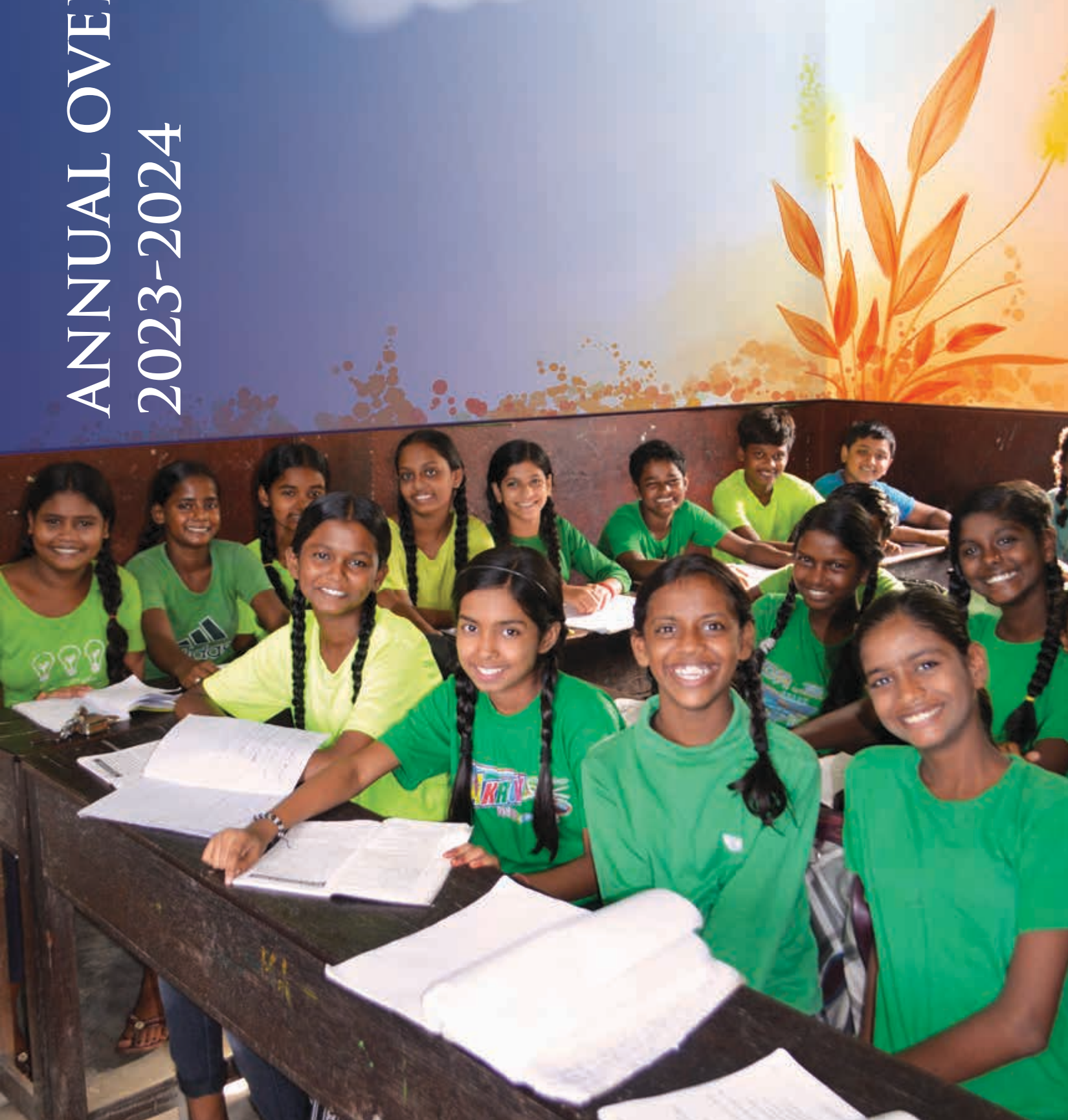


# ANNUAL OVERVIEW 2023-2024



# 25 YEARS OF HOPE

The journey of HOPE over the past 25 years has been that of resilience and indispensable community service. Through all our efforts and interventions, we have striven to create a world where no one shall be left out. We are incredibly grateful to all our well-wishers and supporters who have accompanied us on this journey.

As our areas of service have expanded, so have our community. Protection, Education, Health, and Livelihood continue to be our mainstays even 25 years after inception. Each of our projects in these areas has been an incredible opportunity for us.

We are grateful for all the partners, past and present, we have had the privilege to work with. It is through our combined efforts that we have been able to make a difference in countless lives in and around Kolkata. We hope that in the years to come we can reach out to more communities and create lasting impacts.

## THANK YOU

The Hope Foundation is extremely grateful to all our wonderful supporters - both individual and corporate, private and public and to our phenomenal volunteers who have assisted HOPE by volunteering in our projects in India and by volunteering in fundraising events in their own countries over the years.

To all the students who have fundraised within their communities and to those who have organised and attended HOPE events - we cannot thank you enough. We acknowledge those who have provided HOPE with donations in kind and have provided us with pro-bono support.

We are grateful to all our Patrons and Ambassadors for promoting the work of HOPE and encouraging others to engage with and support us.

### PROJECT DONORS

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# CONTENTS

From the Founding President- Maureen Forrest	02
From the Director of Finance and Administration- Sachidananda Das	03
About Us	04
Structure of HOPE	05
Implementing Partner	05
Our Local Partners	06
Good Governance	06
2023-2024 Major Achievements	07
Fund Allocation	07
Health	08
Education	16
Protection	24
Livelihood	34
Sponsorship	38
Environment	42
International Volunteer and Internship Programme	44
School Immersion Programme and Global Citizenship Education Workshops	46
The Achievers	49
Partnership Spotlight	51
Collaboration Projects	52
Events and Activities in Ireland	53
Events and Activities in the UK	55
Events and Activities in the USA and Germany	57
Events and Activities in India	59
Awards and Recognitions	60
Supporters of HOPE	61
Journey of HOPE	64
Donation Forms	68
HOPE Board Members	72
HOPE Staff Members	73

**Cover Picture: Children of HOPE's Sponsorship Programme**

**All names have been changed in "Story of Change"**



## FROM THE FOUNDING PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of HOPE,

I am delighted to celebrate 25 years of HOPE with you all this year. Your incredible support has been the cornerstone of our success, and we could not have reached this remarkable milestone without you. Your contributions have made a significant impact, and I am forever grateful for your generosity.

Since its beginnings in 1999 with one residential child care centre for girls, HOPE has grown significantly. Today, we see these young women leading successful and happy lives with their own families. This growth, with your support, has enabled us to address the needs of the most vulnerable children and adults in Kolkata through healthcare, education, protection, livelihood and emergency response. Our beloved Geeta Venkadakrishnan

was of great inspiration and a leader on this journey. Her legacy lives on through the life-changing work of our programmes in Kolkata.

As we look back over our achievements over these 25 years, we are reminded that this could not have been done without the incredible and dedicated team in India led by Sachidananda Das. I would like to give a special mention to my sister Jenny Browne and Annemarie Murray, who dedicated many years of their lives as volunteers in Kolkata. Our staff, volunteers, students, teachers, patrons, board members, sponsors and donors from Ireland, the UK, the USA, India, Germany, Italy, Spain and all over the world have played a crucial role. Your efforts and generosity never fail to astound us, and you are the reason we can keep HOPE alive.

Our vision of “a world where it should never hurt to be a child” is at the heart of our work. HOPE is a light to thousands of children and their communities, enabling and empowering them to build a brighter future for themselves and their future generations. We are hopeful that you, our supporters, will continue to stand by us and our vision. We eagerly look forward to engaging with you again next year as we continue our journey.

Warmest wishes,

Maureen Forrest  
Founding President

# FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

The year 2023-2024 has been incredibly special to all of us at HOPE. As we complete 25 years of proud service, it brings me immense joy to look back on our journey this past year.

HOPE's work in the fields of child protection, education, health, and vocational training have illuminated many lives. They have created new opportunities and have paved the way out of poverty for the most vulnerable. These initiatives have sustained many new dreams for us and those we closely work with.

This year, two new education projects were inaugurated. The Naboasha Centre in Sickline hopes to make education accessible for all school children in the Sickline community. Similarly, the Brian's Way Resource Centre (North) hopes to make education accessible to more children with special needs.

We continue to work tirelessly to ensure that everyone has access to quality healthcare. The Mobile Dental Ambulance started this year with the aim of delivering accessible dental care to street-connected and slum-dwelling communities. It ensures that no community member is deprived of the health and care they need.

We are grateful to everyone who has supported us on this journey. I am thankful to the Ireland board, all our donors, sponsors, and well-wishers for their kind support and generosity. I am grateful to all my colleagues in India, Ireland, the UK, the USA, and Germany for their ceaseless commitment.

I express my sincere gratitude to Maureen Forrest and Jenny Browne for their steady guidance and direction since founding HOPE 25 years ago. I am also thankful for Geeta Venkadakrishnan for founding Hope Kolkata Foundation. We miss her every day and strive to make her vision for HOPE come true.

I look forward to working alongside our dedicated team and supporters spread across the globe. I appeal to one and all to come together and make a positive change for those who most need it. Together, we can all make a difference. Thank you all once again.



Sachidananda Das



# ABOUT US

The Hope Foundation (HOPE) is a development organisation working to provide sustainable pathways out of poverty and advocate for the rights and equal treatment of vulnerable children and communities in West Bengal, India.

The power and potential of a child is often suppressed by poverty, discrimination, and violence. However, in today's world, every child should have the right to be healthy, educated, protected, and valued in their own family and society. To create long-lasting change, we empower the children, their families, and their communities to access their rights and break free of the cycle of poverty.

Since 1999, The Hope Foundation has been building a strong partnership with children, families, government departments, and civil society organisations fighting for the rights of children. In 2023-2024, HOPE implemented 58 projects supported by more than 527 members of staff to achieve this mission.

**OUR VISION:** A world where it should never hurt to be a child: A world free from poverty, inequalities, and injustices. Ensuring every child and adult has the opportunity to thrive with equal opportunities, contributing to long-term local sustainability, empowerment and system strengthening.

**OUR MISSION:** To improve the quality of life for the most marginalised people, primarily in India. Ensuring their basic rights and enhancing their dignity of life through protection, health, education, and economic development in a sustainable life-cycle approach. Achieving this mission through fundraising activities, awareness raising, and sensitisation initiatives.

## OUR GOALS

- Right to better health and access to affordable and accessible healthcare services for all.
- Holistic and inclusive education for all.
- Children will be in safe, protected, and clean environments and can enjoy the right to learn, develop, and participate.
- Enabling sustainable livelihoods through inclusive skill-based programmes for improved socio-economic conditions.
- Create an enabling environment for the children, by the children, to voice their rights.
- Strengthen and increase engagement with fundraising events across the international offices.
- Enhance and strengthen marketing and communications messaging HOPE at national and international levels.
- Re-engagement and redesign of volunteer and school programming across the international HOPE offices.

## OUR CORE VALUES

**Accountability:** We believe in transparency and in ensuring we are accountable to all donors, supporters, and individuals in receipt of our support. We are committed to the highest standards of governance and best practices in all areas of our work.

**Collaboration:** Communities are at the heart of our work, we believe in building and fostering partnerships at different levels in Ireland and abroad, in order to leverage local, regional and global change for sustainable development.

**Sustainability:** As all HOPE projects stem from the communities in which they serve, the demand for the services and local ownership over these services is high. Projects investment in households and communities, offering multi-layered interventions that bring real, transformative and sustainable change, lifting people out of poverty, permanently.

**Equality:** We are committed to promoting equality by removing barriers that stop full participation of every individual, group or community in their own development. We believe in and promote inclusivity and diversity inside and outside our organisation.

**Gender Equality:** HOPE programmes do not discriminate on the grounds of gender, or disability, instead ensuring all-inclusive projects are operational. Thus, ensuring that those individuals often left on society's margins are empowered to avail of supports. Although HOPE values and includes individuals across the gender continuum, it continues to place emphasis on the rights and entitlements of women and girls, who continue to be treated as inferior in India's society, as seen in high levels of early marriage, violence and assault and trafficking. Those living with a disability are often hidden, with high levels of stigma associated with any form of disability, and therefore HOPE operates both specialised projects for those living with a disability and ensures their full participation across HOPE's programming.

**Safeguarding:** HOPE places the safety of children and vulnerable adults in which it serves as paramount importance across all its programming, also heightening local and staff awareness to this crucial human right regularly.

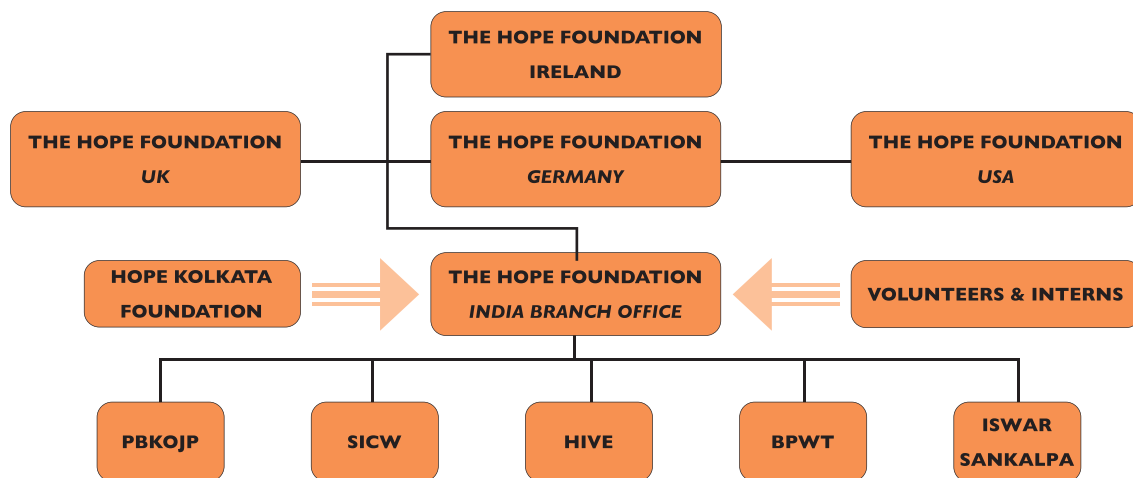
**Innovation:** We believe in the power of great ideas. We are always open to accepting and developing new and creative ideas, which will enhance systematic change for sustainable solutions, with a focus on those ideas stemming from local communities and organisations.

**Integrity:** We aspire to the highest standards of honesty and encourage critical thinking for further development. We never compromise on quality and always act in the best interests of those with whom we work with.

