



THE GOOD SHEPHERD AGRICULTURAL MISSION
BANBASA, UTTARAKHAND, INDIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021

DIRECTOR'S DESK

To our supporters,

What a difficult year this has been for all of us across the planet. The pandemic has affected each and every one of us without discrimination. With so much devastation we only hope that you are safe and managing during these tough times.

We do not for a minute take for granted how fortunate we are to be able to report that we are safe and well here. Lockdown in India has certainly changed the way we live life, but we are managing just fine.

As a result of these restrictions and difficulties we have all had to change the way we do things. Forward progress with construction and development projects has been slow but we still have a lot to show for the year.

One unexpected result of COVID-19 has been the closeness that we as an organization and big family have felt. Dozens of our past children have returned home to shelter here and with our gates locked we have turned to each other and internal relationships to pass the time. It has been truly beautiful to see friendships new and old forged stronger through it all.

It has been significantly tough in our school, the pandemic bringing incoming school fees almost to a complete halt. Through the excellent management of the school administration we managed to not only keep all of our staff member employed but also pay full salaries.

I am so proud of the way our staff, children and supporters have rallied behind the Mission in this time of need; together we have made this place stronger than ever!

To all of you, our amazing supporters who have sponsored, donated or encouraged us throughout this year, I trust this report will clearly show the wonderful results we have been able to see even in the face of such a difficult time.



Warwick G. Shipway
Director



ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

The Good Shepherd Agricultural Mission (GSAM) is an independent, non-governmental, social development organization that has provided support to those in need since 1952. 'The Mission' works in an array of areas: education, support to lepers, community training & development, as well as disaster relief. However its primary focus is the care and protection of children.

The Mission works hard to provide a loving home for every child in its care; working diligently to promote family relationships and impart a spirit of responsibility in every member of the organization.

REGISTRATION DETAILS:

The GSAM is a non-profit that is registered under the following Acts/Government Offices:

Societies Registration Act

UK0650162021006196

Income Tax Act

Section 12A, 80G, PAN: AAATG3113G

Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA)

Registration Number: 136620006

Uttarakhand Education Department

Registration Number: 779-53/2015-2018

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

The following people make up the elected Board of Directors of The Good Shepherd Agricultural Mission as of March 31st, 2021:

Name	Age	Gender	Position	Occupation	Meetings Attended
Warwick Shipway	68	Male	Director	Philanthropist/Retired Farmer	4 / 4
Eugene George	42	Male	Secretary	Agriculturalist	4 / 4
Clifton Shipway	35	Male	Deputy Director	Photographer	4 / 4
Priscilla Shipway	37	Female	Treasurer	Childcare Worker	4 / 4
Simeon Karada	43	Male	Member	Teacher	4 / 4
Josie Singh	77	Female	Member	Agriculturalist	4 / 4
Paula Karada	45	Female	Member	Social Worker	4 / 4



FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME

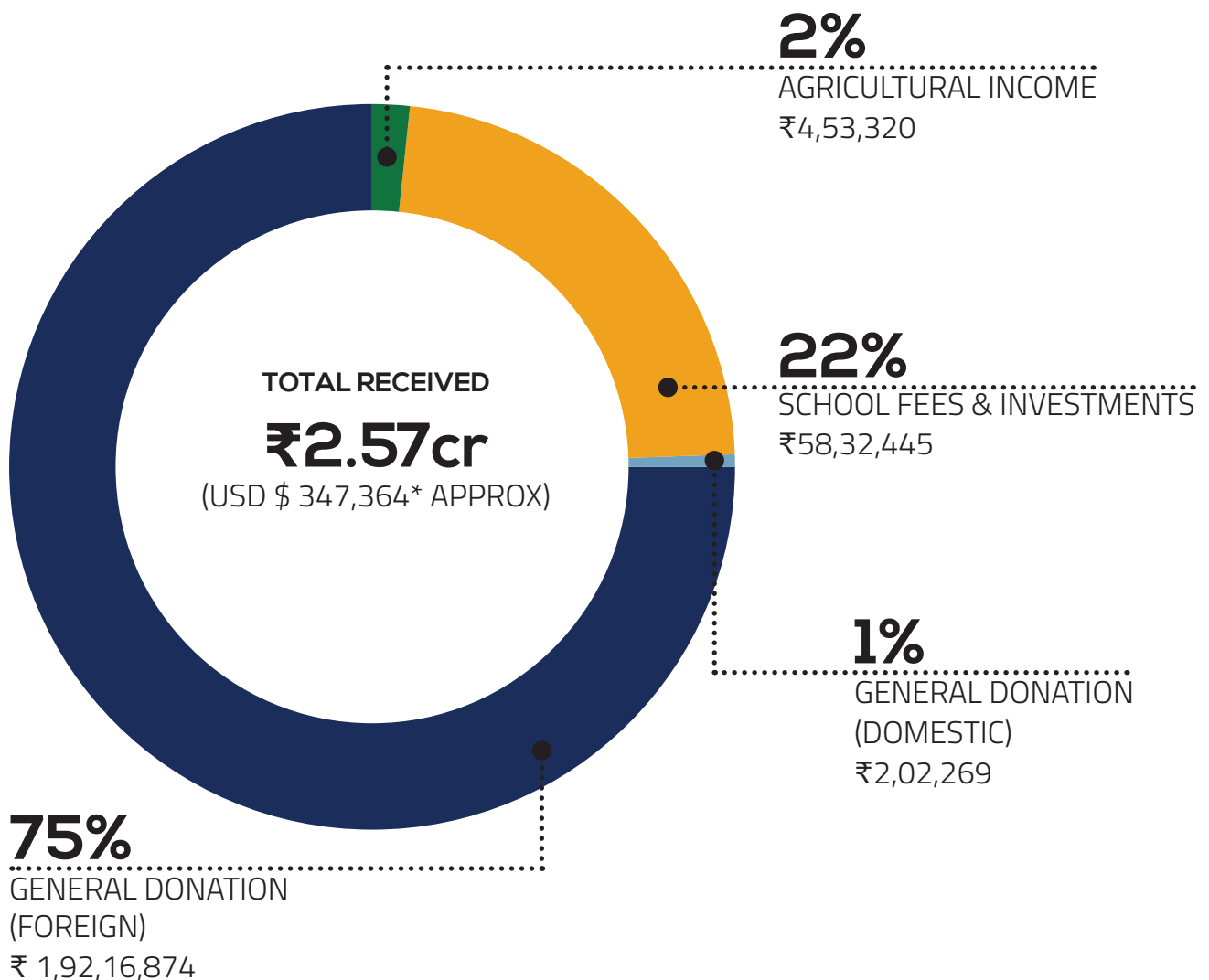
Undeniably, this has been the toughest year that most of us on the planet have had to face. COVID-19 has ravaged every element of society as we know it. The damage of the pandemic has meant a continued reduction in donations for non-government organizations across India that were already struggling from a shortage last year; sadly this has led to the close of many wonderful and important works.

Keeping this in mind, we were astonished at the end of the year to see that our donations, especially those that have come in from abroad, are stronger than ever. A true testimony to the relationships we have forged with our incredible donors over the years. We do not for a moment take for granted just how significant this is.

We are so grateful for our sponsors, regular supporters, one-time donors and corporate/organizational donors. We simply could not do this without you. It is not possible (through words on a page) to fully express our gratitude; together we are truly making a difference.

Our partnerships with organizations like Health & Development Aid Abroad, Samartha Saxena Foundation, S.Group, Charities Aid Foundation, Global Giving, BILD International, TURBOCAM International and Door of Hope remain strong, we are so grateful for each one of them.

