NEWS UPDATE

JULY 2024

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."

- ELIZABETH ANDREW



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INTRODUCTION

HISTORY OF M S INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Manu and Rika Shah founded MSI in 1975, in the basement of their home in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. MSI is now the largest importer and distributor in the world of Premium Surfaces including granite, marble, porcelain and ceramic tiles, slate, travertine, limestone and other natural stone products from 37 countries. Most notably, MSI provided the granite for the Vietnam Memorial in DC.

Manu and Rika Shah established Sarva Mangal Family Trust (Sarva Mangal means 'let all be happy' in Sanskrit) over 20 years ago with compassion as their driving force for philanthropy. Manu's vision for SMFT is to act as a catalyst, challenge status quo, nurture passionate change-makers and support leapfrogging ideas that are scalable and sustainable. Today, all members from the Shah family are involved in social impact initiatives that are undertaken by SMFT. Manu supports VOSAP – Voice of Specially Abled People, which has created over 10,000 change makers and rated over 18,000 buildings rated for accessibility. He also supports Lend a hand India, which provides digital vocational training to over 300,000 students in 20,000 schools.

In 2007, Mr. Manu Shah was named Ernst & Young's national Entrepreneur of the Year in the distribution, manufacturing, and security category.

ABOUT SARVA MANGAL FAMILY TRUST

Established in 1994 by the Founders of M S International, Inc. The mission of the Sarva Mangal Family Trust is to improve and strengthen the health, education and theyllness of communities and help them prepare for global jobs of the 21st century. Sarva Mangal is a Sanskrit word which means Goodness to All.

To advance this mission, the Sarva Mangal Family Trust has donated to and is continuing to work with various organizations and programs in health promotion and prevention, assisting victims of domestic violence, empotheyring seniors, entrepreneurship, technological literacy, community activism, and children's education.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS



CSR EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY CONDUCTED AT MSI INDIA
The Corporate Social Responsibility team at MSI Bangalore recently organized an Employee Engagement Activity at Sparsha Trust Makkaladhama, a shelter home for underprivileged girls in Bangalore. The initiative included tree planting to promote environmental conservation, setting up a kitchen garden to provide fresh vegetables and educate the children on agriculture, serving nutritious meals, and conducting art and craft sessions to foster creativity. Additionally, indoor and outdoor sports were organized to encourage physical activity and teamwork. **(Continued on Page 4).**

EVENT – CSR EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY

July 2024 – In a heartwarming initiative to give back to the community, the Corporate Social Responsibility team at MSI Bangalore organized an impactful Employee Engagement Activity at Sparsha Trust Makkaladhama, a shelter home for underprivileged girls in Bangalore. This event exemplified MSI's commitment to fostering a sense of social responsibility among its employees while making a positive difference in the lives of those in need.

One of the first tasks undertaken by the MSI team was tree planting. Employees worked together to plant trees around the shelter home, contributing to a greener environment and teaching the children the importance of environmental conservation. This activity not only beautified the surroundings but also instilled a sense of responsibility towards nature in both the children and the employees.

Following the tree planting, the team set up a kitchen garden aimed at providing a sustainable source of fresh vegetables for the shelter home. Employees guided the children on planting and maintaining the garden, promoting healthy eating habits and educating them about agriculture and self-sufficiency.

The day continued with employees serving food to the children. This gesture of kindness and care was greatly appreciated by the young residents, who enjoyed a nutritious meal served with love and warmth. The interaction during meal times allowed MSI employees to connect with the children on a personal level, fostering a sense of community and empathy. Art and craft sessions were another highlight of the day, where MSI employees engaged the children in various creative activities, encouraging them to express themselves through art.

In addition to the artistic activities, the employees also organized indoor and outdoor sports. These games were designed to promote physical activity, teamwork, and healthy competition. The laughter and joy that filled the air were a testament to the success of these activities in bringing happiness to the children.

