



# VFF USA ANNUAL REPORT

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# A WORD FROM Moncho Ferrer

## DEAR FRIENDS,

As you know, 2020 brought tremendous suffering and daunting uncertainty as the COVID-19 pandemic affected every country across the globe. It devastated India with tectonic impact, resulting in a dramatic loss of life, the displacement of millions of migrants and a disruption of education nationwide. Yet during the period covered by this report (April 1, 2020 -March 31, 2021), it became clear that the foundation's model of empowerment has created a lasting impact in the communities we serve. The year also triggered an enormous wave of solidarity from our global partners, who passionately provided humanitarian aid when it was most needed. We witnessed an incredible outpouring of generous support from multiple individual, corporate and foundation donors from all over the country. I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every person who donated to our COVID-19 Relief Fund.

This past year, we also demonstrated our resilience and perseverance in the face of an unprecedented crisis and continued other projects across various sectors. Our education projects were swiftly shifted online, allowing children to have access to classes during lockdown. Thanks to your support, we were able to purchase and deliver new tablets to children with disabilities to help them continue learning. Our team turned the foreign language school into a temporary gynecology and obstetrics clinic to ensure that rural women could have access to medical aid when the hospitals were overwhelmed with COVID patients. To promote environmental sustainability, our team launched Mana Bhoomi, a pilot initiative to introduce recycling into the lives of common villagers. Finally, we celebrated the ten-year anniversary of our work empowering the Chenchu tribal communities in Srisailam area of Andhra Pradesh.

I hope that you will enjoy reading the highlights of this challenging but still very rewarding year. None of this could be accomplished without the support of our friends, donors, and supporters in India and the US.

Thank you all for your courage, bravery, and compassion which helped us to keep going through some of the most difficult times.

Gratefully,



MONCHO FERRER, PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD, VICENTE FERRER FOUNDATION USA

## THE PATH TO **SUSTAINABLE** DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

One of the quintessential goals of our foundation is to ensure that the most vulnerable people are empowered to support themselves and their families. VFF USA and its partners in India contribute to the global challenge of sustainable development by working for equal opportunities in rural areas of South India.

The worldwide coronavirus pandemic has significantly slowed poverty reduction efforts in India, with a drastic negative impact on the most vulnerable populations, especially in rural areas. Moreover, the consequences of the pandemic in India have yet to be fully assessed. MISSION

Our mission is to empower rural communities to improve their living conditions. We work to empower the most marginalized members of society by removing barriers and breaking the cycle of poverty.

TELANGANA

ANDHRA PRADESH



#### WHAT MAKES VFF USA UNIQUE

VFF USA champions empowerment with a holistic approach that supports our initiatives.

**The Vicente Ferrer Foundation** USA has no political or religious affiliation.

#### VISION

A fair and caring society, based on equal opportunities. We **Support** the most vulnerable populations: women, children, and people with disabilities. We Guarantee sustainability through participatory and community-led programs. We Promote culturally sensitive and community-designed programs.

## VALUES

The capacity of **everyone** to help themselves and their community. Efficient and accountable programs. Long-term solutions that strengthen communities.

in 2020

Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 inhabitants) // WHO (2020)

Percentage of population with an income below **\$3.20** per day // World Data Lab (2021)

Neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) // WHO (2021)



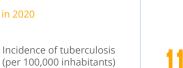
39.8% under 5 // UNICEE 2021

- 38.4% in 2020

Growth delay in children



// WHO (2021)



Secondary school completion rate

in 2020

Position according to countries

the Gender Inequality Index compared to other

# MEASURING OUR IMPACT: VFF USA Key program areas

COVID-19 RELIEF FUND | EDUCATION FOR TRANSFORMATION | HOUSING AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE | COMMUNITY HEALTH | RURAL HOSPITALS | WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

## 2020 AT A GLANCE

Throughout the year, thanks to our generous donors, sponsors, and volunteers, VFF USA supported 14 key projects, benefiting over 40,415 people in rural India. Some of the larger projects included our COVID-19 relief efforts, securing equipment supplies for the RDT Bathalapalli Hospital, construction of new houses for people with disabilities in Sivampalli village, providing nutrition support in the Achampeta region, and offering professional training programs for rural women in Badannapalli. The number of sponsored children (currently 71) has increased, and we continued vital support to rural women through our women's empowerment initiative. We are proud to report that the number of our donors has been growing steadily - since 2013, over 802 individuals and organizations have supported VFF USA's work.



