NEWS UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2025

Let All Be Happy

"The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away."

– PABLO PICASSO



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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 wellness 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, empowering seniors, entrepreneurship, technological literacy, community activism, and children's education.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS



GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY OF SHRIMAD RAJCHANDRA SARVAMANGAL UNIVERSITY

On February 21, 2025, Manu, Rika, Rup, and Milan Shah attended the groundbreaking ceremony of Shrimad Rajchandra Sarvamangal University, funded by the Shah Happiness Foundation. The university will feature a Skill Centre, Nursing College, Business School, Sports Complex, and modern amenities like sports arenas, an auditorium, dining halls, and hostels. It aims to provide cutting-edge programs and industry-ready skills for global excellence.

(Continued on page 13)

NGO VISIT – PARASDHAM GHATKOPAR KITCHEN

February 2025 – On February 17, 2025, the founder of SMFT, Manu Shah visited the Parasdham Ghatkopar Kitchen in Mumbai, a facility funded by SMFT. He was accompanied by SMFT team and the visit underscored the trust's commitment to community service and reaffirmed its dedication to providing nutritious, Satvik meals to thousands of people daily.

The Parasdham Ghatkopar Kitchen operates tirelessly throughout the year, serving approximately 75,000 meals per month, ensuring that around 2,500 individuals receive free, wholesome meals every single day. The kitchen adheres to a Satvik diet, emphasizing purity and nourishment while catering to the needs of the underprivileged across Ghatkopar.

Managed by the Parasdham team, the kitchen's well-organized food distribution network plays a crucial role in ensuring seamless service. The SMFT founder's visit provided an opportunity to review operations, interact with the kitchen staff, and engage with beneficiaries. This visit also highlighted the positive impact of consistent meal support, emphasizing how essential food security is for those in need.

During the visit, the SMFT founder expressed gratitude to the Parasdham team for their tireless efforts and reaffirmed the trust's commitment to sustaining and expanding such humanitarian initiatives. The event not only strengthened the bond between SMFT and Parasdham but also reinforced the shared mission of selfless service and community well-being.

SMFT continues to play a vital role in ensuring that no one in the community goes hungry, and this visit served as an inspiration to further support and enhance food distribution initiatives in Mumbai.



SMFT Guru Prasad Project Delivery Truck



Manu Shah at Parasdham Ghatkopar Kitchen


Arham Yuva Seva Group Distributing Food


Beneficiary of the Project

NGO VISIT – SARVAMANGAL NIKETAN

February 2025 – Sarvamangal Niketan, funded by the Sarva Mangal Family Trust (SMFT) and operated by the Maratha Life Foundation, is a newly constructed ashram in Vasai, Maharashtra dedicated to uplifting underprivileged communities. It serves as a safe space for the elderlies, a nurturing home for orphaned children, a rehabilitation center for individuals struggling with addiction, and a shelter for rescued animals. Through these initiatives, the ashram provides essential care and support to those in need, fostering a sense of security and well-being.

The four-floor facility accommodates over 250 beneficiaries and includes a 12-bed general ward that provides medical treatment. A multipurpose hall is available for cultural events and can also be rented out for financial sustainability.

The ashram features a well-equipped dining hall and kitchen, offering free daily meals to more than 900 beneficiaries. Additionally, it incorporates sustainable infrastructure, including 30kW solar panels and a 120,000-liter water storage capacity, ensuring self-sufficiency and environmental consciousness.

One of the ashram's most impactful initiatives is its de-addiction program, which has successfully rehabilitated over 100 individuals. Furthermore, its free medical camps and health awareness programs have made significant contributions to improving the well-being of the local community.

During the visit, Rika and Manu Shah were warmly received by the children, showcasing the strong sense of community at the ashram. Rika Shah personally participated in serving meals, reflecting the hands-on approach of the foundation's leadership. Sarvamangal Niketan continues to be a beacon of hope, providing dignity, care, and essential services to those in need, making a lasting impact on society.



Sarvamangal Niketan Building


Rika Shah Serving Food to Children


Rika and Manu Shah Touring the Facility


Maratha Life Foundation Honoring Shah Family

NGO VISIT – SHRIMAD RAJCHANDRA CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR WOMEN

February 2025 – On February 19, 2025, the Shah family, along with the Sarva Mangal Family Trust (SMFT) team, visited the Shrimad Rajchandra Centre of Excellence for Women, an upcoming initiative funded by SMFT under the umbrella of Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur in Dharampur, Gujarat. This transformative project aims to provide sustainable employment opportunities to over 700 women of tribal origin, equipping them with skills and financial independence.