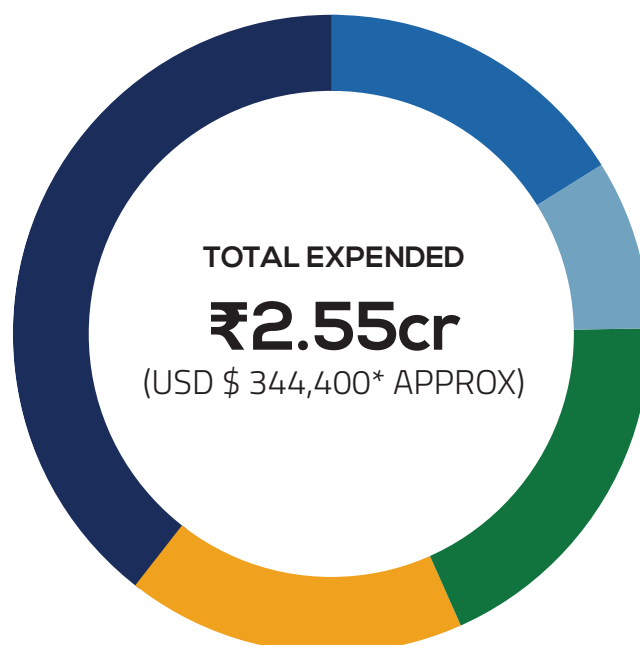
For the purpose of auditing and financial accountability our statutory auditors and chartered accountants remain AKRSS and Associates of B4 Alisha Apartments, MMM Marg, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India. A complete copy of the 2020-21 Audited Report may be found by visiting the following page on our website: www.IndianOrphanage.com/financials-annual-reports



EXPENSES

Below is a summary of expenses undertaken by our organization beginning April 1st, 2020 and ending March 31st, 2021.

Expenses have been categorized and their respective colors have been used to create the graph on the right for a quick understanding of where our funds are utilized.



Indirect Expenditure	Amount (INR)
Depreciation	24,93,563
Salary & Wages	15,13,036
Water & Electricity	13,64,715
Repairs of Buildings & Furnitures	7,35,092
Staff & Workers' Welfare	6,92,209
Diesel & Fuel	5,97,068
Legal & Professional Fees	5,75,280
Festivals & Ceremonies	3,20,107
Travel & Conveyance	2,60,346
Miscellaneous Expenses	2,44,090
Printing & Stationary	2,41,716
Repairs of Vehicles & Generators	2,05,929
Vehicle Insurance	1,95,959
Repairs of Computers	1,47,757
Interest Paid on Loans	98,323
Repairs of Agricultural Equipment	87,236
Telephone & Internet	66,499
Audit Fees	60,000
Bank Fees & Charges	37,768
Repairs of School Project	33,070
Office & Admin	27,155
Newspapers & Periodicals	14,154
Postage & Couriers	1,232
Total Expenditure	₹1,00,12,304

Agricultural Expenses	Amount (INR)
Total Expenditure:	₹21,74,467

Children's Home Expenditure	Amount (INR)
Children's Education & Tuitions	20,99,464
Food & Consumables	11,40,301
Medical & Health Care	7,15,089
Children's Clothing and Wearings	1,79,862
Total Expenditure:	₹41,34,716

Expenditure of School Project	Amount (INR)
Salary & Wages	44,24,965
Right To Education	1,69,391
Software Subscription	85,957
School General Expenses	52,332
Staff & Workers Welfare	38,580
Books & Stationary	8,733
Total Expenditure:	₹47,79,958

Addition To Assets	Amount (INR)
Building (Staff Accommodation) WIP^	33,92,415
Computers and Tech	2,55,969
General Equipments & Machines	1,98,331
Electrical Fittings	1,57,997
Building (Workshop)	1,57,776
Building (Kindergarten) WIP^	1,18,000
Furniture & Fixtures	85,939
School General Equipments	17,700
Total Expenditure	₹43,84,127

*For the purpose of this document 1 USD = INR 74

^WIP = Work in Progress

Welcome, sit down and join us for a meal in the Dining Room of The Good Shepherd Agricultural Mission!





PASSING THE PANDEMIC

Stay home. That was the message that we received from our government, scientists and community. Across the world we all know how easy that sounds, but how tough it is in reality - especially when kids are involved! Things are a little easier though when you have a sprawling 73-acre campus, playgrounds, a huge library, computers, a PlayStation, sports equipment, Lego and a hundred other people to interact with! We don't for a second take any of that for granted.

Friends from around the world helped keep our kids happy and busy, regular and unexpected packages arriving from Amazon with games and treats for the kids. Two friends we would particularly like to thank are Nyima from Delhi and Gini from South Australia who showered our kids with love through the year.