## SNAPSHOTS OF PROJECTS FUNDED BY YOU





## COVID-19 RELIEF FUND SAVES LIVES

In March 2020, the WHO declared COVID-19 a global pandemic. In India, the largest lockdown in the world was enforced, affecting almost 1.4 billion people. In September 2020, India had the second-highest number of coronavirus cases in the world. Rural areas have been among the most affected, and the State of Andhra Pradesh was one of the most affected states.

Since the start of the pandemic, VFF USA and the Rural Development Trust (RDT), our implementing partner in India, worked together to provide an immediate response to the health and social crisis. Below are our key emergency activities and their impact on local communities:

## **Raising Awareness in Villages**

RDT teams launched a massive public awareness outreach in over 3,700 villages in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, sharing essential information about virus prevention and contagion risks, with posters, murals, and theater displays.

### **Migrant Population Crisis**

RDT distributed 503,782 packages of food and medicine to migrants returning home and provisions for over 8,000 families.

#### **Distribution of Masks**

RDT supported comprehensive mask production efforts by local women working in craft workshops as well local tailors in multiple villages, resulting in more than 5.5 million non-surgical fabric masks for professionals on the front line of the pandemic.

### **Bathalapalli Hospital**

Bathalapalli Hospital was designated by the Indian Government as a treatment center for COVID-19. More than 350 professionals treated nearly 6,300 patients. The rest of the centers were reorganized to treat other illnesses. Meanwhile, the Kalyandurg Hospital doubled its activity and managed 900 deliveries per month.

In August 2020, RDT Bathalapalli Hospital received double recognition, as one of the best private hospitals for COVID-19 in Andhra Pradesh, as well as for having the best support staff in the FNO/MNO category by the Health, Medical & Family Welfare Department of the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

In September 2020, RDT Bathalapalli Hospital resumed its regular services while keeping a separate ward for COVID-19 patients. On April 19, 2021, RDT Bathalapalli Hospital was reappointed again as COVID-19 Healthcare Center upon the request of the district authorities.

# LALITHA'S Story: Life Prevails

Lalitha came to RDT Bathalapalli Hospital when she was 30 weeks pregnant and COVID-19 positive. Her blood oxygen levels were very low, so she was intubated and put on a ventilator. Her pregnancy affected her diaphragm and inhibited her lungs from fully expanding, putting her life at risk. The doctors performed a C-section while Lalitha was on a ventilator, at serious risk to her. Both the mother and the baby survived the operation, although the baby had to be intubated as well for a day. Luckily, he didn't have complications from his premature birth, and Lalitha recovered from COVID-19 after over 40 days in the hospital.

In the spring of 2021, COVID-19 cases increased in India again, a prelude to the devastating second wave that placed the country at the global epicenter of the pandemic.

## EDUCATION FOR TRANSFORMATION

Education continues to be on the forefront of our efforts in empowering rural communities. In March 2020, schools suspended classes in India, putting the education of vulnerable students at risk. During the first months of the pandemic, RDT primary teachers conducted door-to-door visits to their students to support their continued education. Online classes started in July 2020.

## "DURING THE LOCKDOWN, WE WORKED TOWARD UPGRADING THE SKILLS OF OUR TEACHERS IN BRAILLE AND SIGN LANGUAGE AS WELL AS IMPROVING THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF ONLINE TEACHING TECHNIQUES AND SOFTWARE."