**Respect:** We respect the people we work for and on behalf of, we respect ourselves, our colleagues, and our community. We have fostered an organisation that enables and encourages respect, and ensures that all our activities and interventions are delivered in a non-discriminatory nature.

**Caring for the Environment:** We must act decisively and responsibly to identify and acknowledge our part in aiding climate change, and implement mitigation plans to protect the environment. We aim to assist in a clean and green environment and reduce and compensate for our carbon footprint.

## STRUCTURE OF HOPE



## IMPLEMENTING PARTNER



### Hope Kolkata Foundation (HKF)

Hope Kolkata Foundation was set up in 1999 to improve the lives of children living in the street-connected and slum-dwelling communities of Kolkata amid vulnerable circumstances. To ensure the protection and development of these underprivileged children, Hope Kolkata Foundation runs

4 Residential Childcare Centres, 2 Crisis Intervention Centres, a rehabilitation centre for addicted boys, Mother & Child Care Unit, 2 Aftercare units for young adults to provide early adulthood support, Child Watch, a quality and inclusive

education programme in government schools, 8 Naboasha education centres, 5 crèches, 3 resource centres for children with special needs, a mobile education centre (Education on Wheels), a Vocational Training Centre- 1 Tailoring Unit, 1 Beauty Unit, 1 Café, and 4 Computer Units, HOPE Hospital, pharmacy, community health clinic, Night Round Mobile Medical Unit, Mobile Dental Ambulance, Blindness Eradication Programme, and a Sponsorship Programme.

## OUR LOCAL PARTNERS



### **Paschim Banga Krira-o-Jana Kalyan Parishad (PBKOJP)**

HOPE partnered with PBKOJP at the time of its inception in 1999 and collaborated with the organisation in various interventions such as education, vocational training and early childhood care and education. Currently, HOPE supports Prerona Residential Child Care Centre for girls, which was set up in 2003 for children in need of care and protection, including children of sex workers.



### **HIVE India**

HOPE has partnered with HIVE India since 2006 to support the Emergency Response Unit, set up to rescue any person at risk on the streets, involved in accidents, suffering from physical or mental illnesses, victimised by harassment or abuse, child labour and domestic violence.



### **Society for Indian Children's Welfare (SICW)**

Since 2005, with the support of HOPE, the UMEED Special Needs Unit has worked with children with special needs to ensure their development and to reintegrate them into mainstream society. HOPE also partners with SICW to support the Education Sponsorship Programme.



### **Iswar Sankalpa (IS)**

HOPE has supported the Naya Daur outreach programme since 2007, a city-wide community-based programme providing treatment and support to address the needs of homeless people with psychosocial disabilities on the streets of Kolkata.



### **Bhoruka Public Welfare Trust (BPWT)**

Snehneer Residential Child Care Centre was established in 2005 in partnership with HOPE. Snehneer ensures the holistic development of children affected and infected with HIV/AIDS through the provision of protection, healthcare, nutrition, education, and recreation in a loving and caring family environment.

## GOOD GOVERNANCE

The Hope Foundation recognises our responsibility to those whom we support and to donors, sponsors and fundraisers who support us. HOPE, therefore, insists on transparent operations in all activities in Ireland, our international satellite offices, and in India. This is highlighted through HOPE's membership of Dóchas, Comhlámh (signatory with a high level of compliance to the Code of Good Practice), The Wheel, IDEA (Code signatory and compliance to) and the Consortium for Street Children.

HOPE ensures that transparency and compliancy with governance best practices are at the forefront of all our operations, and therefore, are fully compliant and collaborate closely with the Governance Code, Charity Regulatory Authority, Credibility Alliance, and Charities Institute Ireland (CII).

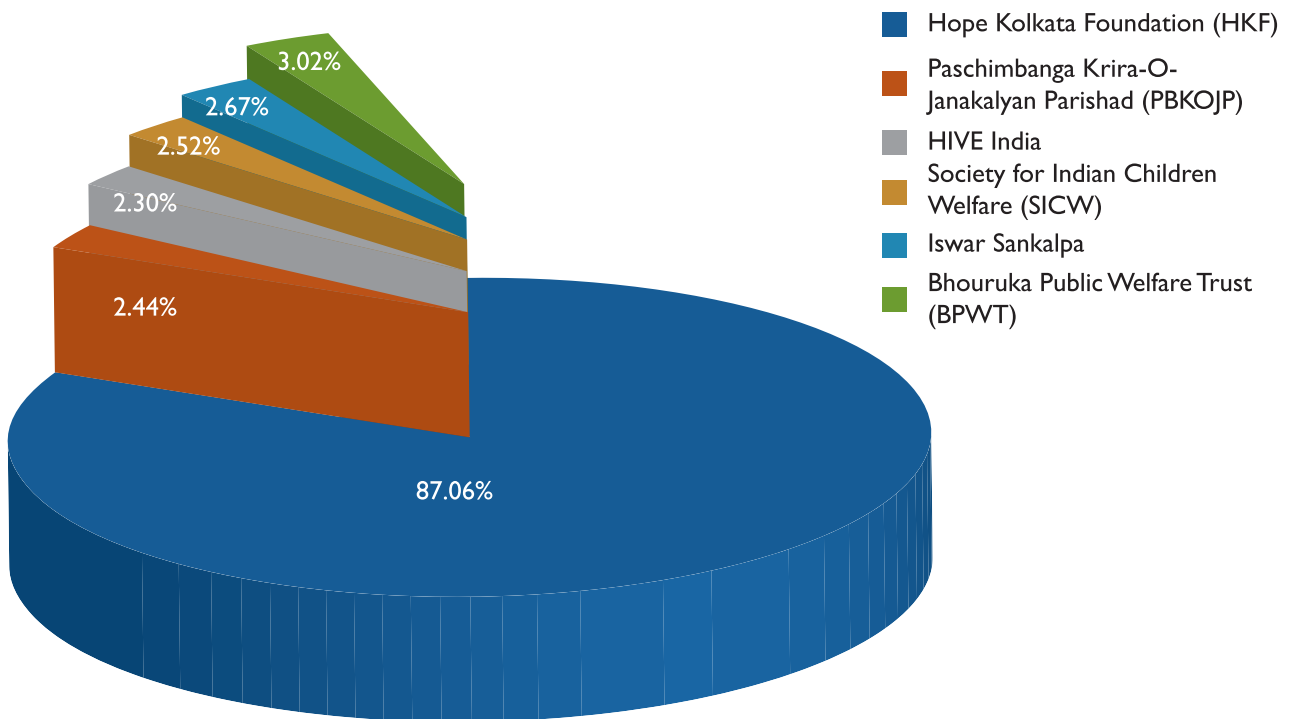
HOPE also has a Due Diligence Policy in place for its partner organisations and projects ensuring the effective delivery of services in a transparent and accountable manner. HOPE has Triple Lock certification which is the highest standard awarded by the Charities Institute Ireland, reflecting excellent and ethical fundraising practices, financial reporting and Governance.



# 2023-2024 MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- **42,071** individuals across Kolkata have been direct beneficiaries of HOPE healthcare programmes and interventions in street-connected and slum communities, including over **14,723** who have been treated in Hope Hospital's Inpatient and Outpatient Departments.
- **9,020** children have received educational support through HOPE crèches, Naboasha centres, special education projects, educational sponsorship, and our Quality and Inclusive Education Programme.
- **1,601** children and adults have been protected from abuse and neglect by our Residential Childcare Programme and Child Watch.
- **688** young women and men have engaged in HOPE's vocational training, skills enhancement, and income generation programmes to provide sustainable pathways out of poverty.

## FUND ALLOCATION TO PARTNERS OF FINANCIAL YEAR : 2023- 2024



HOPE THROUGH ITS PROGRAMMES WORKS TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE FOLLOWING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)





# HEALTH

HOPE, since its inception, has been committed to ensuring the health and well-being of the disadvantaged population. The people from these communities, living on the streets and in the slums of Kolkata and surrounding areas, struggle with basic survival needs. Most of them are daily wage labourers who fear losing crucial work hours and subsequent wages. Consequently, all health concerns are neglected.

Additionally, the lack of official citizenship documentation prevents community members from accessing government hospital services. Primary healthcare remains difficult to obtain due to these barriers. The stigma surrounding mental health further exacerbates the situation.

HOPE's health programmes, in collaboration with its partners, aim to address these issues. By focusing on both awareness and direct medical support, HOPE is working to bridge the gap in healthcare access for street-connected and slum-dwelling communities. A significant step in this direction was the inauguration of the Mobile Dental Ambulance this year. This project is dedicated to maintaining the oral health of the underprivileged sections of the population, both urban and rural, and has been made possible by the generosity of our well-wishers and donors.

# HOPE KOLKATA FOUNDATION

## HOPE HOSPITAL

Hope Hospital, established in 2008, caters to the secondary healthcare needs of street-connected and slum-dwelling children and adults. It comprises an in-patient department with an intensive care unit, outpatient and surgical departments, and a diagnostic centre.

A dialysis unit and a specialised pathological laboratory within the hospital building ensure access to holistic healthcare via readily available testing facilities.

A committed team of healthcare staff bring quality healthcare to one and all at Hope Hospital.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

- **13,330** patients received medical consultations in the outpatient department at a subsidised cost.
- **1,393** patients received secondary medical treatment, medication, and nutrition in the inpatient department.
- **859** patients underwent surgeries.
- **16,295** pathological tests were carried out.
- **956** dialysis sessions were conducted for **199** patients.

### STORY OF CHANGE

In April 2023, Hope Hospital was contacted regarding a mother and her young son who appeared to be traumatised. Accordingly, the Emergency Response team responded to the call and the mother and child were admitted to Hope Hospital. The incident was also registered with the police station.

At Hope Hospital, the preliminary examination indicated that Akash's mother was both deaf and mute and severely anaemic. Immediate medical treatment was started, and she underwent a blood transfusion.

During this period, Akash remained withdrawn. However, with counselling, he gradually started to open up. He shared that his father, a factory worker, was abusive. To escape domestic violence, his mother had boarded a train from Madhya Pradesh, another state, and reached Kolkata.

Once his mother had recovered satisfactorily, they were both discharged from the hospital. Given that neither had a safe space to return to, they were rehabilitated to a half-way home supported by HOPE for further care and support..

Akash and his mother's journey, although challenging, was all worthwhile. Their story underscores the mission of Hope Hospital and its commitment to reach out to the most vulnerable.



## BLINDNESS ERADICATION PROGRAMME

The Blindness Eradication Programme started in 2016. This programme conducts free eye check-up camps for marginalised communities, including street-connected and slum communities, residential child care centres, government schools, villages, and other rural areas. Cases that need further medical care are referred to Hope Hospital's Specialised Eye Clinic for evaluation, necessary treatment, and surgeries.

In 2023, the Specsavers Team, comprising 16 members, conducted 11 clinics in Kolkata with the local staff of the Blindness Eradication project. 2,424 individuals were tested and provided with the necessary support.

In addition to these health initiatives, this programme also sponsors young individuals from underserved communities to become optometrists. Imparting livelihood skills and opportunities helps these youth have an economically independent life. These students also offer their assistance at the eye check-up camps.



### ACHIEVEMENTS

- **7,900** patients attended the eye check-up camps.
- **3,000** people were provided with free medicine at **39** camps.
- **5,723** pairs of free glasses were provided at **39** camps.
- **123** Specialised Eye Clinics were conducted at the Outpatient Department of Hope Hospital. **2,920** people (**121** children and **2,799** adults) were tested at these clinics.
- **470** patients underwent eye surgery.
- **8** young adults completed the 2-year diploma course in Optometry, and another group of **8** young adults have started the course.

### STORY OF CHANGE

Anima, 45, lives on the streets of Kolkata with her husband and three daughters. As her husband's health prevents him from working, she is the only earning member of the family.

However, a recurring problem with Anima's eyesight was becoming a challenge. When she visited an eye camp conducted by the Specsavers team, she was diagnosed with progressive eyesight loss. Anima was advised to get cataract surgery and was referred to Hope Hospital for further treatment.



At Hope Hospital, Anima underwent a pre-operative evaluation, which indicated that she had high blood sugar. Anima was then put on appropriate medication to ensure a safe surgery.

Once Anima's blood sugar levels had been controlled, her right eye was operated on. Since she was a diabetic patient, Anima was admitted to the in-patient department at Hope Hospital for post-operative care. A week later, Anima underwent cataract surgery in her left eye.

Had Anima not been diagnosed with cataracts timely, she would have risked losing her vision. A preventive medical diagnosis such as this would have otherwise led to difficult circumstances for both Anima and her family. The timely intervention of Specsavers and Hope Hospital was critical in ensuring proper care and treatment for Anima.

## MOBILE DENTAL CLINIC

The Mobile Dental Clinic is an outreach project of Hope Hospital. Operational since 2023, this project delivers oral health care facilities to the underprivileged rural communities who can least afford oral health treatment.

The Mobile Dental Clinic provides the following services to ensure the oral health of the communities it serves:

- **Dental Check-up**
- **Tooth Extraction**
- **Scaling**
- **Filling**

In addition to these primary oral health services, patients are referred to Hope Hospital's Specialised Dental Clinic for further dental treatment.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

- **6,761** patients (**2,432** children and **4,329** adults) received dental treatment and medication.
- **4,563** patients received scaling services, **1,435** patients had tooth extractions, and **473** patients received filling services.
- **3,701** patients were referred to Hope Hospital for further treatment.

### STORY OF CHANGE

Nisha, a 7-year-old girl, and her family live in the Sundarbans, a comparatively impoverished region in West Bengal. Lack of proper healthcare facilities and challenging standards of living often consign healthcare needs to a lesser concern. However, when Nisha's toothache became unbearable, her parents felt helpless. Accompanied by her father, Nisha visited HOPE's Mobile Dental Clinic when it organised a clinic in their locality.

Inside the dental ambulance, Nisha underwent a dental X-ray, which indicated that she needed to undergo a tooth extraction. The dentist undertook all preparatory measures and extracted the tooth.

Nisha and her father were happy that she had finally received the care she urgently needed. His financial worries were mitigated since the dental costs would have otherwise been unaffordable for the family. The Mobile Dental Clinic was successful in its mission of extending help to those who need it the most.



## CHITPUR COMMUNITY CLINIC

The Chitpur Community Clinic started in 2018 and provides medical assistance to those living in Chitpur, one of Kolkata's largest unregistered slums. While the clinic caters to all sections of the population, special emphasis is given to children, pregnant and lactating mothers.

