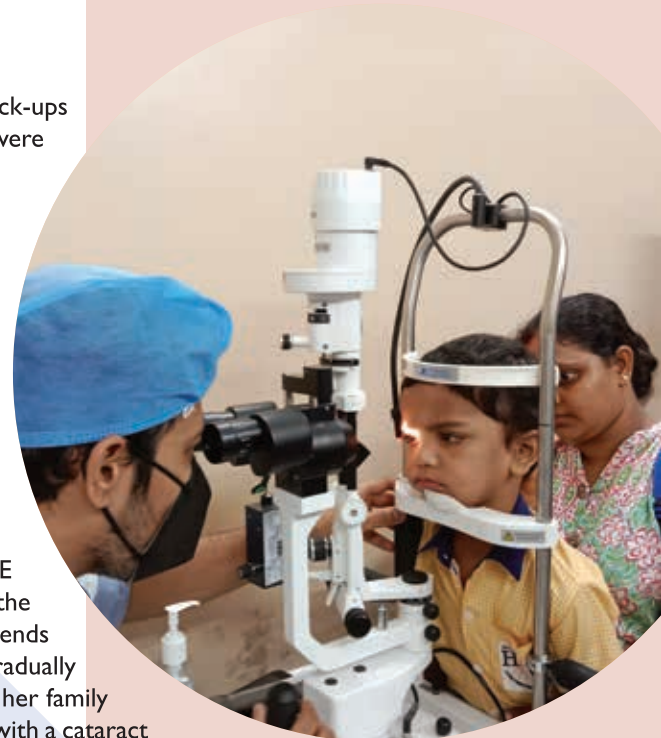
## Achievements

- **8,485** patients (**1,973** children and **6,512** adults) received free eye check-ups through **39** eye camps. **3,602** units of medicines and **6,223** spectacles were provided free of cost at these eye camps.
- **3,531** patients (**191** children and **3,340** adults) attended **197** specialised eye clinics at the outpatient department of HOPE Hospital.
- **4,006** advanced eye tests were conducted at the specialised eye clinic of HOPE Hospital.
- **365** patients received corrective eye surgeries through HOPE Hospital's ophthalmic surgery facility.

## Story of Change

Sahida is a housewife from the Sickline slum community in Kolkata. HOPE Hospital conducts weekly clinics in that community and was aware that the people needed eye check-ups. Sahida is from a family struggling to make ends meet. She went for an eye test and told the doctor that her vision was gradually diminishing. She kept the problem to herself as she did not want to burden her family with the expenses of her eye treatment. At the eye camp, she was diagnosed with a cataract in her right eye and was asked to go to the HOPE Hospital outpatient department for further evaluation. As she was concerned about the cost of the treatment and further testing, she was informed that all efforts would be made to ensure that it does not financially burden her family.

At the outpatient department, further tests were done before the cataract surgery. Her cataract surgery was successful, and she was provided with suitable glasses after post-surgery evaluations. The entire cost of the preoperative testing, surgery, medication, post-surgery evaluation and the glasses were provided by the Blindness Eradication Programme so that she or her family did not have to pay. Sahida has regained her vision, and she is back supporting her family.



## Night Round Mobile Medical Unit

### Hope Kolkata Foundation

Street-connected and slum-dwelling populations often suffer from ailments that are consequences of their lifestyle. The street-connected population, especially infants and children, are at risk of road accidents as they often live on busy streets without any protection between their dwellings and traffic. The overcrowded and often unhygienic living conditions that include poor sanitation facilities and contaminated water sources in both the streets and the urban slums make them prone to infections. These communities have developed unhealthy eating habits and use substances such as tobacco, alcohol and other substances that make them susceptible to non-communicable diseases and addiction. However, due to daily wage work, the street-connected and slum-dwelling communities cannot afford to lose a day's work to access public healthcare services that are mainly available during weekday work hours. The cost of private medical treatment is not affordable to the street-connected community. The Night Round Mobile Medical Unit was established to address this crisis of accessibility and affordability of the existing health services.

This project provides primary health check-ups, treatment, free medication and wound dressings. It also aims to create health and hygiene awareness among the street-connected communities of Kolkata. HIV awareness campaigns are also conducted to increase awareness among the street-connected communities.

The Night Round Team also rescues any unattended persons reported on the streets who need treatment.

## Achievements

- **9,662** patients received free primary healthcare support along with medicines.
- **308** patients were referred to the government hospitals. **102** patients were referred to HOPE Hospital.
- **22** awareness camps were organised on HIV-related issues, dengue, general health & hygiene practices, and the impact of child marriage on the girl's health. **234** people attended these awareness camps.
- **45** COVID-19 booster vaccines were provided for the eligible members of the street communities.



## Story of Change

Mahmud, a 16-year-old boy from a street-connected community, was identified by the Night Round Medical Unit with a broken leg. His father told the team that Mahmud had an accident 8 years back and had fractured the same leg again. At that time, his leg was fixed with an implant that had not been removed. After the last accident, the family took Mahmud to the hospital for treatment. However, due to the long queue at the Orthopaedic department, Mahmud only received first aid, and the health workers did not attend to his previous implant.

The attending physician in the Night Round team advised for Mahmud's hospitalisation. However, his father feared Mahmud's leg might worsen after surgery. He was counselled about the support available at HOPE Hospital and then he accompanied Mahmud to HOPE Hospital.

At the Hospital, X-rays indicated that the implant was also badly bruised due to the recent accident and would need immediate intervention. He was referred for surgery, which was done successfully. After recovery, Mahmud was released from the hospital and is still under follow-up treatment. He is still gaining the strength to walk freely and feels no pain while doing the exercises.

## Community Clinics in Chitpur and Sickline Slum areas

### Hope Kolkata Foundation

Chitpur and Sickline are two highly populated, unregistered slums in Kolkata. Most of the residents of these slums are migrant daily wage labourers. Like the street-connected population of urban Kolkata, they also fear wage loss as it takes the best part of a day to get a doctor's consultation at the outpatient clinic. The community clinics in these two slums provide primary health check-ups and free medicines to the community members. Special emphasis is placed on the care for children, pregnant and lactating mothers, adolescents and the elderly. The project has significantly impacted improving and maintaining the general health of the community members by providing medical care, referral to appropriate health facilities, and treatment.

HOPE's Community Clinics reflected that the slum dwellers often have medical problems which are different from the general public due to the particular unhygienic environment in which they live, the proximity of their dwellings, neglect of ailments which then exacerbate, particularly for young women who often feel too self-conscious to approach a doctor.

## Achievements

- **1,990 (711 children and 1,189 adults)** patients received health check-ups and free medicine in Chitpur Community Clinic.
- **2,075 (776 children and 1,299 adults)** patients received health check-ups and free medicine in Sickline Community Clinic

## Story of Change

Raju, a 12-year-old boy, went to the Chitpur Community Clinic with his father. Raju had previously burnt his hand and was treated at a hospital for the burn injuries. Though his injuries healed, he was unable to move his fingers. After some time, his wounds got infected again and developed into an ulcer, most probably due to the exposure to the dirt and toxic chemicals the community is exposed to while recycling chemical wastes. His family had already spent much time at the hospital due to his previous treatment, and his father, a daily wage labourer, did not want to lose any more workdays as their savings had depleted.

The doctor at the clinic treated Raju's ulcer and advised the family to get his hand treated at a hospital. Considering the family's financial situation, the clinic coordinator linked them to HOPE Hospital. Raju was diagnosed with post-burn contracture at the hospital and underwent reconstructive surgery. After recovery, Raju can move his fingers. He has returned to his family. The cost of the diagnostic, surgical, post-surgical recovery and medication was supported by HOPE Hospital.



# Naya Daur

## Iswar Sankalpa

In Kolkata, about 10% of individuals living on the streets suffer from mental health issues, varying from depression to autism and schizophrenia. They often do not know/ cannot remember their name or home address. The short supply of appropriate medicines and the stigma associated with mental health have further pushed these individuals into isolation and destitution.

Naya Daur is the flagship programme of Iswar Sankalpa that provides mental healthcare and allied services to homeless persons with psychosocial disabilities without admitting them to institutions. A multidisciplinary team of counsellors, social workers, and doctors assess and treat clients within their neighbourhood. This allows community members to observe the treatment process and break the barriers and stigma often attached to those suffering from mental health concerns. Most often, patients do not need hospitalisation but only regular medication and help caring for themselves. In such cases, the Naya Daur team mobilises people in the neighbourhood to function as voluntary caregivers, to give the patients their medicines regularly, take them for a haircut or a bath, and ensure they are protected from abuse and other crimes. Other community members are motivated to offer unskilled employment to the clients.

Naya Daur mobilises community resources such as pharmacies, NGOs, Community Based Organisations, local shopkeepers, pharmaceutical companies, corporates and concerned individuals as potential caregivers or employers. Using these resources, a wider support network is formed to create an integrated mental health service model. After the client's psychosocial health improves, they are linked with various government social schemes and job opportunities.

## Achievements

- **115** homeless people with psychosocial disabilities were served throughout the year. **39** new clients were enrolled this year.



- **75** clients were assessed through the IDEA (Indian Disability Evaluation and Assessment) scale. **40** clients showed improvement, **29** were in static position and **6** had negative improvement.
- **259** people attended **15** awareness camps to reduce and prevent social stigma regarding psychosocial disability.
- **4** medical camps reached out to **294** members of the community. **18** new clients were enrolled in the Naya Daur programme through these medical camps.
- **81** clients were under the care of community-based caregivers
- **44** clients were working and earning, including **12** new clients.
- **6** clients were linked to procure an Aadhaar card (unique identification number), **3** procured a disability card, and **1** client was linked to procure a PAN Card, which is required to open a bank account.

### Story of Change

Keshri, a 23-year-old man, was identified in March 2022 under a bridge at Behala. His hygiene and clothing were poor, and he did not communicate with anyone. He stayed in a dump area and ate food from the dump. Keshri's physical health was very poor, and his head had infected wounds from lice. After observation for 3 months, the social worker brought him for a medical check-up.

He refused to talk when anything was asked of him. The psychiatrist of the medical camp enrolled him in the Naya Daur programme in June 2022, and he was diagnosed with Schizophrenia. After his enrolment, the Doctor referred him to an urban shelter for the homeless to heal his wound. At the facility, his wound healed gradually with the help of caretakers. His hygiene and communication improved. With regular treatment and motivational counselling, he started sharing information about his home and family. The reintegration team was able to trace his home and contacted his family. He is the youngest son of his family of five brothers and two sisters. According to his family, he went missing from Howrah railway station in October 2019. His family went to Kolkata and cooperated with the team in the restoration process. They were informed about mental health and illness and told to continue his treatment. Keshri and his family were happy to be reunited after 3 years.



## Emergency Response Unit

### HIVE India

The Emergency Response Unit rescues unattended or abandoned people at risk on the streets and supports their immediate medical and psychological treatment while also working to reunite them with their families or long-term rehabilitation in suitable shelters as required.

The team is equipped with an ambulance to respond to any emergency call within 20 minutes and is trained to handle emergencies. The social workers provide immediate first aid and psychological support to the victims. Necessary rehabilitation and legal support

are also provided to the rescued persons, and required documents are submitted to the local police station, the District Judges' Court or the Child Welfare Committee as needed.

### Achievements

- **383** people were rescued from different crises by the HIVE Emergency Response Unit.
- **252** cases were registered with the police as the incident occurred in a public place and intervened through the police.
- **131** people were produced for a court order and provided with legal support for rescue and restoration.
- **205** of the total rescued persons were hospitalised.
- **137** people were restored to their families.
- **81** were rehabilitated to temporary shelters, **61** were rehabilitated to halfway homes and **43** were referred to the rehabilitation centres for psycho-social disability
- **149** of the rescued people required counselling after treatment and medication.
- **97** families were followed up after reunification to ensure the restored person was in a safe environment.