In the board games department Monopoly, Settlers of Catan, and Ludo were clear favorites along with a hand full of regular card games, Monopoly Deal and Uno. The most interesting of all being a truly massive 8000-piece jigsaw puzzle of Times Square in the USA that took 14 people over 2 months to complete. It is now framed up and hangs on the wall of our Dining Room where it will remain for many years to come.

We made sure our kids got outside too; cricket, roller-skates, soccer, badminton, volleyball and our playground were a great way to burn off that extra lockdown energy and get a little Vitamin D into our kids. Through the summer months impromptu water or colour fights were also a lot of fun.

If you're familiar with the video game Minecraft, you probably know just how easy it is for kids to burn hours on a computer playing it; for our kids we have a limit of 1 hour each and they must pay for that hour with 15 minutes of typing practice first; a sneaky way for us to get in some useful lessons!

While we did push the limits of "staying at home" with just a couple of trips to the jungle, we have very much stayed within our property through the year. Daily activities and fun have kept us all entertained and we have seen beautiful new friendships grow between all of us, our family bonds have never been stronger than they are now.







In other years it has been a very normal thing for us to call in what is called “panipur wallas”, men with hand-pushed carts who sell a delicious treat that all of our kids enjoy. The lockdown may have stopped the carts, but with a little bit of learning from Youtube, we managed the snacks just fine on our own!





ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We felt that our empty swimming pool was the perfect place to hold our AGM this year. Thanks to the size of the facility social distancing was easily maintainable and we were able to have the meeting safely. The single largest issue discussed during our AGM this year was the way that we as an organization are and will continue to combat COVID-19; especially in light of past students of the Mission returning for holidays. Our next budget was also passed and time was taken to reflect on the many advances we have made as an organization even in the midst of a global pandemic.

November 2020



REALATIONSHIPS WITH SPONSORS

Each of our children has a sponsor and with visits not being a possibility at this time we have relied on the postal system and internet to keep relationships growing. In spite of the difficulties in place we are happy to report that the vast majority of connections have only been made stronger through the pandemic. Video calls, posted messages, phone calls and care packages have become a daily norm and are keeping Amos, our Sponsorship Co-ordinator, on his toes as he scans letters, confirms timezones and collects post. We're overwhelmed by how awesome our sponsors are!

All Year Round



General Maintenance

Our team of men in the workshop has done a tremendous job keeping everything working across the Mission. The ever changing list of ongoing maintenance jobs kept all of them engaged through the year.

The three most regular jobs for the gents are the repair of ceiling fans, leaking taps and the continuous repairs of our CCTV system (which is actually outsourced to a local security company). There's rarely a job that needs to be done that our skilled team can't handle.

All Year Round





THE RED SHED

With so much work going on for our maintenance team we decided it was about time they had a decent tool shed to lock up all the spanners, bolts, hammers, gloves, pipe fittings, electrical wire and tubes they need to keep the wheels of this place spinning.

After a few weeks, time mostly spent just waiting for the concrete to dry, we had a big bright red shed ready and stocked to the brim. No more misplaced tools or materials left out in the rain; we've just got to make sure they keep it tidy!

November 2020



GANESH GETTING IT DONE!

Our carpenter, Ganesh, has been working hard on our limited budget to create some beautiful new pieces of furniture using recycled wood from old bunk beds, cupboards and shelves. It is incredible to see how he can turn an old, seemingly worthless piece of furniture into something truly beautiful. New benches, tables and cupboards are made from larger pieces of wood, the smaller pieces can become wooden toys or chopping boards. Very little goes to waste as off-cuts and anything that remains is sent to our kitchen as fuel for the fire to cook our meals.

All Year Round





GREEN THUMB

In yet another effort to get us safely through the pandemic we have turned our old school ground into a huge garden patch. To get the ground ready we had to remove an entire tractor-trailer load of stones and broken brick that were buried under the soil and uproot an old playground that was no longer in use (we relocated much of it to our current playground). We are now growing onions, garlic, radishes, corn, potatoes, carrots, okra, beets and loads of green leafy plants. This new endeavour has seen a steady stream of fresh vegetables available for our children's lunch and dinner tables.