The CSR Employee Engagement Activity at Sparsha Trust Makkaladhama was a resounding success. It not only brought joy to the underprivileged girls but also reinforced the values of teamwork, empathy, and social responsibility among MSI employees.


MSI Employees Setting up Kitchen Garden


MSI Employee Planting Tree


Art and Craft Session


Indoor Games

EVENT – CSR EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY (Cont.)



Kitchen Garden



Kitchen Garden



Tree Plantation



Art and Craft Session



MSI Employees Serving Food to the Kids



MSI Employees with the Residents

EVENT – CSR EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY (Cont.)







EVENT – CSR EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY FEEDBACK

Participating in the Makkala Dhama CSR initiative was an immensely fulfilling experience. It was a pleasure to spend time with the children, observing their learning, playing, and the adoption of positive behaviors. The visit to the kitchen garden, where we learned about their internal food production, was particularly satisfying. This hands-on experience was both motivating and enlightening, and I am grateful for the opportunity.

- Kumar Raja Aluri, Manager, Analysis Team

My experience at Sparsha Trust Makkala Dhama was truly unique. I am deeply impressed with the efficient management of the trust's operations, and I can confidently say it is laying the foundation for future women empowerment. Kudos to MSI for organizing such impactful events and consistently supporting organizations like this.

- Tapan Patra, Assistant Manager, Analysis Team

A day well spent at Makkala Dhama, understanding their services for children and enjoying the plantation activities. I look forward to participating in the future social impact endeavors.

- Jonitha Roshni, Associate II, Sales Support

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation for the opportunity to visit Sparsha Trust. Witnessing the incredible work being done and meeting the dedicated individuals involved was truly inspiring. The warm welcome we received was greatly appreciated. The positive atmosphere and genuine care in every interaction were both uplifting and motivating. The visit also provided valuable insight into the needs of the children, the challenges they face, and areas where additional support could be beneficial. It is clear that Sparsha Trust is making a significant difference in the lives of these young girls.

- Mohammed Aamer Zain, Human Resources – Associate

EVENT – CSR EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY FEEDBACK

The activity was exceptional. I enjoyed every moment and didn't want it to end. It felt less like an activity and more like nourishment for the soul—the kind that makes us happier the more we embrace it. The lunch we shared was also remarkable, perhaps because it was prepared and served with love. A big thank you to MSI for taking such a wonderful initiative.

- Shreepriya K, Associate, Accounts Receivable

I am delighted to share my experience of the CSR event at Sparsha Makkala Dhama in which I had the privilege to participate. I am deeply grateful to MSI for providing this opportunity and appreciate their commitment to social responsibility. The event, which included activities ranging from campus maintenance and teaching engagements to fun games and tree plantation, was not just beneficial for the children but also for us as participants. It reminded us of the importance of caring for others and the joy of sharing. As a new employee, this experience resonated deeply with my passion for social engagement, leaving me energized and eager for more such opportunities.

- Gaanavi Sai, Associate, Sales Support

FIELD VISIT – MATHRUSHREE MANOVIKASA KENDRA

July 2024 – Recently, Tammy Culp (HR Director, MSI, Orange, California) and Catherine Brine (Learning and Development Manager, MSI, Minneapolis, Minnesota) visited the MSI branch office in Bangalore. They went on a social impact field visit to Mathrushree Manovikasa Kendra, a dedicated non-profit organization focused on enhancing the lives of specially-abled children. Guided by a committed team of caregivers and educators provides steadfast support to children ranging in age from 3 months to 30 years. Central to their mission is the Kumara Park Centre, a residential school specially designed to nurture these young individuals.


Catherine with Specially Abled kids

Mathrushree Manovikasa Kendra's mission is to empower disabled children by equipping them with crucial skills for smooth integration into society. Their comprehensive services include customized educational programs, motor skill development, physiotherapy for motor disabilities, literacy education, and essential psycho-social support for parents. They also offer yoga sessions and medical care from qualified healthcare professionals, ensuring a holistic approach to each child's development.


