

The Freedom Report

SPRING 2018 • DALITFREEDOM.CA



PURSUING THE JOURNEY OF FREEDOM

A Message from Sherry Bailey



Sherry Bailey

*Executive Director,
Dalit Freedom Network Canada*

Dear Friends,

We are so grateful to you, our Canadian partners and friends. With your generosity, over this past year, we have seen 7,263 children receive the gift of education and 586 women graduate from vocational training. We could not have done this without you!

Freedom requires many steps and many individuals. Freedom on behalf of the low-caste children of India includes parents who want a better life for their children, committed Indian teachers who serve at our schools, a leadership team in India serving the poor and oppressed with God's love, and those of you who give the gift of education.

While the walk to freedom may be long, it is by working together that we will see this freedom come to the children of India and their families. Freedom that opens the doors of possibilities—economically, socially, and spiritually.

Freedom is not an easy journey, nor is it a speedy journey. Nelson Mandela wrote in his book *Long Walk to Freedom*, "It always seems impossible until it's done."

Thank you for giving and praying. You are an integral part in continuing this movement to see more and more children find hope and freedom from poverty. I hope you recognize the part you play in the stories we're telling, and that you keep the prayer brochure we've included as a reminder of how you can pray!

With a grateful heart,

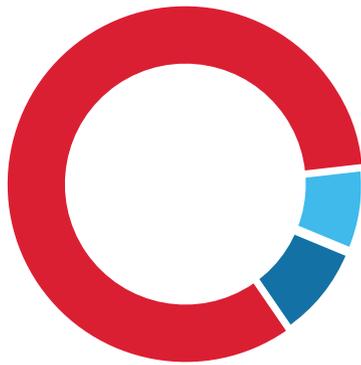
A handwritten signature of Sherry Bailey in cursive.

Sherry Bailey

Executive Director, Dalit Freedom Network Canada

YOUR GENEROUS GIFTS IN ACTION

Through Dalit Freedom Network, your generosity makes education possible for India's poorest and most marginalized children—children who are born into a life of discrimination and oppression. Your gifts are helping the poor dream big and rise out of poverty. Because of your support, we can provide lunch programs, build playgrounds, train women in tailoring, and give micro-grants to Dalits to start businesses. Thank you for your support! Please see below for a breakdown of our financials.



TOTAL REVENUE 2017

\$4,626,263

- 82% to India Projects
- 8% to Administration
- 9% to Fundraising

INDIA PROJECTS FUNDED

\$2,847,618



83%
EDUCATION SPONSORSHIP
\$2,356,198.20



3%
HOPE FOR DALIT WOMEN
\$74,734.92



9%
CLASSROOM CONSTRUCTION
\$267,006.24



1%
HEALTH INITIATIVES
\$36,956.52



3%
INDIA PROGRAM COORDINATION
\$88,092.72



1%
EQUIPPING SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS
\$24,629.40



PAST PROJECTS

YEAR	TOTAL REVENUE	INDIA PROJECTS	ADMINISTRATION	FUNDRAISING
2017	\$4,626,263	\$2,847,618	\$293,475	\$328,548
2016	\$3,207,203	\$2,843,267	\$324,751	\$368,089
2015	\$5,526,920	\$4,402,844	\$280,692	\$319,059

All of this is only possible because of your help!

Education is a proven way for children to escape a life of poverty and build brighter futures full of hope.



YOU'RE MAKING CHANGE POSSIBLE

Share in Student Successes!

We are so thankful for people like you, who give generously to create opportunities for Dalits. Your support means freedom for children. We know that every school built, every class taught, and every small business started is only possible because of you!

Please enjoy the stories we've shared in the following pages.

Kindergarten: Sandhya

Sandhya is in Kindergarten at one of our Good Shepherd Schools. Sandhya is a happy student excited to be receiving an education. This is the start for her building a better future for herself, one with freedom and hope.

Sandhya comes from a very poor region and has lived her young life in poverty. Her father is a rickshaw driver, and as such doesn't bring in much money. Sadly, it is a daily struggle for him to meet the most basic needs of his family. Despite their poverty, however, Sandhya's parents are determined for their daughter to have a better life than they had. This is why they were thrilled to enroll her in school and see her take an interest in her classes. Her parents do all they can to make sure Sandhya never misses a single day of school. Sometimes this means her mother has to borrow another rickshaw bicycle in order to drive Sandhya to school, since it is too far away to walk to.

The dedication of Sandhya's parents gives her the best possible chance to be successful at school. It's a blessing for Sandhya. Providing education for children requires more than just classrooms and teachers, it requires the children to attend school regularly to get the support and help they need. This is made possible by parents like Sandhya's and by generous people like you, ready to give to ensure that these children have a bright and successful future.

Grade Five: Deepak

Deepak is a bright grade five student at one of our Good Shepherd Schools. He is an energetic little boy who loves his studies. He particularly excels in both writing and public speaking. But behind his smiles and enthusiasm, Deepak lives a hard life. He comes from an exceptionally poor and marginalized family. In the best of times, when both of his parents were working, they hardly earned enough to meet the family's most basic needs.

Recently, his mother suffered a serious leg injury, and due to the poor sanitation and living conditions in their neighbourhood, it quickly became infected. Thankfully, she was able to receive medical attention,

but the healing process has been slow. As she is unable to work, Deepak's father has been under increasing financial strain. Although life for this family is not easy, Deepak's parents are so proud of their son and all he is achieving in school. It is their prayer that Deepak's education is setting him on a path for a better and brighter future.