The weekly clinic aims to improve and maintain the general health of the patients by providing medication, including treatment for anaemia. The patients at the clinic are also linked to primary healthcare services to ensure immunisation and family planning. Patients requiring further treatment are referred to the local government hospitals and Hope Hospital.

Besides these services, the community clinic also conducts awareness programmes on child protection, child rights, and sexual and reproductive health and rights. It also conducts WHO-approved dance movement therapy for adolescent girls to provide them with healthy coping strategies.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

- **2,062 (969 children and 1,093 adults)** patients received health check-ups and free medicine.
- **210** women and adolescent girls received free sanitary napkins, and **79** women received contraceptive pills in the community.
- **12** adolescent girls continued WHO-approved Dance Movement Therapy aimed to improve their mental health.



### STORY OF CHANGE

Mita, a 34-year-old woman, was found unconscious on the streets of Chitpur and reported to the Community Clinic team. At the time of her rescue, Mita was in an extremely vulnerable state.

Due to the lack of official identity documents, Mita could not be admitted to any government hospital. To expedite the treatment she urgently needed, Mita was then admitted to Hope Hospital.

After her admission to Hope Hospital, Mita gradually recovered. During her hospital stay, she told the counsellor that she had no immediate or extended family as she lost her parents at a very young age and was taken care of by an uncle. After his passing, Mita was evicted as she could no longer afford the rent. Homeless and destitute, she was now entirely alone.

While Mita recovered and was ready to be discharged, she still had no accommodation. Recognising her vulnerable situation, she was rehabilitated to a residential care centre in another organisation.



## NIGHT ROUND MOBILE MEDICAL UNIT

The Night Round Mobile Medical Unit was set up in 2017 and operates three days a week. This project provides primary healthcare services to the street-connected communities in Nimtala, Central, Hastings, and other areas.

The street-connected communities in these localities comprise the vulnerable population engaged in daily labour. Demanding work hours, lack of knowledge and awareness, and insufficient official documents often prevent the community from accessing medical services. This project, therefore, aims to deliver the necessary primary medical services directly to individuals who would otherwise be deprived of appropriate healthcare.

Additionally, the Night Round Mobile Medical Unit also works as an Emergency Response Team for unattended persons reported on the streets who require healthcare support. Furthermore, the unit also conducts health awareness programmes for the benefit of the street-connected communities.

### ACHIEVEMENTS



- **10,098** patients received free primary healthcare support along with medicines for various illnesses.
- **242** wound dressings were done during the Night Round visits.
- **443** patients were referred to government hospitals, and **209** patients were referred to Hope Hospital.
- **32** awareness camps were organised on HIV-related issues, dengue awareness, health & hygiene practices, the impact of child marriage on girls' health, malaria and preventing and stopping the consumption of tobacco. **429** people attended these programmes.

### STORY OF CHANGE

Sk Danish, a young boy, lives on the streets with his parents. One night, when the child complained of severe abdominal pain, his parents immediately brought him to the nearest hospital. Danish underwent a

colonoscopy. However, he was discharged without the doctors suturing the laparotomy.

The Night Round team identified Danish, and he was in urgent need of further treatment to prevent an infection. He had also developed other complications with the wounds. Danish's parents were already worried about him since they could not afford his treatment. They had already tried admitting him to a government hospital. However, the lack of beds left Danish without the necessary care and treatment. The Night Round team admitted Danish to Hope Hospital for treatment.

At Hope Hospital, the surgeon performed an ileostomy to close his wounds. After receiving optimal post-operative care, Danish was discharged and returned home to his parents. The Night Round team and Hope Hospital were instrumental in helping Danish live a happy and pain-free life.

## HIVE INDIA EMERGENCY RESPONSE UNIT

The Emergency Response Unit implemented by HIVE India rescues, rehabilitates, reunites, and restores people in crises across Kolkata and other areas. The project also reaches out to the unattended, abandoned, and vulnerable women and children, accident victims, and those persons with psychosocial disabilities. Medical aid, psychological support, and hospitalisation are also ensured for the homeless and underprivileged.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

- **402** patients were rescued from streets and other locations in Kolkata.
- **360** cases were registered with the police, and legal guidance was shared as per protocol for restoration and linking with other organisations.
- **42** children were provided with legal support for rescue and restoration.
- **277** of the total rescued persons were hospitalised.
- **142** people were restored to their families.
- **173** people were placed in suitable residential centres for further care.
- **176** people required counselling after receiving treatment and medication.
- **98** families were followed up after reunification to ensure the restored person was in a safe environment.



### STORY OF CHANGE

Raja, 30 years of age, was found in a distressed situation on a street in Kolkata. The right side of his forehead was severely wounded. Raja was struggling to walk and appeared disoriented.

The HIVE team reached out to Raja as soon as they were contacted. The rescue team administered primary healthcare and took him to the emergency department of the nearest government hospital. However, since there were no beds available, he was taken to Hope Hospital to continue his treatment.

At Hope Hospital, Raja underwent physical and psychological tests. With treatment and proper care, he gradually recovered. The social workers located his family with the support of the police. It was found that this young man was from a village in another state, Bihar, and had been missing for the past six months.

After Raja recovered, he was discharged from Hope Hospital. His father travelled to Kolkata to take his son back home with him.

Raja's story was that of homecoming, a return to a safe place possible only through the intervention provided by the rescue team.

## ISWAR SANKALPA NAYA DAUR

Naya Daur is a community-based project that has been running since 2007. This project supports homeless persons with psychosocial disabilities and provides primary health check-ups, medication, nutrition, health and hygiene, and clothes.



The clients of Naya Daur remain in their own living spaces (mainly the streets) during the intervention. Local shopkeepers and small food stall owners in their vicinity are mobilised to provide care and support to these individuals voluntarily.

If a client can remember the name of their native place, the Naya Daur team traces their family and rehabilitates them. In cases where this is not possible, the clients are rehabilitated within their immediate community.

As the mental health status of the clients improves, they are supported in obtaining employment. They are also linked with government and non-government stakeholders to secure social entitlements.

Alongside these interventions, mental health awareness is a key component of Naya Daur. Advocacy and awareness camps are conducted to promote the social inclusion of those who are often forgotten and left behind. A cohesive support network sustains this integrated mental health service model.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- **125** homeless clients with psychosocial disabilities were supported throughout the year, including **32** new clients.
- **86** clients were assessed through the IDEA (Indian Disability Evaluation and Assessment) scale. **47** clients showed improvement, **36** were in a static position, and **3** had negative improvement.
- **292** people attended **13** awareness camps to address social stigma.
- **5** medical camps reached out to **422** members of the community. **22** new clients were enrolled in the project through these medical camps.
- **73** clients were under the care of community-based caregivers.
- **45** clients were working and earning an income, including **20** new clients.

## STORY OF CHANGE

Ramnath, a 30-year-old man, was found in a distressed condition near a hospital in Kolkata. At the time of his enrolment in the Naya Daur programme, Ramnath was disoriented and refused to talk to anyone.

A social worker observed Ramnath for a month. Following this period, Ramnath was diagnosed with schizophrenia by a psychiatrist. Immediately after, he received the appropriate treatment and counselling. After a few months, significant changes were observed. Local people gradually engaged him in daily tasks such as collecting water for the local food stalls. He started taking an interest in his new responsibilities and mixing with people in his community. Ramnath also began caring for another client, Mohan.



Acting on the information provided by Ramnath, the reintegration team located his family. It was found that Ramnath was actually called Chunchun and is from another state in India, Bihar. Soon, his family went to Kolkata to take him back home.

During rehabilitation, the team discovered that Chunchun had been reunited with his family after 14 years. Following this happy occasion, Chunchun's family agreed to continue his treatment at their local government hospital.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



5 GENDER EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



13 CLIMATE ACTION



# EDUCATION

HOPE believes that every child must have access to education. Our programmes are designed with a focus on enrolment, mainstreaming and retention in formal education. Additionally, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 and the New National Education Policy 2020 form the framework for each of HOPE's education projects.

# HOPE KOLKATA FOUNDATION

HOPE's Education Programme started in 2000 and has since been diversified. Today, the programme reaches out to the age group 2-5 years through its early childhood education programme (creche) and 6-14 years through HOPE's education programme in government schools, Naboasha, and Education on Wheels programmes. All these programmes aim to create a child-friendly environment to ensure that every child has the full scope to grow and develop to the best of their abilities.

COVID-19, despite its many challenges, opened a new avenue of imparting education. When the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, West Bengal, started the innovative initiative to reach all the street-connected children through Community Radio, Hope Kolkata Foundation became one of its key partners. This project still runs today. Audio lessons on different subjects are developed, and classes are taken in formal government schools. The programme has been appreciated, and HOPE has been acknowledged for their efforts by the West Bengal Commission for the Protection of Child Rights.

As the need for educational support continued to grow, HOPE expanded its initiatives to other parts of Kolkata. In 2023-2024, HOPE inaugurated a new Naboasha Centre in Sickline, Kolkata, and another Brian's Way Resource Centre in North Kolkata to cater to children with special needs. HOPE's work in government resource centres for children with special needs was also extended to two more government schools.

Over the past two decades, HOPE has worked towards ensuring inclusive education for all children. HOPE believes that this is the true essence of education. HOPE's efforts have not gone unnoticed, resonating with other organisations, agencies, and government departments. In 2023, Hope Kolkata Foundation was honoured as the Winner in the BCC&I Social Leadership Awards, a testament to HOPE's commitment and dedication.

## INTEGRATION OF QUALITY EDUCATION TO ENSURE IMPROVED LEARNING IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

HOPE's school-based education programme focuses on school enrolment and school retention, which are challenges that many children from marginalised communities face. Through interventions, actions, and awareness programmes, HOPE aims to protect every child's right to free and compulsory education.

In collaboration with the government resource centres, HOPE promotes inclusivity for children with special needs. The use of interactive teaching-learning methods and linking with government social schemes enable children to access quality education and government resources.

Additionally, this programme maintains parent support groups. Through these groups, parents establish rapport and find encouragement, and they are supported to care for themselves and their children.

HOPE currently implements this education programme in 47 government schools and 17 government resource centres.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

- **4,295** children benefitted from joyful activity-based learning.
- **806** children were enrolled in school, including **23** children with special needs.
- **938** children received support from Government Resource Centres, including **674** children who received need-based functional therapies (physiotherapy,



occupational, speech, behaviour, and movement).

- **957** children with learning gaps made progress.
- **90** school-based children with special needs made progress.
- **278** teachers used activity-based learning methods for children with learning gaps.
- **4,011** parents attended parent-teacher meetings
- **728** community people benefitted through awareness programmes and were informed on different issues related to children, with a focus on children with special needs.
- **172** children with special needs were linked with government schemes and/or disability cards, which were essential to access the schemes.



## STORY OF CHANGE

Srija is a 10-year-old girl who is currently in class IV. Before accessing therapy support, Srija used to be non-verbal and had difficulties concentrating, and sitting for long periods, and avoided going to school.

When Srija's mother learnt about the therapies provided, she brought her to a government resource centre. The therapists conducted an assessment and developed a therapy plan for her.

Srija attended occupational therapy and speech therapy twice a week, and the therapies improved her concentration. Gradually, she started following instructions and framing short sentences. She can now express herself verbally.

Srija's mother was happy to see the progress her daughter had made. She was relieved to see how much Srija had accomplished.

## NABOASHA



The Naboasha programme works with street-connected and slum-dwelling children aged 6 to 14 years. By providing additional education support, the programme ensures school enrolment and school retention for children from vulnerable communities. Along with coaching classes, the Naboasha centres also organise co-curricular classes and counselling is provided to the children and parents.

The Naboasha curated audio lessons, which started during COVID-19 through Community Radio, are still active today. This initiative was recognised by the West Bengal Commission for the Protection of Child Rights for its impact and reach.

Recognising the need for education in the community, the Naboasha programme expanded to Sickline in 2023-2024. Now working in 8 locations, the programme upholds its mission at each centre.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- **599** children were enrolled in Naboasha and received educational support along with supplementary nutrition.
- **426** parents received support and motivated their children to pursue their education.
- **90** fathers opened new bank accounts and saved money for their children's education.
- **377** parents were linked to different social entitlements.
- **470** children were linked to various government schemes.
- **453** community people attended awareness programmes.
- **16** students passed the class 10 examinations, and **8** students passed the class 12 examinations.



## STORY OF CHANGE

Rajib, a 16-year-old boy, has faced harsh economic conditions since childhood. His father is the only earning member of the family. His father also has alcohol dependence, and Rajib's family often witnesses domestic violence. Amidst these circumstances, Rajib was denied his right to education.

When the Naboasha teachers identified Rajib, both his parents were unaware of the significance of childhood education. They were unwilling to enrol him to school. However, with counselling, Rajib's parents agreed to send him to the Naboasha centre. Though initially withdrawn, Rajib gradually opened up after counselling. He was now motivated to study. The co-curricular classes also helped Rajib express himself creatively. Soon, he was enrolled in formal school.

Now, six years later, Rajib has completed his class 10 examination. He is now in class 11, pursuing humanities at a local government school. His dedication to his academic aspirations has also inspired his sisters. Rajib's parents are now eager supporters of their children's education.

## CRECHE FACILITIES FOR CHILDREN WITHOUT PARENTAL SUPERVISION

HOPE runs 5 creche facilities for children aged 2 to 5 years. The children enrolled in this project are from street-connected and slum communities whose parents are often daily labourers. Their demanding work schedule leaves the children without parental supervision and in vulnerable situations. The creche facilities provide a safe environment for these children while their parents are working.



The key component of the creche project is to build a strong foundation to support a child's life-long journey of learning, primarily formal school education. Through joyful teaching, the children stay invested in classroom activities. Furthermore, encouraging the parents to instil the practice of studying and revising at home ensures that a child has a viable learning environment even outside the classroom.

Supplementary nutrition is also provided, and health checks, deworming camps, and awareness programmes are conducted to promote a holistic environment for a child's growth and development.



### ACHIEVEMENTS:

- **252** children were supported in 5 crèches for early childhood care and education throughout the year.
- **90** children were enrolled in formal school.
- **251** parents were informed on the importance of children's education and finance management.
- **1,024** community people were informed on different issues to ensure the rights of children.
- **152** parents have started saving money for the future education of their children either in savings accounts or the Sukanya Samridhi Scheme (exclusively for girls).

### STORY OF CHANGE

Vanshika is a 4-year-old girl from Bhagar who lives with her parents in a small, rented accommodation. Both her parents work as rag pickers in the dumping area and are away for extended periods, and Vanshika is often left without parental supervision. Moreover, the small income the work yields is insufficient for her parents to support the family, and Vanshika's father's

alcohol dependence makes the situation worse.