This SMFT funded construction of 68,000 sq. ft. facility, will serve as a hub for manufacturing over 100 products. This initiative underscores their commitment to fostering economic growth and self-reliance among underprivileged women by providing them with structured training and employment opportunities.

During the visit, the Shah family interacted with project leaders and community members, gaining insights into how the Centre will shape the future of countless women. They expressed their deep commitment to empowering women through education, skill development, and holistic growth. In addition to employment, the Centre will focus on the overall well-being of its beneficiaries by incorporating activities such as yoga, awareness programs, and self-development workshops.

The visit reinforced SMFT and SHF's shared vision of sustainable impact and upliftment. The Centre of Excellence for Women stands as a beacon of hope, fostering not just economic independence but also personal growth and confidence among women in the region. This initiative will leave a lasting impact on families and communities, creating a ripple effect of empowerment and self-sufficiency.


Shah Family and Team SMFT at the Centre


Small Scale Model of the Centre


SRMD Staff giving Tour of the Facility


Front View of Small Scale Model of Centre

NGO VISIT – SRMD VISION AND ANEMIA SCREENING CAMP

February 2025 – On February 20, 2025, the Sarva Mangal Family Trust (SMFT) with the help of Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur organized a Vision and Anemia Screening Camp in Vanskui village of Gujarat, reaffirming its commitment to accessible healthcare for underserved communities. The camp witnessed an overwhelming response, with over 1,700 individuals benefiting from free screenings and medical support.

The vision screening was conducted using advanced autorefractor technology, enabling instant eye examinations and quick diagnosis. Individuals requiring corrective lenses received eyeglasses on the spot, ensuring immediate improvement in their vision. In total, over 300 eyeglasses were distributed, significantly enhancing the quality of life for many villagers.

In parallel, the camp also conducted anemia screening using both invasive and non-invasive techniques to ensure accurate and efficient diagnosis. Beneficiaries received immediate results, allowing for prompt intervention. More than 180 individuals diagnosed with anemia were provided with free iron-folic acid supplementation to address their nutritional deficiencies. The initiative aimed to improve overall health outcomes, particularly for women and children who are most vulnerable to anemia-related complications.

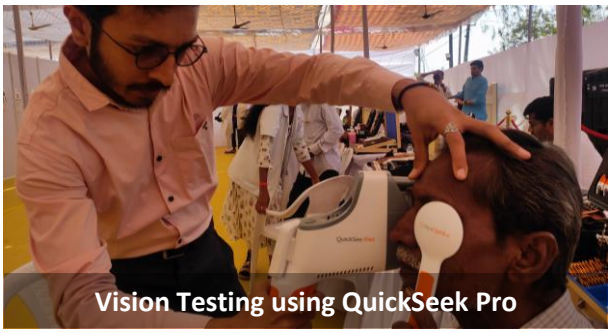
Team SMF played a crucial role in the event, coordinating logistics, assisting medical professionals, and ensuring seamless execution of the screenings. Their dedication and hands-on involvement helped maximize outreach and impact, reinforcing SMFT's mission of holistic community well-being.

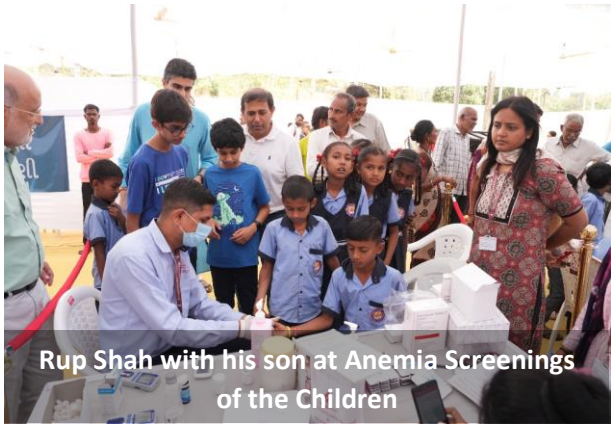
The Vision and Anemia Screening Camp not only provided essential healthcare services but also raised awareness about eye health and anemia prevention. By addressing these critical health issues at the grassroots level, SMFT continues to empower rural communities with access to necessary medical support. The event was a testament to the trust's unwavering commitment to fostering a healthier and more self-reliant society.



Shah Family at Vision and Anemia Camp


Beneficiaries of the Project


Vision Testing using QuickSeek Pro


Rup Shah with his son at Anemia Screenings of the Children

NGO VISIT – RURAL IMMERSION & SCHOOL VISIT













NGO VISIT – SHRIMAD RAJCHANDRA JIVAMAITRIDHAM

February 2025 - On February 20, 2025, the Sarva Mangal Family Trust (SMFT) visited Shrimad Rajchandra Jivamaitridham, a project it proudly sponsored under the Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur initiative in Dharampur, Gujarat. This sanctuary is dedicated to providing a safe, healthy, and holistic environment for animals while promoting ethical and compassionate care.