### Story of Change

In October, a 60-year-old woman was found lying on a footpath. People informed the police station and the duty officer responded to the call. After assessing the situation, the officer informed HIVE. The Emergency Response Unit and the police officer admitted the woman to a hospital. Her physical condition improved after a few days of treatment. The Emergency Response Unit visited her at the hospital to learn more about her and contact her family. However, she was unable to communicate.

After prolonged treatment, she partially recovered her voice, and she shared that her name is Gita, and she has an older brother. However, she did not remember the exact address. After an extensive search by the Police department and Emergency Response Unit, her brother was located. Her brother informed that Gita has a son and a husband who works as a travelling salesman in another state. Gita suffered from mental health issues and was reported missing one year ago. Her brother was happy to hear about her but was reluctant to bring her back to his house. Instead, he provided the contact information of Gita's husband and brother-in-law.

After 2 months at the hospital, Gita recovered and was accompanied to her home by the Emergency Response Unit and the police to be reunited with her husband.







# LIVELIHOOD

India has the largest youth population in the world, with 27% of the population in 2021 aged 15 - 29 years<sup>1</sup>. With around one-third of Kolkata's population living in slums, the number of street-connected youth presents a massive resource, with much of its untapped potential. Being able to earn a living from an employable skill is a long-term solution to poverty. The under-served sections of society, particularly women, have no option but to engage in unskilled labour, often at less than minimum wage.

Urban socio-economically disadvantaged communities, who are often street-connected or live in urban slums and shanties, are deprived of functional education and lack opportunities to develop their employable skills and secure skilled jobs to support themselves and their families. Most of the street-connected communities migrate to other states in search of employment or end up as daily wage labour, continuing the cycle of poverty. HOPE aims to empower the youth from the slum and street-connected areas of Kolkata and support them in securing sustainable livelihood opportunities.

HOPE, through its partner, has designed and implemented professional courses, especially for the marginalised youth and women, to improve their technical and soft skills to enable them to find sustainable livelihoods.

In 2022-23, the livelihood programmes focused on reaching the underserved communities and creating multiple opportunities for the skilled youth of the programme. Through the network of NGOs, HOPE reached out to more communities. Many youths from these communities eventually joined various skill development trainings. As the livelihood programme focuses on employment and employability, HOPE reached out to various corporates and businesses in Kolkata and has been networking with them to understand their needs and accordingly skill the trainees. The network has also helped to refer trained youth to local businesses.



## HOPE Computer Skill Units

### Hope Kolkata Foundation

There are four computer units located near the slums of different areas of Kolkata and Howrah, offering job-oriented IT training for the youth. These units run two courses: Diploma in Computer Application and Diploma in Financial Accounting. Both the courses include a personality development module.

Young adults between 18 and 25 can learn or upgrade their IT skills and develop soft skills for better employment opportunities. The students are guided to secure employment through job fairs, visits to professional set-ups and networking with potential employers. In a few cases, adolescents up to 17 years of age are enrolled to upgrade their skills and are encouraged to seek jobs after the age of 18.

This programme has two unique features - no mandatory educational qualification and a nominal fee to ensure the student is committed to this programme. The fees are waived for the students if they are unable to pay.

### Achievements

- **479** students enrolled, and **432** completed the IT skill development courses.
- **233** students (above 18 years) secured jobs in different companies.

<sup>1</sup> Youth in India 2022: Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, Govt. of India. Page 8

### Story of Change 1

Sagar had to choose between continuing his studies and supporting his family while in the first year of his undergraduate studies. He joined an online food delivery app service as a delivery personnel. However, he wanted to acquire skills that could help him in the future, which led him to join the Certificate Programme in Financial Accounting at HOPE's Skill Unit. Even while attending the course, the programme helped him secure a cashier's job at Spencer's supermarket. His initial salary also enabled him to save for his education, and he enrolled in a distance graduation programme. Within a short period, he was promoted to a full-time employee with a 30% salary increase.

Sagar continues his financial accounting training at the HOPE Skill Unit while continuing his job and the degree course. He is an honest and hard-working young man pursuing his dream while ensuring his family is well-supported. His tenacity and accomplishments in such a short time illustrate that if provided with proper support, the youth from the underserved community has the potential to surpass all the barriers and bring their families out of poverty.

### Story of Change 2

Akash is a young adult who lives with his mother in a rented house in a slum in Kolkata. He lost his father when he was very young and was raised by his mother. His mother is a daily wage worker who struggles to make ends meet. Akash got support from his uncle, who sponsored his education. After finishing his education, Akash was confused about his career. He knew he needed to be technically skilled for a job and was looking for affordable options to learn computer and digital skills. Akash decided to join the Computer Application Course at HOPE to improve his computer knowledge for a better job opportunity. After completing the one-year basic course, he also learned financial accounting from the HOPE Skill Unit.

After completing his computer courses, his knowledge of Windows OS, Office Suite and Desktop Publishing, and the Tally Accounting and Goods & Services Tax (GST) package helped him apply for potential job opportunities.

Currently, he works as a Sales Executive in a leading trading company. Akash can afford his expenses and support his mother financially. His life has changed with his new job. He believes that if youth are given the right direction and guidance, they find their own way.

## HOPE Life Skill Unit

### Hope Kolkata Foundation

HOPE has three different skill development programmes for underserved youth and women between the age of 16 - 42 years:

- Tailoring and Embroidery
- Beautician and Hairdressing
- Restaurant Service.

The professionally designed training programme suits the capabilities of the trainees irrespective of their educational qualifications, age and gender. It provides young men, women and LGBTQ+ the opportunity to receive training and job placement to support their family income. The programme includes practical approaches and hands-on learning, in addition to the theoretical basics of the vocation, to develop the skills and build their confidence to gain employment. After completing the courses, the trainees are certified and assisted with job placement opportunities.





## Achievements

- **10** trainees received training in the food and beverage course at HOPE Café. **5** trainees from the HOPE Café were placed in restaurants despite the difficult situation arising because of the aftereffects of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- **81** trainees completed the tailoring course. **14** were placed in jobs, and the rest are working from home.
- **172** trainees completed the beautician course. **6** are employed in salaried jobs, and the rest are working from home or as freelancers. All the trainees were provided beauty kits after completing the course.

### Story of Change 1



Aarti lives with 6 other family members in a slum in Kolkata. While growing up, she watched her father, a freelance car driver by profession and the only earning member of the family, struggle to get work and support the family. After graduating from college, Aarti was looking to develop skills that could help her secure a suitable, well-paying job. However, she could not afford to pay for high-end skill development courses. She was more interested in channelling her creative side while making sure she could support her family. She undertook the tailoring and embroidery course at the HOPE Life Skill Unit. Here, she not only learned the techniques of tailoring but also how to become a professional. During the training, she developed her portfolio of cuts and stitches. Through the portfolio, she displayed her skills to the potential recruiter and was eventually recruited by a local boutique. Aarti now earns a respectable salary and supports the family. She wants to gain experience in the boutique and become an expert tailor in the future.

### Story of Change 2

Bina's family migrated from Bihar to Kolkata for a better life and livelihood. However, the family of 6 was dependent on Bina's father, who earned a low salary. Bina could not continue her studies after completing her secondary education due to the financial crisis in the family. She was looking to develop her skills in a sector that is financially viable but was not able to afford expensive training schools in the city. She learned about HOPE's Life Skill Unit from one of her friends and enrolled in the beautician and hair styling course of HOPE. The course design and the fees required were perfect for her. During the 4-month course, Bina learned the techniques involved in the beauty and wellness sector. Through the communicative English classes, she gained confidence in conversing in English. The personality development training helped her develop time and customer management strategies in a beauty parlour/salon set-up. After completing her training in March 2023, Bina went for interviews at various salons. Eventually, she got a job at a reputed family-run salon in Kolkata. Her earnings have not only helped her support her family but also provided her confidence that her training and skills are required in the beauty and wellness sector. She knows she can build a career out of her skills with perseverance and hard work.









# CHILD PROTECTION

The National Policy for Children reiterates India's commitment towards children in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice, 1985. It states that "the State shall endeavour to secure the rights of children temporarily or permanently deprived of parental care, by ensuring family and community-based care arrangements including sponsorship, kinship, foster care and adoption, with institutionalisation as a measure of last resort, with due regard to the best interests of the child and guaranteeing quality standards of care and protection."

However, despite the emphasis on the deinstitutionalisation of children in the Juvenile Care and Protection Act, a significant number of children across Kolkata and its surrounding areas still require residential care for immediate protection from abuse, threat, deprivation, and untimely death. Children across states and districts are still subjected to various difficult circumstances, including deprivation of education, healthcare and treatment, and nutrition. All these causes are an immense threat to their life, childhood, and survival.

HOPE envisions a happy and safe childhood and a better future for all children. The core principle of HOPE's Child Protection Programme is to create a safe environment for children and adolescents through a holistic approach of creating a community safety net by engaging policymakers and law creators, other key stakeholders and strengthening the socio-economic status and capabilities of the families.

HOPE's Child Protection Programme is a combination of both institutional and non-institutional care. It recognises, prioritises, and supports families to prevent unnecessary family-child separation, protects children without parental care, ensures high-quality, appropriate alternative care, strengthens systems for the welfare and protection of the children. It ensures full participation of the children without parental or family care as it believes child's participation as paramount of securing the "Best Interest of the Child".

Children's participation is the core approach of HOPE across all its programmes and initiatives. HOPE promotes and encourages children to voice their opinions in various advocacy platforms, before policymakers and service providers. HOPE consistently conducts and promotes a series of activities and workshops to empower the children and enable them to advocate for their and their peers' interests, rights, and responsibilities. This also applies in the case of infringement of the safeguarding policy through the following activities and meetings:

- Monthly Children Committee meetings are held in all residential child care centres where the children share their views, thoughts, and observations on matters such as a healthy and nutritious diet, recreational activities, safety measures, educational plans and their rights and entitlements.
- In community settings, Child Vigilance Groups are created to ensure child rights and safety. These groups empower street-connected children to raise their voices. Regular meetings are conducted with peer groups and Child Vigilance Group members to ensure school enrolment and retention in formal schools. The Child Vigilance Group members also disseminate knowledge and information among other peers on child protection issues such as early marriage, child addiction, child labour, etc.





## Residential Child Care Centres

**Hope Kolkata Foundation, Paschim Banga Krira-o-Jana Kalyan Parishad (PBKOJP), Behala Keertika, Bhoruka Public Welfare Trust (BPWT)**

Institutional-based care and community-based care and support complement each other in ensuring the overall protection and development of the children. Baseline assessments, situational analysis and rapid surveys conducted by HOPE over the years reflect that children who are not safe with their own families are also deprived of their basic necessities and survival rights. A community-based approach is insufficient unless they are placed in a safe place for their growth and development. Violence against children has many forms; neglect from parents and being forced into cheap labour are some of the worst forms. A safe shelter with quality standard care ensures that a child happily reaches their developmental milestones and can protect and enjoy their childhood.

On the other hand, children staying with their families also need to be linked with the support system to retain their safe childhood. Hence, HOPE aims and works towards ensuring the successful and effective restoration or deinstitutionalisation of children. Strengthening community-based care and protection must be ensured so that children can stay protected in their families, enjoy their rights, and prevent further separation from their families.

For successful and effective deinstitutionalisation, HOPE ensures the following approaches have been adopted through operating 10 Residential Child Care Centres registered under Section 41 (1) of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act 2015:

- Holistic care and overall development and growth of children for a better future.
- “Family adoption of orphan abandoned and surrendered children” as alternative rehabilitation for children.
- Restorative care for children victims of sexual abuse, trafficking, underage labour, early/underage marriage, children with special needs etc.
- Rehabilitation support for children infected and affected with HIV/AIDS and substance abuse.
- Promotion of higher education for the children as the key to escape from poverty and acquire financial independence.

