

Scholarship FAQs

How does education help a child in India who is at a high risk for human trafficking?

With 40% of its 1.2 billion people under the age of 18, India has the highest population of children in the world, as well as the largest number of children in poverty. Extreme poverty puts them at risk for child labor and makes them especially vulnerable to being trafficked. Nearly 30% of the students at our Good Shepherd Schools have parents who are bonded laborers, a modern form of indentured servitude relatively unknown in the western world. In most poor villages in India, education is not available. Consequently there is no hope of children ever rising above the economic hardship and the limitations of their parents. As one who is giving to our scholarship initiative, you make it possible for children to receive an English language education and in doing so, you invest in the freedom and future of India's most vulnerable children.

What is my commitment?

Your generous donation is the first step to building a future for the children you help, so thank you! Since the main goal is to free children by providing them with a complete education, our hope is that you will remain committed to scholarship for a period of at least three years. There are three levels of recurring scholarships:

Enthusiast: \$10 monthly (\$120 annually).

Donations at this level cover about 1/3 the cost of a child's annual education. At this level, funds will be given to schools with the greatest need.

Advocate: \$20 monthly (\$240 annually).

Donations at this level cover about 2/3 the cost of a child's annual education. At this level, you may designate a school to receive your donations if you wish. Please note that if your designated school is fully funded, your donation will be directed to the school in greatest need. If you designate a school, you will receive information about that school, and you may request an updated report annually.

Champion: \$30 monthly (\$360 annually).

Donations at this level fully fund the cost of a child's annual education, and you may designate a school if you wish. Please note that if your designated school is fully funded, your donation will be directed to the school in greatest need. Additionally, 10% of your monthly gift goes into a special account that will fund special projects at your designated school. Projects might include additional construction, computers, library materials, etc. You are actually increasing the impact of your gift over traditional child sponsorship by \$3 each month!

What do my child scholarship donations cover?

Your faithful donations apply to tuition, uniforms, school supplies, nutrition supplements (where necessary), textbooks, teacher salaries, and administrative costs for your child's education. You help to provide a top-quality, English-medium, values-based education for India's most at-risk children, and help launch their courageous journeys toward dignity, equality, safety, and security. Not only does your scholarship donation go toward education, it also strengthens the community. Each Good Shepherd School (GSS) becomes the central hub for all education, economic development, healthcare, and social justice initiatives in that specific community.

What are the children in the Good Shepherd Schools (GSSs) being taught?

In each of our GSSs, children study a preparatory, government-approved, India-standardized curriculum, with English as the language of instruction. Without the ability to speak and write English, Dalit children will not be able to excel in Indian society. They also receive a values-based education that promotes the principles of freedom, equality, and human dignity for all. Every one of our GSSs provide education to children regardless of their class, creed, or faith.

If my scholarship supports a particular school, may I give to additional projects at that school?

Yes. Specific projects may include computer stations, playground equipment, desks, chairs, the school library, and other supplies. Please visit the Campaigns page of our website (www.DalitNetwork.org) to see current giving initiatives.

What happens if I am no longer able to give?

We understand that sometimes circumstances change and that you may need to cancel or suspend your donations. The funds for scholarships are gathered into a pool designated for specific schools, so no one child will suffer if you are unable to continue.

When do the GSS schools begin and end their school year?

In South India, schools start in the month of June and finish in the end of March or beginning of April. In North India, schools open in the middle of June or beginning of July and end in the middle of May. Please see the enclosed handout for more information on India's educational system.