#### DASARATH

DIRECTOR OF RDT DISABILITY INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT SECTOR Although crucial, this work means little when students cannot even get to class. "Not all students attend regularly. Some families don't have a smartphone and those who do share one among all members, so when the parents need it for work, the student cannot attend. For many, the cost of data recharge is expensive, too. We are working hard to ensure that our students do not miss out on classes, but sometimes we feel helpless," explains Balaji, a math teacher at RDT Inclusive High School.

This situation is even more challenging when working to ensure access to education for children with disabilities, because they need special software, such as talk-back programs for the visually impaired.

Thanks to our generous donors, VFF USA provided 20 tablets to children studying at RDT Inclusive High Schools so that they were able to continue with their education.

Roshi, at her young age, already has an ambitious dream.

"MY DREAM IS TO BECOME A DISTRICT COLLECTOR [A REGIONAL OFFICIAL] AND PROVIDE DECENT HOUSING FOR THE HOMELESS AND BUILD AN OR-PHANAGE, BUT I CAN ONLY ACHIEVE MY GOAL IF I CAN CONTINUE WITH MY EDUCATION. MY PARENTS DO NOT KNOW HOW TO READ OR WRITE. I WANT SOMETHING DIFFERENT FOR MY FUTURE AND I KNOW THEY WANT IT, TOO."



Nethra is a sponsored girl. Thanks to the support of her sponsor, she and her family have access to important services like education, housing, and healthcare.

T. Navya is a 6th grade student at ZP High School of Chelpur. She used to walk 2.5 miles twice per day, carrying her bag of books, lunch box, and water bottle. She was often late and not able to concentrate after the long walk.

to their lives through the work of the foundation. Knowing that you are part of these small improvements is one of the most rewarding things that has happened to me in my life. With a little effort from us great things are achieved there."

## A Simple Bicycle Improves Attendance Rates and Academic Performance

Schools started reopening in India gradually in November 2020, but many children, especially in remote villages, couldn't reach school safely because of a lack of transportation. VFF USA provided bicycles to 30 students from the Bhupalapalli area of the Adoni region, who were studying at the local Government High School of Chelpur. The school was located 2 to 4 miles from the children's native villages and most had to go to school on foot.

The lack of proper public transportation creates a major challenge for the continuity of education of rural students, especially for girls living in remote villages. Our Bicycle Program improves attendance rates and academic performance among rural students. "NOW THAT I HAVE A BICYCLE, I GO TO SCHOOL HAPPILY, REGULARLY, AND ON TIME, WITHOUT FEELING ANY BURDEN. I AM ALSO ABLE TO STUDY AND DO MY HOMEWORK AFTER SCHOOL, AS THE BICYCLE SAVES ME TRAVEL TIME."



## Child Sponsorship Transforms Children's Lives and Local Communities

VFF USA Sponsor a Child Program makes it possible for a child to receive adequate healthcare, complete school, get scholarships to pursue higher education, and gain professional skills. In addition, the program supports the whole community. The child's whole family receives additional benefits and the whole community gains access to programs to improve the living conditions of the child's community. In 2020, 71 children were sponsored through VFF USA's Sponsor a Child program.

Rosa is a child sponsor who visited India "It is amazing to see how change comes little by little



## **COMMUNITY HEALTH**

#### **Providing Supplementary Nutrition to Children and Mothers**

During the past three years, VFF USA has been supporting Nutrition Projects to address challenges faced by rural disadvantaged rural communities in India. The Community Health Program provides access to supplementary nutrition for young children (ages 1-5) and pregnant and nursing mothers, and also to persons suffering from chronic sickness and seniors who lack family or community support. The main objective is to save lives and improve the health status of both children and mothers.

Bastion Life Foundation, one of our foundation partners, helped in addressing the nutritional needs of the Achampeta area, in the state of Telangana. In this area, the program has served a total of 1,260 people spread across 51 villages, who are members of the Chenchu aboriginal tribe and live mainly in the Nallamala forest. The program also provides health awareness workshops, close follow-ups, and iron supplements to reduce anemia cases among mothers.