HOPE supports 6 residential child care centres for girls of 6 - 18 years and 4 residential child care centres for boys of 6 - 18 years old. Any child in need of care and protection is placed under the care and support of HOPE by the Child Welfare Committee. Each of HOPE's residential child care centres are well equipped with a child-friendly atmosphere and infrastructure to respond to the children's individual needs.

HOPE implements a broad range of support services based on individual needs that provide healing support to victims and survivors of sexual abuse, trafficking, underage marriage, child labour, and separation from families. Each residential child care centre has a qualified team of staff to address the specific needs of the children and their developmental gaps. Every child is provided with quality nutrition, education, healthcare, counselling, recreational & sports activities, vocational & skill-building training and other restorative justice programmes support for continuing education, finding employment and receiving social protection. Priority is given to promoting social protection programmes to address and resolve their conflicts, trauma and health hazards, and reduce abuse, child labour and child marriage.



## Achievements

- **634** children were supported by the Residential Child Care Programme.
- **226** children were identified and rescued from difficult situations and placed in the residential child care centres as per the order of the Child Welfare Committee.
- **84** children, **34** girls and **50** boys, were placed in HOPE residential child care centres after being orphaned and abandoned by their biological parents and extended families.
- **205** children received home-based care while staying with their families.
- As a result of HOPE's family-strengthening initiatives, **176** children were restored to their families. Among them, **66** were girls, and **110** were boys.
- **4** children engaged in labour and **7** children engaged in begging were rescued and placed in residential care.
- **15** children who had run away from their families after experiencing family conflict and domestic violence were placed in the safe custody of HOPE.
- **50** boys with a history of substance abuse were placed in the safe custody of residential care of HOPE as per the order of the Child Welfare Committee. They received detoxification treatment and psychosocial, education, nutrition, and other support to overcome their addiction.
- **14** girls who were victims of sexual abuse and social stigma as a result, received restorative care and legal support.
- To ensure alternative care for children and the right to have a family, **5** children were placed in Pre-Adoption Foster Care and were adopted by Indian couples.
- **142** children were enrolled in school after being placed in HOPE residential child care centres. All the children staying in HOPE residential child care centres attended mainstream or special schools, based on their learning level.
- The higher-level exam results of **25** children were published and **12** children passed the Secondary Examination (Class X), and **13** passed the Higher Secondary Examination (Class XII).
- The exam results of **297** children were published, and these children were promoted to the next class.
- **80** children with special needs and learning difficulties received therapy and special education support. The children improved their academic performance, independent living skills, communication, and cognitive functioning.
- Children's retention in academics and satisfactory performances were ensured through regular classes and 100% attendance of all children in supplementary tuition and special education classes.
- **45** families were linked with social security schemes to access housing, toilets, and free drinking water. They acquired citizenship documents, government subsidies and allowances, health cards, job cards, etc. and improved their socio-economic status.
- **123** children were informed and linked with social security schemes that include education scholarships and have acquired Aadhar Card, Birth Certificates and Disability Certificates for stipend and reservation facilities.
- **95** children above 14 years completed pre-vocational training courses that include training on making crafts, advanced Excel and MIS Diploma Course, advanced course on making masks, jewellery and embroidery, etc.
- **4** boys of 18 years of age with a history of substance abuse were placed in jobs.





## Children's Success and Annual Achievements in Sports

Sports and physical activities have always proven their impact on rehabilitative and restorative care, and development for children. Sports not only promote and build physical strength but also reinforce the immune system and mental health. Experts opine that children in need, who have already lost a happy childhood and have been deprived of education and other development support, consistently show below-par physical and psychosocial development when they lack consistent access to active sports and physical exercises.

HOPE encourages and promotes sports among children in residential child care centres through their active participation and attendance in weekly classes of professional coaching of cricket, football, taekwondo, karate, kabaddi, etc.



- **11** boys and **6** girls attended cricket coaching classes every week.
- **23** boys and **15** girls attended football training twice a week by the professional football coach
- **68** girls attended taekwondo classes.
- **3** children participated in the International Karate competition organised by the Karate-Do Association of Bengal. One child won a gold medal and two children won silver medals.
- **21** children participated in the Karate Belt Getting Exam. **10** got the yellow belt, **5** got the green belt, **5** got the orange belt, and **1** got the black-brown belt.
- **11** children participated in a football competition at Heritage School in the presence of the two Manchester United players. The children got the runner-up cup in the event
- **10** boys and **10** girls participated in a friendly cricket match organised by the West Bengal Commission for the Protection of Child Rights to celebrate Child Rights Week. The children competed with other teams and were acknowledged for their sporting spirits and performance.
- **7** girls participated in the 10th Open State Taekwondo Championship 2022. One girl won the gold medal, and three girls won silver medals.
- **2** girls participated in the 9th Kolkata District Taekwondo Championship 2022 and won gold medals.
- **3** girls attended kabaddi classes every week. They participated in the state-level kabaddi tournament at Belda, Kolkata and were acknowledged for their skills.
- **8** girls participated in the Kanyashree Cup 2022, organised by the State Government and the Indian Football Association. Two girls were selected as finalists and played in the Kanyashree Cup 2022, representing the Kolkata Union Sporting Club and HOPE. They played a total of 6 matches in the tournament.

### Story of Change

Alisha and her sister used to live with their father on the streets of Kolkata. Alisha's mother had an addiction problem and had already abandoned the family. When Alisha was 6 years old, her father passed away. Alisha and her sister were now left defenceless on the streets. In the following days, they were often abused, and both sisters were deprived of nutritious food.

Faced with these uncertainties, Alisha and her sister moved in with their mother, who had remarried. Alisha was exposed to frequent domestic violence. To ensure her protection, Alisha was placed in a residential child care centre when she was only 8 years old.

After a couple of years, Alisha went back to her mother. However, she dropped out of school and started using substances. She was identified by Childline and was rescued by the police. Following the orders of the Child Welfare Committee, Alisha was placed in HOPE's residential child care centre in 2021 when she was 16 years old. Initially, Alisha wanted to return to living on the streets. Gradually, she started confiding in the staff during counselling. She shared that she had been abused by her stepfather. Alisha informed her mother about the abuse. However, her mother refused to intervene. To cope with sexual abuse and mental trauma of her mother's inaction, Alisha resorted to drug abuse.

Alisha consented to undertake legal recourse, and a complaint was lodged against her stepfather under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act of India. Following the legal route, the offender was arrested, and victim compensation was also claimed.

Though she was 16, her Aadhar Card (Government ID) stated she was 11 years old. An ossification test proved her age, and her Aadhaar card details were rectified accordingly. Moreover, Alisha's surname was changed from her stepfather's to her biological father's as per her request. Alisha now possesses an Aadhaar Card with all the correct information. Other legal documents, such as a PAN card and birth certificate, were also procured, and a bank account was registered under her name.

At Ashar Alo, Alisha received the much-needed legal assistance. Moreover, it was here that she started her recovery journey. With medical and psychological support, Alisha's dependence on substances reduced significantly. Most importantly, she started feeling safe and protected. She attended skill-enhancement courses, vocational training programmes, sports, and co-curricular activities. Alisha also enrolled in the tailoring course at the Life Skills Unit and undertook soft skill training programmes in Spoken English and Computer.

Alisha has now completed the tailoring course. She is awaiting her results and course certificates. Meanwhile, Alisha has already joined a design house as a trainee and gets a substantial stipend. Alisha has appeared for several interviews since. As the process continues, we wish her the best for the future.

*"I became very anxious and depressed after experiencing abuse frequently. I had lost all motivation in life and had no dreams left. HOPE instilled in me the courage to go on. Since my childhood, I had been deprived of education. Even after I got the opportunity, I had denied it. I got another opportunity yet again, and this time through Vocational Training. Now, I can dream and make those dreams come true. I am indebted to The Hope Kolkata Foundation and its staff for all they have done for me. I am fortunate to have them."* - Alisha

## After Care Programme for Young Adults

### Hope Kolkata Foundation

The situation analysis conducted by HOPE in 2022 indicated that poverty in families, lack of family support and resources, abuse and deprivation significantly hinder adolescents and young adults from pursuing their careers and higher education. 41% of the children living on the streets, platforms, and slums experience abject poverty that compels them towards forced and low-wage labour. It is estimated by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, India, that only 2.3 % of the Indian workforce has undergone formal skill training as compared to the other global developing countries<sup>1</sup>. Lack of resources due to poverty, lack of opportunities to pursue higher education, inaccessible safe shelter, and unfavourable, harsh environments (especially for young girls) make adolescents more vulnerable. These combined factors force them to drop out of education and become trapped in the vicious cycle of poverty, where vulnerable adolescents get lost in the crowd and remain unidentified.

One of the primary goals of HOPE is to establish equality, equity and accessibility for adolescents and young adults in education, vocation and other life-building entitlements and opportunities.

HOPE runs the After Care Programme for young adults and supports them by providing accommodation, nutrition,

<sup>1</sup>National Skill Development Mission- A Framework for Implementation.; Booklet. Accessed at <https://www.msde.gov.in/sites/default/files/2019-09/National%20Skill%20Development%20Mission.pdf>.



career counselling, personal development training courses, and financial support for higher studies that include Management Studies, Engineering, Industrial training, Business Administration, Post Graduation Degree, and other job oriented skilled based training programmes. The project aims to prepare young adults to become independent. In 2022-23, 60 young adults (28 girls and 32 boys) were supported in their higher studies and acquired new skills to be independent and prepared for a successful future.

### Achievements

- **5** boys and **6** girls are employed, have become self-sufficient, and are supporting their families.
- **10** girls completed professional skills training courses in Graphic Design, Phlebotomy, Business Accounting, etc.
- **10** girls and **8** boys are pursuing Bachelor's Degrees in Arts, Commerce and Mechanical Engineering.
- **1** boy is pursuing vocational training in a computer diploma course. Another boy is pursuing computer vocational training in Financial Accounting (Tally ERP9 and Advance Excel).
- **1** girl acquired a post-graduation degree in Psychology, and **1** boy completed a Diploma in Automobile Engineering and is working as a part-time employee in the Maruti Suzuki Showroom.
- **2** girls completed the first year of their Post-Graduation (Master's) Degree.
- **6** girls opened their own savings bank account and have been depositing money every month, marking a step towards their financial management and empowerment.
- **3** boys passed the Class XII Board Examination from the West Bengal Board of Higher Secondary Education.
- **2** girls received ₹330 under a government scheme after successfully passing the Madhyamik State Examination.
- **2** girls were selected as "Mentors" for the Street Children Cricket World Cup 2023 to represent HOPE. The girls are also talented cricket players who participated in the Street Children Cricket World Cup 2019.



### Story of Change

Debadri came from a vulnerable family. His father died of a heart attack when he was very young. After that, the family forced his mother to leave. Debadri's mother left the house with her two children and went to her maternal home. However, they were neglected and abused. Debadri and his younger sister left and were eventually rescued by the Railway Police at Sealdah train station. As per the order of the Child Welfare Committee, they were placed in a HOPE residential child care centre in 2013.

After being placed in HOPE's care, they were given clothes, food, counselling, and trauma support to deal with the past crisis. They were enrolled in English medium schools, and with the help of regular counselling, active participation in training and workshops, sports and co-curricular activities, they displayed their hidden talents.

This year, Debadri successfully passed the Class XII Board Examination from the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education Examination with Grade A+. He is now in college studying accountancy.

# Mother and Child Care Unit

## Hope Kolkata Foundation

The principle of gender equality is enshrined within the Indian Constitution in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles. The Constitution not only grants equality to women but also empowers the State to adopt measures for their well-being, safety, and progress. However, a report published by the National Commission of Women, India, the statutory body that advises the Government of India on all policy matters affecting women, shows a stark contrast in practice. The report found that the top five complaints filed nationally at the Commission in 2020-21 were regarding the Right to Live with dignity, domestic violence, dowry harassment (married woman), outraging modesty and police apathy<sup>1</sup>. Prolonged suffering of mothers due to psychological illness and early pregnancy among women are increasing risks and vulnerabilities that have emerged visibly since COVID-19. These risks are threatening for women and have adverse effects on mothers and their children.

