**Gram Vikas Trust – Support a Child Programme**

**(Year - 2019-20)**

**About Gram Vikas Trust:**

"Gram Vikas Trust" came into existence as a result of the motivation and personal initiative of its founder, to better the socio-economic status of the underprivileged population. Hailing from a rural family, Founder was no stranger to hardships. Having overcome economic and social challenges, due to the backing and economic blessings from certain elder society leaders, Founder set out to do his best to make a positive difference in the lives of fellow underprivileged. Concerns of few committed people to secure integrated development through people’s participation. The key areas identified for interventions were Child Rights, Education, Health and hygiene, Women empowerment and Sustainable livelihood opportunity. Our efforts resulted in long lasting association with Government and Quasi Government agencies as also the communities and groups with whom we have worked all these years.

We have come a long way after a small beginning in June, 2001 and in a span of 17 eventful years we have implemented a wide variety of projects covering activities like Child Rights for Change, Reproductive Child health care, Quality Education, watershed development, wasteland development, tribal development, low cost sanitation, alternate energy sources, self-help groups, projects for women up-liftmen and employment generated training programmes, etc. In Bharuch and Narmada Districts of Gujarat. While implementing different developmental projects, our thrust has always been to secure peoples participation. At "GVT" we have always believed in the capacities and capabilities of the communities and have always strive to channel hidden and dormant energies of the people for the betterment of the societies at large. Our efforts have always been directed in the direction of creating an environment conducive of giving opportunities to local people to think and act positively. We have always endeavored to develop skills and competencies of local communities with a view to enabling them to B. organization manage, operate and maintain the assets, created through the implementation of various project on sustainable basis.

This philosophy of ours has led us to adopt a holistic and participatory approach to Rural development. We believe in covering all the sections of the society in a village and hence we work through the forum of village level meeting, which incidentally is a truly representative body. Further, we also make optimum use of participatory rural appraisal techniques to understand people’s viewpoint and develop an appropriate model of development.

**Vision**

We are committed to create strong and independent society inequalities and discrimination, where everybody enjoys equal opportunities.

**Mission:**

To Foster Democratic & Equitable Living Environment, Where all Vulnerable people specially underprivileged, women and children have to access Education, Health, Sustainable Livelihood opportunity and essential infrastructure services irrespective of their economic and social status.

**Purpose / Goals**

The main goal of Gram Vikas Trust is to help improve the social and economic conditions of the population in drought prone Bharuch and Narmada districts of Gujarat. They believe that their goal can be achieved mainly through education which creates awareness and enhances self-development, action and empowerment.

**Support A Child program**:

The support-a-child program makes it possible for an individual to sponsor the cost of education or total living expenses for one or more underprivileged children in Bharuch district of India. The aim is to support the child financially till he or she completes college or vocational education and is able to support himself or herself. You can become a sponsor for a child in India for as little as $20/month.

Gram Vikas Trust in project area that targets children who are unable to pursue education due to lack of funds. The sponsor has the opportunity to become a mentor and friend to his sponsored child by writing letters. The sponsor can also arrange a visit with his child through Asha and the Gram Vikas Trust in project area in India.

**Modus operandi:**

GVT chooses children based on need and merit and provide them with scholarships from Asha for Education’s Support a Child program. A committee consisting of the village leader, teachers, school principal and a representative from GVT choose children based on the following for the program:

* She/he should be from Below Poverty Line Family (BPL) whose income is not more than Rs.27000/- per year.
* The attendance of the children in school should be more than 80 %.
* The students rank is from 1st to 10th in the class.
* The committee will decide the selection of adoption and that is final.

There is no caste involved.

**Asha for Education has supported GVT and its Support a Child Initiative since 2008. This year there are 41 children who will need ongoing support. Each child is allocated $240/- per year to meet their education and nutrition needs. Donors can support one or more child/children and their donation can be a one-time or a renewing contribution towards the child/children they choose to sponsor. The progress reports on all of these children are updated & tracked each year along with an annual site visit conducted by a volunteer to assess & report the effectiveness of this initiative. These updates are then communicated to the donors and also communicated to the chapter volunteers during chapter meetings.**

**Success story – Support A Child Programme**

We believe that education is the key to ending poverty in our project area.

Support a child program has grown substantially over the last seven years. We are so proud of all the participants who have graduated with college degrees or vocational diplomas.

In 2017, we had 39 Children out of that 15 children had completed their college degree or vocational and only one children dropped out. Out of 15 children who have completed their education 13 have got employment opportunity and 2 are trying their level best to get employment opportunity. Remaining 23 children are progressive to complete their education.

They studied hard to get a degree, begin a career, and raise themselves out of poverty. Not only is it life changing for them, it also sets an example for the younger children.

All of us at Gram Vikas Trusts are so grateful. Thanks to you for your love gift. For many years, I have had a burden on my heart to do more to promote higher education for the young people in our project area who are endowed with keen minds and a desire to use them. We used to hear the expression, “A mind is a terrible thing to waste!” It still is, and you are helping greatly to open fields of endeavor. God bless you for your compassion and your generosity.

I am attending nursing school in the fall to fulfill my childhood dream of becoming a Nurse. My sponsors Gram Vikas Trust & Asha for Education, USA are helping me with a scholarship. They have been there for me since I was in 8th grade. Once I am a Nurse. I will serve poor people who need my help. Someday I hope to run a nursing home of my own in rural and remote tribal area, where I can provide free service to poor patients.