To ensure that she was in a safe environment, Vanshika was enrolled in the creche. However, not long after, she stopped going to the creche. The creche teachers conducted home visits and provided counselling to Vanshika's mother about the necessity of early childhood education and care. After several counselling sessions, Vanshika attended the creche regularly.

Gradually, Vanshika engaged in peer interactions and other classroom lessons. She soon started enjoying the games and activities and looked forward to having fun with her friends at the creche.

## BRIAN'S WAY RESOURCE CENTRE

The Brian's Way Resource Centres provide free therapy support and other resources to children with special needs from underserved communities. First set up in 2019 in South Kolkata (Lake Gardens), the project gradually expanded to Bhagar in 2022. In March 2024, Brian's Way (North) was inaugurated and started providing its services in April 2024 to children with special needs from the respective communities. These expansions stemmed from the increased need for these services from the community.



While Brian's Way South has a disability-friendly customised bus, Brian's Way Bhagar has a toto transport service. Both these services collect the children and their parents and drop them home after the children have attended the therapies and classes.

The parents or guardians of the children are informed on disabilities, inclusive education, government schemes, and child management practices. Additionally, the parent support groups act as an encouraging environment for all the parents.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- **157** children with special needs benefitted from the project.
- **152** children have progressed through functional therapies.
- **113** children with special needs have progressed in special education.
- **29** children were linked with government entitlements.
- **315** community people were informed on disability, social inclusion and government schemes and facilities for children with special needs and their families.
- **10** children with special needs were identified through community awareness and enrolled in Government Primary Schools.
- **30** children with special needs received grocery support (rice, wheat, pulses, soybean, oil, sugar, etc) and **10** children with special needs received grocery and medical support.

## STORY OF CHANGE

Shibu is a 5-year-old boy who has locomotor disabilities owing to cerebral palsy. His father, the sole earning member of their family, struggled to afford Shibu's medical and therapy needs.

However, Shibu's father learned about the Brian's Way Resource Centre and enrolled his son in the centre. The therapists conducted an assessment and developed a therapy plan for Shibu.

During the initial sessions, Shibu was shy. However, with time, Shibu finally started interacting. After one and a half years, Shibu made noticeable progress. He can now stand up, sit down, and crawl on his own with minimal support.

Now, Shibu's parents are happy to see how well their son has been doing. Following the counsellor's advice, they help Shibu practise therapies at home.

## EDUCATION ON WHEELS

Education on Wheels ensures the academic needs of children living in the slum-dwelling community of Chitpur. Established in 2020, this programme identifies children who have either dropped out of school or have never been enrolled in school. Through additional education support, therapy, and counselling, the children are prepared to be enrolled in age-appropriate classes in formal school.

Education on Wheels also practises environmentally friendly activities to reduce its carbon footprint. By integrating solar panels, the Education on Wheels bus reduces its reliance on petrol and thereby cuts down on significant operational costs.



## ACHIEVEMENTS

- **13** children were enrolled, and **60** children continued receiving support throughout the year.
- **60** children were promoted to the next class.
- **60** children enjoyed and celebrated several cultural events to ensure social inclusion and participation.
- **30** children were linked to social entitlements, and **32** children were linked to government schemes.
- **38** adults/parents were assisted in accessing different social entitlements.

## STORY OF CHANGE

Sabana, a 13-year-old girl, lives in Chitpur with her parents and younger brother. Sabana's father is unemployed, and her mother is the only member of the family earning an income, selling fruit on the streets of their locality. However, her alcohol dependence poses significant problems to their family.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Sabana was forced to drop out of school to help her mother support their family. The teachers from Education on Wheels identified Sabana as a dropout student and counselled her mother to let Sabana resume her education.

Sabana's mother was convinced, and she started attending classes at Education on Wheels. Gradually, Sabana made exceptional progress. The Education on Wheels team then enrolled her in a formal school in an age-appropriate class.

Sabana is now doing well in school. She has been promoted to class VIII and has displayed great potential. Sabana thoroughly enjoys going to school and loves participating in events. Her growth is a testimony to the positive effects of education and inclusion.





# SOCIETY FOR INDIAN CHILDREN'S WELFARE UMEED

The Child Care Unit of SICW runs UMEED for children aged 2-6 years with special needs. A team of certified educators and therapists work closely to ensure a child's development in the areas of cognitive, communication, loco-motor and academic skills. Interactive classroom exchanges, a joyful learning environment, and different therapies ensure that every child develops their autonomy to the best of their abilities.



## ACHIEVEMENTS

- **10** children with special needs and **22** children with learning disabilities attended UMEED classes.
- **6** children were adopted as per the government rules and rehabilitated to their new families
- **5** children were restored to their families as per the judicial court order.

## STORY OF CHANGE

Karan, a 4-year-old boy, has Beta Thalassemia Trait. When he was first enrolled in UMEED in 2023, Karan did not know how to read or write, and he had a speech impairment.

Karan was assessed by his teachers, and they developed a goal-oriented curriculum for him, which included different therapies, music and dance classes, and interactive classroom techniques to help him reach his goals.

Gradually, with regular intervention, Karan started making progress. He mixed with his peers and looked forward to the different sessions.

Karan's journey, so far, underscores the transformative powers of education and specialised care. His story celebrates the uniqueness of every child.





# PROTECTION

Child Protection was HOPE's first initiative in 1999. Now, 25 years after its inception, HOPE's work and impact in this area continue to grow.

Over the past two decades, HOPE's Child Protection Programme has evolved to address the emerging needs of children and the changing vulnerability patterns in present times. In its commitment to safeguarding children's rights, HOPE recognised the pivotal role of a nurturing family in ensuring a child's well-being. Consequently, this understanding was integrated into HOPE's effective deinstitutionalisation efforts.

HOPE's deinstitutionalisation efforts focus on changing the behaviours, attitudes, and practices of communities, families, and service providers towards children. Ultimately, HOPE aims to educate society and empower children to create an environment where children are the key changemakers. Through the Child Protection Programme, HOPE has worked with thousands of families and community stakeholders to ensure the rights of children.

HOPE's vision of "a world where it should never hurt to be a child" aligns closely with the Millennium Development Goal to create "A World Fit for Children." Likewise, HOPE's Residential Child Care Centres and Child Watch project aspire to educate every child irrespective of age and gender. It endeavours that children are no longer victims of abuse, exploitation, and discrimination. Through various interventions and awareness programmes, Child Protection aims to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS and provide care for every child affected. By extending quality support and accessible healthcare facilities (inclusive of physical and mental health), HOPE's Child Protection Programme ensures that every need of a child, however unique, is addressed. An environment consciously created to ensure the right to play lets children express themselves. These measures ensure that children grow and prosper to their full potential.

## IMPACT OF HOPE'S CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAMME IN CHANGING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

An impact study conducted by HOPE on 562 children and their families indicated that a safe and temporary shelter for children during a period of crisis in the family helps children:

- Achieve their developmental milestones
- Prevents them from dropping out of school/college
- Ensures their rights to survival and development

Residential care for children in crisis also helps their families rebuild their socio-economic status and reassess their child-rearing practices. The study findings and its statistics indicate that children who stayed at the residential child care centres for more than 5 years are now employed, have a monthly family income above INR 10,000 (€110), and live in permanent houses. This indicates that the extended stay at the residential child care centres ensured that the child received substantial support for education and skill development. Altogether, these efforts strengthen families to support their children holistically.

The impact study also reflected the positive outcomes of Child Watch, HOPE's community-based protection project. The role of the Child Vigilance Group and the Community Watch Group was effective in reducing the violation of child rights through their timely interventions and awareness programmes. It was also found that the families and children that attended the awareness programmes were aware of their rights, the dangers of child rights violations, and the importance of sexual and reproductive health. Furthermore, the community's liaison with government and non-government stakeholders and service providers further ensured the protection of child rights and community strengthening. HOPE staff were instrumental in creating and maintaining these safety nets.

## HKE, PBKOJP, BPWT RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE CENTRES

HOPE's residential child care centres adhere to the national guidelines for the care and protection of children in need of care and protection. The programme ensures effective social reintegration of children who were referred for residential care by the Child Welfare Committee through various interventions.



Each of the residential child care centres is equipped to address the unique individual needs of every child. Accessible infrastructure and a homely ambience ensure a child has the right to express themselves while they grow. The children are encouraged to participate in education, outdoor activities, sports, co-curricular events, pre-vocational courses, and state and national-level championships, ensuring their well-rounded experience with the world at large.

The support staff of each residential child care centre plays a crucial role in ensuring the rights of the children. They are thoroughly informed on the Child Protection Policy and regularly undergo training focused on delivering the best care to the children. Together, this all-encompassing environment aims to create a holistic space for every child, irrespective of all differences.

HOPE's residential child care centres work twofold. First, it ensures care and protection for children who experience vulnerabilities, poverty, illnesses, and risks and threats affecting their childhood. Many of these risks and threats include but are not limited to child labour, child begging, child trafficking, child marriage, sexual and domestic abuse, missing children, runaways, and children who have been orphaned and abandoned. Secondly, the residential child care centres aim to strengthen families and communities to ensure the successful rehabilitation of children in a protected and safe environment. This intervention through preventive and rehabilitative support combines the following:

- Holistic care and overall development and growth of children for a better future.
- Alternative rehabilitation for children through deinstitutionalisation such as “family adoption of orphan, abandoned and surrendered children.”
- Restorative care for children who have been victims of sexual abuse, trafficking, underage labour, early/underage marriage, children with special needs, etc.
- Rehabilitation support for children infected and affected with HIV/AIDS and substance abuse and daughters of sex workers.
- Promoting higher education as the key to freeing children from poverty and ensuring acquired financial independence.
- Follow-up and home-based support to prevent further separation from family.



- Educating and capacity building of families through initiatives and meetings, referral, awareness building, and ensuring practice level changes.
- Specialised and individual need-based care inclusive of counselling and therapy support, legal aid, specialised diet as per the nutritional needs of the children, treatment for all children, including those with critical illness, etc.

HOPE's deinstitutionalisation efforts, thus a pivotal part of protection, have successfully restored 1,410 children to families and placed 30 children in adoption as of the present.

Currently, HOPE supports 5 residential child care centres for girls and 4 residential child care centres for boys.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- **589** children were supported in the residential child care centres.
- **183** children were identified and rescued from vulnerable circumstances and placed in the residential child care centres on the order of the Child Welfare Committee. Among them, **6** children were engaged in child labour and **16** children were engaged in begging.
- **64** orphan and abandoned children, **25** girls and **39** boys, were declared legally free for adoption.
- **27** orphan and abandoned children were placed in pre-adoption foster care and were adopted. **3** of these children were adopted by international families under inter-country adoption rules.
- **114** children, **42** girls and **72** boys, were restored to their families.
- **147** children received home-based education support after being restored to their families and are now continuing education.
- **14** missing/runaway children who used to stay on the streets and were deprived of basic nutrition, education, and health care were enrolled in school and improved their physical and psychological well-being.
- **25** boys with a history of substance abuse and who had been living at train stations were placed in the residential care of HOPE on the order of the Child Welfare Committee. They completed their detoxification treatment and received psychosocial, education, and nutrition support.
- **8** girls who were victims of sexual abuse and social stigma received restorative care and legal support.
- **159** children who had dropped out of school and those who had never been enrolled were admitted to formal schools after being placed in residential care.
- **12** children (**8** girls and **4** boys) passed the secondary examinations (Class X), and **9** children (all girls) passed the Higher Secondary Examination (Class XII).
- **259** children were promoted to the next class.
- **115** children with special needs and learning difficulties were provided with therapy and special education classes as restorative care. The children improved their academic performance, independent living skills, communication, and cognitive functioning.
- **35** families were informed on improving their socio-economic status, childcare and child rights, and families and children were linked with government schemes and entitlements.
- **338** community people and stakeholders were informed on various child protection and child rights issues through **98** awareness sessions conducted in the community.
- **35** families were linked with social security schemes to access housing, toilets, free drinking water, citizenship documents, government subsidies and allowances, health cards, job cards, etc. These families have now improved their socio-economic status.
- **108** children were informed and linked with social security schemes, including education scholarships, Aadhaar cards, birth certificates, and disability certificates for stipends and reservation facilities.



- **128** children above 14 years of age completed pre-vocational training courses on making handicrafts, masks, jewellery, and embroidery, advanced Excel, and MIS Diploma Course.
- Children's academic retention and satisfactory performances were ensured through regular classes. The attendance rate of all students in tuition and special education classes was 100%.

### CHILDREN'S SUCCESS AND ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENTS IN SPORTS:

Sports is an effective tool in building children's physical and psychosocial strength. Through effective team-building and healthy competition, sport also fosters social interaction and integration. It celebrates the voices of children and removes social barriers. The participation of children in various national and international championship events helps them grow as individuals and inspires others to action.

- **411** children attended weekly classes on football, karate, taekwondo, cricket, basketball, kabaddi, etc.



- **8** children from Hope Kolkata Foundation participated in the Street Children Cricket World Cup, which was held in Chennai, and was one of the teams to represent India as "Team Panther".
- **10** children (**6** boys and **4** girls) were enrolled in rowing classes. **8** children participated in a 2-day rowing event held at Calcutta Rowing Club.
- **19** boys participated in a karate tournament; **1** boy won a gold medal, **3** boys won silver medals, and **11** boys won bronze medals.
- **3** girls participated in the Taekwondo State Championship organised by the Bengal Taekwondo Association, and **1** child won a silver medal.
- **1** boy got 1st prize, and **1** boy received 2nd prize for participating in different sports activities held at the Gitanjali Stadium.

- Children from Hope Kolkata Foundation participated in the GSC Championship (Cricket Premier League, 2024) organised by HSBC Bank at Yuvraj Singh Centres of Excellence, and the children won the cup.

### STORY OF CHANGE 1

Koyel used to live with her grandparents, mother, and younger brother in the street and slum communities of Kolkata. The family had no relations with Koyel's father due to his alcohol dependence. Since childhood, Koyel experienced difficult circumstances.

It was found that Koyel was a victim of child trafficking. According to the orders of the Child Welfare Committee, she was placed in a residential child care centre, as she was identified as a child in need of care and protection.

Koyel was provided with counselling and therapy sessions. However, she remained withdrawn, anxious, and intimidated. The supportive staff, the homely environment, and the engaging co-curricular activities gradually made a positive difference. Koyel was now eager to engage in activities.

Meanwhile, with proper educational support, Koyel passed her secondary and higher secondary examinations. Following these milestones, Koyel was restored home in 2022 with home-based Education Sponsorship support. Thanks to this support, Koyel then enrolled at Don Bosco Tech-Nitika to pursue vocational training in Food and Beverage services.