All Year Round



Leper Colony

We continue to care for several members of our community who have leprosy. This debilitating bacterial disease leaves most who have it outcast from traditional communities, forced into a life of begging and dependence on others to get by. For our few members we offer shelter, food, water, sanitation and medical support but most of all we offer them a place in our family. They are safe and valued. Their medical issues are treated and their leprosy cured so they are no longer a risk to others (although sadly the effects of their leprosy are often permanent).

All Year Round



ROOM FOR MUSHROOMS

It was a completely random Google advertisement that brought the idea of growing our own mushrooms to our attention. A few Youtube videos and an Amazon order later we were growing our own crop of these delicious fungi.

Within a few months we had converted one of our damp old store rooms into a mushroom heaven. The dark and musty room has never been much of a usable space but is now providing us with a steady stream of mushrooms with very little hassle or work required.

December 2020



RUN CHICKEN RUN

After a devastating midnight attack from some wild dogs that left over 20 of our chickens dead we decided to up the protection of our flock. The first big step was construction of a safe pen last year but this year we took the protection one step further with a security fence to protect the chicken run. The new 6 foot high fence not only serves to keep the hens and roosters safe, it also keeps them from trespassing out into the garden where we don't want them. Their large open run is now the perfect place for them to roam, scratch and cluck away to their hearts' content.

October 2020



EGG-CITING NEWS!

With all the amazing developments in our chicken run we are now finally producing enough eggs that we no longer need to buy them from our local market. Twice a week for breakfast our kids are able to eat eggs either fried, boiled or scrambled up in delicious omlettes.

Producing our own eggs at home is really wonderful, not only are they healthier (their deep yellow yolks testify to that) but the chickens are a great way to deal with all the scraps and leftovers from our kitchen.

All Year Round



MOTHER HEN

Each year we have tried our hand at hatching our own baby chicks for our poultry unit and this year was our most successful year with more than 90% of our eggs successfully hatching and growing into adult fowls.

In total we had just over 70 hens and roosters hatch out of our incubator, some were sold off to local villagers but the majority have been used to bolster our own flock. Being able to successfully grow our own chicks is extremely profitable and a lot of fun for our younger ones to be a part of.

All Year Round



The colours of the Holi festival shone bright this year with several massive colour fights across the campus. While most of our Senior Boys hid inside their hostel, the younger boys and girls got right into the action!





HAPPY BIRTHDAY

With so many people in our big family there are endless birthdays to celebrate! This year, like all years, we made a conscious effort to celebrate each one to the fullest! There were surprise parties, bbq dinners, pool parties, snacks, treats and even a special lunch party at the river in the jungle! The celebration, like our smiles were long and joyous! It would be tough for us to include photos of every birthday celebrated here on the Mission, but here are a few of our favorites from the year gone by.

ALL YEAR ROUND







NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CAMP

For the fourth time, one of our kids was able to take part in a National Geographic photography camp, this one being hosted in an online forum with students from across the globe. Coreena was the lucky participant from our kids and was both encouraged and challenged by the daily photography and writing assignments of the camp. As always we are super grateful to our dear friend, Kirsten Elstner from the National Geographic Photocamp's team for the continued love and opportunities that she pours out for our children.

June 2020



NEW LIFE

We all celebrated one fine March evening with the birth of Aiden Chand, newborn son of staff members Amos and Rhoda Chand. Little Aiden was delivered by our good friend Dr Renu Singh and came out a healthy 3.3kg. We're happy to say that the little one is healthy and well, growing every day under the watchful eye of a hundred or so older brothers, sisters, uncles and aunties! Hospital trips during the pandemic are always a little alarming but the additional care and attention given by the staff at Om Hospital in Khatema set many of our concerns to rest.

March 2021



CELEBRATIONS

We've had some lovely celebrations this year, so many, in fact, that we don't know which ones to mention and which ones to miss! Perhaps the four that stand out the most for us were the 25th Anniversary celebrations for staff members Flippy and Babita, the wedding of staff child Lavina to Lucky, a celebration dinner thanks to the Uniyal family and the annual birthday party we have for our dearly departed friend Sam Saxena. While each celebration had to be a little smaller than usual they were still so very special to us.

