



VicenteFerrer

50

1969/
Dignity
Change
Equality
/2019



ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

VFF
USA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PG

“The Longest Walk Begins with a Step”: Address by Moncho Ferrer, President of the Board, VFF USA	2
India: Key Economic Indicators VFF USA Mission. Vision. Values.	3
Measuring Our Impact: VFF USA Key Sectors	4
VFF USA: 2018 at a Glance People Speak: How VFF Transformed My Life	6
Project Highlights: Education for Transformation	8
Project Highlights: Bicycles	9
Project Highlights: Habitat	10
Project Highlights: Disability and Inclusion	11
Project Highlights: Women’s Empowerment: Toward Greater Gender Equality	12
Project Highlights: Community Health and Rural Hospitals	13
Donor List – Thank You to Our Supporters Donor Spotlights: Bastion and Vipin Desai Financials	14
VFF USA Board and Executive Staff	15

“The Longest Walk Begins with a Step”

“The longest walk begins with a step,” says a Hindu proverb. This past year marked 50 years since the very first step was taken to launch the Vicente Ferrer Foundation’s development program in rural India. Half a century ago, my parents, Vicente and Anne Ferrer, came to this remote land and saw overwhelming need. Yet, after years of hard work and unbinding commitment, the transformation of Anantapur and other rural areas has become a reality, one that seemed impossible 50 years ago. Along the way, we learned something fundamental: that the key to achieving daily progress in the most vulnerable communities in rural India is collective work in partnership with the residents of those communities.

Every day our journey continues as we face major development challenges in India. Today we are working to achieve equality for women and for people with disabilities. We help secure access to quality healthcare and basic services for all people and promote sustainable living methods. We recently launched key projects promoting community participation to achieve the inclusion of all people. As you read our Annual Report, you will see great examples of the transformational impact of VFF’s approach to each community, each family, each farmer, each child whose lives we have touched.

The UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030 emphasize the need to move toward a more just and equal society worldwide. I strongly believe that it is our shared responsibility. Each of us can take daily steps toward achieving these goals as individuals, as can small businesses, large corporations,

and educational institutions. In VFF we have always promoted a development model that coincides with the UN global proposals. To help you visualize VFF’s commitment, each of the challenges presented in this report is related to one or more of the current SDGs.

Our approach goes beyond achieving the self-sufficiency of vulnerable people and disadvantaged communities. Above all, we aspire to change their own perceptions of themselves, so that they can become fully aware of their rights. Only then can they realize their full potential.

Thank you to all of you, including our staff, donors, partners and volunteers, who have helped us in our continuous pursuit of a society that walks, step by step, toward social justice and sustainable development.



Moncho Ferrer
President of the Board

INDIA

Key Economic Indicators

Indicator		Source
Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 births)	174	WHO (2015)
Position according to the gender inequality index compared to other countries	130 of 152	UNDP United Nations Development Program (2018)
Neonatal mortality rate (per 100,000 births)	24	UNICEF (2017)
Under 5 years with low weight for their age	21.7%	UNICEF (2014)
Prevalence of malnutrition	14.8% of the population	FAO (2016)
Percentage of population with an income below \$3.20 per day	27.4%	World Data Lab (2019)
Secondary school completion rate	85.9%	UNESCO (2018)
Life expectancy at birth	68.8 years	OMS (2016)



1,353
Million

Population
2018

Our Mission

Our mission is to eliminate poverty in rural India.

We work to empower the most marginalized members of society by removing the barriers and breaking the cycle of poverty.

Our Vision

Supports the most vulnerable populations: women, children and people with disabilities.

Guarantees sustainability through participatory and community led programs.

Promotes culturally sensitive and community designed programs.