All of Koyel's hard work finally paid off. In 2023, she secured a job at Gateway Resort, Damdama, Lake Gurgaon, after completing the training.

Koyel is now financially secure. She continues to excel in her life.

## STORY OF CHANGE 2

After losing his parents at a very young age, Arehan lived with his maternal aunt. However, his maternal aunt could not provide the care and protection he needed. Soon, he dropped out of school when he was in class VIII and began using substances. One day, he was found unconscious and rescued by the Railway Police. On the order of the Child Welfare Committee, he was placed in HOPE's Punorjibon Rehabilitation Child Care Centre.

At Punorjibon, Arehan received detoxification treatment, counselling and therapy support. Gradually, he participated in various co-curricular activities such as drawing, dance, and photography. These activities helped him interact with his peers and were an effective form of self-expression.

To ensure Arehan's complete rehabilitation, he was enrolled in carpentry vocational training, which he is enjoying. He has also been attending computer classes.

Arehan is 17 years old now. After completing the vocational training, he will begin an internship in carpentry.

## HOPE KOLKATA FOUNDATION AFTER CARE PROGRAMME FOR YOUNG ADULTS

After Care support for young adults was established by HOPE as a key pillar to ensure rehabilitative services for orphaned and homeless youth. The legislation recognises the need for aftercare services for children in residential care to help them lead sustainable and independent lives.

In India, the legal framework for establishing an aftercare programme for children without a family or other support who leave residential care can be found in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000. Section 44 lays the groundwork for the establishment of aftercare organisations under Chapter IV - Rehabilitation and Social Integration.

HOPE's After Care project is a non-institutional care programme for young adults with the primary objective to support and prepare young adults to lead independent lives. During this transition phase, the young adults receive comprehensive support, including financial support for higher education, skill-building courses, vocational training, and legal assistance. These multi-pronged supports ensure the successful reintegration of young adults into the world at large. Ultimately, HOPE's After Care Programme aims to create financially independent and self-sufficient young adults ready to take on the challenges of the world by themselves.

In 2023-2024, 54 girls and boys aged 18-23 years were supported under this programme.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- **6** boys and **12** girls were employed in full-time jobs and became self-sufficient. They are now supporting their families.
- **9** girls completed professional skill training in graphic designing, phlebotomy, business accounting, etc.
- **11** girls and **2** boys are pursuing graduation (Bachelor's Degree).
- **1** girl is pursuing a post-graduation degree (Master's Degree) in Psychology from Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU).
- **2** girls are pursuing management courses from ILEAD (affiliated with Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad University and IGNOU).
- **3** boys successfully passed the Class XII Higher Secondary Board examination.
- **8** girls are working and depositing money in their bank accounts.

## STORY OF CHANGE 1

Madhu came under HOPE's care when she was only 7 years old. Previously, she had been living with her mother and a younger sister on the streets of Howrah. The family was identified by a social worker during community interventions and referred to the Child Welfare Committee. Soon, they were placed in HOPE's residential care programme. However, not long after, their mother went missing and has since remained untraceable.

Under HOPE's care, Madhu excelled academically and passed her secondary and higher secondary examinations. She also participated in co-curricular activities and excelled in them. The Kanyashree scheme, a government initiative aimed at improving the lives of adolescent girls, played a significant role in Madhu's journey, providing her with the support she needed to succeed.

In 2019, she was placed in Hope Hostel for further rehabilitation, as she was over 18 years of age. Madhu is now pursuing a bachelor's degree from South City College (University of Calcutta). She is also working under the Mission Vatsalya scheme (Child Helpline). Madhu is financially independent and has been saving to move into rented accommodation soon.

## STORY OF CHANGE 2

Priyankar used to live at his aunt's house with his mother and two older sisters. Priyankar's father struggled with addiction and was abusive. Determined to provide a better life for her children, Priyankar's mother left with her three children after reporting her husband to the police. Since then, Priyankar's father has had no contact with the family.

Priyankar's mother got a job, but the children were left without supervision for extended periods and were vulnerable to neglect and abuse. Priyankar's mother contacted HOPE through an organisation. At the age of 9, Priyankar was placed in one of HOPE's residential child care centres.

Priyankar received all the help, care, and protection he needed to grow and prosper holistically. Although initially withdrawn due to his struggling childhood, counselling and therapy helped Priyankar significantly. Additionally, his eager participation in co-curricular activities let him explore his skills. Through special interventions and methods, Priyankar's educational needs were also ensured.

When Priyankar reached 18 years of age, he was enrolled at the Mass Education Boarding School, where he completed his higher secondary examinations. Priyankar went to college to pursue a bachelor's degree. Through advocacy with the Directorate of Child Rights and Trafficking, Priyankar secured a job as a Call Operator at the Child Helpline under Mission Vatsalya, a centrally sponsored government scheme.



## MOTHER AND CHILD CARE UNIT

Established in 2010, the Mother and Child Care Unit works with destitute and homeless mothers and children rescued by HOPE's Child Watch team, the police, and other organisations. By ensuring holistic healthcare, extensive legal aid, government facilities, and overall protection, the Unit aims to ensure the rights of every mother and child who would have otherwise been neglected.

Mothers and children, once placed in the Mother and Child Care Unit, receive holistic care for their physical and psychological well-being. These interventions are carried out through prenatal and antenatal care for pregnant and lactating mothers via nutritional support and screenings to monitor the health of both mother and child. This has resulted in safe labour, reduced mortality rates and satisfactory post-natal care. The unit also conducts regular training and counselling for mothers on issues such as breastfeeding, infant care, family planning, nutrition, and healthy practices. Need-based immunisation initiatives are also carried out through networking with local hospitals, HOPE Hospital and ward health centres.

At the Mother and Child Care Unit, the children also receive early childhood care and education. They are enrolled in creches and formal schools to ensure their right to education. Through co-curricular and recreational activities, the Mother and Child Care Unit guarantees that children will have holistic development. These interventions help children integrate into society at large.

Special focus is also given to the psychosocial well-being and health of the mothers. Psychiatric treatment, counselling, and therapy support are provided to ensure mothers can share a positive bond with their children with an improved understanding of positive parenting.

HOPE reunites the mother and child with their family wherever possible and continues supporting the child's education through home-based sponsorship. The mothers who have been restored and their families are provided with counselling to ensure a sustained reintegration. The mothers in need of long-term care and support are placed in other organisations that provide long-term refuge, rehabilitation, care, and support for them and their children.

Access to legal aid and advocacy for mothers and children protect the rights of mothers and children in their communities and outside. These interventions, in turn, bring attention to cases of domestic violence, neglect, and discrimination and aim to create more awareness and a space where neglect and abuse are mitigated for vulnerable mothers and children.

Throughout the year, 23 mothers and 20 children were supported through the Mother and Child Care Unit. They were provided with the necessary support for their restoration and rehabilitation. Of these, 15 mothers and 9 children were placed in the Mother and Child Care Unit as per the general diaries from concerned police stations. The remaining mothers were placed directly by the local police stations.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

- **10** missing mothers with their **6** children were reunited with their families in rural and urban West Bengal with the support of the local and state police.
- **2** children received early childhood care and education. **2** children above 6 years were enrolled in school and improved in academics.
- **6** mothers with psychosocial illness showed improvement.
- **5** children identified with low weight received proper nutrition and improved their weight status.
- **4** children below 6 years were referred for adoption.
- **4** mothers acquired vocational skills by attending vocational training courses in the unit.
- **6** mothers were informed and improved their child-rearing practices before being restored to their families.
- **2** mothers had successful deliveries after receiving pre-natal checkups and vaccinations during pregnancy.

## STORY OF CHANGE

Bimala and her ailing daughter were rescued from the streets of Kolkata by HOPE Hospital. They were admitted to the hospital for necessary treatment. Once they had recovered, both were placed in the Mother and Child Care Unit.

At the Mother and Child Care Unit, Bimala was provided with counselling. She had been a victim of domestic abuse by her husband and in-laws. Anxious to escape the violence, Bimala ran away to Mumbai. Not long after, she gave birth to her daughter on the street. Neither had any access to food, shelter, or protection. After struggling for nearly a month, Bimala finally got a job as a daily wage worker. Her daughter became seriously ill, and Bimala tried to return to her parents but boarded the wrong train and reached Howrah.

At the Mother and Child Care Unit, Bimala was provided with the necessary psychiatric treatment, counselling and other therapies. Additionally, with the skills she learnt during the vocational classes, she sold handicrafts and saved the profits. Simultaneously, her daughter received care and support to grow and reach her milestones.

Bimala missed her home, and once she remembered her address, the team traced her family. Even though her family was initially unwilling, after extensive family counselling, they eventually welcomed Bimala and her daughter back home.

## CHILD WATCH

Child Watch works exclusively with street-connected and slum-dwelling children in their communities. By strengthening their families and the community at large, this project ensures the educational needs, protection, and health of all children. Child Vigilance Groups and Community Watch Groups are formed, comprising members of the community, to maintain safety nets in their communities. These groups ensure that no child falls victim to the violations of child rights such as begging, child marriage, child labour, and addiction, among many other concerns.

The Child Watch team also facilitate linkage with government social schemes and assists community members in issuing government identity documents. The team conducts awareness programmes for the community. Changemakers (aged 8-21 years) selected from their communities play an integral role in these awareness efforts. Once selected, the changemakers are mentored for 6 months. They then form groups on their own and spread awareness in their communities on important issues such as environment, education, and health. Currently, 80 young adults are part of the Changemakers initiative.

### ACHIEVEMENTS:

- **915** children and **414** adults from street-connected and slum-dwelling communities in Kolkata were supported through this project.
- **35** children were newly enrolled in school.
- **12** child labourers and **6** children with addiction were identified and supported.
- **78** children were referred to local government hospitals for treatment, and **131** patients were provided with follow-up visits after receiving treatment.
- **103** children and adults were linked with government departments to access social entitlements.



## STORY OF CHANGE

Subho grew up in a slum beside the railway tracks. Despite his regular school attendance, he was exposed to substance use through his friends. Recognising the danger, his sibling, Prasanth, alerted their parents, leading to the involvement of the Community Watch Group and the Child Watch team.

These groups approached Subho's parents and informed them about Subho's recent behaviour. They contacted the Child Welfare Committee and enrolled Subho at a detoxification centre for 6 months. This rehabilitation period provided Subho with the necessary support to overcome his addiction.

Subho returned home at the end of 6 months and vowed to remain free from drugs. He has now reintegrated into his environment. Subho's family and the Community Watch Group continue to provide him with a supportive environment.



4 QUALITY EDUCATION

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



# LIVELIHOOD

Young adults from street-connected and slum communities often face difficulties accessing employment opportunities. This is especially true for those who have yet to have equal opportunities for a rightful education. As the youth struggle to find financial freedom, the economic stability of their communities remains uncertain.

Recognising these challenges, HOPE offers job-oriented courses for young adults from marginalised communities. These professionally designed courses provide practical hands-on training to prepare the youth for employment. Moreover, the Spoken English and Personality Development classes ensure that every youth is well-equipped to navigate the job market.

Along with these initiatives, the courses also engage the students in job fairs, company visits, and networking with potential employers. At the end of their training, the students are offered job placements. These endeavours ensure that the youth can successfully enter the professional sphere.

The Livelihood projects aim to create a lasting impact in the community. By proactively working with the youth, it hopes to remove the barriers between education and professional training. Through these efforts, HOPE aims to help every individual establish financial autonomy and a sustainable livelihood. It hopes to create a society where everyone can work together to make an impactful difference, financially and otherwise.

Currently, HOPE supports 4 Computer Skills Units, 1 Tailoring and Beauty Unit, and HOPE Café under the Livelihood programme.

## HOPE KOLKATA FOUNDATION HOPE COMPUTER SKILL UNITS

HOPE Computer Skill Units run in 4 different centres in Kolkata and Howrah, which are close to the street-connected and slum-dwelling communities. These units offer two types of courses: Computer Application and Financial Accounting, which include Tally and GST. While the Basic Computer Course runs for 6 months, the Advanced Computer Course runs for 12 months. Spoken English and Personality Development classes are also conducted.

Students (aged 18-30 years) pursuing this course come from marginalised communities and may have discontinued their education. This course aims to empower all these individuals and hopes that with the necessary technical knowledge, they can establish themselves in the future.



### ACHIEVEMENTS:

- **414** students completed the computer course from the 4 units.
- **233** students were placed at salaried jobs in different companies in Kolkata, and the remaining students are continuing their higher studies.

### STORY OF CHANGE

Subham is from an economically challenged background. Since childhood, he has seen his father, a factory worker, struggle to sustain their family as he was the only earning member.

Subham was determined to help his father financially. When he finished his class 12 examinations, he enrolled in the Financial Accounting course of the Computer Unit in Howrah. He excelled at Tally, and the Spoken English classes helped him improve his communication skills.

Once the course had concluded, Subham secured a job at Fast Info as a Customer Support Executive. He is now financially independent and supports his family.

### HOPE CAFÉ

HOPE Café provides industry-standard café training to those unable to afford such training due to financial or educational limitations. Over six months, one-to-one intensive training provides invaluable technical skills and knowledge. Additionally, the Spoken English and Personality Development classes ensure the trainees are prepared to enter the professional world.



Students enrolled in this course are often young adults (aged 17 years onwards) from the residential child care centres of Hope Kolkata Foundation and other organisations. After completing the course, the trainees are placed at different cafés and restaurants in Kolkata. HOPE Café aims to make every student financially independent and socially secure.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

- **7** trainees received training at the café.
- **4** trainees who completed their training during this year and **2** trainees from 2022-2023 were placed at different restaurants and cafes.

### STORY OF CHANGE

Debi was brought up in a residential child care centre run by Hope Kolkata Foundation. After she completed her class 10 examinations, she knew she had to learn a skill to become financially independent.

Debi enrolled in HOPE's Food and Beverage course. The course soon taught her invaluable skills, which are much sought after in the catering business. She learnt how the restaurant world runs, and she was excited to learn new skills.

After completing the course, Debi got a job at Calcutta Stores, a multi-cuisine restaurant in Kolkata. Debi is now financially

capable, as she had always aspired to be.

## HOPE TAILORING AND BEAUTY UNIT

The Tailoring Unit offers an intensive 6-month course to young girls and women who cannot access these courses at government institutions due to educational barriers. This course is also for women from marginalised communities who cannot afford professional courses elsewhere due to financial constraints.

The Tailoring Unit offers practical hands-on training to students, where they learn how to draw, cut, stitch, design, sew, and do embroidery work. These classes help students build the specialised skills indispensable to their industry.

