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CHICK CHICK CHICK CHICK CHICKEN... LAY A LITTLE EGG FOR ME!

We think you are *eggcellent* and we are so *eggcited* by the wonderful *eggsample* you are. We *eggspect* great things from these chickens! We don't want to *eggsaggerate* but they are *eggstraordinary*!

Ok, *yoke over*! Thanks to your incredible response and generosity, the first batch of chickens has arrived at the Shanti Nivas Children's Village, and we wanted to share the good news!

Just before Easter we reached out to you, asking for your help to buy chickens for eggs and meat, for the children in the children's villages.

All the children are having so much fun helping staff look after them, and the older children are thrilled with their special new responsibilities of caring for the chickens.

As you can see, they are still young, and it will take a few more months before they lay their first eggs. What a day that will be!

Thank you for your incredible generosity, kindness and love. It means so much to staff and children alike.



YOUR SPONSORSHIP CHANGES A CHILD'S LIFE

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
Jeremiah 29:11

Watching the children we love grow from tiny babies into toddlers and young adults with their own little personalities, is a true blessing, isn't it? That's how we feel about our children at Brighter Future too. To watch their stories unfold and see them flourish is an honour and a privilege.

SURESH - FROM SMALL BEGINNINGS TO BIG DREAMS

It's hard to believe this 19-year-old boy, starting his Bachelor's degree in engineering, is the same poorly, frightened little six-year-old that came to us all those years ago.

When Suresh and his mother arrived at Brighter Future, they were both very unwell and still grieving the loss of their father who had recently died from HIV. Suresh had been diagnosed with HIV at birth and his frail little body was struggling to fight off the complex infections he had contracted as a result.

His mother was also very unwell and tragically, she died at our hospice not long after they arrived. What a sad start to life for little Suresh! But thanks to you, we were able to provide him with the love and care he so desperately needed.

Suresh loved school and worked very hard. He always did very well, with maths being his favourite subject at school.

Next month, we're excited to share that Suresh will begin another new chapter. He has been accepted to study a degree in mechanical engineering at a very prestigious college. At the entrance exams for the course he scored the highest in his cohort. How wonderful is that?



We all know what a big financial commitment a college degree is, but thanks to your incredible support and belief in Suresh, he can fulfil his dream! He has peace of mind, knowing his fees are paid and a home cooked meal welcomes him at the end of the day.

Thank you for making Suresh part of your family and for giving him a hope and a future.



ONE SMALL LOAN FOR ADILAXMI, ONE MASSIVE DIFFERENCE TO HER LIFE!

Being financially independent is something we all strive for, and often take for granted, especially in the UK. Getting a job, a home and having enough money for regular meals is often just a dream for millions of people living in India.

At Brighter Future we believe in providing opportunities for people to become self-sufficient. The people we help don't want a hand-out, they just want the chance to earn enough to look after their families.

In partnership with The Dewan Foundation, we offer a self-help programme that includes providing training and small loans to help people set up small businesses.

This creates sustainable income and encourages a culture of empowerment, dignity and independence. It also ensures that our projects have a lasting impact.

Adilaxmi Umidi, 55, and her husband Ramu live in a small hut and provide for a large extended family. Ramu pulls a rickshaw for a living. He brings in very little, especially now that there are so many electronic rickshaws and tuk-tuks. The money he earns simply isn't enough to meet their most basic needs. They often go hungry themselves so their children can eat.

When Adilaxmi heard about the self-help group and small loans programme she had hope again. She so desperately wanted to a way to provide more for her family.

Adilaxmi joined a self-help group with Brighter Future. Here people come together to support each other and share ideas. They are also taught valuable skills about running their own business, finances and the different kinds of livestock and vocational trades available.



Following training in her chosen field, Adilaxmi received a small loan to help set up her business. This was enough to fund her dream of running her very own poultry farm. She was able to purchase chickens as well as the feeders, drinkers, and food for them.

Her business is doing well and she is so happy! She sells eggs as well as chickens for meat and is keeping up with her loan repayments.

The brilliant thing is that as she repays her loan, this enables another member of the group to take a loan. This means that the help goes on and on!



RAMANAMMA AND ABRAHAM: A LOVE STORY OF BEAUTY FROM ASHES

"...and provide for those who grieve in Zion- to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor." Isaiah 61: 3

RAMANAMMA'S STORY

For most expectant mothers, pregnancy is a time of joy. It's a time of planning, preparing and hope. But for Ramanamma, it was the worst time of her life.