Our Values

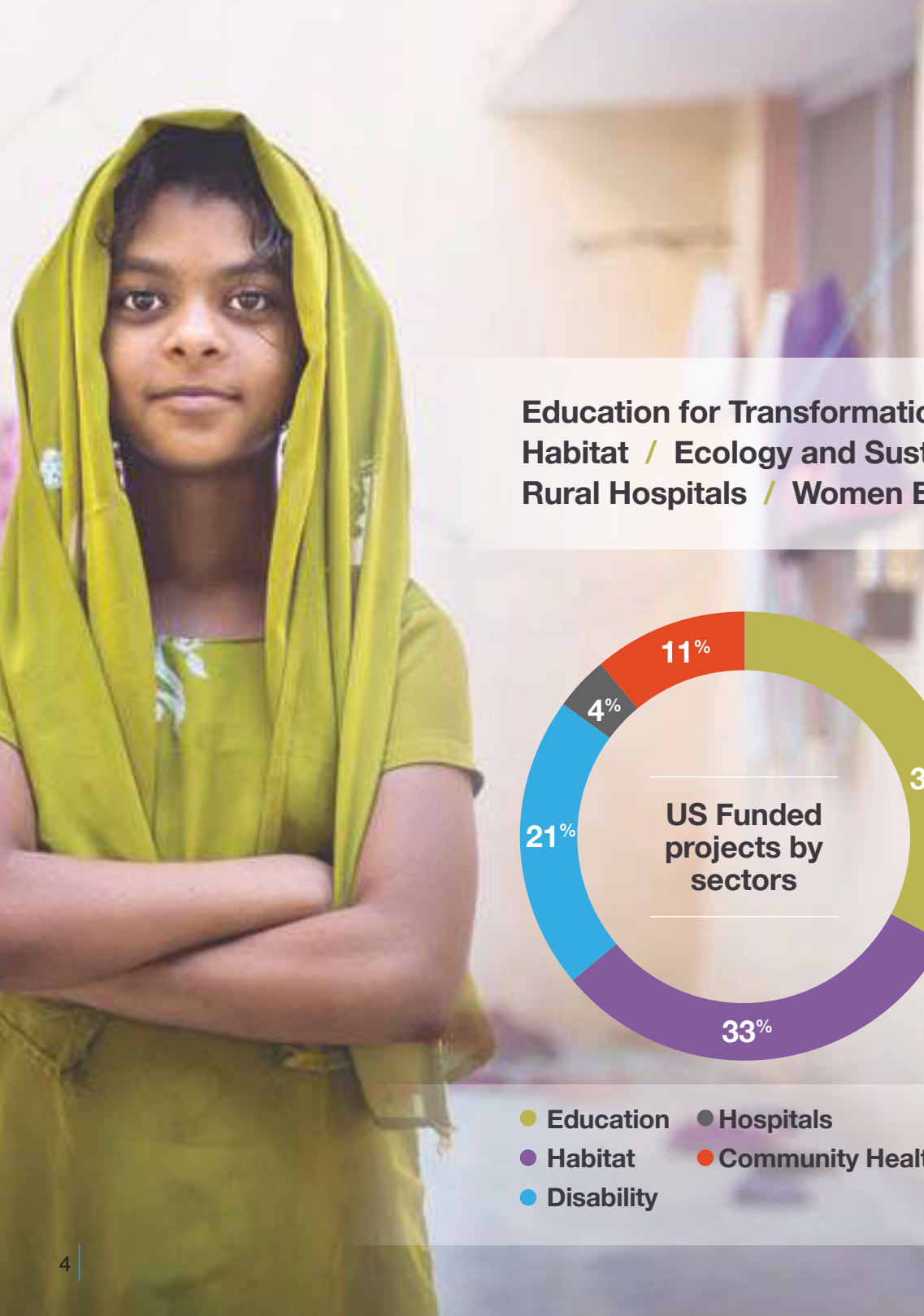
The capacity of everyone to help themselves and their community.

Efficient and accountable programs.

Long term solutions that strengthen community.

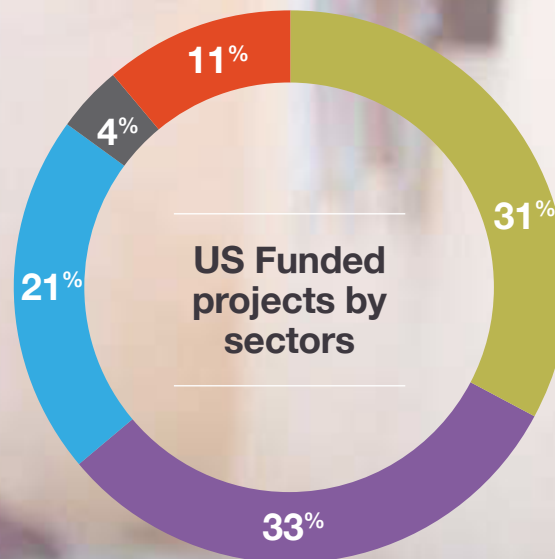
What Makes VFF USA Different

VFF USA champions empowerment with a holistic approach that supports our initiatives. We improve lives by working through transversal issues as problems are interconnected.