An assessment conducted among 61 homeless mothers and their children by HOPE and our partners in 2022 indicated early and unsafe pregnancy among homeless women (as soon as attaining adulthood - 18 years of age). It also indicated that 48% of these mothers suffered from psychosocial disabilities, which were left untreated. Furthermore, the study found that 68% of these mothers reported infant mortality, while 50% reported that their children were deprived of post-natal care and necessities, including education. The underlying reason for this deprivation was predominantly domestic violence. 25% of the mothers reported to voluntarily leave home due to domestic violence. In these cases, children were found to be the greatest sufferers. Living a hazardous life on the streets deprives them of safety, nutrition and healthcare, while exposing them to the risk of addiction, trafficking, and child labour.

The Mother and Child Care Unit supports homeless mothers and their children who were abandoned by their families, are suffering from critical psychological illness, have experienced domestic violence from their husbands and were compelled to leave their homes and take shelter on the streets, pavements, and train stations of Kolkata. Mothers with their children are placed in the Mother and Child Care Unit through the intervention of the police after being rescued from difficult situations by the outreach support teams and other partners of HOPE.

The Mother and Child Care Unit ensures effective care for the mother and children so they can have an optimal life. Mothers in distress with their children, regardless of their caste, religion and creed, are taken into the safe custody of the Mother and Child Care Unit and are supported for their further rehabilitation, financial independence and empowerment. The mothers and children are linked with available social welfare schemes and entitlements and acquire citizenship documents based on their address and requirements. The mothers are also supported to improve their knowledge, understanding and skills to earn money to support their families. Financial independence also brings opportunities to make decisions in their families, prevent themselves from being victims of domestic violence and make decisions about their children's future.

In 2022-23, 21 mothers and 15 children were supported by the Mother and Child Care Unit, of which 10 mothers had severe psychological illnesses and were abandoned by their families. All these 21 mothers took shelter on the streets with their children after being abused and disowned by their husbands and families. 5 children were out of school despite being of school-going age, and 3 children were suffering from malnutrition and deprived of postnatal care.

### Achievements

- **10** mothers and **11** children were restored to their families following improved knowledge and awareness of the family towards the mothers and their children.
- **5** children attended and completed early childhood education and were enrolled in school after their restoration.
- **6** mothers with psychosocial illness and disabilities improved their overall psychological well-being with improved response to crisis, taking care of children, actively completing daily tasks, and maintaining personal hygiene.
- **3** children suffering from malnutrition improved their weight and health and achieved their developmental milestones.

<sup>1</sup>Annual Report, 2020-21, National Commission for Women



- **10** families reported improved knowledge of child rights, child-rearing practices, schemes and entitlements, women's rights, residential rights, the importance of treatment for psychological illness and addressing stigma related to psychological illness and disorders, etc.
- **8** children were immunised from the nearby health centre.
- **1** child received a birth certificate.

### Story of Change

35 years old Rikia was rescued from a train station in Kolkata along with her 3-year-old daughter, who was malnourished. Rikia was pregnant at the time. They were placed in the Mother and Child Care Unit for care and rehabilitation. After being placed in the Mother and Child Care Unit, Rikia was provided with counselling. She had come to Kolkata with her daughter to find work after the death of her husband.

When Rikia came to the Mother and Child Care Unit, her daughter was experiencing fever and severe abdominal pain. After several medical tests, she was diagnosed with tuberculosis and was admitted to a government hospital for treatment. It was the most challenging time as Rikia was also hospitalised to deliver her baby and missed her daughter.

Rikia gave birth to a boy, and her daughter was discharged from the hospital after recovering from tuberculosis. She was enrolled in a crèche and learned the alphabet, numbers, colours, rhymes, etc. Rikia became involved in vocational classes and made handmade cards, candle holders, jewellery, door mats, etc. After counselling, Rikia shared some details about her family and her home. She is from a small village in Jharkhand, another state, but could not remember the name of the village.

After networking with the local police of Jharkhand, the family was found. With regular communication and networking with the authorities in Jharkhand, Rikia was restored to her family. She is an example of a great mother who started from zero and now takes all the necessary care and protects both of her children.



## Child Watch

### Hope Kolkata Foundation

Child Watch is a rights based holistic approach to address education, protection, and health issues of street-connected children. In addition to direct interventions in the community, the programme links street-connected children and their families with different Government departments to obtain social entitlements. It works to provide care and protection for street-connected children through building a community safety net. The project mobilises community volunteer groups of adults and older children on child rights and protection issues to provide a 24x7 safety net to street-connected children. It strengthens and supports the community to address child abuse, child labour, child marriage, child trafficking and child addiction. Cases of children in need of care and protection are produced to the Child Welfare Committee to ensure alternate care arrangements for the child.

The project ensures street-connected children access formal education. During the COVID-19 pandemic, while schools were closed, Child Watch constantly motivated children to attend online classes, complete their worksheets issued by the schools and sustain networking with the schools.

The Child Watch team raises awareness among the community on various seasonal diseases such as dengue, malaria and other infectious diseases. They motivate the community to get the appropriate vaccinations and help schedule

children's immunisation at the local government health centres.

Through networking and advocacy with various Government, non-government and similar organisations, Child Watch ensures that the street-connected children are well represented in the relevant forums.

## Achievements

- **915** children (aged between 0 - 18 years) and **414** adults from seven street-connected communities in Kolkata were supported by the project.
- **471** community members attended various awareness programmes.
- **539** children were mobilised to continue their education.
- **280** children were sensitised on different protection issues through awareness programmes.
- **153** parents and children were made aware of the immunisation of children from 0 - 2 years of age.
- **35** children were newly enrolled in school.
- **5** cases of child labour and **5** cases of child addiction were identified and intervened. **2** cases of child marriages were prevented.
- **12** children obtained birth certificates, and **11** children obtained Aadhar cards.
- **87** community members were linked with Government offices and banks to obtain various social entitlements such as PAN Cards (**33**), Aadhar Cards (**14**), Ration Cards (**3**) and new bank accounts (**27** fathers and **5** community members).



## Story of Change

Raju is a two-year-old boy who lives on the streets near the tracks of Sealdah Train Station, one of the largest and busiest train terminals in India, with his parents and an older brother. One night, he went missing. The members of the Child Vigilance Group informed the Child Watch team the next morning. The members of the Child Vigilance Group accompanied Raju's father to lodge a missing child's report at the local police station. As the child was first noticed missing near the railway tracks, the Child Watch team contacted the Railway Police Unit. The Child Helpline and Railway Police Unit started investigating based on the report, and in 24 hours, the railway police traced the identity of the kidnapper and the whereabouts of Raju. The railway police coordinated with the local police, who rescued Raju.

When Raju finally saw his parents (after nearly two days), he broke into tears and ran to them. After multiple medical check-ups, counselling and completion of investigation reports, the family finally brought back Raju.







# SPONSORSHIP

The Sponsorship Programme aims to make school and higher education more accessible to children and youth from the financially weaker section of society and those suffering from chronic diseases. Although the government provides free education in government schools, the associated costs of education are a significant barrier for all those who find it challenging to generate enough income for their basic living. The situation becomes extremely difficult when the children are first-generation learners, and there is no one to help them with their studies at home. Continuing higher studies is even more challenging for young adults as mainstream education is very competitive and vocational courses are costly. HOPE's Sponsorship Programme bridges the gap created by the financial differences.

Through the programme, the parents are guided on budgeting, low-cost nutrition, access to government schemes for free ration and health facilities and income-generating opportunities.

**1,118** sponsors from Ireland, the UK, India, the USA, Germany, and Japan supported **1,869** children and youth in need through HOPE's Sponsorship Programme.

**Outreach Education:** Outreach Education support is provided to **1,064** children staying with their families in Kolkata and adjacent districts, including the Sunderban area. Their sponsors support school fees (low-cost non-government school), books, education materials and non-formal tuition support. Young adults are also supported to pursue vocational training besides their formal education.

**Boarding and Education:** HOPE has collaborated with boarding schools and hostels in Kolkata to place **51** children deprived of the necessary resources or accommodation facilities to continue their studies to ensure quality education and shelter.

**Medical & Education:** The HOPE sponsorship programme supports **21** children who are malnourished or suffering from various diseases along with their educational requirements by providing medical and nutrition support.

**Coaching Centre:** HOPE runs two coaching centres for **435** sponsored children at Chitpur and Bhagar, two of the most vulnerable communities in Kolkata and Howrah. The children attend these coaching centres after school, where the tutors support the children to continue their education in a joyful learning environment. They are also provided with nutrition and medical support.

**Residential Childcare Centres:** **244** children placed in HOPE residential childcare centres for their holistic development are provided with sponsorship support.

**Children Restored to Families:** **54** children who were once under HOPE's Residential Childcare Programme and later restored to their homes receive Sponsorship Educational Support and/or health support directly while staying with their families.

**Ration Support:** HOPE distributes ration support to **1,180** children and their families every month. This was introduced during the COVID-19 lockdown in 2020. However, based on the continuing need, children receive dry ration kits every month to ensure good health.

The Sponsorship Programme works towards making a lasting difference in the lives of children, youth, and society.

## Story of Change I

Nivedita overcame adversity to become a successful Quality Control Technologist in a renowned seafood company. Aware of their daughter's extraordinary potential,





her parents approached HOPE to seek sponsorship for her education when she was in Class V. Her father worked in a lottery shop, earning a meagre income that barely covered the family's daily needs. Meanwhile, her mother battled cancer, placing an immense financial burden on their strained resources.

HOPE recognised her potential and started supporting her educational journey. Over time, Nivedita's passion for education led her to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry and a Master's in Fisheries. With support from HOPE, she has achieved her dreams and is excelling in her career.

### Story of Change 2

Anuj, a determined and driven individual, has triumphed over hardship to carve out his path to success. He recently completed his undergraduate studies in Journalism and now aspires to pursue a master's degree in the same field. Anuj's journey with HOPE began when his mother reached out to HOPE for educational sponsorship after his father's death when he was in Class XI. His mother was devastated. Her earnings were not enough to buy food for them, and covering the cost of education was beyond imagination.

At present, Anuj is one of the top ten students at his university. He has already completed internships in three reputed media houses. He has also successfully written and published a book, and another one is awaiting publication. His story exemplifies determination, academic excellence, and a promising future in journalism.