Tammy and Catherine Interacting with the Kids

Distinct from mainstream educational models, Mathrushree Manovikasa Kendra focuses on building foundational skills such as literacy, numeracy, self-reliance, social skills, and daily living activities, including personal care and hygiene. Their teaching methods are thoughtfully adapted to each child's unique personality, abilities, and family background. This personalized approach ensures that each child receives the attention and support they need to thrive.

During the visit, Tammy and Catherine had the opportunity to witness firsthand the incredible impact of Mathrushree Manovikasa Kendra's work. The Kumara Park Centre currently serves as a home for over 40 girls and children needing medical care, while the Gowdanahalli Centre accommodates more than 50 adolescent boys. They were particularly impressed by the entire functioning of the Trust.



Tammy and Catherine with the Kids

NGO IN FOCUS FOR JULY'24 – RESOLUTION PROJECT

About the Nonprofit

Resolution Project fosters youth leadership through social entrepreneurship, creating a dynamic, global ecosystem supporting youth social entrepreneurship. To catalyze this process, in partnership with Enactus, Resolution Project engages more than 60,000 young people across nearly 100 countries each year. Resolution Project supports young leaders around the world, working on all issues including basic needs, development, and education, providing they are committed to social responsibility, sustainable local impact, and youth leadership.





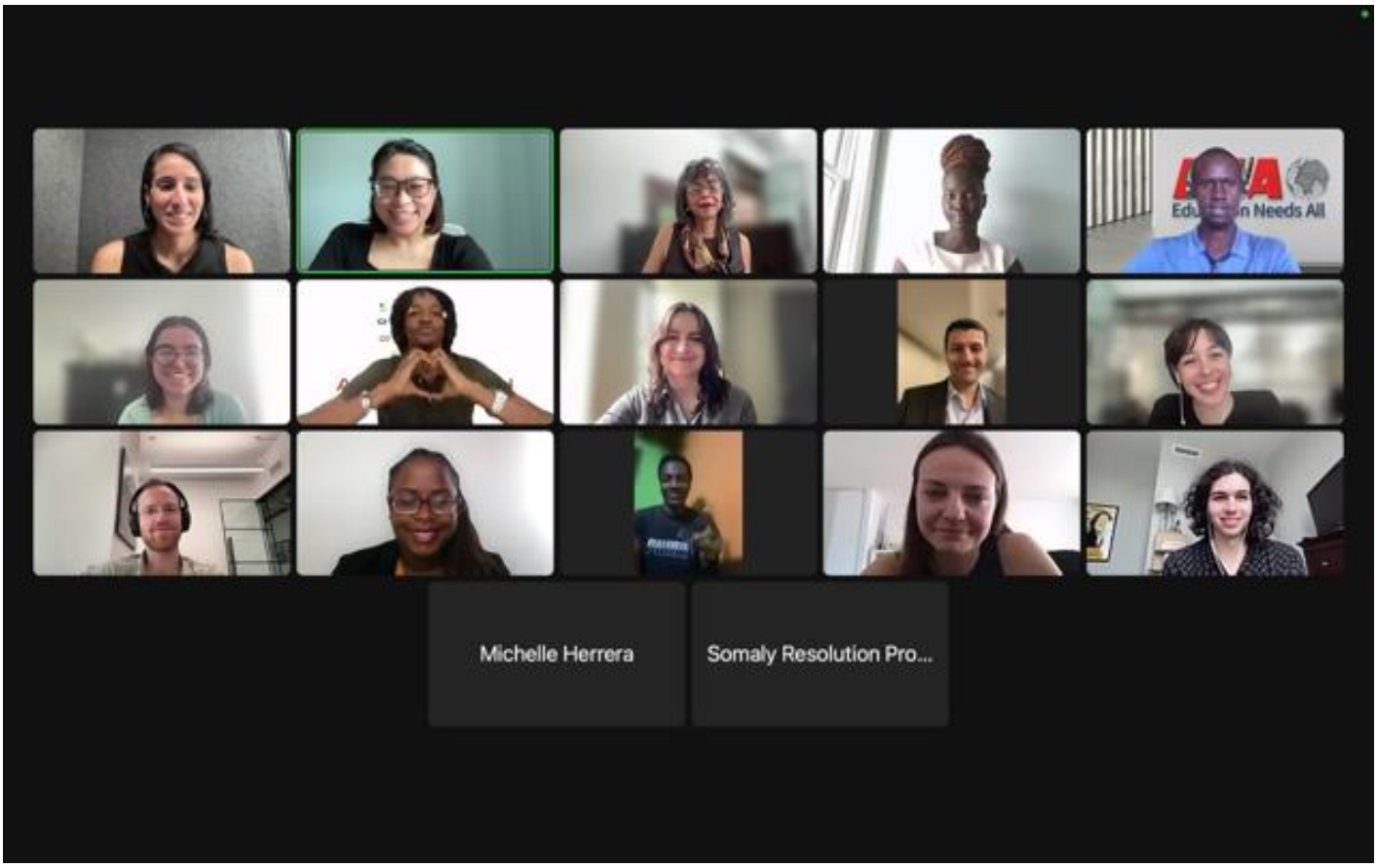
NGO IN FOCUS FOR JULY'24 – RESOLUTION PROJECT (Cont.)