MEASURING OUR IMPACT: VFF USA Key Sectors

Education for Transformation / Disability Inclusive Development / Habitat / Ecology and Sustainable Livelihoods / Community Health / Rural Hospitals / Women Empowerment



- Education
- Habitat
- Disability
- Hospitals
- Community Health

2018 at a Glance

U.S.-funded projects by sectors

During FY2018, thanks to over 100 generous donors, VFF USA supported 14 projects with a total funding of \$131,282. 36 major donors invested in our projects in rural India. 29 donors supported 39 children and their communities in Anantapur. Six donors funded ten rural women's empowerment initiatives. Overall, since 2013, 638 donors have supported VFF USA.

VFF USA projects encompassed several key sectors: Education for Transformation, Habitat, Disability Inclusive Development, Community Health and Rural Hospitals.

Our U.S. sponsors helped 446 students to get access to schools via our Bicycle Project in Narpala, Atmakur, Atmakur, Uravakonda and Kanekal.



EDUCATION

127 students
Bicycle Project Narpala

14 students
Bicycle Project Atmakur

102 students
Bicycle Project Atmakur
Gundlapalli school

41 students
Bicycle Project in Uravakonda
Karutlapalli school

92 students
Bicycle Project Kanekal
D.Honnur school



70 students
Bicycle Project Atmakur

10 students
Assistance for Higher
Education Anantapur



HABITAT

10 families
Houses at Mekenai Thanda

2 families
Houses at Gollapalli

540 students + 41 staff
Habitat - Access to Safe Drinking Water
to Students in the EKALAVYA school at
Thimmapuram (Gundlapalli school)



DISABILITY

**30 people
w/disabilities**
Handicrafts Project
Equipment for recycled paper
unit at B.K.Samudram



**16 people
w/disabilities**
Income Generation Program
at Ankampalli



HOSPITALS

Hospital-equipment Bathalapalli-
Physiotherapy unit



**COMMUNITY
HEALTH**

**Approximately
1,000 People**
Nutrition Program in Dhone

VFF USA: 2018 at a Glance

People Speak:

How VFF
Transformed
My Life



“Men and Women
are equal”

“We have improved our knowledge, awareness, understood our responsibilities and redefined our thinking and way of life. **VFF taught us how to be involved in social service.**”

“We buried untouchability once and for all after VFF came into our lives.”



“VFF
helped us
to come out
of extreme
poverty.”

“From bonded laborers
we became landowners.”



“We could improve our socio-economic status equally and competitively on par with privileged communities.”

“Solidarity and greater unity among poor communities”



“**Women** led the life of slavery but now we are living with freedom.”





Education for Transformation:

How the Child Sponsorship Program Helps Local Communities

VFF has worked to raise awareness about the importance of education as a basis for development, building the understanding that education is an inalienable right. Decades ago, elementary school enrollment was under 10% for boys and less than 5% for girls in impoverished communities across the state. Today, 99% of children in over than 3,000 villages where VFF operates education programs are enrolled in elementary school and 70% are enrolled in high school.

Most of these young people were able to study, complete their education, and find employment because of VFF's Sponsor a Child program. In 2018, 29 U.S. donors supported 39 children and their communities in Anantapur. The sponsorship funds for one child also help cover development programs for that child's community, for example, nutrition programs, water purification, and housing costs.

“I’ve never had an opportunity to educate myself...always in the field...no time to think of anything but work...yet my son is set on a different path...and I am pleased, because I hope that he will have a better future than me.”

— PARENT OF A SPONSORED CHILD

VFF Bicycle Project: Ensuring Access to Education

In rural areas of India, students have to walk an average of 4.5 miles one way to attend high school. In 2018, thanks to generous support from VFF USA's donors, we supplied new bicycles to 446 students in Narpala, Atmakur, Uravakonda and Kanekal. Since its inception, VFF has delivered a total of over 23,685 bicycles to children throughout Andhra Pradesh! By providing bicycles, VFF is fulfilling a critical need that allows children to complete their education and contribute to the overall development of their communities.