All Year Round





JUNGLE ADVENTURE

Every year our kids enjoy trips to the jungle, particularly the river that is just a 5 minute walk from our property. During the pandemic however, trips to the river were even more special as it became the only place we could freely go off our grounds. Many summer afternoons were spent swimming in the cool waters, climbing over fallen log bridges or wallowing in the mud! As winter set, in the sandy riverbed became the perfect spot for a picnic or afternoon tea party.

All Year Round



I'LL HUFF AND I'LL PUFF

In the story 'The Three Little Pigs' the big bad wolf blew down the homes of the little piglets in search of a quick meal, but when we had to demolish our old piggery we found that, while we were huffing and puffing, it took a lot more work with hammers to bring those walls down!

The old piggery has been redundant for over a decade now, serving only as a potential home to snakes and other creepy crawlies. We felt it was in the best interest of everyone if we just removed the whole structure completely.

May 2020



FLOODS

The monsoon season, and particularly the month of August, saw some massive cloud bursts over our heads bringing down torrential levels of rain in very short periods of time. The rising waters did not wreak nearly as much havoc as one might expect however, we have grown accustomed to these floods over the years and have learned that as quickly as the waters come up they also dissipate.

Generally these rain storms are a great chance for us to cool off, to play football or go for a walk to the jungle to witness the roaring river.

August 2020

In August a massive, and somewhat unexpected, downpour of rain flooded our entire campus. After just a day the majority of the water had subsided, however our school cricket ground remained a pond for almost a week!





MISSION UNIVERSITY

Education in our school can only take a child so far in life, if we really want to give our children the very best opportunities for success we knew that we had to figure out a way to be able to not only offer them university level education but degrees in high tier universities across the country. Thanks to the awesome help of our long time friend John Marshall from the USA we have been able to fund and support 14 of our kids through a variety of degree programs over the years. We have named this project Mission University and are excited to see it come into its third year now. This year an additional 5 students joined the ranks of our Mission University program. We can't wait to see where the future takes them, just look at all the potential in the table below:

Name	Degree Program	University / Location	Current Year
Basanti Ram	Nursing	Swastik School of Nursing, Khatema	2 / 3
Chandini Prakash	Hotel Management	Dev Bhoomi, Dehradun	1 / 4
Clifford Chand	Biotechnology	Uttaranchal University, Dehradun	2 / 3
Coreena Singh	Hotel Management	Dev Bhoomi, Dehradun	1 / 4
Eddu George	Business Admin.	Graphic Era Hill, Bhimtal	3 / 3
Jackie Singh	International Finance	Graphic Era Hill, Dehradun	1 / 3
Jessica Singh	Journalism	Graphic Era Hill, Dehradun	2 / 3
Job Prasad	Political Science	Ewing Christian College, Allahabad	2 / 3
Kamal Bahadur	Sports Education	Jaspal Rana Institute, Dehradun	2 / 3
Maya Ram	English	Dehradun Institute of Technology	1 / 3
Reeva Bisht	Tourism & Travel	Himgiri Zee University, Dehradun	2 / 4
Rosey Singh	English	Dehradun Institute of Technology	1 / 3
Sonia Singh	Social Work	Himgiri Zee University, Dehradun	2 / 3
Sunny Kumar	Architecture	Dev Bhoomi, Dehradun	2 / 4







When 12 out of our 14 Mission University college students were back on the campus over the lockdown we couldn't resist capturing a group photo. These trail blazers are setting the standard for future children from our home, showing exactly what is possible through love, dedication and support.



AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Our agricultural projects play a big part in why we are able to do so much on such a small budget. Not only do we grow much of our own food (we even make our own cooking oil), but we also are able to sell excess production to generate much needed funds which can then be channeled into other areas. The dream of self-sustainable living is made tangible by our 55 acres of fields, fishponds and orchards.

Our biggest crops this year, like all other years, were our rice paddy and wheat crops. Both crops were adversely effected by bad weather however the final yield from each was still quite good. On paper, our income generated from the farm this financial year is significantly lower than last year, but this is purely because our wheat crop payment was received in late-March and thus was reflected in last year's financial reports. We struggled to get the contractual labor required due to COVID-19 lockdown rules, instead our staff, staff children, volunteers and senior boys have pulled much of the weight themselves. We are super proud of the hard work they have done through the year.