## RURAL HOSPITALS

RDT Bathalapalli Hospital was one of the first centers in the district of Anantapur to be designated as a COVID-19 Hospital by the Andhra Pradesh Government in April 2020. The hospital increased its capacity to 405 beds, of which 160 beds had access to oxygen supplies. There were 75 doctors, 225 nurses, and a total of 450 people working at the hospital including paramedical, technical, and supportive staff. They treated near 6,300 patients infected with COVID-19 and saved many lives.

Bathalapalli hospital provided Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Kits and N95 Masks to their health care staff with the support of VFF USA. After being infected with COVID-19, Gautami's situation worsened rapidly. She was admitted to the RDT Bathalapalli Hospital ICU (Intensive Care Unit) and was treated for 52 days before being finally discharged.

"DOCTORS TOOK GREAT CARE OF ME AND NURSES AND OTH-ER STAFF MEMBERS WERE SUPPORTING ME AND GIVING ME COURAGE WITH THIS LONG AND SOLITARY FIGHT."

GAUTAMI

## HOUSING AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

There are many disadvantaged communities in rural India that lack access to decent housing and sanitation. This results in further spread of disease and the contamination of drinking and bathing water, creating an endemic sanitary problem in India. It is especially hard for people with disabilities, as they have fewer economic resources and face discrimination within and outside their communities.

VFF USA, with the help of several donors, funded nine houses, including four in Gollapalli, one in Venkatapuram, and four in Sivampalli. Five of these houses improved the living conditions of people with disabilities, providing not only safety and security but also enhancing their dignity both in the family and in society.

All houses are constructed in collaboration with the community and the beneficiary families, the main actors involved in the construction of their homes.

Thanks to the support of the Newborn Studio Props, Ramanjineyulu and his family have a home. Ramanjineyulu is 30 years old and has a speech and hearing impediment. He is married and has two children. For 8 years, he and his family have been living in a semi-pucca suffering from inclement weather and lack of privacy and sanitation conditions.

"DURING THE RAINY SEASON, OUR FOOD GRAINS AND PERSONAL BELONGINGS USED TO GET WET AND SPOILED DUE TO LEAKAGE FROM THE ROOF. THERE WAS NO BATHROOM OR TOILET IN OUR OLD HOUSE AND IT WASN'T EASY TO MANAGE THAT SITUATION. WHEN WE RECEIVED OUR NEW HOUSE, WE FORGOT ALL THE DIFFICULTIES WE FACED ALL THESE YEARS."

RAMANJINEYULU

## W O M E N ' S E M P O W E R M E N T P R O G R A M S

## **Training Programs for Women**

Millions of rural women do not have access to education, and many have not finished even their high school education. These women often cannot find jobs and lack a voice in their families and in society, facing economic and independence challenges.

To address this problem, VFF USA is teaching women professional and technical skills, such as tailoring and embroidery, and providing them with sewing machines so they can create their own small businesses and support their families.

Thanks to several of VFF USA's generous donors, including AppDynamics/CISCO, eighteen rural women hailing from Badannapalli village of the Dharmavaram area in the Anantapur district completed this tailoring training, allowing them to improve their living conditions and those of their communities.

## OUR Commitment to sustainable development goals

Last year, the Foundation's projects in India were severely affected by the global pandemic. Our health sector has had to adapt and reorganize itself to deal with the emergency caused by the coronavirus, and education projects have suffered a long interruption at many educational levels, which has posed a risk to students from vulnerable communities. Despite these difficulties, the entire organization has continued to work to leave no one behind and contribute to achieving major development challenges through local action with rural communities in southern India.



# DONORS' CORNER

In 2020, a majority of VFF USA public awareness outreach efforts and fundraising campaigns were focused on the emergency caused by the coronavirus pandemic in India. Hundreds of individuals and twenty corporations showed their commitment and passion in support of our efforts in India through the VFF USA COVID19 Relief Fund.