Similarly, the Beauty Course aims to empower young girls and women from vulnerable communities. Offering a 4-month programme, the students learn essential skills in makeup and wellness services. These skills include haircare, skincare, styling, and makeup.

Dedicated to empowering young girls and women, both these programmes anticipate every student's financial freedom and independence.



## ACHIEVEMENTS

- **80** students in Tailoring and **151** students in the Beauty Unit completed the courses.
- **17** students from Tailoring and **8** students from Beauty were linked with salaried jobs. The remaining students are self-employed.
- All students from the Beauty Units were provided with beauty kits at the end of their training period.

### STORY OF CHANGE: TAILORING UNIT

Sutapa's husband was the only earning member of their family of five. His irregular wages as a contractual driver were insufficient to support the family. Keen to help her family financially, Sutapa joined HOPE's Tailoring Unit.

At the training unit, Sutapa learnt all the essential tailoring skills. After the course concluded, Sutapa secured a job at SBY Boutique. During the Durga Puja festival, she also received a commendable bonus. Sutapa is now contributing financially to her family.

### STORY OF CHANGE: BEAUTY UNIT

Rani was brought up by her single mother, who struggled to support them both. Soon, economic difficulties increased, and Rani was married off. However, her husband was not financially stable either.

After marriage, Rani had two children. However, her husband became abusive and left the family. Rani was now helpless and alone with two children.

Determined to provide for her children and mother, Rani joined HOPE's Beauty Unit. Soon, she learnt the essential services of beauty care. After finishing the course, Rani started working as a freelance beautician. She now earns a steady living and cares for her family just like she had always hoped.





# SPONSORSHIP

The Sponsorship Programme extends educational opportunities to children and young adults from families experiencing significant socio-economic challenges and chronic illnesses. In Kolkata and surrounding areas, many marginalised families remain deprived of their basic needs and safe spaces. Therefore, children are often left vulnerable to exploitation. Financial difficulties, often unforeseen, compounding the ones extant, further complicate the harsh realities of these children's and young adults' lives. Consequently, their families struggle to afford the high educational costs, and education becomes an unattainable goal.



The Sponsorship Programme aims to ease these difficulties. Through financial support, empowering parents with guidance on budget management, opportunities for income generation, affordable nutrition, and accessing government services and entitlements such as free ration and health care services, the Sponsorship Programme endeavours to create a holistic environment for every student.

In the past year, 2,120 children were supported by 988 sponsors from Ireland, the UK, India, the USA, Germany, Italy, Spain, and Japan.

## OUTREACH EDUCATION

**1,244** children and their families residing in Kolkata, its surrounding districts, and the Sundarbans received support via Outreach Education. Essential educational resources, including school fees, stationery items, and supplementary education support, were provided through Outreach Sponsorship. Additionally, nutrition support was also extended to the children and their families. This outreach initiative was undertaken after recognising the community's financial struggle to afford food and nutrition during the COVID-19 outbreak. Medical support is also provided to children diagnosed with malnutrition and chronic diseases. This approach ensures that these vulnerable children receive the care they urgently need. Other children in this programme receive medical assistance according to their needs. To ensure a supportive and secure environment for children in vulnerable conditions, HOPE has also collaborated with selective residential schools and hostels in Kolkata. HOPE's Outreach Education also extended support to students enrolled in these residential schools and hostels, thereby ensuring their growth and prosperity in a conducive environment. Additionally, the programme offers support for young adults who want to pursue vocational training alongside their formal studies.

## COMMUNITY COACHING CENTRE

**588** sponsored children attended HOPE's coaching centres at Chitpur and Bhagar, two of Kolkata and Howrah's most vulnerable communities. These centres serve as a retreat for children after school, where tutors provide holistic support to ensure their sustained education in a joyful learning environment.

## RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE CENTRES

**215** vulnerable children residing in HOPE residential child care centres were provided with education support and essential resources to ensure their holistic care and development.



# CHILDREN RESTORED TO FAMILIES

**73** children who were once under the care of residential child care centres and were later restored to their families received essential support from the Sponsorship Programme. As the children continue to thrive and prosper amidst the familiar environment of their homes, the Sponsorship support aims to extend assistance during this journey.

Through these efforts, the Sponsorship Programme continues to endeavour to create a lasting impact in children's lives. By addressing key aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals, this programme strives to uplift children. It also contributes to the broader objective of building a more sustainable and equitable world for all.

## SPONSOR TESTIMONIAL

Sponsoring a child in Kolkata has been an incredibly rewarding journey for us. Watching our sponsored child grow and overcome the challenges of her early years has been a source of immense pride. She started in a situation marked by deprivation and fear, but thanks to the comprehensive support from The Hope Foundation, she has transformed into a vibrant, confident individual. Her progress in school; and her enthusiastic outlook are testaments to the power of sponsorship. The connection we've built and the positive changes we've witnessed have brought us unparalleled joy. It's amazing to know that our support has helped shape her promising future.

**Sharmistha Chatterjee, Sponsor from India**

## STORY OF CHANGE

Meghna, now 23 years old, tragically lost her parents at a very young age. Unable to care for her or her younger brother, her immediate family felt helpless. They contacted the Child Welfare Committee for assistance, and Meghna was placed in a residential child care centre for proper care and protection.

In 2013, Meghna was restored home, and she was supported through the Sponsorship Programme, which played a pivotal role in her education. The programme sponsored Meghna's monthly school fees, private tuition fees, and yearly school admission fee. School supplies, stationary items, and emergency medical support made a significant difference to Meghna's academic and personal journey. The monthly nutrition assistance also helped Meghna and her family access indispensable basic needs.

With the financial barriers now lifted, Meghna devoted herself to her academic aspirations. After finishing school, she pursued a BA (Bachelor of Arts) in Education and graduated with a commendable CGPA.

Meghna's consistent dedication and hard work secured her a job at the State Bank of India. Meghna is now a successful young girl who has complete financial autonomy.







# ENVIRONMENT

HOPE is aware of the challenges of climate change. Mindful of the importance of conserving the environment, HOPE has undertaken several strategies that align with the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Sustainable Development Goals aim to reduce environmental risks. They also seek to strengthen communities through action and awareness. Together, these efforts aspire to create a society where everybody has access to a clean and safe environment.

HOPE's environmental initiatives aim to foster these ideals. The kitchen gardens, green corners, and bio-toilets are designed to reduce waste and promote sustainable practices. Additionally, the awareness programmes conducted for the children and community members encourage their active participation in promoting conservation and sustainable green practices.

## ACTION

- All **5** creches observed World Environment Day. **207** children actively participated in the programmes.
- Bhagar Creche celebrated World Earth Day in April 2023. **115** children participated and were informed about saving the earth.
- A solar panel was installed on the roof of the Education on Wheels bus to generate electricity to support an approximate of **5** fans and **5** lights within the bus. This green practice significantly cut down on electricity costs.
- **12** water filters were installed in **12** government schools to ensure children have access to safe drinking water.
- **10** barrier-free bio-toilets were installed in **5** government schools
- To reduce open defecation in street-connected and slum-dwelling settlements, toilets in the communities were refurbished. A toilet was inaugurated in August 2023 at Central. Community members of Central Naboasha formed a volunteer group to maintain the hygiene and cleanliness of the toilet.
- All **8** Naboasha centres and Education on Wheels maintained green corners to encourage best environmental practices.
- **20** street-connected children from the Child Watch project participated in a tree plantation drive.
- **40** street-connected children from Child Watch organised a rally to create awareness in their community against the use of plastic.
- Children from HOPE's residential child care centres managed their kitchen gardens throughout the year. By focusing on waste management, the children used kitchen scraps and waste to grow fruits and vegetables organically.
- Green corners were set up in **43** government schools in Kolkata.

## AWARENESS OF THE ENVIRONMENT

- Children of **47** schools were informed on how to protect the environment. They were also informed of the **3RS**: reduce, refuse, and reuse to ensure a better and healthier environment.
- **20** children from **5** Naboasha Centres and **7** children from **3** Naboasha Centres participated in **2** different volunteering initiatives to learn about climate change, the importance of planting trees, and saving the earth.



# INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER AND INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

## THE INDIAN INTERNSHIP & VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

HOPE offers internship and volunteering opportunities for students and professionals from across India. By engaging in different HOPE projects, every participant gets the unique opportunity to interact with HOPE and its extended community closely. In 2023-2024, 120 interns and volunteers took part in this programme.

### ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNS AND VOLUNTEERS

1. Teaching support: Interns and volunteers placed in the Education, Protection, and Vocational Training projects extended teaching support to children and young adults. They conducted Spoken English classes, story-telling sessions, and arts and crafts classes in a joyful classroom environment.
2. Developing teaching-learning materials: The interns and volunteers developed interactive teaching-learning materials. These classroom tools were important educational resources that enhanced the overall learning experience of the students.
3. Documentation: Interns and volunteers assisted in documentation work related to the Sponsorship Programme. This work ranged from organising and managing project-related documents to data entry or any other administrative tasks.
4. Awareness Programmes: Interns and volunteers assisted the HOPE team in conducting awareness programmes on important topics for the benefit of children and their community.

The Indian Internship and Volunteer Programme has been instrumental in supporting various projects. Its impact has been significant. This programme has benefitted both the interns and volunteers as well as the larger HOPE community.

### TESTIMONIAL FOR INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE AT HOPE

As part of my undergraduate Business Management curriculum at T.A. Pai Management Institute, Bengaluru, I embarked on an eight-week social internship with HOPE. This opportunity was designed to foster empathy and a deeper understanding of diverse communities, and it exceeded my expectations in every way.

HOPE graciously welcomed me into their education sector,



specifically under the project Naboasha. My primary responsibility was to teach the students, a task that initially filled me with uncertainty given my age of just 19 years. However, the moment I entered the centre, the children greeted me with open arms, instantly putting me at ease. Their warmth and enthusiasm were truly inspiring and set the tone for a deeply rewarding experience.

The experience was further enriched by the cooperation and enthusiasm of my fellow interns and the centre teachers. Their unwavering support and active participation were instrumental in the successful completion of my project and the overall internship.

In addition to teaching, I was assigned with various other responsibilities, including documentation, organising awareness campaigns and meetings, and conducting community visits to gain a better understanding of the local situation. These tasks, though initially daunting, became manageable and educational thanks to the guidance and support from the centre teachers and my supervisor. Their mentorship was invaluable, providing me with the confidence and skills needed to navigate these challenges effectively.

This internship not only helped me develop essential skills such as communication, organisation, and leadership but also allowed me to witness firsthand the profound impact of dedicated educational initiatives on young lives. It was incredibly fulfilling to see the students' progress and to know that I had played a small part in their educational journey.

Moreover, the community visits offered me a unique perspective on the socio-economic challenges faced by the local population. It underscored the importance of empathy, adaptability, and a holistic approach to community development. The awareness campaigns and meetings we organised further highlighted the significance of community engagement and the power of collective action in driving positive change.

In conclusion, my internship at HOPE was an enlightening and transformative experience. It has equipped me with a broader perspective, a stronger sense of empathy, and a renewed dedication to making a meaningful difference in the world. I am deeply thankful to HOPE, my fellow interns, and the centre teachers for their unwavering support and for making this journey truly memorable.

-Arunima Laskar

## STUDENTS PARTICIPATING FROM DIFFERENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Amity University, Kolkata	Kanyashree University
Assam University, Silchar	KIIT School of Law
University of Calcutta	Loreto College, University of Calcutta
Central University Of Andhra Pradesh	Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies, Mumbai
Christ University, Bangalore	National Law School of India University
Ballygunge Science College, Kolkata	Netaji Subash Open University
ESSEC Business School	NSHM Knowledge Campus, Kolkata
FLAME University	O.P Jindal Global University
Hazra College of Law, Kolkata	Rabindra Bharati University
The ICFAI University, Dehradun	Sophia College (Autonomous), University of Mumbai
Indian Institute of Social Welfare and Business Management (IISWBM)	St Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata
Indian Statistical Institute	St Xavier's University, Kolkata
Indira Gandhi National Open University	Symbiosis University
Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India University, Dehradun	T.A.Pai Management Institute, Bengaluru
Institute of Law, Nirma University	Tamil Nadu National Law University
Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology	Vidyasagar University
	Xavier's Institute of Management and Entrepreneurship

# THE INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

The International Volunteer Programme encourages Irish nationals to work in a voluntary capacity with the HOPE staff and communities in Kolkata along with fundraising activities in Ireland prior to their travel.

Interested volunteers are selected through a rigorous application process based on their skill sets and interest in working in a multicultural environment under the supervision of the local staff for a period of 1 month.

Between April 2023 and March 2024, 9 volunteers travelled to Kolkata to volunteer in the areas of education, occupational therapy, and physical therapy.



# SCHOOL IMMERSION PROGRAMME & GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION WORKSHOPS

## SCHOOL IMMERSION PROGRAMME

Since 2003, HOPE has worked closely with Irish secondary schools to offer transition year and fifth year students the unique opportunity to travel to Kolkata and, through their fundraising efforts, making a real difference to the lives of street and slum children, their families and communities.

In 2024, 36 schools and over 320 students, teachers and chaperones participated in HOPE's School Immersion Programme.



## LIST OF THE SCHOOLS INVOLVED

- |                                   |                             |                              |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. St. Mary's Tipperary           | 12. St Als Carrigtwohill    | 25. Coláiste Mhuire Askeaton |
| 2. Rockwell College               | 13. Regina Mundi            | 26. Laurel Hill Coláiste     |
| 3. Ashton School                  | 14. St. Mary's Macroom      | 27. St Annes Tipperary       |
| 4. Rochestown College             | 15. Columbas College        | 28. Presentation Thurles     |
| 5. Ballincollig Community School  | 16. High School Rathgar     | 29. Davis College Mallow     |
| 6. Borris Vocational College      | 17. Coachford College       | 30. Laurel Hill              |
| 7. Scoil Mhuire Gan Smal Blarney  | 18. St Angelas College      | 31. Borrisokane              |
| 8. Mount Mercy                    | 19. Coláiste Treasa Kanturk | 32. Hazelwood College        |
| 9. Middleton College              | 20. Boherbue Comprehensive  | 33. Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh   |
| 10. St. Mary's Middleton          | 21. Patrician Academy       | 34. Newbridge College        |
| 11. Scoil Mhuire Gan Smal Blarney | 22. St Mary's Mallow        | 35. Loreto Bray              |
|                                   | 23. Bandon Grammar School   | 36. Alexandra College        |
|                                   | 24. Loreto Fermoy           |                              |

## QUOTES FROM STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

"I thoroughly enjoyed the trip and it was so special to see the amazing work HOPE is doing and improving the lives of those who need it most."