RAIN DAMAGE

Some heavy rains toward the end of the monsoon caused havoc with our rice paddy harvest. Grain that was drying on the ground of our thrashing floor was flooded with water causing much of the dry seeds to start germinating. At this point, there is not a whole lot that can be done so we just put smiles on our faces, thanked God for the dry grain we had already put away and then fed the damaged paddy to our fish.

Even in spite of the damage we had a decent enough crop and were able to sell about 4.5 lakh (USD\$6000) worth of grain to the local mill.

September 2020

SUGAR CANE

Sugar cane is a very normal crop in our area however we have never tried it ourselves. After several years of consideration we decided that this year was the time to give it a go. A small portion of our fields was identified as a good spot to run the trial crop and Eugene, under the guidance of local farmers, set our men to work preparing the fields and planting them with fresh sugar cane. This first attempt at growing cane will give us a good idea of the entire process of farming it. Our kids will surely enjoy munching on the sugar cane too! We're not sure much will actually end up at the sugar mill.

March 2021



MOTERING ON

Our talented team of mechanics in the workshop have managed to keep all of our engines running smoothly through the year. Tractors, diesel pumps, electric pumps, motorbikes, cars, buses and scooters, if it has an engine our team can maintain it! To help them keep the cogs spinning we have a full spread of ever growing support machinery, the right tools to get the job done. Not having to call an outside mechanic for oil changes and servicing really is a cost saver! The workshop is also a really great place for our younger boys to develop skills that they can use in the future.

All Year Round



IN THE DAIRY

Yet again our dairy cows have provided our big family with all the milk we need for our porridge, chai, cheese and everything in-between. Around 14 new calves joined our herd though sadly less than half were females. It will take a little over 2 years before these start producing milk and so for now they are just helping to keep the grass down around our campus. Another often overlooked byproduct of the cows is the manure that we get. Using a decades old system we extract methane gas to cook with in our kitchen; the left over material is sent off to our fields for use as fertilizer!

All Year Round




MARKING THE BEASTS

We had a mighty adventure on our hands when our local vet turned up in the middle of a monsoon rain storm to mark our cows with ear tags. Under this new government system for identification of livestock we will be able to register the beasts for insurance and even healthcare! Through the pouring rain Clifton, Ramesh and the veterinary team worked to wrangle the cows into the stalls, apply their tags and fill in the appropriate forms. It was a grueling job but we were very happy to get it done; the cows might not have been so excited about their new jewelry!

July 2020



A close-up photograph of a person's hand using a hand sickle to cut 'churry' in a field of tall green plants. The person is wearing a purple long-sleeved shirt and several blue and green beaded bracelets. The plants are tall and green, with some brown, dried leaves visible. The background is a bright, sunny field of similar plants.

Feeding our 50 cows take a lot of work. In this photo, Parwati uses a hand sickle to cut 'churry' (a plant grown specifically to be used as green feed) for the cows in our dairy.



FISH PONDS

Located at the back of the workshop are two giant muddy tanks, they might not look like much but below the surface, our fish ponds are teeming with life. We catch our fish in a number of ways, sometimes by net, sometimes by rod and other times we just get in and catch them by hand! About a dozen times each year we are able to catch fish from our tanks. You may not be able to see them from the surface, but they're down there, growing bigger and tastier by the day!

All Year Round



FENCING THE POND

Over the next 3-5 years we hope to completely fence our campus - a project we started last year by fencing our school grounds. All of the fabrication and installation is being done by our workshop team and they are doing a great job! This year, with the full campus fencing plan in mind, we constructed about 250m of fence around our fish ponds all the way along the back of our orchard to our old school building. The fence will help us control not just animals but unwanted human movement into our campus as well.

September 2020





FRESH FRUIT

One sweet addition to life here on the Mission is the abundance of fruit trees, they mark the calendar with special flavors to look forward to each season. Mangoes are certainly the king, with our two large orchards providing thousands of the delicious fruit to enjoy in the hot summer months. Lychees also have a very notable season and we delight when it comes. In addition to these two we have guavas all year round, mulberries, jack fruit, grapefruit, custard apples, lemons, jamaons, passion fruit, pineapples, amla, tamarinds, pears and chikoo!