"GIVEN THE MAGNITUDE OF THE CHALLENGE, THE GOVERNMENT RELIES HEAVILY ON COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS TO HELP WITH COVID RELATED SERVICES LIKE DISTRIBUTING PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, SPREADING AWARENESS, ADMINISTERING TESTS AND VACCINATIONS, FOOD DISTRIBUTION TO MIGRANT WORKERS, ETC. ORGANIZATIONS LIKE RURAL DEVELOPMENT TRUST, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH VFF USA, HAVE BEEN FRONT AND CENTER IN TAKING ON THE CHALLENGE AND HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED FOR THE EXCEPTIONAL SERVICES THEY CONTINUE TO PROVIDE."

PREM GANGALAKUNTA CISCO/APPDYNAMICS

CISCO/APPDYNAMICS GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT AND SOCIAL IMPACT TEAM PARTNERS WITH VFF USA



On January 27, 2021, CISCO/AppDynamics Global Engagement and Social Impact team hosted #AppD Cares, a virtual Lunch & Learn event highlighting VFF USA and RDT work in India. Moncho Ferrer, VFF USA President of the Board, spoke to an audience of fifty Cisco/AppDynamics employees, sharing highlights of our efforts and building stronger partnerships to support rural communities in India.

This event would not have happened without the active support of Prem Gangalakunta, a CISCO/AppDynamics team member whose family hails from Andhra Pradesh. Prem introduced VFF USA to CISCO/AppDynamics and visited Rural Development Trust headquarters in Anantapur. Thanks to Prem's active engagement and CISCO/AppDynamics' corporate matching program, VFF USA has received generous funding for our COVID-19 Relief Fund and Spark Joy campaigns.

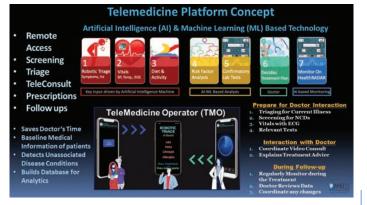
We express our deep gratitude to the amazing CISCO AppDynamics Global Engagement and Social Impact team.

VFF USA, WHEELS, AND RDT LAUNCH A PILOT TELEMEDICINE PROJECT IN SIX VILLAGES



VFF USA facilitated a collaborative pilot effort between WHEELS Global Foundation, Evolko and RDT to launch a telemedicine project to help provide basic medical assistance during the pandemic in six villages in the Anantapur District, including Donmala, Gangampalli, KK Cross, Madhudi, Mannanuru and Rekkamanu.

Initiated by WHEELS Health Council, this project aims to improve access to healthcare particularly in rural and underserved areas. A pilot project from January to March 2021 was conducted at six different sites, bringing together physicians with rural residents for the first time virtually. This project may be expanded in the future to additional sites.



# THANKING OUR DONORS

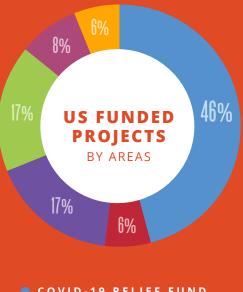
Adusumilli, Sandhva and Vijav Ahuja, Neeta Alcala, Victor Aluru, Neel Aradhya, Kerry Atencio, Leyda Baker, Jack Balireddy, Narayanareddy Baumann, Igor Beltran, Carolina Boreddy, Sukumar Borrego, Maria Gabriela Breckinridge, Chad Cambero, Jose Carlos Campabadal, Cristina Campos, Orlando and Anna Carayol, Jose Casado, Jose Carlos Chennakrishnaiah, Shilpa Cobo, Luis Carlos Colin, Maria Contreras Pietri, Manuel Corbalan Bosch, Angela Corey, Kathleen Darimadugu, Jagadish Das, Udaibir Del Moral, Maria Teresa Devarinti, Sivananda Dupree, Leslie Durham, Robert

