



New Start

Thank you for continuing to help transform lives around the world through your regular giving to the New Start program

Your regular giving to the New Start pledge program has enabled UnitingWorld to respond quickly to the needs of disadvantaged people involved with the vital relief and development work of our Church Partners in Africa, Asia and the Pacific. We hope you enjoy reading about the projects that your giving has made possible.

Education for Disadvantaged Children, Amritsar, India

Although the caste system in India has been officially outlawed for decades, it remains an enduring influence on rural life. The Dalit people, who are considered below the lowest tier of the caste system, have long suffered discrimination.

Because of this, Dalit children in Amritsar commonly experience difficulty in accessing education. Literacy rates in the region are just 40 percent. Together with high unemployment rates for adults and overall poor health, this has created an ongoing cycle of poverty.

Your gifts to the New Start program are giving hope to these children. Working in partnership with the Church of North India (Amritsar Diocese), we are employing teaching staff, supplying uniforms and providing other study materials to enable Dalit children to access basic education. More than 400 children are attending school regularly through this program, improving their chances of securing employment in the future. Additionally, community health awareness workshops involving women are improving maternal health through pre and post natal care programs.



Vocational Skills and Micro-Enterprise, Nandyal, India

Nandyal is situated within the drought prone Kurnool district, approximately 300 km south of Hyderabad, India. Each of the 73 villages in the area have a population of about 400 people. Industrial development in the area is weak and literacy rates are less than 15 percent. Because the daily wage is low, many families struggle to meet the cost of sufficient food and basic education.

Working in partnership with the Church of South India (Nandyal Diocese) youth from these villages are becoming involved in vocational education programs, learning trades such as carpentry, masonry, brick making and electronics.

This year, 36 young people from rural areas in Nandyal received training in these trades. More than 50 girls from these communities received training in small business skills. Self help groups consisting of between five and ten women were formed in several villages.



Community Development, Durgapur, India

The majority of people in communities surrounding Sarenga, a town in Durgapur, live in poverty. These communities depend on agriculture and daily wage labour for their income, which is often unreliable. Chronic food insecurity, limited employment and lack of accessible health care and education is an ongoing burden in these communities.

But with your support, the Community Development programs in Durgapur, operating in partnership between UnitingWorld and the Church of North India (Diocese of Durgapur), are making a positive impact on ten of the worst affected communities in the region.

Over the past 12 months, each community has held meetings with project workers from the Church of North India to discuss how they can work together to improve sanitation and hygiene, protect the local environment and enhance employment prospects through education.

Children of school-going age have been enrolled in formal education, and teachers have participated in further training to enhance their skills. Community health programs have greatly improved general health and sanitation, and women are being consulted about the issues they face.

With an increasing awareness of the needs of these communities, the Church of North India and UnitingWorld are using your gifts to empower disadvantaged people in Durgapur to build strong and healthy futures.



Eye Care, Fiji

While some parts of Fiji are enjoying the benefits of a growing tourism industry, many communities, especially those located on remote islands, remain unable to access basic health and eye care.

In developing countries like Fiji cataracts are the single leading cause of blindness, accounting for about 70 percent of cases.

Blindness prevents sufferers from living a full and independent life, but in the majority of cases is completely reversible through a simple operation. People who are poor are often unable to access surgery due to high costs, but are also restricted from earning an income because they are blind.

Your giving is restoring sight and restoring life to people affected by poor eye health in Fiji by enabling a team of dedicated eye care workers to visit Lautoka Hospital, near Suva, in Fiji each year.

This year in May and June, a team of 12 dedicated eye care professionals visited the hospital to remove dense cataracts and address other eye health issues. Sight was restored to people who have been blind for years, or in some cases their entire life.

More than 100 people were treated by the eye care team this year, people who otherwise would still be suffering needlessly. The team also donated additional equipment to the hospital, and local staff received in-service training to allow them provide care to more people throughout the year.



Thank you for your continued support of the New Start pledge program. Regular giving is the most valuable way of enabling UnitingWorld to address extreme poverty and stand in solidarity with our Church Partners. It gives us the flexibility to plan for the future to fund new programs while also helping us to keep promotional costs to a minimum.



For more information on these or any other projects of UnitingWorld, please call 1800 998 122 or visit www.unitingworld.org.au