Shrimad Rajchandra Jivamaitridham practices ethical milking, ensuring that calves receive adequate nourishment before any milk is extracted. The project also produces pure, trans-fat-free ghee, maintaining the highest standards of quality and sustainability. Through its unique adoption program, families can adopt and name animals, fostering a deep sense of connection, responsibility, and companionship.

So far, the initiative has tended to over 340,000 animals, providing essential medical care, shelter, and rehabilitation. Currently, it shelters more than 150 animals, offering them a place safe from neglect and harm. Additionally, its impact extends across 100+ villages, educating communities about animal welfare and sustainable farming practices.

During the visit, the SMFT team observed the dedicated efforts of caregivers and volunteers who ensure that the animals are nurtured with love and care. They engaged with local families and beneficiaries, reaffirming their commitment to supporting initiatives that promote ethical treatment and long-term sustainability.

SMFT's involvement in this noble cause highlights its dedication to fostering kindness, ethical practices, and environmental harmony. By supporting Shrimad Rajchandra Jivamaitridham, the trust continues to play a vital role in enhancing animal welfare and promoting a compassionate way of life.


Rika and Manu Shah at Jivamaitridham


Entrance of Jivamaitridham


Rescued Cattles at Jivamaitridham


Manu Shah visiting the Veterinarian Clinic

NGO VISIT – ASHRAM AND FIRE SIDE CHAT









NGO VISIT – SHRIMAD RAJCHANDRA SARVAMANGAL UNIVERSITY

February 2025 - Shah Happiness Foundation-funded Shrimad Rajchandra Sarvamangal University observed its groundbreaking ceremony on February 21, 2025, at Shrimad Rajchandra Vidyapeeth in Dharampur, Gujarat. The Khatmuhurat Ceremony, blessed by Param Krupalu Dev Shrimad Rajchandraji and led by Pujya Gurudevshri Rakeshji, witnessed a gathering of over 5,000 attendees, including dignitaries, educators, and community members.

The university is envisioned as a hub for transformative education and holistic development, particularly catering to disadvantaged communities. Spread across 27 acres, the state-of-the-art campus will include a skill centre, nursing college, business school, and a sports complex. Additionally, hostels, sports arenas, an auditorium, and modern dining halls will provide a comprehensive learning environment.

With a commitment to empowering students and communities, the university will directly impact over 700 students and extend its benefits to more than 120 surrounding villages. By combining academic excellence with skill-based learning, the institution aims to uplift and transform lives through quality education.

The historic event also marked the inauguration of the "Education on Wheels" initiative, ensuring access to education for remote areas. A Felicitation Ceremony recognized the achievements of outstanding students, followed by a Scholarship Distribution Program to support deserving scholars.

The Shrimad Rajchandra Sarvamangal University represents a landmark initiative in the field of education, fostering knowledge, skill, and ethical values. With its holistic approach and world-class infrastructure, it is set to shape a brighter and more inclusive future for students and communities alike.



Shah Family at the Groundbreaking of Shrimad Rajchandra Sarvamangal University



Rika Shah Participating in the Rituals of Groundbreaking



Shah Family Participating in the rituals of Groundbreaking



Shah Family with Pujya Gurudevshri

NGO VISIT – SHRIMAD RAJCHANDRA HOSPITAL













NGO VISIT – FELICITATION CEREMONY AND MANU'S BOOK LAUNCH











NGO VISIT – BHANSALI TRUST

February 2025 - On their recent visit to the SMFT-funded Bhansali Trust in Dang, Gujarat, Jivan & Nilu Bhatt, Varsha Shah, Ila & Gunvant Mehta, Pramila and Rupal Shah, and Jasmin Sharma and Bhavana Shah from MSI, witnessed the impactful community-driven initiatives that have transformed thousands of lives.

Bhansali Trust has been instrumental in empowering women and uplifting economically disadvantaged families. Through Self-Help Groups (SHGs), the trust promotes financial independence by encouraging savings, facilitating bank loans, and providing micro-credit to support entrepreneurial ventures. These SHGs have successfully engaged 90,000 women across 7,000 groups, helping them generate income through sewing, papad making, and other small-scale industries.

Additionally, the trust extends its support to families living below the poverty line, providing them with monthly aid to meet their essential needs. These efforts have collectively impacted over 1.3 million people annually, significantly improving livelihoods and fostering sustainable development within the community.