### Testimonials

*Sponsoring a child in Kolkata has given my husband Donncha and myself a great deal of satisfaction. Following her development over many years, we have witnessed her journey from a place of deprivation and anxiety to one of confidence and hope. Through the loving care and educational blessings conferred upon her through her participation in a Hope Foundation programme, she is now a bright-eyed, confident and optimistic young lady who looks forward to a happy and successful future.*

*Dr. Sinead O'Nuallain, sponsor from Ireland*



*As a teacher, I travelled with our transition year students to Kolkata in Feb 2019 through The Hope Foundation. Here I saw the firsthand extraordinary work HOPE is doing for the street children and those children living in HOPE protection homes. We also visited the Hope hospital that cares for injured and abandoned children and adults alike. Here we heard heartbreaking stories from the hospital manager due to poverty. Education, food and shelter are necessities we take for granted and sponsoring children will hopefully contribute in some way to a better future for these children and their families. These children have so little but yet are so happy. The trip brought such perspective to my life and to all of us who travelled. My husband and I are so happy to contribute in some way to improving the livelihood of the children we sponsor. We have two young children ourselves and this has really magnified the contrast between their lives and ours.*

*Orla Cotter, sponsor from Ireland*

*"I started child sponsorship after seeing the huge difference sponsorship was making to children's lives who have been helped by HOPE. Many children were not only completing their schooling but were going on to study at college and university and were finding jobs. It has been so wonderful being able to read each year about how my sponsored child has been progressing at school that I went on to sponsor another 2 children, including Somnath. When I found out about Somnath trying to become a doctor I felt really privileged to be able to sponsor him. I was so impressed by his ambition and by his determination as he had been turned down for his college course several times but kept trying and succeeded in being offered a place to study to become a doctor. It is amazing how much he has achieved, and he is so inspirational. I would encourage anyone to become a child sponsor as making a difference to a child's life is so very rewarding."*

*Karen Moujahid, sponsor from the UK*

*"I have absolutely loved being a sponsor of a child through HOPE. My journey began in 2004 when I was visiting India as a tourist. I met a woman in the cell phone store when I was getting a sim card who said that she volunteered with a nonprofit organization that served the street and slum affiliated children of Calcutta. She invited me to come visit.*

*I was inspired and thrilled by what I saw when I visited one of the residential child care centres, the next day. The HOPE staff also showed me around other facilities, including the medical care program in the slums, and the lifeskills centre where they were teaching locals how to prepare food and serve it in a restaurant, and how to make clothes and other handicrafts. I signed up to sponsor a child immediately and have continued to do so ever since.*

*It has now been nearly 20 years. I have also taken on the sponsorship of two other children on behalf of family members. Every year, I give my nieces the gift of a child sponsorship instead of physical presents for Christmas. They love the annual letters that they get from the child along with updates on their school progress and a photograph. We feel very connected to the children who we sponsor and to HOPE.*

*I have also had the opportunity to meet HOPE's founder Maureen Forrest on several occasions. She is a real-life angel. She is an absolute miracle of a human being whose life purpose is caring for the most vulnerable children of the world. She has made such an incredible difference. Everyone who works at HOPE is dedicated to the betterment of our world from the bottom of their souls. I am honored and proud to be a child sponsor through HOPE."*

*Mei Mei Fox, sponsor from the USA*

*It heartens me, year after year, to see the relentless work being done by HOPE's Kasba Residential Child Care Centre for all the girls that stay there. The caregivers have only 1 mission - the well being of all who stay there. I am personally so happy to be able to support Suchitra's education and development in this home and as I watch her blossom each year, my heart is filled with gratitude to the team there. Thank you and God bless you all.*

*Sharmistha Chatterjee, sponsor from India*





# ENVIRONMENT

HOPE has been actively pursuing activities to ensure that the children feel more connected to nature and take initiatives to adopt green practices. HOPE envisions that these children will create effective solutions in the future to save our planet by reducing waste, improving the greenery and advocating for healthier spaces.

This year, HOPE emphasised on recycling waste and creating green corners. Recycling is a fun way to show children how to create value from discarded materials and waste. The children were encouraged to learn ways of making crafts using recycled materials, and their crafts were showcased in exhibitions and awareness campaigns. The children gained confidence when their craftwork was appreciated in a broader arena, giving them the momentum to continue with more recycling projects. In addition, through the mini-gardens and hanging gardens, HOPE tried to create a connection between the children and nature. As many children live in slum and street-connected communities, they rarely see green space in their communities. With green corners in their schools and centres, the children can create their own little green space. They are encouraged to learn more about the plants, their benefits and their maintenance. In addition to visual aesthetics, these green corners improve indoor air quality. Through maintaining medicinal plants and vegetables around them, the children also learned about the role nature plays in our health and well-being.

## Awareness and Trainings

- The children of **47** schools were informed about protecting the environment through the 3R - Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.
- The teachers of all **7** Naboasha centres and the Education on Wheels programme encouraged and guided the students to recycle discarded materials and create beautiful art pieces with their imagination.
- Students from all **7** Naboasha centres and the Education on Wheels programme were taught how to create mini or hanging gardens using potted plants.
- **3** HOPE Skill Training centres motivated **125** young trainees to work together in saving the planet on World Environment Day.
- The girls of Ashar Alo residential care centre interacted online with Grainne Mc Macken from Ireland to learn about nutrition, organic food and the importance of eating fresh fruits and vegetables. Ms. Macken and the girls of Ashar Alo exchanged ideas on kitchen gardens and shared details of their gardens.
- The boys from HOPE residential child care centres were made aware of the concepts of reduce, reuse and recycle and how to implement them in their daily lives.
- During the Children's Day celebration, the children from HOPE residential child care centres were informed about the importance of trees and plants.
- **105** children from Bhagar Crèche learnt about saving the earth on World Earth Day in April 2022.



## Acts & Actions

- **207** children from all **4** crèches, Panditya, Kasba, Chitpur and Bhagar, observed World Environment Day through exhibitions focusing on the importance of protecting the environment. The guardians and community members visited the exhibition and were amazed by the posters and artwork made by the children to ensure steps for sustainability.
- **43** Government schools in Kolkata set up 'Green Zones' in their compound with the support of HOPE. The children of these schools are maintaining them with support from the teachers and staff.
- Children from Naboasha centres and the Education on Wheels programme created thought-provoking artwork to create an eco-friendly arts and crafts corner in the centres.
- The children from Naboasha centres and the Education on Wheels programme created "Green Corners" around their schools by planting saplings in potted plants on World Environment Day.
- The children from HOPE residential child care centres planted saplings in their courtyard to protect the environment and beautify their courtyard on World Environment Day.
- The children of Naboasha and Education on Wheels projects participated in the exhibition organised by HSBC Electronic Data Processing India Pvt Ltd, Kolkata. The theme of the exhibition was - The Environment, and the children displayed their handmade products made from recycled materials.
- **100** plants, gifted by a supporter, were planted by the girls from HOPE residential child care centres.
- Ashar Alo and Snehneer residential child care centres maintained their kitchen garden throughout the year. They produce radish, chilli, beans, tomatoes, brinjal, coriander leaf, beetroot, bitter gourd, gourd, pumpkin and ridge gourd in their garden organically. The children got involved in maintaining the garden and distributed the gardening duties among themselves.
- The theme for HOPE's Foundation Day was Paryavaran (i.e., Environment). Children from all HOPE projects provided unique views to restore our planet through songs and dance. HOPE utilised the platform, attended by many dignitaries from Kolkata, to raise awareness on saving our planet and how we can contribute to it.



## Story of Change

Green spaces are important for the development and well-being of children, helping them connect with nature, increase physical activity and build social networks. It improves air quality, reduces noise, and enhances biodiversity. Thus, with this inspiration, HOPE took the initiative of setting up a green corner in 43 Government schools in Kolkata. This includes setting up a small plot or wall garden using PVC pipes, small tubs, or vertical physical structures made of iron in the playground or a well-lit corner of the classroom to grow 8 types of medicinal plants or seasonal vegetables. Plants such as kalanchoe, snake plants, aloe vera, ajwain, dracaena, and money plants are grown. The teachers took the initiative to discuss how to take care of plants as well as issues on the environment and practical measures the children can take daily. The "Environment Minister" of the "Child Cabinet" supervises a team to take care of the plants daily to inculcate ownership. The green school programme was set up in 43 schools, and child cabinet members were oriented on supervising a team and taking care of the plants daily.



# INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER AND INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

## The Indian Internship & Volunteer Programme

The Indian Internship and Volunteer Programme successfully engaged 148 interns and 7 volunteers from 46 colleges/universities.

### Activities of the Interns and Volunteers:

**1. Teaching Children:** One of the primary tasks for the interns and volunteers was to teach children from the Naboasha Project. This involved providing educational support and assistance to underprivileged children in need of academic help.

**2. Developing Teaching-Learning Materials:** The participants also worked on creating teaching-learning materials for different education projects. These materials included educational resources, lesson plans, and other instructional content to enhance the learning experience of the students.

**3. Supporting Documentation Works:** The interns and volunteers assisted in various documentation related to the Sponsorship Programme. This involved organising and managing project-related documents, data entry, or other administrative tasks.

**4. Surveys & Awareness Programmes:** The interns actively participated in surveys and awareness programmes conducted by the project teams. These surveys and awareness campaigns aimed to gather information, assess project impacts, or raise awareness about specific issues.

The combined efforts of the interns and volunteers resulted in approximately **13,500 volunteer hours** throughout the year. This impressive number reflects the dedication and commitment of the participants in contributing their time and skills to the programme's activities.

Overall, the Indian Internship and Volunteer Programme have made a significant impact by providing valuable support to educational projects and initiatives, benefiting both the volunteers and the communities they served.

*Prarthana Sarkar*, a student of applied psychology, a professional model and an expert in personality development, conducted a workshop with youth from various HOPE projects as part of her internship.



## Students participating from the College & Universities

Amity University Mumbai	Lovely Professional University
Amity University Rajasthan	Martin Luther Christian University
Amity University, Kolkata	Mizoram University
Amity University, Noida	Mongrace Montessori House
Ashoka University	National Institute of Technology, Durgapur
Assam Don Bosco University	National Law School of India University
Assam Don Bosco University, Tepesia	National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam
Assam Kaziranga University	Netaji Subhash Open University
Assam University, Silchar	Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies
Bharatiya Vidyapeeth New Law College	OP Jindal Global University
Bhawanipur Education Society College	Ramaiah Institute of Management Sciences
Calcutta University	Sammelani Mahavidyalaya
Christ Academy Institute of Law	Sivanath Sastri College, University of Calcutta
Christ University	St Xavier's College Kolkata
FLAME University	St. Xavier's University, Kolkata
Haldia Institute of Management	Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur
Indian Institute of Social Welfare and Business Management	Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts, Pune
Indira Gandhi National Open University	Symbiosis School of Economics, Pune
Institute of Engineering and Management, Kolkata	Tata Institute of Social Sciences
Institute of Law Nirma University Ahmedabad	Techno India University
Jadavpur University	University of Engineering and Management
Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT)	Vidyasagar School of Social Work
Law College Durgapur	Visvabharati University





*I joined The Hope Foundation as an intern as a part of my Master degree programme on Public Health. I was assigned to work with the education team. I was initially a bit sceptical if I will be able to teach children. But my supervisor Salil Sir briefed me that my role as an intern will be based on my medical education as advised by Jhulan Madam. I was relieved. I was assigned to develop a module on basic health and hygiene for slum and street children. With the help of the project team members, I was able to develop the module and conducted a few awareness programmes.*

*It took me some time to open up, however as days passed, I realised, the great vision HOPE has and the amount of hard work the staff are doing everyday to mainstream students from a vulnerable background.*

*Dr. Shatabdi Ghosh, Intern-India*

*Master's degree students of social work from different universities in Assam (India) are participating in a brainstorming session with the Sponsorship Team, where they were placed for a month to assist the staff and gain firsthand work experience.*



## International Volunteer Programme

The International Volunteer Programme resumed in January 2023 after the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The programme encourages Irish nationals to work in a voluntary capacity with the HOPE staff and communities in Kolkata, along with fundraising activities in Ireland prior to their travel.

Interested volunteers are selected through a rigorous application process based on their skill sets and interest in working in a multicultural environment under the supervision of the local staff for a short period.

*In early 2023, I spent 3 months volunteering with The Hope Foundation, teaching English as a Second Language (ESL). I worked in the Naboasha's (homework clubs), with catering trainees, with university students and with students of Optometry (of whom are sponsored by Specsavers Ireland).*

*What I love about The Hope Foundation is that they offer support to those students who truly need it. Many of the students in HOPE's education programmes are first-generation learners - the first of their family to complete their education.*

There are Naboasha centres that cater to children living in slum areas in Kolkata. The centres are typically located in community buildings or temporary shipping containers. One of HOPE's newest education programmes is 'Education on Wheels' which is a converted bus that provides education support to the children in those communities. The HOPE team are instrumental in helping the children and their parents realising the value of education as a way out of abject poverty.

I enjoyed every minute of my time in Kolkata and feel privileged to work with such wonderful people. I hope to go there again next year.