Edwards, Bobby Erukala, Swetha Escalante, Jose Fernandez Linares Garcia, Alejandro Gajjala, Vijay Gangalakunta, Prem Garcia Galiano, Angel Garrison, Jo Gattu, Naveen Giraldo, Marina Gomez-Valades Maturano, Braulio Gondi Family Gopalakrishnan, Venkatesh Gudisi, Vannur Guntupalli, Ravi Han, Sridhar Jaklitsch, Vanessa Jannapureddy, Mahipal larillo-Herrero, Pablo Jimenez-Kenoyer, Estibaliz Karicherla, Annapurna Karnati, Nikhita Kenover, Margi Kosaraju, Sree Vijaya Kumar, Andrea Kumar, Ethan Kuriakose, Anne Lieberman, Maury and Leslie Madaka, Aparna Makala, Sarath

Mallisetty, Ashok Kumar Manjula Kumari Marquez Garcia, Carlos Martinez, Carmen Mathews, Jeffrey Mckesson Foundation Menon, Priya Merchan Paniagua, Sara Metikala, Sanjeeva Misra, Deepika Montalbo, Maria Pilar Nadkarni, Sidhesh Nalla, Bhanu Nazaretz, Michael Ochagavia Tobena, Albert Ortega, Linda Paladugula, Satishbabu Pallapothula, Chaitanya Palle, Srilekha and Srinath Parel, Miriam Parikh, Piyush Patil, Prathap Perillan, Lucia Potente, Natalia Raavi, Kiran Raju, Chandra Mohan Rebollo Blanco, Alicia Reddy, Karthik Reddy, Madhu Reddy, Smitha Regales, Oriol

Reparaz, Natalia Rivers, Anita Rubio Vinaras, Carolina Salamon, Justin Sama, Ashwin Sancho, Victor Saraf, Priyam Sesmero, Marta Shah, Vipul Sierra, Alejandra Skurikhin, Andrey Sola, luan Somagattu, Ramesh Somara, Madhuri Sunkari, Amar Tatagari, Vijayasekhar Terrones, Carlos Thippareddypalli, Rakeshchakravart Thorgeirsson, Unnur Tummala, Ravi Ugarte, Maria Amparo Vaddi, Sudheer Vasagiri, Anil Vazquez, Hector Vega, Augusto Vemula, Sudheer Venna, Parameswara Reddy Vidal, Ivis Yaparla, Madhusudhana Zilberman, Simon Zumbadoc, Pallu

## FINANCIALS



COVID-19 RELIEF FUND
WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT
EDUCATION
HOUSING
RURAL HOSPITALS
COMMUNITY HEALTH

In the fiscal year 2020, **85% OF YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS** went towards our programs in India.

Check our AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS and 990 FORM at https://www.vffusa.org/transparency

## **CORPORATIONS**



## VICENTE FERRER Foundation Worldwide

People and their power of action are the basis of the comprehensive development program of the Vicente Ferrer Foundation. The communities of more than 3,300 villages are involved in the projects that the organization promotes and that guarantee them a decent life and future opportunities. We highlighted key data reflecting on our work during the year. They are the results of a joint commitment and effective collaboration between the communities, the people, partnering institutions and companies, the volunteers, and the foundation's team.

#### **RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT**

**1,351** houses built

**83,317** trees planted for reforestation

**416,879** fruit trees distributed to families

**369** farm ponds built to store water

**1,486** farm families granted access to irrigation systems

#### WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

1,299 new women homeowners

\$**124,573** granted in microcredits to women

**2,634** young women scholarship holders for higher education

**99,543** women participated in the "sanghams" or self-help groups

#### THE POWER OF EDUCATION

**1,174** active tutoring schools

**880** bicycles distributed to secondary school students

**732** students graduated from the Professional Language School

**5,478** students in the pre-university and university scholarship program

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

**3,923** mobility support devices manufactured

**286** boys and girls in inclusive primary schools

**348** scholarships for higher education

**24,962** members of self-help groups

**554,088** Consultations in our hospital network

**1,718** Awareness sessions on health and hygiene

**5,980** Individuals received food daily in the Nutrition Program.

**813** Volunteers trained in health care in villages

**167,971** Gynecology and obstetrics consultations in RDT hospitals





# HELP US ERADICATE Poverty in Rural India

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