



BRIGHTER FUTURE

Registered Charity 1186475

I N T E R N A T I O N A L

MARY'S LEGACY CONTINUES BECAUSE OF YOUR COMPASSION



Victor, his son Richie and daughter Supriya at memorial service for Mary

It is with a heavy heart that we share that Mary lost her battle with cancer and went to be with Jesus in May. Victor and Mary's wonderful adult children helped to care for her until the end. Throughout all the pain, Mary's faith did not waiver and neither did her commitment to help others.

Mary was a true woman of God. She saw people through the eyes of Jesus, always loving and never judging. Her life was one of humility and serving others, especially those who were unwanted and outcast. Mary rescued sex workers and taught them how to make a living by making clothes, she welcomed widows with HIV and fed them, she provided care to people with leprosy, and she was a mother to hundreds of children.

She cried with people, laughed with people, and prayed with people. But the thing she did best was love people. In return, Mary was loved so much by so many, and we will all miss her more than words can say.

One of the team in India, Hemant gives his tribute: *"I would like to pay tribute to my beloved Director Mary. She has always been so kind, caring and supportive. She was like a mother to me. She helped me and advised me in lots of areas of my life. In my ten years at Brighter Future, Mary has been like my family. I miss her so much".*

A HEART FOR RESTORING HOPE AND FUTURES

Mary loved children and opened her heart and home to every child who needed help. She grew up in a leprosy colony and knew poverty well. Mary believed that with love and opportunity, all children could break free from a background of stigma and disease. Brighter Future proved that this was possible.

Today, children still arrive at Brighter Future traumatised, frightened and malnourished. Heartbreakingly, some are found living rough on the railways and some are orphaned or abandoned. Your wonderful support means we can also care for children affected by leprosy, and those living with HIV.

The small, dedicated team works hard to support children who are grieving. These beautiful youngsters carry the burden of being carers, of feeling like they have failed when a parent dies. Can

you imagine never really experiencing childhood? Not knowing how to play or having the chance to learn? Of being abandoned, or unwanted?

Psychological wounds are the hardest to heal. But with love, patience and stability, we see children come out of their shells and blossom. It is so emotional to hear a child laugh for the first time or watch as they finally start joining in games. Nothing is more rewarding! Thank you for restoring joy to these little ones.



THE GIFT OF CHILD SPONSORSHIP

Thank you so much if you sponsor a child at Rainbow Home or Shanti Nivas Children's Village. Being an 'aunty' or



'uncle' is so much more than just funding their care. It shows children who have been tossed aside that they are valued and important. It's exciting and encouraging for them to know that someone so far away cares about them.

It costs £25 a month to provide medicine, nutrition and education for a child. Education is really important as we know that this is the only way to become independent adults. Many children who join us have a broken education, simply because their parents are too poor to pay for school fees. So, a tutor comes most evenings help anyone who is struggling. Over the years it has been wonderful to see young people go off to



university, become nurses, and join many other professions.

Of course, there is also plenty of fun! From cricket matches to days out at the beach, debating clubs to games evenings. We want the children to have the best experience possible while they are with us.

LOVE'S TRANSFORMATION

Suresh came to Brighter Future when he was just six years old. With untreated HIV, his immune system was so low, we were worried how he'd survive the constant attack of infections.

We met Suresh and his mum during a health camp. AIDS had done its worst to this poor woman, and we knew all we could do was give her a dignified end to her life. Your compassionate support meant that we were able to care for her in our hospice. Suresh was gently introduced to the other children during the day and stayed with his mum at night.



AIDS had taken Suresh's dad two years previously. When his mum passed away too, you can imagine how distraught he was. He'd spent his life being a carer, even though poorly himself. No extended family would take him in.

But, from thousands of miles away, a wonderful sponsor stretched out their hand in kindness. They not only helped to pay for Suresh's care, but also encouraged him and rebuilt his self-esteem. Medicine soon transformed his health, and friendships transformed his spirit. It was soon apparent that Suresh was really clever! He worked hard and flew through his exams.

His dream was to be an engineer. He passed the entrance exam for a BA degree in Engineering and made a start on achieving his dream! Suresh is in his final year and is currently an intern in a metal factory. He'll be taking exams later this year, and is already preparing job applications! His strong work ethic means he's going to have a very bright future!

"I am so thankful for my sponsor. Everything I have achieved is because they cared about me."

TRANSFORMING HURT TO HOPE

This beautiful little girl is just eight years old. Joshna's smile hides years of fear, struggle and heartache. She comes from a rural village in Andhra Pradesh. Life was incredibly difficult because of poverty. Sometimes there wasn't enough to eat, and there was no money to pay for school.

Her father was an alcoholic, which meant that that she and her brother, Swaroop, sadly experienced both verbal abuse and physical violence. When their father finally abandoned the family, the initial relief was followed by another fear. How would they survive on just one basic income?

Their mum was determined to care for her two precious children and took as much work as she possibly could. She was out from morning until night, leaving Joshna and her brother to fend for themselves. There was no other choice.

Soon after, their mum Indira, became seriously ill. With no income at all, there was no way to pay the rent on their shack. A friend in Vizianagaram agreed to let Indira stay, but not the children. Can you imagine how she felt? In desperation, she contacted a social worker and was told about Brighter Future.

When we met Joshna and her brother, they were starving and very unwell. Understandably they were distraught about being separated from their mum and distrusting of the new people around them. We made sure that they were in regular contact with their mum, both in person and on the telephone. The early weeks were very hard for them both.

Now, 18 months later, they are completely different children. Regular food, clean clothes and routine helped to build trust. The other children welcomed them and quickly formed friendships. Joshna is really bright and loves going to school. She's doing so well! Their mum is so proud of them, and thankful that they won't have to struggle the way she has.



Both Joshna and her brother would love to have a sponsor. Would you consider being part of their story of hope?

MARY'S FUND

Not everyone feels comfortable being linked to an individual child or may not be able to give £25 every month. So, in honour of our beloved Mary, we are launching Mary's Fund. This is a central pot for all of the children's needs. Every gift of love that you give will fund things like birthday celebrations, schoolbooks and sports equipment.

You'll be building a future full of hope for children like Joshna.

WE NEED SPONSORS!

All of these lovely children need a sponsor – could that be you? Or could you give regularly to Mary's Fund for their care? We have a further 25 children waiting to join us this year. Together, we can rebuild their lives and bring back their smiles.



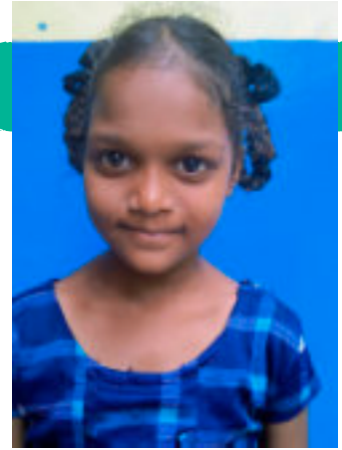
Karuna, 7yrs



Gautam, 6yrs



Varalaxmi, 6yrs



Joshna, 7yrs



Maheswari, 8yrs



Shiva, 9yrs



Ysaswini, 9yrs



Sashi, 9yrs



Vijay, 9yrs



Keerthana, 10yrs



Saket, 9yrs



Praneeth, 9yrs

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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