Sincere thanks to all who have supported my fundraising events over the years; be assured that your money is very well spent.

Liz (Elizabeth) Hennessy, Ireland



## International Corporate Volunteer Programme (Virtual)

International Corporate Volunteering Programme, a commendable initiative that started as a part of the Google Employee Volunteer Programme in June 2021. The programme expanded its scope in 2022 to include corporate employees from other companies. The involvement of corporate volunteers allowed for a more diverse and impactful virtual volunteer force.

### Key highlights of the programme in 2022:

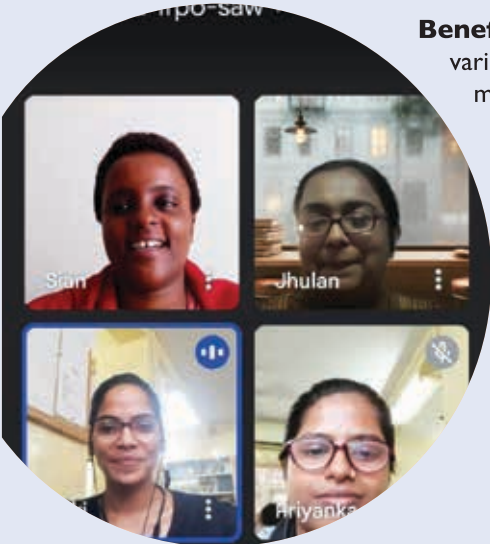
**Participation of Corporate Employees:** 9 staff members from different companies who volunteered their time and expertise. These individuals were industry experts from various fields, bringing valuable knowledge and experience to the volunteering activities.

**Online Mentoring Sessions:** The corporate volunteers conducted online mentoring sessions as part of their engagement with the HOPE projects. These sessions focused on two crucial aspects of career development: Curriculum Vitae (CV) designing and interview skills.

**Beneficiaries:** The beneficiaries of these mentoring sessions were the youth associated with various HOPE projects. These young individuals come from underprivileged backgrounds and may not have access to professional guidance and mentorship. The mentoring sessions allowed them to learn from seasoned professionals and gain insights into building effective CVs and improving their interview skills.

**Industry Expertise:** The involvement of industry experts as mentors ensured that the guidance provided to the students was practical, up-to-date, and aligned with the job market requirements. This exposure to industry insights can greatly benefit the student's future careers.

Overall, the International Corporate Volunteering Programme successfully bridged the gap between corporate employees willing to volunteer and young individuals seeking guidance and mentorship. By offering online mentoring sessions, the programme empowered students with essential skills and knowledge, enhancing their job prospects and fostering personal growth. Additionally, it promoted a sense of social responsibility among corporate professionals, encouraging them to give back to the community and positively impact society.





# SCHOOL IMMERSION PROGRAMME & GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION WORKSHOPS



## School Immersion Programme

The school immersion programme brings unique opportunities to secondary school students to witness how their fundraising and awareness-raising support HOPE's projects to break the cycle of poverty for the slum and street-connected families in Kolkata.

The Hope Foundation has resumed recruiting students to travel to Kolkata on the School Immersion Programme in spring 2023 once again, which was on hold due to the COVID-19 Pandemic from March 2020. Many students who missed their opportunities to become part of this unique experience due to COVID restrictions also visited HOPE projects as college youth.

### List of 2023 Schools

Midleton College

Rockwell College

St Mary's Midleton High School

Bandon Grammar School

Boherbue Comprehension

Coláiste Treasa

Laurel Hill Coláiste FCJ

Patrician Academy

Crescent College Comprehension

Ashton School

Castleknock College

Holy Family Rathcoole

Muckross Park College

Regina Mundi College

St Anne's School Tipperary Town

St Mary's Macroom

Alexandra College

### Deferred Schools that were meant to travel in 2020

Blackwater Community School

Castletroy

Coláiste Ide agus Ioseph

Coláiste Mhuire Askeaton

Coláiste Mhuire Ennis

Gaelcholáiste Luimíng

John the Baptist

Meánscoil San Nicolás

Mount Sackville

Pobalscoil na Tríonóide

Presentation Thurles

Rochestown

St Annes Killaloe

St Mary's Charleville

St. Angelas Ursuline

Ursuline Secondary School

*"I had the most wonderful trip; I will never forget it and will continue to fundraise for The Hope Foundation! I was so impressed to see how much HOPE do in Kolkata and overall proud of myself for fundraising so much. I had an amazing time over there and I am eager to go back in the future as may be a chaperone and for work experience if I pursue primary school teaching! I am grateful to The Hope Foundation for giving me this opportunity to go on the trip! They really live up to their motto "creating a world where it should never hurt to be a child".*

*Lillimarie Scannell. Regina Mundi College, Cork*



*My experience on going to Kolkata with The Hope Foundation was genuinely the best of my life so far. I have fantastic memories from the children I met in the crèches and HOPE Projects and everyone I met was so friendly and welcoming I am so grateful I could experience India and immerse myself in an incredibly colourful, new culture. I made new and lovely friends with the people I met over there and other students from Ireland who were also on the trip and tried new foods, learnt traditional dances and got henna's! All the chaperones and leaders were very kind, caring and informative. Thank you so much for an amazing trip. I would recommend this trip to everyone and definitely will try and go back to India with The Hope Foundation when I am older in college!*

*Éabha O'Sullivan, Regina Mundi College, Cork*

*This was the absolute best experience of my life. Seeing the work that The Hope Foundation does first hand is truly inspiring. The difference being made to these children's lives is incredible. The children I got the pleasure of meeting are the most talented, hopeful and clever children with the biggest hearts and biggest smiles. It makes me want to do more to help and I cannot wait to go back.*

*Ella Hayes*

*The immersion program has truly changed my life. I have seen firsthand the amazing work done by the Hope Foundation. They are successfully breaking the cycle of poverty in Kolkata.*

*Jane O'Brien*

*I had the most amazing week in India. Seeing the smiles on all the children's faces was amazing. Seeing how enthusiastic they were about life was unbelievable. I was emotional going home from this trip; it was so eye opening and really reinforced what's truly important in life. I would definitely hope to return in the future. I would highly recommend this trip to anyone interested; It's a trip of a lifetime.*

*Sarah Phelan (Ursuline Thurles)*

## Global Citizenship Education Workshops

Workshops on Gender Inequality and the Power of Unconscious Bias were delivered to junior cycle and transition year students in secondary schools across Ireland.



# THE ACHIEVERS

"I had the opportunity to stay in San Francisco under the Global UGRAD23 programme for one semester (spring) and study at San Francisco State University, and it was an experience like no other. The culture was vastly different from what I was used to back home in Kolkata, India. First, there was a palpable sense of diversity and openness that was very refreshing. People from all walks of life and backgrounds seemed to coexist harmoniously, which was a marked difference from the polarizing social structures I had grown accustomed to. Additionally, I noticed that San Franciscans placed a high value on individuality and self-expression, which was evident in the city's vibrant art scene.

Regarding my education at San Francisco State University, I was impressed by the quality of instruction and the vast array of courses available. The professors were knowledgeable and passionate about their subjects, and I felt challenged and engaged in the classroom. Furthermore, the campus was stunning, with its rolling hills and breathtaking views of the city and the bay. I appreciated the emphasis on critical thinking and experiential learning, which allowed me to integrate theory with practice.

Regarding food, San Francisco offered an embarrassment of riches. I was able to sample an incredible variety of cuisines from around the world, from Italian and Chinese to Mexican and Ethiopian. What impressed me most, however, was the access to fresh and locally sourced ingredients, which made for some of the most flavorful and healthy meals I had ever eaten.



As part of a social service programme, I volunteered with a group of Missionary Sisters in 164 Milagra Dr, Pacifica, CA 94044 (missionary of charity) working to provide food to homeless individuals in San Francisco. The main objective of this programme was to provide basic human needs for the less privileged population and alleviate their struggle with hunger and malnutrition. We also sat down with them and talked to them about different things, such as what they are doing and inquiries about their health.

Over the course of the program, I assisted in distributing meals to approximately 150 homeless people around Cesar Chavez, McKinnon, 327 Winfield St, Tenderloin and other different streets in SF.

Working with the Missionary Sisters was a fulfilling experience, and I was given the opportunity to learn the importance of giving back to the less fortunate community. The experience was also humbling, seeing people who often have so little being so thankful. Furthermore, working alongside the sisters and volunteers further emphasized the importance of teamwork and the impact of joint collaborative efforts. It also helped me see the love between the homeless.

Coming from Kolkata, I couldn't help but notice how different San Francisco was in many ways. However, I also found that there were many similarities. Both places have a rich history and cultural heritage that is reflected in their art, music, and cuisine. Additionally, both places are home to diverse communities that value education and personal growth. Ultimately, my experience in San Francisco allowed me to gain a deeper appreciation for the beauty and complexity of the world we live in, and I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to study and learn in such a dynamic and welcoming environment.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my principal Sr. Christine Coutinho of Loreto College, Jhulan Ma'am from The Hope Foundation and the USA Consulate of Kolkata for giving me the opportunity to study in the United States. Words cannot express how grateful I am for all your efforts in helping me with the application process, securing the necessary documents, and making sure that everything went smoothly. Studying in the United States has always

been a dream of mine, and you made this dream a reality. From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank you for this amazing opportunity. Your support and encouragement have been invaluable, and I cannot thank you enough for all the guidance and assistance you provided me with.”

*Sonia Sarkar*

“I am Frannie Sarkar, a current college student at Loreto College, Kolkata. Last year, I had the incredible opportunity to participate in the Community College Initiative Programme, which allowed me to study in the United States for 10 months. The program centered around five key pillars: Academics, Internship, Service Learning, Cultural Exchange, and Leadership. I was placed at Fox Valley Technical College, a respected two-year public college situated in Appleton, Wisconsin.

During my time in the programme, I focused on Hospitality Management and Tourism. I completed two semesters and achieved a commendable 3.7 GPA, which earned me a place on the dean’s list. Additionally, I received an invitation to become a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, in recognition of my academic achievements.

To gain practical experience, I interned at the International Student Services office, where I worked at the front desk. This role allowed me to develop valuable skills in event management, adaptability, and professionalism within an office environment. I received the distinguished Best Intern of the Year award from my programme coordinators during the graduation ceremony.

Throughout my stay in the United States, I dedicated 200 hours to social service. These activities involved working on farms, volunteering at various social events, and assisting well-known organizations such as Feeding America and churches in supporting those in need. Engaging in volunteer work not only allowed me to make a positive impact on the community but also provided valuable networking opportunities, enabling me to connect with people from diverse backgrounds and hear their unique stories. Furthermore, the programme provided numerous occasions for me to share my own culture through presentations, activities, and potluck gatherings.

One of the programme requirements was the completion of a Community Impact Project, which we were responsible for leading. Inspired by the closure of our college food pantry due to insufficient sponsors and food supplies, I decided to organize a food drive. Through collective efforts within the college premises and dormitory, I successfully collected four 25-kilogram boxes of food. The accomplishments of my project were met with pride from my coordinators, further fuelling my sense of achievement.

During my time in the United States, I had the opportunity to learn about various countries, including Turkey, Brazil, South Africa, Cameroon, Ghana, Colombia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Tunisia, Pakistan, Russia, and others. Additionally, I gained deeper insights into American culture through engaging activities, such as visiting the Amish community and interacting with its members to understand their way of life, distinct from mainstream American society. Further experiences included visiting a medium-security prison, trying baseball, savoring the renowned local pizza, and participating in other enjoyable outings.

I was fortunate to have a wonderful social host, Judy Ruhl, who provided guidance and support throughout the programme. She accompanied me on a memorable trip to Niagara Falls in New York, an experience that will forever be etched in my memory. Judy also organized enjoyable snow activities, such as ice skating and sledding. Her lively and communicative nature made her an excellent mentor.