About the SMFT Funded Project



With SMFT's support, Resolution Project aims to champion young, African social entrepreneurs in driving sustainable change in their communities. Every year they onboard 40 – 60 Fellows from around the world. With SMFT's support most of this year's Fellows will be based in sub-Saharan Africa. They also aim to renew partnerships with organizations supporting African Fellows.

Resolution Project offers Fellows seed funding, personalized mentorship, access to resources, community with other young leaders, validation and recognition in the pursuit of their cause, and opportunities to secure follow-on funding. For additional support, Africa-based Fellows can also access their Nairobi and Kigali Innovation Hubs, which foster collaboration between Fellows and local communities through events, partnerships, and opportunities.



NGO IN FOCUS FOR JULY'24 – RESOLUTION PROJECT (Cont.)

Project Location/Geography

Resolution Project is a global organization supporting 697 Fellows working on 408 ventures across 87 countries. 33% are based in Africa.





Recent Project Updates



In June 2024, Resolution Project awarded eight Fellowships to Africa-based Fellows who participated in their 2024 Africa Regional Summit and 2024 Returning Finalist Social Venture Challenge. These Fellows represent four ventures across Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

Their Nairobi Innovation Hub ran an event in June on purpose-driven leadership and they recruited three new Fellow Hub Leads—one in Nairobi and two in Kigali. They also met with a Fellow in India to discuss opening a third Hub in Mumbai in 2025.



Overall Impact



In addition to the eight provisional Fellows Resolution Project identified in June, 32 Fellows have completed onboarding from their 2023 Baobab Summit. So far, 19 individuals have been matched with personalized mentors—their Resolution Guides. The collective 40 provisional and full Resolution Fellows represent 20 ventures across nine African countries impacting approximately 400,000 people.

As of July 26, the Fellow Council, an advisory body of 16 Fellows, has six members representing Africa. When the next cohort begins its term on September 1, five Council members will be from the African continent. The Fellow Council also launched the Buddy Up program to connect Fellows with randomized matches each month and create a greater sense of community. 27 Fellows have participated so far.

This year, Resolution Project also hosted a Mental Health Panel in which 1 of 5 panelists and 60% of the audience (excluding staff) were based in Africa. The panel discussion centered on how youth leaders working in social impact maintain their mental health.



NGO IN FOCUS FOR JULY'24 – RESOLUTION PROJECT (Cont.)