During their visit, the MSI team and Shah family members had the opportunity to interact with beneficiaries, gaining firsthand insights into the trust's transformative initiatives. They witnessed the resilience of women who, through financial literacy and self-reliance, have been able to build sustainable livelihoods for their families.

The visit reaffirmed the collective commitment to philanthropy and social progress, highlighting the importance of community support in driving economic and social empowerment. The MSI members expressed deep appreciation for the Bhansali Trust's tireless efforts and pledged continued support to further its mission of uplifting underprivileged communities.



Team SMFT and Shah Family at Bhansali Trust Dang, Gujarat


Understanding the Hardships of Beneficiaries


Shah Family and Team SMFT with Beneficiaries


Shah Family at Bhansali Trust Physiotherapy Centre

NGO VISIT –SHREE BIDADA SARVODAYA TRUST

February 2025 - On February 23, 2025, the founders of SMFT and Shah Happiness Foundation visited Shree Bidada Sarvodaya Trust in Bidada, Kutch, Gujarat, marking a milestone event with the groundbreaking ceremony of the Shah Happiness Robotic Rehabilitation Centre.

This cutting-edge facility, funded by the Shah Happiness Foundation, is an expansion of the Jaya Rehabilitation Institute & Research Center, aiming to revolutionize patient care through advanced robotic rehabilitation technology. Spanning 9,000 sq. ft. across two floors, the center is set to become a leading hub for innovative rehabilitation, ensuring faster recovery times and enhanced patient outcomes.

The SMFT-supported Jaya Rehabilitation Institute has long been a pillar of support for individuals with disabilities and earthquake victims, providing physiotherapy, prosthetics, speech therapy, and vocational training. Since 2002, the center has impacted over 1 million people and currently serves 200+ beneficiaries daily. SMFT also supports the institute's ADL (Activities of Daily Life) training, foot care unit, and public utility service training, fostering greater mobility and independence.

During their visit, the SMFT team also toured the Shree Bidada Sarvodaya Trust Hospital, an 80-bed multi-specialty hospital offering services across pediatrics, surgery, gynecology, cardiology, and more. With 300+ daily patients and SMFT's funding of a CT scan machine, the hospital continues to provide affordable and quality healthcare.

The visit concluded with a tour of the Taramati Wellness Center, which integrates ancient yoga practices and modern wellness therapies, including deep tissue massages, acupressure, and hydrotherapy, ensuring holistic well-being.

The event reinforced SMFT's commitment to healthcare, rehabilitation, and holistic wellness, leaving a lasting impact on the community.



Groundbreaking Ceremony



વ્યસન અને વ્યસનીઓને ધિક્કારે છે 'મનુરિકા' દંપતી

અમેરિકામાં એમએસઆઈનું ઉદ્યોગ સામ્રાજ્ય સ્થાપનાર સમાજચિંતક મનુભાઈ રવિલાલ શાહ અને પત્ની ચંદ્રિકાબેને કચ્છમિત્રની પહેલને બિરદાવી : યુવાપેઢી વિનાશકારી વ્યસનોથી દૂર રહે

Press Release of the Event in *'Kutchmitra'*



દિવ્ય ભાસ્કર

બિદડામાં 8.66 કરોડના ખર્ચે રોબોટિક રિહેબલીટેશન બનશે

ભૂમિપૂજન કાર્યક્રમ સાથે જરૂરતમંદોને રિક્ષા અપાઇ

Press Release of the Event in *'Divya Bhaskar'*



Manu Shah and Dr. Nitin Shah Addressing the Audience at the Groundbreaking

NGO VISIT – AUTO RICKSHAW DISTRIBUTION

February 2025 - In a remarkable step towards empowering auto rickshaw drivers and promoting sustainable transportation, SMFT, led by Rika and Manu Shah, launched the CNG Auto Rickshaw distribution initiative in the Bidada area of Kutch, Gujarat.

As part of their commitment to social welfare, SMFT has pledged to sponsor 600 CNG auto rickshaws for local drivers, with 100 rickshaws distributed on the day of the launch event.

This donation program aims to break the cycle of poverty for auto rickshaw drivers by providing them with ownership of the vehicles, as opposed to paying exorbitant rental fees. By gifting the drivers their own vehicles, the program not only grants financial independence but also helps improve their standard of living and long-term economic stability.

The event, held at the Shree Bidada Sarvodaya Trust campus, was made possible through the efforts of Arham Yuva Seva Group. The group took charge of identifying eligible beneficiaries and ensuring a smooth coordination of the distribution process, ensuring that the initiative reached the most deserving individuals in need.

