



NOTES FROM THE UNFORGOTTEN: JANUARY 2014

Happy New Year!

I'm just penning a short note to update you on the progress of our Charity and our plans for the New Year, before we head out on our field visits. We'll share and post a more thorough Annual Report for 2013 when we return from our country visits; we'll try to post updates at [Facebook.com/unforgottenfund](https://www.facebook.com/unforgottenfund) during our travels. At the end of this message are some case stories from Pune, India.

Will (our Vice President) and I will be flying to Zambia on January 10, and then to India on January 17, to review the progress of our field teams (headed by Rabecca in Zambia, and Mrunalini in India). Madina and Amina, our Sierra Leone leads from our Board, are in Sierra Leone right now working with our field staff (headed there by Sheku). Sally, from our Board, is in Nepal, helping to stand up a field office in Kathmandu. And a French volunteer team (Mr. and Mrs. Gomez) is coming from France to make a documentary of our work (they will be in India on January 10). Vandana, another of our Board members from Chicago, is flying to India as well, accompanied by in-country Board member Ashwini.

I wanted to let you know of these field visits, and let you know our names, because all of us, including you, ARE the Charity. I wanted to assure you that we keep a close eye on how funds are spent, and we take seriously the trust you have given us. All of us here in the US (and those coming from France) are traveling as volunteers, and we donate our own financial resources and time to travel, so that all charity resources can be directed towards the field.

We are still a small charity, with a very modest budget (around \$100,000 US per year), but our goal

is to have by the end of 2014, 300 girls and 150 mothers in our program, across four countries (India, Zambia, Sierra Leone, Nepal). And I'm happy to report we are well on our way towards that goal.

Recall, our target aid recipients, are mothers and girls that were surviving as wastepickers. We first provide clean food and water, and shelter. And then we provide microloans and training to the mothers, to help them start small businesses. When they enter our program they suffer from hunger and hopelessness. By the end of five years, our goal is that mothers should be able to feed their families, and be able to send their children to school, without any charity support.

Below are some brief case stories from our project sites in Pune, India, as written by Mrunalini. These are some remarkable mothers and girls! We'll try to send you more updates once we are in Zambia (through Facebook).

Thank you for your continued support, and my best wishes to you for the coming New Year!

Kind regards,
Amit

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Case Stories

Kajal and Gauri:

Kajal, age 15, is studying in 10th standard from Raosaheb Patwardhan High School in Pune. Kajal and her family originally belonged to a village named Vetawadi, block Madha, District Solapur.

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They migrated to Pune for the purpose of earning a livelihood more than 25 years ago. Her family has since lived in the Kothrud area where she was born in 1998.

At the age of 6, Kajal lost her father. He died from a chronic illness. As it was difficult for the

mother to take care of her, she was brought to her aunt's house in Panmala Vasahat, Pune, where she has been for the last 9 years. Her aunt Rekha is a wastepicker and earns about 3000/- Rs. per month (about \$60).

Gauri Lahu Pawar, age 9 yrs, is Kajal's cousin sister. She is studying in V.B.Gogte Vidyalaya, Pune, in 5th standard. Gauri has one other sister and two brothers -- all now studying in school. The Unforgotten has supported Gauri and Kajal for their tuition fees, and the children are doing well in school.



When asked about Kajal, her aunt Rekha says she is good in studies. "We want to teach her and other kids as much as we can".



Rekha is part of the women's Self Help Group organized by The Unforgotten. She attended a three month-long basic tailoring course paid for by The Unforgotten, and conducted by the agency Jan Shikshan Sanstha, in Pune.

Komal and Sonali Dolare:

Komal Dolare, age 13, and Sonali Dolare, age 16, live in Panmala Vasahat, Pune with their mother Shamal. The family is originally from the Village Laduli, block Vairag, District Osmanabad. They migrated about 40 years ago in order to earn a livelihood. For about 20 years the mother has been working as a wastepicker. Initially she used to go everywhere in the city to collect the waste from dustbins and dump sites. For the past two years she has been employed by 'SWACH', a cooperative society of waste pickers, and now earns Rs. 4000/- per month. She has four daughters in all, and The Unforgotten pays the school and tuition expenses for Komal and Sonali (The Unforgotten has a limit of supporting only two children per household).

Their mother expressed gratitude for receiving this support. She said she "could not afford to send her children to school due to poverty, but now with this support will try her best to teach her daughters as much as possible".





The Unforgotten

100% of your donation
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*Providing clean food and water, shelter, schooling and a
future for mothers and children living in extreme poverty.*

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Pictured: Komal, 13 yrs., and
Sonali, 16 yrs., in Panmala
Vasahat, Pune

Thank you for reading this month's *Notes from The Unforgotten*, and thank you for making this work possible! Feel free to also take a look at our website: www.unforgotten.org

And we are: www.facebook.com/unforgottenfund

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The Unforgotten is helping the Self Help Group of women in Pune, India, start a tailoring business of their own. Pictured below is the Charity helping them open a bank account for the group.



We'll post some more updates from India!

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