During her first pregnancy, at six months, Ramanamma discovered that she was HIV positive at a routine health check. When she told her husband and parents, they were angry and cruel. Instead of supporting Ramanamma, they rejected her and banned her from her family home and community.

Ramanamma had nowhere to turn. She had to live on the streets. She was hungry, weak, and fearful for the health of her unborn child. But she knew giving up wasn't an option. We are so thankful that she heard about Brighter Future and the Sunshine Home, a place for abandoned mothers to find shelter and support.

At the Sunshine Home, she was loved, cared for, and nurtured back to health. Doctors and staff at the home treated Ramanamma with specialist drugs that prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission. And soon after, Ramanamma gave birth to a beautiful, healthy, HIV negative baby girl, Deevena.

Two years have passed since Ramanamma came to live at Brighter Future's Sunshine Home. She and Deevena have found a home and community to call their own. And it was here that Ramanamma met Abraham.



ABOVE: DEEVENA IS ALMOST THREE YEARS OLD NOW, AND HIV NEGATIVE THANKS TO SPECIALIST MEDICATION.

ABRAHAM

Abraham's past had not been that dissimilar to Ramanamma's. He worked long hours in two jobs to make ends meet. But in his late 20's he was diagnosed with HIV and everything changed.

He was only 30 years old when he came to our hospice. Abraham was in a critical condition. The stigma of HIV meant he had no one to care for him and he wasn't able to get the medical care he needed.

At the hospice Abraham received the right medication, nutritious food and so much love. He soon recovered and regained his strength. He was able to move into accommodation on site and we offered him a job caring for the cows and small livestock at the Children's Village. He is also in charge of maintaining the gardens, vegetables in the allotments and the fruit trees in the orchard.

Abraham met Ramanamma while working at the Children's Village and it was as if it were meant to be! Two people who had experienced so much heartache and rejection now had a second chance at love.



The relationship has blossomed and Ramanamma is now expecting their first child. They are so excited, the way they should be. Finally, Ramanamma will have the time she missed out on before; the nesting, preparing, waiting in anticipation. She will have good food and rest, and most importantly, people who love and support her. Ramanamma is receiving neonatal care through Brighter Future, and she will also receive the medicine needed to prevent the new baby from contracting HIV.

Brighter Future can transform lives every day, but we can only do this because of the generosity and kindness of supporters like you.

Thank you for caring enough to make a difference to people like Ramanamma and Abraham and their children. Thank you for giving them back their hope, dignity and a second chance at love.





DEADLY HEATWAVES THREATENS ELDERLY PEOPLE DISABLED BY LEPROSY

"I am scared of the heat during the summer. I do not know what to do, but I am praying to God to help me during the difficult times." Dallamma, age 74

For most of us here in the UK, summer can't come soon enough! Blue skies, longer evenings, and warm alfresco dining. What's not to love? But for leprosy colony residents, the summer months are a time of fear and dread.

Summer seems to come earlier every year in India. As I write, the temperature in Andhra Pradesh has hit 48 degrees Celsius and weather experts predict another brutal season, especially within the next two months. For people like Dallamma (right) this is life-threatening news.

Dallamma lives alone in a leprosy colony and there is no one to look after or provide for her. The only way she can survive is by begging. This lovely elderly lady is disabled by leprosy and is unable to stand because of severe ulcers on her feet. Despite not being able to see or hear very well, she goes out early in the morning to beg and sits in one place until sundown. Then she stumbles home again.



Victor at Brighter Future in India shares, "The heat is unbearable. The elderly and disabled are really suffering. We ask them to stay inside but because of this they have no money to buy food. It is like they must choose between dying of hunger or dying of heatstroke. How can this be a choice? We need to protect them just like we would our own parents and grandparents."

TODAY, PLEASE WILL YOU STAND WITH ELDERLY PEOPLE LIKE DALLAMMA?

WHATEVER YOU ARE ABLE TO GIVE WILL GO DIRECTLY TO THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

- £8 will provide one person with a two-week emergency food parcel
- £80 will provide ten elderly disabled people with emergency food parcels

You can either send a cheque to the address below, or make a bank transfer to:

Brighter Future International
Metrobank
Sort Code: 23 05 80
Account number: 3908 9378

WE LOVE KEEPING YOU UPDATED ABOUT THE DIFFERENCE YOU ARE MAKING! HOWEVER IF FOR ANY REASON YOU WOULD PREFER NOT TO HEAR FROM BRIGHTER FUTURE, PLEASE DO LET US KNOW.

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