The launch ceremony was graced by the presence of Mr. Praful Pansheriya, the Minister for Tribal Development, Primary, Secondary, and Adult Education of Gujarat. Mr. Pansheriya's attendance provided a significant morale boost to the 100 recipients of the auto rickshaws, inspiring them to make the most of this opportunity to transform their lives.

This initiative exemplifies SMFT's dedication to fostering socio-economic development in underserved communities. By addressing the pressing need for financial independence and promoting green energy solutions, SMFT continues to drive positive change, empowering individuals and contributing to a sustainable future for Kutch, Gujarat.



Rika and Manu Shah Kicking-off the Event


Rika and Manu Shah with Mr. Praful Pansheriya


Rika and Manu Shah with Beneficiaries


Rika and Manu Shah with the Distributed CNG Auto-Rickshaw

NGO VISIT – SHREE JAIN MEDICAL AND EDUCATIONAL TRUST

February 2025 - On February 24, 2025, Rika and Manu Shah, founders of SMFT, visited Matruchhaya Schools in Bhuj, Gujarat, reinforcing their commitment to education and community development. Matruchhaya Schools, operating under the Shree Jain Medical and Educational Trust, play a crucial role in providing quality education to children. The group consists of four institutions: Matruchhaya Kanya Vidyalaya, Shreelekha Hiralal Shah Kanya Vidyalaya, Matruchhaya Dhinglighar, and Matruchhaya Kumarashala, collectively serving 3,482 students.

During their visit, Manu and Rika Shah inaugurated a new computer lab, enhancing students' access to technology. They also interacted with the children, attended a science fair by Dhinglighar students, and encouraged their aspirations. In line with SMFT's dedication to children's safety, the foundation funded structural upgrades designed by Architect Rajni Patwa to enhance disaster preparedness, ensuring student safety in earthquake-prone Bhuj.

Beyond the schools, the Shahs explored two other impactful initiatives. The first was Sarvamangal Arogyadham, under the Shree Jain Medical and Educational Trust, offering affordable treatments in Ayurveda, Panchakarma, and Yoga.

Funded by SMFT, it provides 60+ treatments across 7 acres of greenery, promoting holistic well-being. The founders also conducted a groundbreaking ceremony for a new school at Sarvamangal Arogyadham, expanding educational opportunities.

The second initiative was Kala Raksha, an artisan-led museum preserving traditional textiles and culture. It integrates income generation with education, healthcare, and sustainable development, impacting over 1,000 artisans and 25 villages through 33,000+ projects.

SMFT's continued support for these initiatives strengthens education, health, and cultural preservation in Bhuj.



Rika and Manu Shah being Welcomed by Students of School



Computer Lab Inauguration



Groundbreaking Ceremony of New School at Sarvamangal Arogyadham Facility



Beneficiaries at Kala Raksha

NGO VISIT – VANTARA

February 2025 - On February 25, Rika and Manu Shah, founders of SMFT, along with their dear friends Mr. Ramesh Shah and Mrs. Prafulla Shah, embarked on a special journey to Jamnagar, invited by Gurudev Namra Muni. The purpose of the visit was to discuss philanthropic plans followed by an exploration of Vantara, an extraordinary animal rescue and rehabilitation center.

Upon arrival, the group was blessed by Gurudev, whose guidance has been pivotal in their outreach initiatives, providing support to those in need. The visit to Vantara, a world-class sanctuary spread over 3,000 acres and supported by over 2,000 employees, left the group in awe.

Vantara is one of the largest and most compassionate animal rescue sanctuaries globally, surpassing the size of the top five zoos. The facility is a brainchild of Anant Ambani and the Ambani Group, reflecting their commitment to animal welfare.

The group had a rare opportunity to interact closely with the animals, feeding elephants, hippos, and other rescued creatures. They observed a variety of species, including over 50 lions and 30 white and Bengal tigers. The sanctuary also houses exotic birds, lizards, and a diverse range of animals, all thriving in their spacious enclosures, with on-site medical care provided.

The visit was a memorable experience, further enriched by a Zoom call with Anant Ambani, whose humility and dedication to animal welfare were inspiring. Four days later, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Vantara, emphasizing its global significance. The visit left the group with a profound sense of gratitude, inspired by the sanctuary's compassion and commitment to animal welfare.



Rika and Manu Shah Meeting with Gurudev Namra Muni



Rika and Manu Shah with Mrs. Prafulla and Mr. Ramesh Shah



An Elephant being treated at Vantara



Aerial View of Vantara, Jamnagar

NGO VISIT – PROJECT LIFE

February 2025 - On February 27, the founders of SMFT, Rika and Manu Shah, along with the SMFT team, visited the Project Life headquarters and its Life Blood Centre in Rajkot, Gujarat. SMFT has been a key supporter of Project Life, a non-profit organization focused on community empowerment and development across multiple sectors, including education, women empowerment, health, and the environment.