Highlight of the Month

Resolution Project hosted the annual Resolve Gala on June 12, 2024 in New York City, to celebrate the impact of their Fellows. Resolve hosted 250 guests, including 15 Resolution Fellows, three of which work in Africa. Two of the fifteen Fellows shared their stories at the Gala and three more shared their work in the form of art installations.

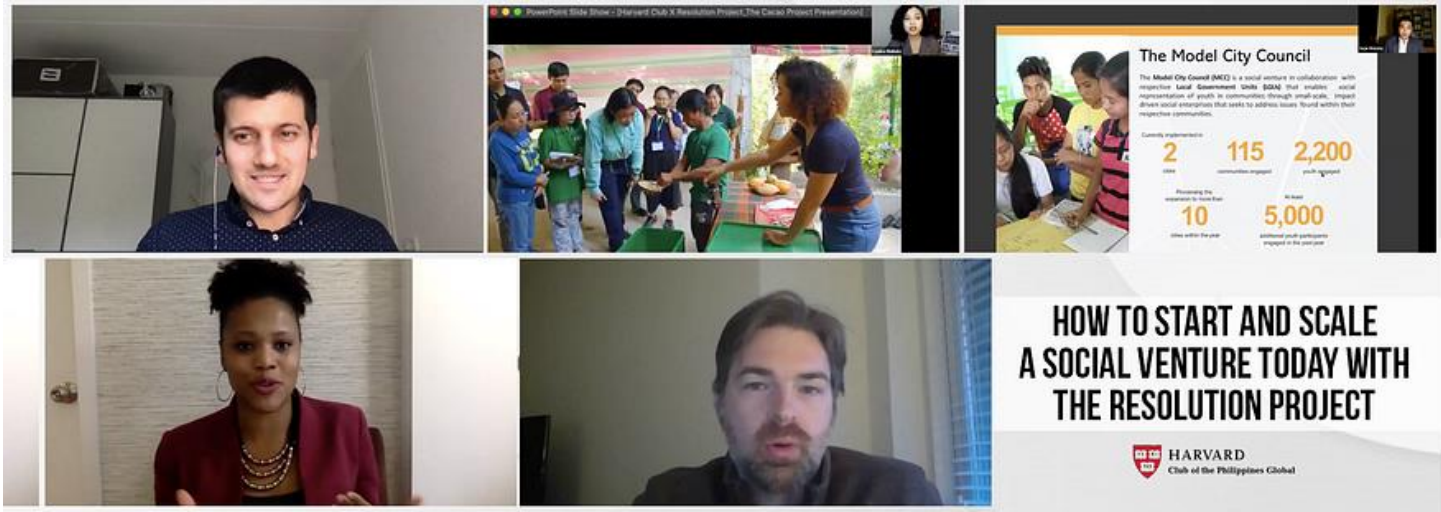
They are currently in the process of reviewing applications for the 2024 Baobab Summit, their largest Africa-based Social Venture Challenge. Out of the 165 action plans in review, teams that are recommended will have the opportunity to pitch their social ventures for the chance to win a Resolution Fellowship.



In the News

The work of Resolution Project has been covered by several media outlets:

- "The Resolve Gala hosted by Resolution Project" ~ New York Social Diary (08-Jun-2023)
- "The Resolution Project Announces Winners of the 2021 Social Venture Challenge" ~ All Africa (25-Aug-2021)
- "How to Start and Scale a Social Venture Today with The Resolution Project" ~ Medium (21-Oct-2020)





SUCCESS STORY – RESOLUTION PROJECT



In Uganda, menstruation remains a significant barrier to education for many girls. The lack of access to affordable sanitary material leads to high rates of absenteeism, with girls missing school during their menstrual cycles. This issue not only affects their academic performance but also their overall well-being and future opportunities. Girls Alive Uganda, a dynamic initiative, has stepped in to address this critical challenge.