All Year Round





In the peak heat of summer the weather can get to an extreme 50°C (122°F). At these times it is much easier to do field work in the cool of the night under the light of millions of stars.



STAFF ACCOMMODATION

After over 3 years of work, countless setbacks, problems and even a court case our new staff accommodation building is finally open! While there is still some work to be done (particularly on the outside of the building) we cut the ribbon across the homes so that the families could move in and enjoy their very first “dry” monsoon in decades!

We want to say a HUGE thank you to all of the amazing people who helped support this project, particularly S.Group in Australia for standing by us through all of the delays. We thank God for His incredible provision; this building will forever stand to us as a testimony of His grace in our lives. In dedication to our amazing friends at S. Group - without whom none of this would have happened - we have decided to name the building “S. Block,” a perfect fit given that we have called it our Staff Accommodation since day 1.

July 2020





Christmas and New Years Eve

Like so many across the globe, COVID-19 restrictions changed the way we did our Christmas and New Years Eve program. Due to limitations on public gatherings, our staff, visiting family members and friends celebrated in their own homes while some of our children put together a short nativity play for their peers. The highlight of the whole season, however, was when Sunny brought in his food van for everyone to celebrate with an all-you-can-eat bonanza by a big open bonfire. Board Members Rick, Eugene and Clifton had the BBQ going and Priscilla even made a load of marshmallows! The feast was enjoyed late into the night as the music played and a huge open air dance party broke out. It was truly a magical night!







Sitting out by the bonfire is a great way to pass the cold winter evenings. Christmas and New Year decorations fill the yard with light and life - it's a wonderful season here on the Mission.



MAXTON STRONG SCHOOL

While the school doors have been open for a few months of the year, the majority of the time we have been running classes online. Our teachers have done a tremendous job moving to an online platform and we make note here of their willingness to learn this new medium in such a difficult time in all our lives. While the school was running, daily temperature checks, social distancing and masks were all in effect as per Government mandates.

For the children of our hostels, the Maxton Strong School classes have been running in our Dining Room which (during the day) has been converted to a classroom. Thankfully we had just enough staff and volunteers living inside the campus to be able to keep up with lessons for all of our children. Classes started at 10:00am each day and continued through until 3:00pm. Additional tuitions were held in the evening each day, a time for catching up or completing homework as the need arose.

ALL YEAR ROUND







Through most of the year education has looked like this for our children. With the school shut, study has been happening here at home in our Dining Room.





HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED...



VOLUNTEER | www.indianorphanage.com/volunteer

Although our Volunteer Program is currently on hold because of COVID-19 restrictions, we will be opening again at some point in the future. You may receive an updated status on our program from our website. Volunteers can help out in a variety of practical ways from painting and teaching to gardening and running workshops for our children - whatever your skill set, we can probably put it to use!



FUNDRAISING | www.globalgiving.org/projects/indianorphanage

We need champions for our cause! There are always projects going on at the Good Shepherd Agricultural Mission and we need your help to find people willing to support them. Whether you'd like to help gather supporters to achieve a big idea or perhaps a smaller more personal connection sounds better to you, just let us know.



DONATE | www.globalgiving.org/projects/indianorphanage

While we strive for as much self-sufficiency as possible, it takes a large family of supporters to keep the Mission running. Consider sponsoring us on a monthly basis at a level that feels comfortable or perhaps make a one-time donation to honor someone you love. Whatever you do, we promise to be accountable and forthright with your hard-earned money.



SPONSOR | www.globalgiving.org/projects/indianorphanage

We are so fortunate to have an amazing group of people sponsoring our children. We are happy to report that every single child on our mission has a sponsor! That being said, we are always looking for people who would be happy to sponsor a monthly meal, regular maintenance, school supplies or tuition fees for our older students. Contact us to learn more about how you can become a sponsor.



SUBSCRIBE | www.indianorphanage.com/subscribe

We produce a weekly newsletter full of beautiful photographs and updates from the field. If you've ever wondered what it takes to run an organization like ours, sign up and take a look! We try to keep them light and fun, so look for it every weekend we promise it will be a bright spot in your week. You can also follow us on Instagram, YouTube and Facebook - the links are below:



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