At the Project Life headquarters, the team learned about the organization's impactful initiatives, such as the restructuring of rural primary schools. Through Project Life's efforts, over 117 schools have been upgraded with smart classrooms and essential amenities, benefiting more than 70,000 students annually.

Rika Shah also had the opportunity to interact virtually with the beneficiaries of the Women Empowerment Training Program, which, with SMFT's support, provides free vocational training to underprivileged women and widows in Junagadh. This program has empowered over 250 women, helping them gain self-employment skills and earn monthly incomes of around ₹15,000, positively impacting over 1,000 family members.

The team then visited the Life Blood Centre, a pioneering blood transfusion facility serving over 439,000 patients annually. With advanced technology for blood collection, testing, and storage, the centre has conducted over 6,000 blood donation camps and provides affordable blood and blood components, benefiting thousands of patients, including those at the Life Thalassemia Prevention Centre.

This visit reaffirmed SMFT's commitment to supporting sustainable community development and health initiatives, furthering the positive impact of Project Life in the region.



Rika and Manu Shah at Project Life Headquarters, Rajkot (Gujarat)



Rika and Manu Shah Interacting with the Beneficiaries of the Project



Fully Automated Blood Bank Instrument at Life Blood Centre



Advance Platelet Storage System at Life Blood Centre

NGO VISIT – SATHYA SAI GRAMA

February 2025 - On February 28, 2025, Manu Shah, founder of SMFT, along with the SMFT team and Mr. Jivan Bhatt, visited Sathya Sai Grama to witness the social services being extended for the upliftment of underprivileged communities.

The visit commenced with a lunch, followed by a tour of the Sri Sathya Sai Sarla Memorial Hospital, where the team was accompanied by Dr. Raghupathi A R (Director, Medical Education) and Sai Prasad Ivaturi (Trustee and CFO, Sri Sathya Sai Annapoorna Trust). The hospital, with a 350-bed capacity, has provided free healthcare to 2.9 million patients since 2012. It also features a pharmacy dispensing ₹1.5 crore worth of medicines monthly at no cost.

The team also learned about the hospital's medical college, where 483 doctors have graduated in the past three years, entirely free of charge. Each graduate is required to serve in rural villages for five years, ensuring medical aid reaches underserved populations. Additionally, under its Free Global Healthcare Mission, the NGO operates 18 Centres for Human Development and eight hospitals/medical centers worldwide.

The visit further introduced the Sai Swasthya Centres, local public health centers providing medical aid to remote areas while employing locals to support their communities.

A significant highlight was the tour of an ₹650 crore mega hospital expansion project, which will feature 750 beds and is currently under construction, with its fourth floor underway.

The day concluded with a campus tour, including the stadium, an auditorium, and a Gurukul. Finally, the team engaged in a discussion with Sri Madhusudan Sai, who emphasized shifting focus towards preventive healthcare and his vocational training initiatives in Mississippi, USA, through the Sri Madhusudan Sai Institute of Medical Sciences & Research.



Manu Shah and Team SMFT with Sri Madhusudan Sai



Team SMFT at Sri Sathya Sai Sarla Memorial Hospital



Manu Shah, Jivan Bhatt and Team SMFT with Sathya Sai Grama Team



Manu Shah Observing the Hospital Expansion Project

NGO VISIT – MATHRUSHREE MANOVIKASA KENDRA

February 2025 - The SMFT founder, Rika Shah, along with Dr. Bijal Mehta and the SMFT team, visited Mathrushree Manovikasa Kendra's safe space for specially-abled individuals at Kumara Park, Bangalore. The visit highlighted SMFT's dedication to supporting nonprofits that provide essential care to differently abled individuals.

Established in 2003, Mathrushree Manovikasa Kendra has provided shelter to 286 individuals and currently cares for 110. The organization ensures a safe living space, free education, healthcare, and personal care. At the Kumara Park facility, 17 staff members work in three shifts, maintaining a caregiver-to-child ratio of two staff members per seven children. Among the 60 residents, 36.67% have Cerebral Palsy, while 30% suffer from Spasticity.

The organization runs two facilities in Bangalore, with plans to establish a new safe space-cum-medical centre at Tumkur Road, accommodating 80 individuals.

During the visit, Dr. Bijal Mehta proposed a new healthcare initiative to identify children who could benefit from surgery. Selected children will be treated at Shrimad Rajchandra Hospital in Dharampur, with 2-3 coordinators and a caretaker accompanying them throughout the process.