*Beth Potts, Ashton School Cork*

"The most amazing trip I've ever been on! Getting access to see Kolkata like you'd never see as a tourist was an amazing opportunity that I will never get to experience again. Thank you so much!"

*Aoibheann Allen, Middleton College*

"The school immersion programme was a life-changing experience which really changed my outlook on life as a whole. The experience has really made me appreciate what I have, I have also met many friends along the way, overall, it was an incredible experience and I would recommend it to anyone considering going"

*Adam Dalton, Borris Vocational School Carlow*

"The week I spent in India was by far one of the best weeks of my life, it opened my eyes and grew my heart. Meeting all of the lovely children and people was truly a highlight. Being able to connect with people of my own age who live on the other side of the world and even speak another language, knowing our living conditions were so different from one another and yet getting along so well was amazing. Thank you so much HOPE for this opportunity of a lifetime. I couldn't have asked for a better week."

*Anonymous*

"The school immersion programme is one of the best things I have ever done in my life! If you even think about doing it, DO IT. You won't regret it and I believe it was a life-changing experience. I would do anything to go back to India again someday! The work The Hope Foundation does is so amazing and I am so grateful to have gotten the opportunity to visit the children who are receiving this help!"

*Emily McCormick, Laurel Hill Coláiste Limerick*

This was an incredible opportunity to go to India. It changed how I look on everything after this trip. I was struck by how happy all the children were. The welcome each gave us was heartwarming I would highly recommend this experience. I took away so much from it.

*Lauren Doyle, Regina Mundi Cork*



As a teacher in the Presentation Secondary School Thurles, I am so proud to have been a part of the Hope Immersion Program. It has profoundly impacted my own life and my students' lives. I live in my own safe environment, and I have never considered the world as a bigger place where people suffer and strive daily to survive. Personally, having the opportunity to travel to Kolkata is a privilege that I will always cherish. I have got so much from this experience, and I have come home with a new appreciation for my family and friends, with gratitude and appreciation for all that I have. This year I feel honored to have shared this experience with Ms. Neville and 11 of our students. My key observation from my trip to Kolkata was the astonishing work provided by The Hope Foundation in providing support to families to enable the education of their children. They are indeed living the mantra that education is indeed the key enabler to lift people out of the poverty trap. As a result, we visited two homework clubs where students were first generation learners.



Throughout the school year I work on a weekly basis with our students, keeping track on how they are doing with their fundraising, developing friendships and networking within our own group so when they travel, we know each other well and generally providing support throughout the WHOLE journey. By doing this, I get to know the students not just as the pupils I educate but as real people who have feelings and emotions, ambition and fears. It is foremost that our students reflect and learn from this experience, and to date I continue to be so proud to see former students from the school continue to return with The Hope Foundation in a volunteering capacity after their days at Presentation Thurles are over.

As a teacher I am so gratified that my students have relished every moment of this experience. Their reflections have provided me with confirmation that this is truly a unique experience, and one not to be missed.

*Susan King, Teacher from Presentation Thurles.*

## GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION WORKSHOPS

The Hope Foundation offers workshops to Transition year students across Ireland in the area of Gender Inequality and Unconscious Bias. This workshop focuses on Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, Gender Equality. We explore root causes of gender inequality locally and globally and students focus on small but significant ways they can act towards a more equal society.



# THE ACHIEVERS

SHIVANG SINGH

Last year, as a student at HOPE's Computer Training Centre I had the incredible opportunity to study at Valencia College, Florida as a part of the CCI Programme.

At Valencia College, I studied Entrepreneurship, Business Management, and Accounting. I had chosen these subjects because in the future I want to be an entrepreneur and work in marketing and technology. These classes introduced me to new subjects. Moreover, the cutting-edge research, modern facilities, and a conducive learning environment greatly influenced me.

As a part of the CCI Programme, I also completed 60+ hours of internships. I did my internship at POMM Safety, which makes wearable safety devices for workers. This was an interesting opportunity where I got exposure to the work culture in the USA.

After living in the States for a couple of months, I realised that most local people spoke in Spanish. Since I did not speak the language, I struggled a lot to communicate. I soon realised that it must be hard for other international students like me to also interact and engage with the local community. So, when I had to choose my volunteering project, I decided to teach Spanish to international students of my college and locality.

I volunteered for 110+ hours and taught the students common Spanish terms and phrases that would help someone like me to either respond and learn a new language. This volunteering project thus helped me develop my skills and also helped me learn a new language I had never spoken until now.

Even though I thoroughly enjoyed all my classes, my time in the USA was not only about studying and courses. Over the months, I had made friends from all over the world and during semester break I also travelled with some of them. We went to 10 states in total and also attended concerts!

I enjoyed interacting with all my friends from all over the world. Participating in the cultural programmes organised by my college let me engage with the rich cultural diversity of everyone else. This not only enhanced my cultural awareness but also allowed me to pass on my own heritage among friends I was getting to know.

For me, living in the United States, was thus, a very rewarding experience. I was enriched by my journey here, through the immersive academic setting and rich cultural diversity. Staying so far away from home also taught me how to be self-dependent and resourceful.

I am grateful to HOPE and my family for supporting my journey from Kolkata to Florida, the United States of America. It was a really great experience, something I will cherish for all my life.





## ANJALI PASWAN

In 2019, I took part in the Street Child World Cup as a part of HOPE's residential child care programme. Through this tournament, we got the opportunity to learn so much and got so many opportunities.

Since childhood, I have been interested in cricket. So, when in 2019, I got selected to be a part of the Street Child World Cup tournament, I was very excited.

The tournament was held in Cambridge, the UK, and my team and I had the opportunity to meet with children from all over the world! Even though it was a cricket tournament, we knew that it was about all the street children from everywhere in the world.

So, we were there not only as HOPE children but also as representatives of all street children.

Even though we did not qualify for the semi-finals, we got to play against Nepal at Eden's Garden, Kolkata. And our team won! When the final match was held at Lord's, I got the chance to speak at the General Assembly. I spoke on child rights, their importance, and how every child should be protected.

As a part of the Street Child World Cup, we also toured London and visited all the tourist spots. Meeting all the teams from different parts of the world and getting to know their cultures was a unique experience.

Following my participation in the programme, I was selected as one of the Young Leaders by Street Child United. In 2022, I travelled to Qatar for the Young Leaders' Programme to share my experience and journey. In 2023 at the Street Child World Cup organised in Chennai, I spoke to the participants as a Young Leader and motivated and encouraged them. I still attend the Young Leaders' Programme conducted online, and I am eager to participate in more projects in the future.

Currently, I am studying Hospital Management, and I look forward to an exciting career. I am very grateful for all the opportunities I have received. I look forward to working with more and more people and helping them.

I thank HOPE, my family, and everyone else for supporting me on this journey.



# PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

## MAIREAD SORENSON AND BUTLERS CHOCOLATES

In HOPE's 25th year, we are delighted to honour Mairead Sorenson and Butlers Chocolates, for the incredible sustained voluntary support which they have provided. Mairead has been involved with HOPE for the past 24 years.

The innovative concept of branding Butlers chocolate bars with the HOPE logo and selling them, in Ireland, to raise funds for HOPE, has been groundbreaking and hugely successful, as both an awareness and as a fundraising tool for HOPE. Butlers HOPE chocolate bars are instantly recognisable and have not just raised millions of euros for HOPE but have also raised an extraordinary amount of awareness about the work of HOPE, and thus has rendered the brand of HOPE so familiar to so many. Whether it be in schools, in shops, in company offices, or on the streets - Butlers HOPE chocolate bars are sold and enjoyed and continue to raise phenomenal amount of funds for HOPE.

Mairead organised the Annual Dublin fundraising lunch – which has raised hundreds of thousands of euros for HOPE for almost 20 years. Mairead has also organised fundraising corporate lunches in London for HOPE, and organised the inaugural fundraising lunch for HOPE USA in New York, which was a resounding success.

Mairead has been a valued and hugely participative Board member of both HOPE Ireland and HOPE USA Boards, and was one of the founding directors of HOPE USA Board. Her business acumen, wisdom and mentoring have proven to be crucial in developing HOPE's governance and management across both jurisdictions.

Mairead has introduced many valuable and influential donors to HOPE, both individual and corporate and we are incredibly grateful to her for this.

Most of all, it is Mairead's commitment to HOPE in Kolkata - with our staff and our programmes - for which we are most grateful. She visits Kolkata regularly and is incredibly committed to and generous towards HOPE's programmes. Her sustained funding has ensured that HOPE's vital work continues.

The Brian's Way programme for children with special needs is fully funded by Mairead's fundraising efforts and is growing and developing annually. The growth of the Brian's Way programme is in response to the needs of these children and their communities, and Mairead ensures that these needs are met in a comprehensive and sustainable way.



# COLLABORATION PROJECTS

## BEESTREESWATER & ROTARY CLUB CALCUTTA INNER CITY

Since 2019, BeesTreesWater, an NGO based in New York under Mr. Spicer Khakoo, have collaborated with Rotary Calcutta Inner City to support WaSH programmes and improve sanitation facilities in several slum communities. This year, the focus was on improving sanitation in 5 government schools through toilet renovations, new toilets for use by children with special needs, and installation of water filtration systems to ensure access to potable water. Three schools in Kolkata and two in Howrah were covered by the WaSH project.



## UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF CORK, IRELAND

The HOPE UCC Society continued to support HOPE. They sold HOPE Chocolate Bars on campus and held a table quiz. Thank you to Chairperson Laoise, Committee Members and Volunteers for your support of HOPE.

## GIFTS OF HOPE

Gifts of HOPE is a unique programme that reaches out to rural populations with limited access to employment opportunities. Through this programme, HOPE provides cows, poultry, and goats to these economically disadvantaged families.

This year, Gifts of HOPE reached out to 45 families from 14 villages in the South 24 Parganas, a district

far away from Kolkata. A total of 675 chicks, 10 goats, and a cow were provided to these community members to secure self-sustenance.

These families are skilled at farming and animal husbandry. Gifts of HOPE is thus a mode of ensuring a supplementary means of income generation.



# EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

## IRELAND

### CORK LUNCH 2023

The annual Cork Lunch took place on 5th May at the Radisson Blu and Spa and was a great success. Thank you to everyone who attended and special thanks to our MC for the day Brendan Courtney, our amazing auctioneer Sean Buckley and the hugely talented Violini and Karen Underwood who provided the musical entertainment for the afternoon.



### WEEK OF HOPE 2023

HOPE is so grateful to all the schools and students who participated in our Week of HOPE chocolate sales and other similar fundraising days across shopping centres and main streets in Dublin, Galway, Cork, Louth and Sligo.

### EASTER FUNDRAISER

Michael O'Donoghue and Mary & Tom Mullins who held their annual Easter fundraiser for HOPE in Kilmurray, Co. Cork, and raised an incredible €3,000. Their support for HOPE over the years has been phenomenal and we are so grateful.



A huge thank you to

### WOMEN IN DIGITAL



We had a wonderful morning at

our 'Women in Digital' Networking Breakfast in the River Lee Hotel Cork in celebration of International Women's Day on 8th March. A huge thank you to everyone who attended and to our two incredible speakers Muriel Foley, Digital Marketing Consultant, and Eimear Hallahan, Cork influencer and content creator. The proceeds from this event will be going directly to supporting the girls and women in our projects in Kolkata.

### HOPE MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE

We were delighted to launch our new HOPE Mountain Challenge Series last July, when an intrepid group of supporters tackled 4 peaks in the Galtee Mountains! The second expedition of the series saw another group tackle Mount Leinster in the Blackstairs Mountains. Thank you to everyone that took part.





### GREAT DUBLIN BIKE RIDE

The GDBR took place on September 17th and HOPE were delighted to be one of 4 charities to benefit from cyclists' participation. Huge thanks to Siobhan Blackwell who spearheaded Team HOPE and raised more than €4,100.

### HOPE FASHION SHOW

The HOPE Fashion Show was held in



Lawlor's Hotel Naas on March 1st. Hosted by Celia Holman Lee, and supported by local boutiques and over 160 ladies who attended. A fantastic afternoon was enjoyed by all, with the welcome attendance of HOPE Ambassador the current Miss Ireland, Jasmine Gerhardt. HOPE was delighted to raise €18,500 from this event.

### CORPORATE ENGAGEMENT WITH MICROSOFT



HOPE was delighted to partner with Microsoft on their Building Bridges for Brighter Futures Micro- Volunteering Event. Through Microsoft's GIVE initiative, they have demonstrated the power of collective action and the spirit of giving that defines #MicrosoftLife. HOPE is very grateful to benefit from this initiative and looks forward to future engagements with Microsoft.

### NOVEMBER KOLKATA EXPERIENCE

Sheila Zebedee, Head of Fundraising and Corporate Engagement for



HOPE Leinster, accompanied a group of 4 wonderful HOPE supporters on a week-long trip to Kolkata in November. The 4 trip participants visited HOPE's projects to witness our work first-hand while also experiencing the cultural aspects of Kolkata. They engaged in fundraising for HOPE before their trip, raising in total €10,000, and they are now incredible supporters who raise awareness and funds for HOPE on a continuous basis.

### LAW SOCIETY OF IRELAND - CALCUTTA RUN

The Annual Calcutta Run took place on May 27th, and along with the run itself, the golf and tag rugby fundraising activities were a huge success. Special thanks to the Calcutta Run organising committee members and The Law Society of Ireland for their continued and wonderful support to HOPE. Sincerest thanks also to the incredible support from the wider legal profession/community who engage enthusiastically with the Calcutta Run every year.





# THE UK



## FOOTSTEPS FOR HOPE 12 APRIL – 12 MAY

The annual Footsteps for HOPE challenge raised funds for education programmes by encouraging supporters to fundraise and walk 10,000 steps a day for 30 days. Jane Armour took on the challenge, raising £1800.

Footsteps For HOPE launches on International Day for Street Children: an important day that raises awareness about the plight of street children globally and gives a voice to these often-invisible children, to ensure their basic rights are acknowledged.

## BIG GIVE CAMPAIGN 2023

In December, HOPE once again participated in the Big Give – the UK's largest

match funding campaign. HOPE's Big Give 2023 raised £36,057 for girls' education and vocational training programmes. We are grateful to everyone who supported the campaign; especially our champion funder Coles-Medlock Foundation, our donors, and HOPE Ambassadors Christopher Biggins, Jeremy Irons and Dame Judi Dench; who all endorsed the campaign by providing video messages, and to Jeremy for kindly narrating the main Big Give campaign video.