“Rural roads are horrible and there are shortcuts to reach home, but it is high risk. Walking amidst thorny bushes is unsafe, because we sometimes observed snakes crawling fast. There is also fear of people who may cause inconvenience to us while walking.”

— Y. GOWTAMI, A FEMALE STUDENT FROM THE VILLAGE OF KOMATIKUNTLA

Habitat: Providing a Safe and Secure Abode

People in rural areas often live in desperate conditions. Their huts are built from grass or mud, and they are poorly designed and have no chance of withstanding harsh weather. Even worse, these houses are frequently overcrowded. In fact, 45% of the people inhabiting rural areas in Andhra Pradesh live in one-room houses, even though most of them house up to three generations at once.

VFF has been actively involved in community infrastructure development projects, and housing is among the most essential for the foundation. Community leaders advocate for subsidized land from the local government for those families with the greatest need for improved housing. Once the land is secured, VFF is able to build new homes.


Last year, VFF built 3,139 new houses. Overall, since the initiation of the Habitat program, VFF has constructed over 75,532 houses!

Other important infrastructure development projects include community centers, bathrooms with toilets, schools and water purification projects.


Habitat Sector Highlights:

 **75,532 new homes built**
3,139 in FY18

 **1,586 community centers built**
15 in FY18

 **26,776 latrines built**
4,196 in FY18

 **634 classrooms completed for schools and colleges**
43 in FY18

 **39 reverse osmosis plants constructed**
2 in FY2018



“I am Lakshmbai. I am 40 years old. My husband Dasharatnaik and I have a daughter. Her name is Vedhika. She is studying in the 2nd class. After the birth of my child, I had to stay in my parents’ house, together with two of my brother’s families. We couldn’t afford to rent a house. During the night times we slept outside of the house, it was very difficult for us to store food grains. Thanks to VFF’s community outreach, we have been nominated to have a permanent house by VFF. I am extremely happy and would like to convey my gratitude to the U.S. donors for their financial support.”

Disability Inclusive Development: Helping to Build an Inclusive World



Although people with disabilities have the same rights as any other citizen, they are not fully recognized within the family and society. Family members, feeling ashamed, often keep people with disabilities shut away inside the home, limiting their exposure to the community.

VFF has always supported people with disabilities through development of Vikalangula Sangham (community self-help groups, SHG). SHG members share their challenges and work together for a more inclusive community. Among many projects, VFF operates schools for the visually and hearing impaired, and provides access to schools for people with other physical and intellectual disabilities.

Currently, VFF operates seven schools for children with learning, visual, and physical disabilities. Thanks to VFF, 4,693 students had access to education and rehabilitation services, including 1,366 in FY18. Last year, 32,143 people with disabilities participated in associations with access to loans to develop their own businesses.

Since the beginning of its operations, VFF funded 2,364 orthopedic surgeries to support physical disabilities, of which 151 have been performed in FY18.

Remarkably, thanks to VFF's support on the ground, hundreds of youth with intellectual disabilities have competed in the Special Olympics.

“When we decided to build this school, almost no one understood why we were investing in such a beautiful building to house and educate kids with various disabilities. Now this school brings the best out of children who didn't have any hopes to succeed whatsoever.”

— MR. DASARATH, VFF DIRECTOR FOR THE DISABILITY INCLUSIVE SECTOR

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT: Toward Greater Gender Equality

Though women represent 48 percent of the Indian population, they are disproportionately poor and disadvantaged in comparison to men. Gender discrimination deprives them of taking control of their own lives, health, and means of income. In the most impoverished rural communities, women suffer extreme discrimination on account of their gender and low caste.

Since 1982, VFF has been tightly engaged with communities to empower women, striving to demonstrate their capacity to support each other and their community through a variety of programs. Today, VFF programs support seven vocational training centers, ten counseling centers, and a robust income generation program.

Thanks to VFF, 103,200 women have participated in an association (Sangham) and used Women Development Funds to start livelihood activities. Of these, 25,102 women have received technical job skill training, including 8,456 in FY18. 14,616 women used the funds for income generation activities, including 6,480 in FY18. More than 8,500 women have attended counseling and support centers.

Thanks to VFF,
103,200 

participate in an association and have access to Women Development Funds to start livelihood activities.