Beyond assessments and planning, the visit was filled with warmth and joy. The SMFT team engaged with the children, distributing sweets and serving food, bringing smiles to their faces. The visit reinforced SMFT's commitment to uplifting specially-abled individuals, ensuring they receive the necessary care and opportunities to live with dignity.



Rika Shah and Dr. Bijal Mehta at Mathrushree Manovikasa Kendra



Rika Shah and Dr. Bijal Understanding the Needs of the Organisation



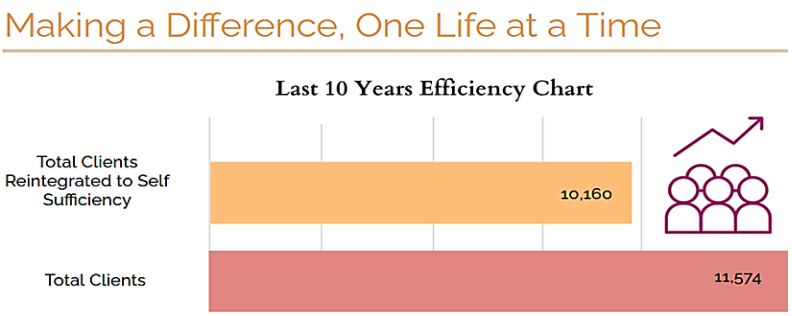
Rika Shah Distributing Sweets to Children



Dr. Bijal Mehta Interacting with a Child with Cerebral Palsy

About the Nonprofit:

SAHARA (South Asian Helpline And Referral Agency) is a nonprofit organization committed to supporting survivors of domestic violence, elder abuse, and gender-based violence within the South Asian community in Southern California.



Established in 1991, SAHARA offers culturally sensitive and linguistically specific services, including a crisis helpline, case management, legal advocacy, mental health counseling, and emergency and transitional housing. Dedicated to ending all forms of abuse in the South Asian community, particularly among the underserved and marginalized, SAHARA works to raise awareness, break down barriers, and empower survivors. Through cultural and holistic healing, access to opportunities, and pathways to stability, SAHARA helps survivors reclaim their independence with dignity and respect.



About SMFT-Funded Project:

The Sarva Mangal Family Trust (SMFT) is proud to play a vital role in expanding SAHARA's Transitional Living Program, providing safe housing and essential support for survivors of domestic violence. SAHARA's goal is to ensure that survivors have access to secure housing, legal assistance, mental health counseling, and educational opportunities.

Their approach includes implementing trauma-informed advocacy, offering employment assistance, and collaborating with local organizations to create a strong support network. Through these efforts, they strive to achieve long-term housing stability, increased self-sufficiency, and empowerment for survivors, helping them transition from crisis to independence.



Project Location/Geography:

SAHARA primarily serves the South Asian community in Southern California, with a strong presence in Los Angeles County and the surrounding six counties, extending to Ventura and the Inland Empire. Additionally, SAHARA provides support to out-of-state callers by assisting them in finding appropriate resources and case consultations. Committed to offering culturally competent and linguistically specific support, SAHARA ensures that underserved populations facing abuse and instability receive the assistance they need.

Recent Project Updates:

In 2023, SAHARA acquired its second Transitional Living Home, made possible through the generosity of the Shah Happiness Foundation, Tarsadia Foundation, and key donors. This expansion has enabled SAHARA to support more survivors by providing comprehensive services, including life-skills training, educational assistance, and financial literacy programs.

In 2024, four shelter residents enrolled at Cerritos College, taking a significant step toward self-sufficiency. SAHARA's collaboration with My Private Professor has also provided free tutoring for the children of survivors, helping them regain confidence and academic stability. To further support survivors, SAHARA continues to strengthen partnerships with legal aid organizations, ensuring access to critical legal assistance for protective orders, immigration applications, and custody matters.

Additionally, SAHARA offers in-house support groups and workshops, providing survivors with a creative and therapeutic outlet for healing and personal growth. These weekly sessions cover a wide range of topics, including financial literacy, parenting, healthy lifestyles, nutrition, fraud awareness, and legal rights, empowering survivors with the knowledge and skills needed for a stable and independent future.



Overall Impact:

SAHARA has transformed the lives of thousands of South Asian individuals by providing safety, legal empowerment, and pathways to independence. Through Project C.A.R.E. (Counseling, Advocacy, Reintegration, Education), SAHARA offers comprehensive case management and culturally tailored support to address the unique needs of survivors. The organization's crisis helpline has assisted numerous callers in distress, while its housing initiatives have provided long-term stability for families escaping violence. With a 96% success rate for legal permanent residency applications, made possible through dedicated pro bono legal services, SAHARA continues to be a vital resource for the community.