"I just want to say thank you for helping make my dreams come true. I will work hard in my future studies so that I can make a difference to others." – Ritu

Grade Ten: Ritu

Ritu is a spitfire and an absolutely brilliant student. Her teachers remark, "She was at the top of her class from kindergarten all the way through grade ten!" Like almost all students in Good Shepherd Schools, Ritu comes from a marginalized group living in extreme poverty. Despite the circumstances she was born into, Ritu's determination to succeed in life has never wavered. She loves technology and plans to study mathematics and physical science in college.

Without the quality education she received because of you, at her Good Shepherd School, Ritu's future would likely look very different. "I know I am so fortunate to have had the guidance and support from my parents, my teachers, and everyone who contributes to the school financially," Ritu says. "I want to thank God for my school and I just want to say thank you to everyone who is helping make my dreams come true. I will work hard in my future studies so that I can make a difference to others."

Thank you for sharing freedom with children like Sandhya, Deepak, and Ritu.

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Health Education Strengthens Communities!

Another Kind of Education

Deviam is a community healthcare worker at one of our Good Shepherd Schools. She serves the health needs of the school and the wider community. Deviam has seen the difference it makes when a community is educated and thus, she is dedicated to teaching the importance of health.

This past year, she organized several vaccination clinics for diseases such as measles.

Another thing she has been working on is developing a strong working relationship with the local government's healthcare workers. That way, they can together conduct joint healthcare initiatives, such as hygiene and sanitation training in the local community.

A typical day for Deviam means going to the school everyday from 8:40am until 4:30pm. *"After School*



Deviam works hard to educate students and the wider community about health.



Assembly I visit each class and check every student's physical and mental health," Deviam says. "I teach our children that to know something about health is indeed wealth. I take 45 minutes for each class that I teach. I teach about environmental health, good eating habits, and the importance of domestic and community hygiene. Every week I go to villages near by our school. I make more frequent visits to houses with pregnant mothers and other vulnerable households."

Deviam is so grateful for generous donors like you who make this life-changing work possible. Having basic health education enables parents and teachers to care for their children and students properly. By gaining this knowledge around sanitation and self-care steps, less children will miss class. Instead, they can move forward with their education with strength!

Thank you for helping healthcare workers like Deviam do life-changing work in Good Shepherd Schools.

Ted and Maureen's Story

Blessing Those in Need

Ted Hilton was raised by his widowed mother during the great 1930s depression. During this time, he learned the meaning of poverty and frugality. These two things would prepare him for his role as founder and CEO of Accurpress Industries, a major operation in Surrey, BC that manufactures machine tools.

As a young man, Ted was blessed with a remarkable capacity for business and a commitment to Biblical principles that he has applied to every aspect of his life. Ted's creative mind lead him to invent his own steel fabricating machine, which has now grown into an expanded family business and international enterprise. The phenomenal growth of Accurpress has provided him and his wife, Maureen, with the resources to fulfill the vision that God gave him many years before.

"Maureen and I were raising a young family of three children and one on the way," Ted reflects. "I had obtained a low paying job and rode a bike to work. My wife and I agreed that we would give 20 percent of our net income to God's work. It was a decision that I will always be thankful for. We opened a bank



Ted and Maureen Hilton are committed to sharing what God has given them.

account, cashed my cheque and deposited 20 percent into the Lord's account. As the business grew, our stewardship grew with it. The major part of my income is now invested in God's work around the world."

With God's blessing, Ted and Maureen have made it possible to establish many ministries with strategic partners around the world, including Dalit Freedom Network and the children of India. Ted served as a founding board member of Dalit Freedom Network and now, together with Maureen, they sponsor over 2000 children.

"I have discovered true riches in knowing God and sharing His blessings with those in need," says Ted.

2017 DFN CHAMPIONS

Amy Sicolo + Peace Portal Alliance

"Love Well" – a benefit concert for a new school water well

\$3907

Britney Berrner

Shared her India trip stories and photos on Instagram

Trevor Caldecott

Biked from Osoyoos to DFN office in Surrey to raise funds for women's vocational training

\$1180.40

Old Koinonia Christian School

Gave a gift of **\$1,167.50** to go towards education
Gave two soccer balls, pump, needle for a school

Ontario Hikers

Hiked part of the Bruce Trail raising funds going towards education in the Punjab region

\$12,000

Grace Vancouver Church

Held multiple benefit concerts raising funds going towards education

\$16,500

Osmy Reid

Hosted a Christmas fundraising party to raise funds to go towards education

\$2000

Nicholson Catholic School

Held an Indian Bazaar fundraiser at their school raising funds going towards education

\$875

***We are so thankful for our Champions!
If you would like to learn more about
becoming a Champion, send us an email
at info@dalitfreedom.net!***

You Changed Lives!

Thank You

Thank you for everything you gave to support Dalit Freedom Network this past year. Through various programs, you've helped provide education, lunches, healthcare, uniforms, tailoring training, and grants for small business ventures. With your help, those living in poverty are finding true freedom and dreaming of brighter futures. Thank you for your support!



Because of Your Generosity:



Education

- **579** new children sponsored
- **1,265** children received another year of education through the Freedom Campaign and special dinner events
- **7,263** total children receiving education sponsorship



Health

- **1** healthcare worker funded for a full year
- **107,520** lunches provided in three needy schools
- **448** children assisted through the mid-day meal for one year



Schools

- **21** schools provided education
- **9** classrooms added to two schools allowed for more children and more grade levels
- **174** desks for children to study and focus at two schools
- **4** schools received library books and resources for primary grades
- **1** playground provided
- **1** water well



Women

- **18** vocational training centres for women (including **3** new centres begun)
- **586** women graduated from the six-month training
- **88** women received grants to start income generating business.

“*I know that the Lord secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy.*”

Psalm 140:12