Of these,
25,102 

women have received technical job skill training, including 8,456 in FY18

& 14,616

used the funds for income generation activities 6,480 in FY18.



 **8,500+** women have attended counseling and support centers.

“I have been a group member in VFF Women Self Help Group (WSHG) for several years now. I have had some family problems with my husband leaving me for seven years and then returning back. Thanks to WSHG continuous support, I was able to support my family. A few years ago, I learned about VFF Herbal Phenyl Center and decided to join it.”

– SUNKAMMA, A WOMAN ENTREPRENEUR FROM KODAPAGANI PALLI VILLAGE



Rural Hospitals: Providing Quality Healthcare to the Most Disadvantaged Communities

People living in rural areas of India have limited access to healthcare facilities. Barriers like distance from home and costs make healthcare inaccessible to a majority of the population. To complicate the situation, the gender inequality inherent in certain social practices, such as early marriage, decreased healthcare for women, nutritional deficiencies and selective birth of male children, leaves women particularly vulnerable.

VFF hospitals received 829,950 visits for consultation and diagnosis and 54,206 admissions for treatment in FY18. We support health infrastructure in several ways, including three general hospitals with 565 beds in Bathalapalli, Kalyandurg and Kanekal, and 1,002 health workers.



3 general hospitals with 565 beds in Bathalapalli, Kalyandurg and Kanekal



A specialized Unit for Infectious Diseases, HIV and TB, received 68,800 visits for consultation and 6,156 admissions in FY18.



1,002 health workers

Eight rural clinics provide healthcare to the most remote areas at Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

Thanks to generosity of U.S. donors, a **modern Physiotherapy unit** has been supplied to the Bathalapalli Hospital.



COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM: Supplying Life-Saving Ingredients

Recurring droughts and a lack of employment opportunities in the Anantapur area have resulted in increased malnutrition, anemia, fatigue and other severe conditions. For the past two decades, VFF's Community Health Program (CHP) has addressed the nutritional needs of expectant and nursing mothers, young children, the elderly and chronically ill.

Specifically, Community Health Workers and CHP volunteers distribute boiled eggs along with a delicious beverage made from Ragi, a local kind of cereal powder mixed with jaggery, a traditional cane sugar used in rural India. This simple but effective supplementary nutrition program greatly

contributes to improving the general health condition of both mothers and children. VFF Health Organizers visit the nutrition center once a week and provide health education training to mothers. The rations of boiled eggs are provided every other day, and the beverage is given six days a week.

In FY18, 46,897 people participated in our nutrition program that supports prenatal and postnatal mothers, children, aged people and chronic patients.

This program is community-owned. Members of the village's Community Development Committee



manage and monitor these nutrition centers.

"I have lived all my life in this town, and I know that for even small infections, we have no choice but to travel to distant hospitals. I wanted to provide a service to my people and be useful, and now, thanks to my training I can solve minor health problems."

– NEELAVATERY, VFF COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER



Bastion is a U.S.-based foundation that provides comprehensive support for education as the keystone of social development and personal growth. Bastion partners with non-profits and philanthropists to support projects to provide a suitable environment for learning.

Bastion is proud to support VFF projects aimed at improving the lives of children and families.

A healthy child in a happy family is a child ready to learn.

Bastion was founded in 2016 by Manuel Contreras Pietri, who acts as Chairman of the Board and President.

Donor Spotlight:

“I believe that education is the key to transforming people’s lives. It transformed mine.”

– VIPIN DESAI



Founder, Chairman and CEO of MVS, one of America’s fastest-growing privately-owned IT companies, Mr. Vipin Desai is also one of our most engaged and supportive donors. He has traveled twice to India to see VFF’s work first-hand. Mr. Desai has solely funded a wide range of projects, including several bicycle projects and a water purification plant. He even helped design and fund a project to train women to start tailoring businesses. Throughout his life, Mr. Desai has proven he leads a life of action, empowering people in India as well as succeeding in business in the U.S.