In the first quarter alone, SAHARA has served 306 individuals, reinforcing its commitment to empowering those in need. By providing education, job placement, and mental health support, SAHARA not only aids in survivors' recovery but also fosters lasting generational change, breaking the cycle of abuse.



NGO IN FOCUS FEBRUARY'25 – SAHARA (Cont.)

Highlight of the Month

In February 2025, SAHARA celebrated a major milestone as they helped four survivors of domestic violence secure stable employment and permanent housing. With their financial support, one completed a vocational training program, regained financial independence, and now mentors other survivors. Her journey from crisis to empowerment stands as a testament to the transformative impact of SAHARA's programs.



In the News

SAHARA has been featured in multiple media outlets for securing its second Transitional Living Home and successfully raising substantial funds to support survivors of domestic violence. These achievements highlight SAHARA's ongoing commitment to providing safe housing and essential resources to a community that has trusted SAHARA's services for over three decades. SAHARA's multilingual staff has initiated and been recognized for launching projects such as MAP (Multilingual Access Project) with LA County's Domestic Violence Council to reduce barriers in services not only within the local community but abroad.

SUCCESS STORY – SAHARA

Name: Anonymous
Location: America
Project: Domestic Violence

Through SAHARA's Domestic Violence Program, a survivor was able to secure employment at a local school, taking a crucial step toward financial independence. After enduring years of abuse and isolation, she struggled with self-doubt and lacked essential financial literacy skills. Without any prior work experience or financial independence, the idea of rebuilding her life seemed overwhelming.

Recognizing the challenges she faced, SAHARA's case manager provided intensive, one-on-one support to help her regain confidence and develop the necessary skills to navigate the workforce. She received life skills training, assistance with resume building, and guidance through the certification process required for her job. SAHARA also connected her with job readiness workshops, interview coaching, and networking opportunities to enhance her employment prospects.

Beyond professional development, financial empowerment was a critical component of her journey. SAHARA helped her open a bank account, marking the first time she had control over her own finances. Through financial literacy sessions, she learned how to budget, save, and manage expenses, ensuring she could maintain long-term stability for herself and her young daughter.

Emotional support played an equally vital role in her transformation. During difficult moments, SAHARA's case manager provided counseling, offering a safe space for her to express her fears and anxieties. Through consistent encouragement, she rebuilt her self-esteem and began to see a future beyond her past trauma.
With newfound stability, she was able to secure safe and independent housing, providing her daughter with a secure and nurturing environment. Today, she is not only thriving in her new role but also giving back by mentoring other survivors who are on their own paths to independence. Her journey from a place of fear and uncertainty to one of strength and resilience highlights the profound impact of empowerment and community support.

She has expressed deep gratitude for the guidance and resources that helped her achieve a future she once thought impossible. Her story stands as a powerful testament to the transformative power of advocacy, education, and holistic support, proving that with the right assistance, survivors can heal, rebuild, and thrive.

SUCCESS STORY – SAHARA

Name: Anonymous
Location: America
Project: Mental Health Therapy Program

A senior client recently experienced a transformative journey through SAHARA's mental health therapy program after years of struggling with deep isolation and anxiety. Before seeking support, these challenges significantly affected his daily life, leaving him withdrawn and hesitant to engage with others. Even simple tasks felt overwhelming, and he lacked a reliable support system, making it difficult to reach out for help.

Through regular therapy sessions with SAHARA's in-house therapist, he gradually developed effective coping strategies and tools to manage his emotions. The therapist worked closely with him to uncover the roots of his anxiety, helping him reframe negative thought patterns and build a healthier mindset. Over time, he regained confidence and took small but meaningful steps toward social engagement. These sessions provided a safe and supportive space for him to express his concerns, work through his fears, and gradually rebuild his emotional resilience.

Encouraged by the therapist, he rediscovered hobbies he had once enjoyed, such as painting and gardening. These activities not only served as a creative outlet but also helped him establish a structured daily routine, bringing a sense of stability and purpose to his life. As his confidence grew, he began attending SAHARA's senior wellness workshops, where he connected with others who had faced similar experiences, further reducing his sense of isolation. These workshops provided not just social interaction but also opportunities for learning, self-expression, and emotional healing.

Today, he is more independent, active, and optimistic about his future. His journey underscores the transformative power of mental health support, demonstrating that healing, growth, and empowerment are possible at any stage of life. His progress is a testament to the importance of accessible, culturally competent mental health services, ensuring that individuals facing similar challenges receive the care and encouragement they need to reclaim their lives.

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