## YOGA FOR HOPE

In June, Yoga teachers Lille Sommerschild, Jo Torode, Ulla Vogl and Linda Sykes held classes for HOPE and together raised £1000. Lille's class was held in a Norwegian forest and Ulla's on the riverside at Henley-on-Thames. Lille Sommerschild also organised a birthday fundraiser, raising £1,700 for HOPE's programmes.



## LONDON LANDMARKS HALF MARATHON 3 APRIL

HOPE runners, Cameron Mackinney, Ravi Parekh, Tracey Cowell, and Georgina Bowden took on the London Landmarks Half Marathon and together raised £7,000. We are immensely grateful to them and their 132 supporters who donated. The HOPE runners were cheered on by volunteers at our cheer station located near St Paul's Cathedral in London.



## RIDE LONDON-ESSEX 28 MAY

In May, Philip Smith and Philip Kirkpatrick completed the Ford Ride London-Essex 60-cycle race in aid of HOPE and raised £2,000.

## LAND'S END TO JOHN O' GROATS CYCLE CHALLENGE SEPTEMBER

An epic challenge was taken on by supporter and child sponsor, Tom Frost, who cycled from Land's End to John O'Groats. Tom raised £3,000 for HOPE's healthcare programmes and covered 995 miles in around 72 hours over 10 days of cycling.

## ROYAL PARKS HALF MARATHON 7 OCTOBER

Over 16,000 runners took on the Royal Parks Half in October, and among them were Kiran Moorthy, Lorenzo Thomai, Molly O'Shea, and Louisa Vesterdal who ran for HOPE and together raised £1,500.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

There were several special events held over the year in the UK to raise funds.

These included an exclusive dinner and interview with Indian politician and author, Shashi Tharoor, and broadcaster and HOPE Ambassador, Andrea Catherwood. This special event for 60 guests was held at the Royal Overseas League Club in London and raised £7,000.



meet Amish Tripathi, Minister (Culture and Education), High Commission of India and Director of The Nehru Centre, and Julia Margaret Cameron's descendent and namesake, Jules Cameron.

Filmmaker and supporter, Jane Richter, screened her film *Cameron, Coffee and Calcutta: A Traveller's Tales*, about pioneer Victorian photographer Julia Margaret Cameron and the city of Kolkata. The screening in aid of HOPE was held at The Nehru Centre (the cultural arm of the Indian High Commission). The team were delighted to



## DIWALI CELEBRATIONS



A trio of special Diwali celebrations were enjoyed in November.

The HOPE team attended a celebration of Diwali at the Dell offices in London, as its Asians in Action group supports HOPE. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet members of the group and enjoy cultural performances and recitations delivered by the talented team.

On 18 November, HOPE supporters gathered in Henley-on-Thames for a vibrant Diwali Dinner Dance. The highlight of the evening was an auction hosted by HOPE ambassador, Christopher Biggins. Thanks to the amazing generosity of the 60 guests, an incredible £21,500 was raised on the night, with a further £20,000 received after the event.

Thank you to Poonam and Bali Chand at 3 St Peters in Bedford and the Bedford HOPE Fundraising team for organising a dazzling Festival of Lights cultural evening which raised £3,500.

## BEDFORD FUNDRAISING GROUP

The Bedford Fundraising Group continues to be a very special group of supporters for HOPE UK. The current group Poonam Chand, Seema Grantham, Karen Crofts-Hotston, Sati Judge, and Alison Hodgkiss raise awareness and funds for HOPE within their local community. We are forever grateful for their unwavering support.

Jagtar Singh OBE held the annual Pavenham Golf Day in Bedfordshire and raised £1000 for HOPE.

## HOPE UK SUPPORTER'S VISITS TO KOLKATA

The HOPE Kolkata team welcomed visitors from the UK to visit projects, including supporters Dr Piyal Sen, Jon & Anna Prosser, Louise Waldron, Aarti Bhogaita, and HOPE UK Trustees Seema Grantham and Shiuli Davis, and Head of Fundraising (HOPE UK) Juliette Whittaker.



# THE USA

## HOPE USA 25TH ANNIVERSARY GALA EVENT



HOPE USA was delighted to host the inaugural 25th Anniversary Celebrations for HOPE on 31 January 2024, in the beautiful surroundings of the Irish American Historical Society in NYC.

This was a wonderful occasion where HOPE supporters came together to honour HOPE USA Board Members Sheila Geraghty and Mei Mei Fox, for their longstanding and outstanding contributions to HOPE. HOPE was thrilled to raise \$10,000 from this event. HOPE extends huge thanks to all who donated prizes for the raffle and auction, to those who donated services pro bono, and especially to those who attended on the evening.

## SIP & SHOP EVENT – NOVEMBER 2023

On November 9, 2023, HOPE USA hosted a Sip and Shop event at the New York Irish Center. Many vendors, crafters and small businesses displayed their wares for sale as a kickoff to the Holiday Season. The event was attended by festive shoppers who also learned about HOPE, while shopping, and sipping cocktails. We are grateful to those who attended and who donated to HOPE on the day.





## SENIOR LUNCHEON – OCTOBER 2023

HOPE USA presented our activities and programs to the Senior Citizens who were attending the October luncheon at the New York Irish Center in Long Island City, New York. Those in attendance warmly welcomed HOPE USA and are keen to continue to support HOPE in any way that they can.

## USA SCHOOLS PRESENTATIONS

In February 2024, HOPE CEO International Operations Maura Lennon and Bridget O'Brien visited Maria Regina High School in Westchester County.



The young women at the school were very excited to learn about the efforts of HOPE and will continue to engage with HOPE over the coming months.

Maura and Bridget also brought the message of HOPE to the children in Religious Education at St Barnabas in the Bronx, NY.

## GERMANY

Huge thanks to Anke Frank and the HOPE Germany Board, and to our dedicated supporters and donors, who both raise awareness about the work of HOPE and who raise funds for our Girls Crisis Intervention Centre.

## EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES IN INDIA

### 24TH FOUNDATION DAY 2023

The 24th Foundation Day took place on 18th March at EZCC. The children put up a beautiful performance. It was a very special occasion for all the children and staff. Thank you to everyone present that day, and especially to all our partners, well-wishers, and guests of honour for their presence.



### WORKSHOP AT INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE, KOLKATA 2023

On 12th September, girls from HOPE's residential child care centre attended a mathematics workshop held at the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata. Conducted by Professor Dr Subhamoy Maitra, the girls learnt important mathematical concepts. A sincere thank you to all the organising members for this opportunity.



### STREET CHILD CRICKET WORLD CUP 2023

In September, children of HOPE participated in the Street Child Cricket World Cup held in Chennai. HOPE's Anshu Gupta was awarded the Golden Ball for being the Best Bowler of the tournament. It was a memorable experience for every child who participated and played the matches. We thank all the organising committee members for this incredible opportunity.



### INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DISABILITY 2023



On 3rd December, HOPE, in collaboration with Samagra Shiksha Mission, celebrated the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Children with special needs from different HOPE projects took part in the celebrations. A joyful horse carriage ride and a visit to Victoria Memorial was a memorable experience for all the children.

### INAUGURATION OF THE SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF HOPE 2024

On 11th February, the HOPE team inaugurated HOPE's silver jubilee celebration. We thank all our guests and visitors who were with us that evening. We also give special thanks to all the children and students who



performed in the cultural programme.

### VISIT OF MISS IRELAND 2024



Miss Ireland 2023, Jasmine Gerhardt, was with us in Kolkata in March. As the HOPE ambassador, Miss Ireland visited our projects and interacted with our children and team. We thank her for her presence and the incredible time spent together.

### GOLF CLASSIC 2024

On 22nd March, Golf Classic 2024, Edition VI was organised at Tolly Club. This year, the event was dedicated to transforming the lives of children with special needs. We thank all the golfers and guests who made the day a resounding success. We express our sincerest gratitude to our guests of honour, Leander Paes, renowned tennis player, and Miss Ireland 2023, Jasmine Gerhardt, for their presence.



and guests who made the day a resounding success. We express our sincerest gratitude to our guests of honour, Leander Paes, renowned tennis player, and Miss Ireland 2023, Jasmine Gerhardt, for their presence.

### ARTS AND CRAFT EXHIBITION 2024

The boys and girls of HOPE's residential child care centre held an arts and crafts exhibition and showcased their different handmade crafts, paintings, and photographs. Thank you to all the guests and well-wishers for showing their appreciation and support at the exhibitions.



# AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS



HOPE Hospital received the Joyee Awards from the Confederation of Indian Industry for its ongoing voluntary efforts, commitment, and invaluable contribution of all caregivers.

Naboasha Project's active and sustained participation in Community Radio Broadcasting for 3 years was recognised by the West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights.



The Brian's Way project was awarded Joint Winner under the Small Project category by the Bengal Chambers of Commerce and Industries.

We were very proud to be in attendance at the County Cork Benevolent, Patriotic & Protection Association of New York 23rd Biennial Reunion Banquet in August, at which our own Maureen Forrest was honoured, alongside Denis Mulcahy of Project Children.



Hope Kolkata Foundation received the award for "Outstanding Contribution to Social Consciousness" at The Eastern India Leadership Awards organised by EIILM Kolkata.

# SUPPORTERS OF HOPE









# JOURNEY OF HOPE









Direct Debit  
Donation Application Form for Hope Kolkata Foundation



Date:.....

To The Donor's Bank Account Manager

Bank Name:.....

Bank Address: .....

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Any INDIAN who want to donate,

Please Pay HOPE KOLKATA FOUNDATION

Rs : .....

Standard Chartered Bank

A/c No: 321 - 1 - 1017525, MICR code: 700036020

IFSC code: SCBL 0036087

Any FOREIGN NATIONAL who want to donate,

Please Pay HOPE KOLKATA FOUNDATION

Rs .....

Axis Bank Ltd.

A/C No: 913010033022376

MICR No.: 700211019

IFSC Code: UTIB0000253

Every Month/Year\*

Starting on: .....

(Date) until further notice

\*Delete where applicable

Donor's Name:.....

(Block Letters Please)

Email: .....

Address: .....

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.....

Account No:.....

Bank Sort Code:.....

Signature:.....

This form should be completed by the donor and when completed, it should be sent to  
**Hope Kolkata Foundation**  
39, Panditiya Place, Kolkata - 700029, West Bengal.

Registered Society No: SO096057 of 2003-2004

Direct Debit  
Donation Application Form for The Hope Foundation Ireland



Date:.....

Donor's Name:.....

(Block Letters Please)

To The Donor's Bank Account Manager

Email: .....

Bank Name:.....

Address: .....

Bank Address: .....

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Account No:.....

Please Pay HOPE € : .....

Bank Sort Code:.....

Allied Irish Bank Ltd. 66 South Mall, Cork.

A/c No: 50677089, Bank Sort Code: 93-63-83

Every Month/Year\*

Signature:.....

Starting on: .....

(Date) until further notice

\*Delete where applicable

This form should be completed by the donor and when completed, it should be sent to  
The Hope Foundation  
Silverdale Grove, Ballinlough, Cork, Eircode T12 E974, Ireland

Registered Charity No. I3237

**Direct Debit Donation Application Form**  
**The Hope Foundation for Street Children UK**



Date:.....

Donor's Name:.....

(Block Letters Please)

To The Donor's Bank Account

Email: .....

Bank Name:.....

Address: .....

Bank Address: .....

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Account No:.....

Please Pay THE HOPE FOUNDATION FOR

Bank Sort Code:.....

STREET CHILDREN

Donation amount: .....

Signature:.....

BARCLAYS BANK  
102 High Street  
Thame  
Oxfordshire  
OX9 3DU  
United Kingdom  
Sort code: 20-85-73  
Bank account number:73967735

This form should be completed by the donor and when completed, it should be sent to  
**The Hope Foundation UK,  
Second Home, 68 Hanbury  
Street, London, E1 5JL  
United Kingdom**

Every Month/Year\*

Starting on: .....

(Date) until further notice

\*Delete where applicable

Registered Charity No. SC038809



Direct Debit  
Donation Application Form for The Hope Foundation USA



Date:.....

Donor's Name:.....  
(Block Letter Please)

To The Donor's Bank Account Manager

Email: .....

Bank Name:.....

Address: .....

Bank Address:.....

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.....

Account No: .....

Please Pay The Hope Foundation USA

Bank Sort Code: .....

\$ : .....

The Hope Foundation USA  
1350 Avenue of the Americas,  
Floor 2, Suite 266,  
New York NY 10019

Signature:.....

This form should be completed by the donor and when completed, it should be sent to  
**The Hope Foundation USA**  
1350 Avenue of the Americas,  
Floor 2, Suite 266,  
New York NY 10019

Every Month/Year\*

Starting on: .....

(Date) until further notice

\*Delete where applicable

Registered 501(c)3 Organization EIN: 27-3073426

# HOPE BOARD MEMBERS

HOPE extends its gratitude to all board members and trustees of all the HOPE international offices in Ireland, the UK, the USA, India, and Germany.

## HOPE IRELAND BOARD MEMBERS

Dr Dermot O' Mahoney

Maureen Forrest

Jenny Browne

Mary O Shaughnessy

Anthony Childs

Michael Murphy

Dr. Michael Molloy

Shane Mc Carthy

Sachidananda Das

Malynda Vigliotti

Greg Zlevor

Drue Kataoka (resigned December 2023)

Kunal Sood (resigned November 2023)

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Ursula Reuter

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Maureen Forrest

Jenny Browne

Sachidananda Das

Samiran Mallik

Joy Kar

## HOPE USA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Maureen Forrest

Mei Mei Fox

Alexandra Mysoor

Sheila Geraghty

Shane Mc Carthy

Gloria Starr Kins

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Sachidananda Das

Samiran Mallik

Dr Ujjwal Kanti Debnath

Sheila Banerjee

Surya Narayan Saha

Pushpa Basu

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 Jenny Browne  
*Overseas Director*

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 Serdar Suer  
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 Charlie McBurney  
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 Maureen Kenny  
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 Aoife Bulman  
 Sharon Louise Noonan  
 Ashleigh Roche Forde  
 Emma Moore  
 Elle O'Sullivan McCarthy

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Maura Lennon  
 Sheila Zebedee  
 Alpana Delaney (resigned August 2023)  
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 Debu Das  
 Jhulan Ghose (resigned August 2023)  
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 Priyanka Dey  
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 Yvette Lowery  
 Lesley Stroud

## USA

Bridget O'Brien  
 Jacqueline Oughton Rochon  
 Dr Raili Roy (resigned July 2023)

## Auditors Ireland

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## Auditors India

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### Accreditation



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