THANKING OUR DONORS

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ALEJANDRO FERNANDEZ LINARES GARCIA | LA CAIXA FOUNDATION | SANJEEV JOSHIPURA |
| ALICIA REBOLLO BLANCO | LAURA GUEMES | SARA MERCHAN PANIAGUA |
| ALLERGY & ASTHMA CENTER | LEYDA ATENCIO | SATISH AND NEELIMA VEMANA |
| AMI SHAH | LLADRO USA, INC | SHANDY GUHARROY |
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| JOSE ESCALANTE | ROTARY CLUB OF DUPONT CIRCLE | |
| KERRY ARADHYA | SAMIR AND SHAZIA KANANI | |

FINANCIALS

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENSES	AMOUNT
CONTRIBUTIONS & GRANTS	\$383,881	PROGRAMS	\$292,372
OTHER REVENUE	\$31,637	ADMINISTRATION	\$157,758
TOTAL REVENUE	\$415,518	FUNDRAISING	\$46,562
		TOTAL EXPENSES	\$496,692

VFF USA Board and Executive Team:



Moncho Ferrer
President
of the Board

Moncho Ferrer, born in India, holds a degree in international relations from the University of Keele and graduated in 2017 from the Stanford Executive Program. He has dedicated his professional career to furthering the legacy of his parents – Vicente and Anna Ferrer – the founders of the Vicente Ferrer Foundation (VFF). At VFF, Moncho has spearheaded the “India for India” initiative to mobilize Indian citizens and institutions to fight poverty and marginalization, led humanitarian aid operations throughout India, launched innovative and inclusive sports programs for disadvantaged communities, and built strong linkages with community partners ranging from grassroots to governmental organizations. Moncho whole-heartedly believes in the power of local community members to make a change. He has served on the board of VFF USA since its inception in 2013.



Martin Gurria
Treasurer

Martin has over 18 years of experience developing opportunities and managing deals in emerging markets, with focus in Latin America and Europe. Martin is cofounder of AgroBigData, and Ecotec Defense and is Senior Advisor for Grid2Grid’s Latin American strategy. In the past Martin has managed multiple assignments with financing from multilateral institutions for his clients. He has also helped many different companies in raising project financing from multilateral institutions. His areas of expertise include telecommunications, technology, trade, transportation, agriculture and economic development.



Jordi Folgado Ferrer
Board Chair

Jordi Folgado has been the VFF director since 1999, when he left a successful career in the private sector to devote his life to the Foundation. However, he has been a VFF supporter since 1972, when he first traveled to India and saw firsthand the work of his uncle and the foundation’s co-founder, Vicente Ferrer. Jordi is a leader in best practices for financial management and has seen the foundation’s annual budget increase more than sevenfold since becoming its director. During Jordi’s time at the helm, VFF has also been nominated as a finalist for the Nobel Peace Prize.



Xavier Ruiz
Secretary

Xavier Ruiz is the non-executive Chairman of Atlantico Capital Partners. He is also a founding partner of RC Law LLP, a corporate and finance law boutique. Xavier is qualified to practice in New York (1998) and Spain (1982). Mr. Ruiz advises corporations on cross-border mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, and corporate finance transactions, as well as on privatizations and concessions, with a focus on United States and Latin America.



Luis Prieto-Portar
Board Member

A graduate of Princeton University, Dr. Luis Prieto-Portar founded the Civil and Structural Engineering program at Florida International University, where he served as Chairman of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering from 1984 to 1989. He currently serves as the CEO of Piedroba Consulting Group and the president of Prieto Engineering Services.



Andrey Gidaspov
Executive Director

Dr. Andrey Gidaspov has over 25 years of experience in international business development, strategic partnership building, global fundraising and non-profit management. For the past 12 years, Andrey has led numerous successful strategic development and fundraising initiatives for large mission-driven non-profits in the US and internationally. His belief in the power of personal relationships and creative thinking are key components of his success.



Kerry Aradhya
Board Member

A graduate of Duke University and Baylor College of Medicine, Kerry has more than 15 years of experience as a science writer and editor in nonprofit, university, and hospital settings. She is currently a senior writer and editor specializing in global health, population, and nutrition at FHI 360, an international nonprofit organization with a mission “to improve lives in lasting ways by advancing integrated, locally driven solutions for human development.” For years, Kerry managed Family Health Research, a biannual research newsletter for health care providers, program managers, and policymakers in India and sub-Saharan Africa.



HELP US ERADICATE POVERTY IN RURAL INDIA

1875 Connecticut Ave NW
10th Floor
Washington, DC 20009

www.vffusa.org
info@vffusa.org
202.798.5269



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