Girls Alive Uganda was established with a clear mission: to reduce menstruation-related school absenteeism by providing vulnerable girls with the education, mentorship, and skills needed to produce and distribute affordable sanitary pads. This multifaceted approach ensures that girls are not only recipients of aid but active participants in creating solutions for their communities. Central to the project is education. Girls Alive Uganda conducts workshops and training sessions that teach girls about menstrual health, hygiene, and the importance of using sanitary pads. These sessions are designed to demystify menstruation, break down taboos, and foster a supportive environment where girls can openly discuss their experiences and challenges.

Mentorship is another cornerstone of the initiative. Girls are paired with mentors who guide them through their personal and educational journeys, providing the emotional support and practical advice needed to navigate the complexities of adolescence. This mentorship helps build confidence, resilience, and a sense of community among the girls. One of the most innovative aspects of Girls Alive Uganda is its skills training program. Girls are taught how to produce high-quality, affordable sanitary pads using locally sourced materials. This not only addresses the immediate need for sanitary products but also equips the girls with valuable vocational skills.

The production of sanitary pads is carried out in a sustainable and scalable manner. The girls learn about various aspects of the production process, from sourcing materials to quality control and distribution. This hands-on experience provides them with practical knowledge and empowers them to become entrepreneurs in their own right. Since its inception, Girls Alive Uganda has made a tangible impact on the lives of many girls. The availability of affordable sanitary pads has significantly reduced absenteeism rates in participating schools. Girls now attend classes with greater regularity and confidence, knowing they have access to the necessary menstrual products.

Moreover, the skills training component has opened up new economic opportunities for the girls. Many have started small businesses producing and selling sanitary pads, contributing to their families' incomes and fostering a sense of independence and self-reliance. Girls Alive Uganda continues to expand its reach, with plans to establish more production centers across the country. The goal is to create a network of empowered young women who not only support themselves but also uplift their communities by breaking the cycle of menstruation-related absenteeism. Girls Alive Uganda stands as a beacon of hope and empowerment. By addressing a fundamental barrier to education, the initiative is paving the way for a brighter future for girls in Uganda. Through education, mentorship, and skills training, Girls Alive Uganda is transforming lives.

SUCCESS STORY – RESOLUTION PROJECT



Bio Planet TMC Ltd is transforming agriculture and women's rights in Benin and across Africa by offering sustainable solutions and empowering rural communities. In Pobè, Benin, and beyond, the company provides local farmers with high-quality, organic fertilizer produced from biodegradable waste recycling. This eco-friendly product not only improves soil fertility but also promotes a sustainable agricultural system, ensuring long-term productivity and environmental health.

One of Bio Planet TMC Ltd.'s standout initiatives is its commitment to the empowerment of rural women in Pobè. The organization offers free training in organic farming techniques, equipping women with the necessary skills to practice sustainable agriculture. Additionally, the training includes advocacy for women's rights, fostering a generation of women leaders who are capable of creating job opportunities for local youths, generating wealth, and reducing poverty within their communities.

The impact of Bio Planet TMC Ltd.'s efforts is evident in the positive changes seen in the region. The availability of affordable, organic fertilizer has led to improved crop yields and healthier soils, contributing to food security and sustainable livelihoods for local farmers. Meanwhile, the empowerment of women through education and leadership training has sparked economic growth and social development, with women taking on pivotal roles in their communities.

Through its integrated approach to environmental sustainability and social empowerment, Bio Planet TMC Ltd is making a profound difference in Benin. The organization's initiatives are not only addressing critical issues such as soil fertility and waste recycling but also championing gender equality and economic development. Bio Planet TMC Ltd.'s success story is a testament to the power of sustainable practices and the importance of empowering women to drive positive change in their communities. By setting a benchmark for sustainable development in Africa, Bio Planet TMC Ltd is paving the way for a more equitable and prosperous future.

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