Overall, my participation in the College Community Initiative Programme was an extraordinary experience that still feels like a dream. It enabled me to develop independence, maturity, and a global mind set.”

*Frannie Sarkar*





# PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

## Skychildren Onlus

The Hope Foundation and Skychildren Onlus share similar values regarding eradicating inequality and have been partners for a long time. Initially as Vital Italy in 2011, and since 2017, as Skychildren Onlus, the dynamic group under Allegra Viganotti, Federica Gironi, Anna Dossi and Katia Ambrosini supports HOPE projects in the areas of health, education and child protection.

### Health

- Specialised Pathological Laboratory
- Hospital Equipment
- Community Clinic



### Education

- Naboasha Education Centres
- Education on Wheels
- Education Sponsorship
- Creche



### Child Protection

- Holistic development of girls staying in a Residential Child Care Centre



### Story of Change

A family of 8 from a remote village in Eastern India travelled a long way to Kolkata in search of a better future. Madhu, a father of 5 daughters, being a cobbler, soon realised his skills are very limited to caring for the entire family in this big city. The family started staying in a slum near the city's biggest marketplace. Like many others, Madhu considered daughters a financial burden to the family and was not interested in enrolling them in school after moving to Kolkata.

As part of their regular community visit, the Naboasha social workers observed this family for some time and understood the girls had discontinued formal education. They immediately contacted the parents, and after many awareness and counselling sessions regarding the need for education and the consequences of child trafficking, child labour, and child marriage, Madhu agreed to send the daughters to the nearby Naboasha centre.

The life of the girls took a giant leap. After attending informal education sessions for a few weeks, all five were enrolled in school and continue to attend the Naboasha centre for additional educational support through Skychildren Sponsorship support. Currently, the youngest girl is still in school, and the other three girls are continuing their higher education. One of the sisters, Anamika, is a very bright young woman. She is now in the final year of her undergraduate degree. She is a community mobiliser who is always ready to support the children and spread awareness for the benefit of the children.

HOPE is extremely thankful to Skychildren Onlus for their support and appreciates the dedication and involvement of the Skychildren team in the projects for the benefit of the underserved children in Kolkata.

*"Our first encounter with Kolkata was with HOPE's loving care of disadvantaged street children," say the four Skychildren members. "In 2011 we met the astonishing joy of Geeta Mam', previous Hope Kolkata Foundation Director, and we fell in love with their qualified, efficient, but greatly affectionate approach to underprivileged kids. During these nearly 13 years, we've been working with the passionate staff of Mrs Maureen Forrest, endorsed by her huge energy and perseverance, we have established and supported innovative projects for the education and health of our Skychildren together with her team."*

Skychildren Onlus



Allegra Viganotti, Katia Ambrosini and other members of Skychildren Onlus visited HOPE Hospital and interacted with Sachidananda Das, Director of Finance & Administration of The Hope Foundation, and Samiran Mallik, CEO of HOPE Hospital, regarding the functioning of the specialised pathological laboratory funded by Butan Gas. Italy.



Allegra Viganotti and other supporters from Skychildren Onlus visiting the Community Clinic in the presence of HOPE Hospital CEO Samiran Mallik and the Medical Team.



The Skychildren Onlus team interacting with the children from Education on Wheels along with Programme Lead, Subhatama Mukherjee, and Programme Manager, Gauri Pandit.



Children enjoying Painting Workshop, "Atelier." Here they can colour and paint as their hearts desire; breaking the shackles of monotony and experiencing the unexplored talent they already had in them.



Allegra Viganotti, Federica Gironi, Anna Dossi and Katia Ambrosini from Skychildren Onlus visiting Bhagar Crèche and playing with the children.



# COLLABORATION PROJECTS

## BeesTreesWater & Rotary Club Calcutta Inner City

BeesTreesWater, a US-based NGO, and Rotary Calcutta Inner City have supported WASH programmes for slum communities since 2019 to improve sanitation facilities for a better environment. This year, the programme focused on Bhagar slum, where one toilet was renovated, and one new toilet complex was constructed for the slum residents. Mr Spicer Khakoo, founder of BeesTreesWater, was present to inaugurate the facilities.

A ceramic candle water filter was installed in our Bhagar Creche to ensure the children had access to clean drinking water.



## University College of Cork, Ireland

The University College Cork Hope Foundation Society is an ongoing collaboration to raise funds and awareness for HOPE through events on campus. This academic year the society is led by Chairperson Laoise Keevers, Vice Chairperson Emily Wall and Secretary Áine Hayden. Planned events included a chocolate selling, film screening, a Holi run and a table quiz. We thank UCC for supporting the society and all the members who raise great awareness and raise vital funds for The Hope Foundation projects.

## Gifts of HOPE

HOPE reached out to the ecologically fragile rural communities with the Gifts of HOPE. These rural communities are under constant threat of climate change and have experienced two devastating cyclones in the past years. Dwindling livelihood opportunities due to diminishing returns from agriculture have prompted many families from these areas to migrate. Through the Gifts of HOPE initiative, HOPE is trying to support alternative livelihood opportunities suitable for agriculture-based rural communities. This year, HOPE reached out to 33 families from 8 villages in the Diamond Harbour subdivision of South 24 Parganas district and distributed 24 clutches of chicks and 9 goats.

The rural families supported by HOPE have traditionally depended on farming and are adept at rearing animals. These gifts will help them develop a sustainable livelihood through animal husbandry and create a supplementary means for income generation.



# EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

## Ireland



**The Cork Lunch took place in May 2022.** The sun shone on a beautiful day hosted by Christopher Biggins. Thank you to all those who attended and donated to the Cork Lunch

**The Annual HOPE Santa Splash** took place on a cold Sunday in December 2022. Thank you to organiser Aine Bonass and all the supporters around Ireland.

**The HOPE Himalayan Walk** took place in March 2023, walking in Kalimpong and Pelling in the foothills of the Himalayas. The Walkers also visited HOPE's projects in Kolkata.

Our annual **Week of HOPE** awareness and fundraising campaign took place from 10 - 17 October. HOPE staff and volunteers across Cork, Sligo, Dublin and Galway sold Butler's chocolate bars across numerous street and shopping centre locations. Students from local schools were key in selling the chocolate and raising significant funds

throughout this week.

The week of HOPE coincides with key internationally recognised dates, including the International Day of the Girl Child on 11th October, and the international Day for the Eradication of Poverty on 17th October.



**The Cannonball Road Race** took place during the summer months and was an incredible fundraising activity for HOPE. Thank you to Alan Bannon and all the Cannonball Team.

HOPE was delighted to raffle a **Gardenia Robotic Mower** over the Summer Months. This prize was kindly sponsored by Atkins Farm Machinery, Cork.

The 25th **Annual Calcutta Run** took place on May 28th, and along with the run itself, the golf and tag rugby fundraising activities were a huge success. Special thanks to the Calcutta Run organising committee members and The Law Society of Ireland for their continued and wonderful support to HOPE. Sincerest thanks also to the incredible support from the wider legal profession/community who engage enthusiastically with the Calcutta Run every year.

### HOPE Dublin Lunch

HOPE friends enjoyed a wonderful afternoon in the Westin hotel on 19 May for our annual fundraising lunch. More than 155 guests were in attendance and were entertained by "Frankly My Dear" and Brian Kennedy. HOPE Ambassador Nadia Forde was our special guest. HOPE is ever grateful to our wonderful donors, who helped to raise a phenomenal €60,000 for HOPE.







### Brian's Way Lunch

Huge thanks to Mairead Sorenson and her supporters who enjoyed lunch and entertainment by Brian Kennedy at the Westbury hotel on 6th May to raise funds for Brian's Way programme. This annual fundraising lunch goes from strength to strength every year.

### Confirmation Students - Caragh Primary School, Naas

The confirmation class in Caragh National School in Naas continued their annual commitment to HOPE by donating their confirmation monies to sponsor children's education in Kolkata.



### Yoga in the Park

HOPE was delighted to host its inaugural outdoor Yoga in the Park event in Herbert Park in Dublin on International Yoga Day in June. We had the pleasure of the company of HE Indian Ambassador to Ireland and his wife and a host of enthusiastic yogis.



Throughout June and beyond, yoga studios and teachers hosted yoga classes in aid of HOPE, and attendees made donations on the day.

### Miss Ireland Collaborations

Miss Wicklow, Tanya Flood, chose HOPE as her subject in her Beauty with a Purpose category. She hosted a fabulous coffee morning in aid HOPE.



### Punchestown Race Week 2023

HOPE was delighted to be represented at the Punchestown Race Festival, where race management kindly procured and distributed HOPE Butlers chocolate bars.



### Pranic Healing for HOPE

The Pranic Healing for HOPE fundraising group continues to drive fundraising and raise awareness with passion and commitment for two HOPE programmes, i.e., Prerona Residential Child Care Centre and Night Round Mobile Medical Programme. HOPE extends huge gratitude to Amanda and Joan and their wonderful supporters within Pranic Healing for HOPE network.



## UK

Thank you to all our supporters in the UK for raising funds and awareness for HOPE's programmes in Kolkata.

### HOPE UK Child Sponsorship Programme

The Child Sponsorship programme grows year-on-year in the UK. As of March 2023, 590 children in Kolkata were sponsored by UK sponsors.



#### Footsteps for HOPE Challenge - 12 April – 12 May

Launched on International Day for Street Children, this annual campaign encourages supporters to fundraise by walking 10,000 steps a day for 30-days. This year, participants raised £2,350 for education programmes.

#### Gift of HOPE Campaign #GO HOPE 10 – 17 October

This annual campaign encourages supporters to fundraise by highlighting HOPE's programmes in Kolkata around International Days; including Day of The Girl Child, World Food Day and Eradication of Poverty Day.



#### Big Give Campaign 2022 29 November - 6 December

This was HOPE's third year participating in the Big Give, the UK's largest match-funding campaign. Support continued to increase, and the campaign raised £42,000 for HOPE's Programmes.

#### London Landmarks Half Marathon - 3 April

Thank you to Team HOPE runners Luke Ford, Kevin Dryhurst and Aarti Bhogaita who ran 13.1 miles in central London and together raised £3,537.



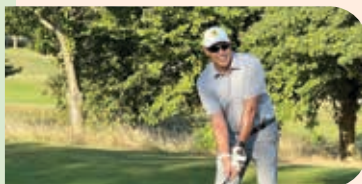
#### Virtual London Marathon - 2 October

Simon Grantham and Jago Catherwood ran 26.2 miles for HOPE in their local areas. Simon represented the Bedford Community and Jago, son of HOPE Ambassador, Andrea Catherwood, represented Eton College. Together they raised £2,900.

#### Bedford Fundraising Group

The Bedford Fundraising Group is a special group of supporters. Poonam Chand, Seema Bhogaita, Karen

Crofts-Hotston, Sati Judge and Alison Hodgkiss raise a high level of awareness and funds within the Bedford community. During the summer they represented HOPE at several local events, raising funds and imparting information about the work of HOPE to the wider community.



#### 60th Birthday Golf Fundraiser - 14 July

To celebrate his 60th birthday, Billy Gill played 60 holes of golf and raised £4,500 for HOPE.

#### Jaspreet Kaur Book Signing, 3 St Peters Club 28 July

Award-winning spoken word artist, educator and author Jaspreet Kaur attended the book signing of her book, 'Brown Girl Like Me.'

The event, which raised funds for HOPE, was hosted by Poonam and Bali Chand and the Bedford Group. HOPE Ambassador Reza Beyad spoke at the event.







### Charity Golf Event - 2 September

Golfers in the Bedford community came together at this annual fundraiser at Pavenham Golf Club organised by Billy Gill and Jagtar Singh OBE. HOPE received £1,500 towards our programmes in Kolkata.

### Stargazing For HOPE, Bedford School - 3 December

A unique event was held at the Bedford School Planetarium hosted by Bedford School Head Master, James Hodgson and his wife, Rachel. Bedford School also raised funds at a non-uniform day and by selling Butlers Chocolates.



### Diwali Curry Supper Event, Henley-On-Thames - 28 October

An exclusive event, organised by HOPE UK Trustee, Shiuli Davis, was held at the Spice Merchant Restaurant in Henley-on-Thames. The evening was a celebration of light and colour and raised £1000 for HOPE.

### “Sur Sarang Arts” Cultural Event, Kings Lynn - 4 March 2023

A vibrant and multicultural event celebrating Indian music and dance took place at the Masonic Centre in Kings Lynn. Dr. Prabir Mitra and his wife, Sanjukta, organised the event in aid of HOPE.



### Jane Richter's Film Screenings

Supporter, Jane Richter, has been raising funds and awareness for HOPE at screenings of her film about pioneer Victorian photographer, Julia Margaret Cameron, who had links to Kolkata. Screenings have been held at various UK venues with donations to HOPE, including The India Club, London, and Dimbola Museum & Galleries, Friends of Freshwater Library, and Ventr Arts Club on the Isle of Wight.



### HOPE UK Supporter's Visits to Kolkata

The HOPE Kolkata team welcomed many visitors from the UK, including HOPE Ambassador, Shelley King, and supporters, Jane Richter, Dennis Moss, Sayantal Mondal, Neil Holden, Poonam and Bali Chand, Allz and Annie McCann, and Urbee Roy.



### EMAP Charity Sale for HOPE

The team at EMAP's Croydon office raised £578 at a sale of donated gifts. Thank you to organisers, Daisy Donovan-Brown, Beth Treleaven and Megan Trappitt.



## USA

### Enika's Arangetram

On June 18th, Enika, a dedicated supporter of HOPE USA, celebrated her arangetram- a graduation ceremony for young Indian classical dancers- and raised over \$3,400 for HOPE.



### Greenwich Academy Bake Sale

HOPE staff member Ellie Dixon and her family organized this bake sale for HOPE at Greenwich Academy (GA) in Connecticut. Huge thanks to our youth volunteers at Greenwich Academy for your incredible support.

### End of Year Giving Campaign

This year, HOPE USA focused our End of Year Giving Campaign on UMEED, HOPE's Special Education Project. HOPE USA set a target of \$1,000 for this program, and we want to thank you all for helping us surpass our goal.

### HOPE USA Executive Director, Dr. Raili Roy visits Kolkata

On December 13, 2022, Dr. Raili Roy, HOPE USA Executive Director, visited HOPE Kolkata. Please read here about her experience. <https://hopefoundationusa.com/news/dr-raili-roy-visits-hope-projects-in-kolkata/>

### Community Fundraisers for Saraswati Puja

Throughout January and February, HOPE USA was represented at various Saraswati Pujo celebrations across the USA.

### Cricket Tournament

On March 26, 2023, HOPE USA held the first ever HOPE USA Cricket Match in New Jersey to raise money for the Street Children Cricket World Cup (SCCWC), which took place in India in September/October 2023.



## Germany

We are extremely grateful to our kind donors in Germany, who have been supporting HOPE since 2006, when the Hope Foundation-Deutschland e.V. was registered as a charity. Our German supporters provide HOPE with sustained annual income which ensures the continuity and viability of our programmes.



## India

The Hope Foundation celebrated its **24th Annual Foundation Day** at EZCC Kolkata on 18th March 2023, based on the theme of 'Pariyavarana' (Environment). Nearly 250 children participated in the event and various dignitaries, including chess grandmaster, Mr. Dibyendu Barua, graced the event.



**Samagra Shiksha Mission**, in collaboration with Hope Kolkata Foundation, conducted the 'Reading festival' at district level school circle where Education Team members demonstrated joyful activity-based teaching-learning materials, especially for children with special needs.

Children of Hope Kolkata Foundation performed at an event organized by the **West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights** at **Kolkata Book Fair 2023**.



**7th Blue Edge Convocation Kolkata Chapter** was successfully conducted, where 132 students graduated, and dignitaries from **Blue Dart** and Hope Kolkata Foundation attended the ceremony.

On **International Day of Persons with Disability**, Hope Kolkata Foundation, in collaboration with Samagra Shiksha Mission and supported Karl Kubel Stiftung, reached out to nearly 650 children in need by organizing a Joyful tram ride and various other fun activities with the children.



Many schools and corporates in Kolkata participated in **Joy of Giving** throughout September and October and donated new clothes and groceries for the children.

Children of HKF were invited by the Taj Hotel, City Centre New Town, as a part of their **Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony**. The children spent time singing carols and collecting gifts from Santa.



HOPE Cafe participated in the **Christmas Market** organized at the Consulate of Germany Kolkata and put up a stall with delectable bakery items.

Spencer's Retail, a chain of Indian retail stores, collaborated with Hope Kolkata Foundation in September 2022 to provide **groceries worth preparing 90,000 nutritious meals** for the underserved children and their families.



# SUPPORTERS OF HOPE











## JOURNEY OF HOPE







# AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS



The Naboasha Programme's contribution in successfully running Community Radio for street-connected children's education during the pandemic was recognised by the West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights in the presence of Dr. Sashi Panja, Honourable Minister-in-charge of Women & Child Development and Social Welfare of West Bengal and other dignitaries from the state government.

Hope Kolkata Foundation received the “Antar Theke Sundar Samman 2022” award presented by J K Cement for exceptional acts of kindness & humanity.



Hope Kolkata Foundation received the 'NGO Leadership Award' at Times Ascent Eastern India Leadership Awards 2022, presented by Eastern Institute for Integrated Learning in Management, Kolkata.









## Direct Debit Donation Application Form for Hope Kolkata Foundation



Date:.....

To The Donor's Bank Account Manager

Bank Name:.....

Bank Address: .....

.....

.....

.....

Any INDIAN who want to donate,

Please Pay HOPE KOLKATA FOUNDATION

Rs : .....

Standard Chartered Bank

A/c No: 321 - 1 - 1017525, MICR code: 700036020

IFSC code: SCBL 0036087

Any FOREIGN NATIONAL who want to donate,

Please Pay HOPE KOLKATA FOUNDATION

Rs .....

Axis Bank Ltd.

A/C No: 913010033022376

MICR No.: 700211019

IFSC Code: UTIB0000253

Every Month/Year\*

Starting on: .....

(Date) until further notice

\*Delete where applicable

Donor's Name:.....

(Block Letters Please)

Email: .....

Address: .....

.....

.....

.....

Account No:.....

Bank Sort Code:.....

Signature:.....

This form should be completed by the donor and  
when completed, it should be sent to

Hope Kolkata Foundation  
39, Panditiya Place, Kolkata - 700029, West Bengal.

Registered Society No: SO096057 of 2003-2004

## Direct Debit Donation Application Form for The Hope Foundation Ireland



Date:.....

Donor's Name:.....

(Block Letters Please)

To The Donor's Bank Account Manager

Email: .....

Bank Name:.....

Address: .....

Bank Address: .....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Please Pay HOPE € : .....

Account No:.....

Bank Sort Code:.....

Allied Irish Bank Ltd. 66 South Mall, Cork.

A/c No: 50677089, Bank Sort Code: 93-63-83

Every Month/Year\*

Signature:.....

Starting on: .....

(Date) until further notice

\*Delete where applicable

This form should be completed by the donor and  
when completed, it should be sent to

**The Hope Foundation**

**Silverdale Grove, Ballinlough, Cork, Eircode T12 E974,  
Ireland**

Registered Charity No. 13237



**Direct Debit Donation Application Form**  
**The Hope Foundation for Street Children UK**



Date:.....

Donor's Name:.....

(Block Letters Please)

To The Donor's Bank Account

Email: .....

Bank Name:.....

Address: .....

Bank Address: .....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Account No:.....

Please Pay THE HOPE FOUNDATION FOR  
STREET CHILDREN

Bank Sort Code:.....

Donation amount: .....

Signature:.....

BARCLAYS BANK  
102 High Street  
Thame  
Oxfordshire  
OX9 3DU  
United Kingdom  
Sort code: 20-85-73  
Bank account number:73967735

Every Month/Year\*

Starting on: .....

(Date) until further notice

\*Delete where applicable

This form should be completed by the donor and  
when completed, it should be sent to

The Hope Foundation UK,  
Second Home, 68 Hanbury  
Street, London, E1 5JL  
United Kingdom

Registered Charity No. SC038809

## Direct Debit Donation Application Form for The Hope Foundation USA



Date:.....

Donor's Name:.....  
(Block Letter Please)

To The Donor's Bank Account Manager

Email: .....

Bank Name:.....

Address: .....

Bank Address:.....

.....

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.....

Account No: .....

Please Pay The Hope Foundation USA

Bank Sort Code: .....

\$ : .....

The Hope Foundation USA  
1350 Avenue of the Americas,  
Floor 2, Suite 266,  
New York NY 10019

Signature:.....

Every Month/Year\*

Starting on: .....

(Date) until further notice

\*Delete where applicable

This form should be completed by the donor and  
when completed, it should be sent to

The Hope Foundation USA  
1350 Avenue of the Americas,  
Floor 2, Suite 266,  
New York NY 10019

Registered 501(c)3 Organization EIN: 27-3073426



# HOPE BOARD MEMBERS

We would like to thank Board members and Trustees of the Boards of HOPE International offices in Ireland, UK, USA, India, and Germany.

## **HOPE Ireland Board Members**

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Maureen Forrest

Jenny Browne

Mary O Shaughnessy

Anthony Childs

Michael Murphy

Michael Molloy

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Sachidananda Das

Tommy Molloy (resigned March 2023)

Madeline Cummins (resigned August 2022)

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Brendan Mac Kinney

Shuili Davis

Belinda Naiken – Payne

Martin Venables

Katy Harper

Maureen Forrest

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Mei Mei Fox

Alexandra Mysoor

Sheila Geraghty

Shane Mc Carthy

Gloria Starr Kins

Drue Kataoka

Kunal Sood

Jacqueline Quinn (resigned April 2022)

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Ursula Reuter

Nina Mueller

## **The Hope Foundation Limited, Branch Office, Executive Committee Members**

Maureen Forrest

Jenny Browne

Sachidananda Das

Samiran Mallick

Joy Kar

## **Governing Body Members of Hope Kolkata Foundation**

Joy Kar

Sachidananda Das

Samiran Mallik

Ujjwal Kanti Debnath

Sheila Banerjee

Surya Narayan Saha

Pushpa Basu

# Staff List 2022-2023

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 Jenny Browne  
*Overseas Director*

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 Charlie McBurney  
 Nesson Kavanagh  
 Fiona Hannigan  
 Margaret Doyle  
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 Maureen Kenny  
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 Lalayn Baluch - Evans  
 Lesley Stroud

## USA

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 Dr. Raili Roy  
 Ellie Dixon

## Bank

Allied Irish Bank  
 66 South Mall, Cork.

## Auditors Ireland

Deloitte & Touche  
 Chartered Accountants &  
 Statutory Audit Firm  
 No. 6 Lapp's Quay, Cork.

## Pro-bono Solicitors

Daly Derham Donnelly  
 1A Washington Street, Cork.

## Bank

Deutsche Bank AG  
 9 Shakespeare Sarani  
 Kolkata 700071

## Auditors India

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Web: [www.thehopefoundation.org.uk](http://www.thehopefoundation.org.uk)

**THE HOPE FOUNDATION LIMITED**

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West Bengal, India  
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West Bengal, India  
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E: [office@hope-foundation.in](mailto:office@hope-foundation.in)  
Web: [www.hope-foundation.in](http://www.hope-foundation.in)

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E: [amfrank@schuf.com](mailto:amfrank@schuf.com)  
Website: [www.hopefoundation.de](http://www.hopefoundation.de)

**Accreditation**

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