

# The Dalit Report

SPRING 2016 • DALITFREEDOM.CA



**DALIT**  
FREEDOM NETWORK CANADA  
freedom begins with a school

# Another Year of Journeying with the Dalits



**Sherry Bailey**

*Executive Director  
Dalit Freedom Network Canada*

During my recent trip to India, I had the wonderful opportunity to visit eight Good Shepherd Schools and eleven women's projects that you made possible. As I walked through the rural villages, I gave thanks to God for each one of you who give financially and care for these families. It is because of you that we can help—one child, one woman, one community at a time.

I am always overwhelmed by the number of people suffering in India, from poverty and lack of basic amenities, and those who simply cannot break free because of their caste status. As we have reached into the Dalit communities for 10 years now, we are seeing many lives transformed. I trust as you read this annual report that you will also be encouraged to see the change you are bringing to the forgotten people of India.

With great thanks,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sherry Bailey".

Sherry Bailey  
Executive Director



**Dr. Joseph D'Souza**

*International President  
Dalit Freedom Network*

My sincere thanks to the people of Canada who have responded to the Dalit children and families of India. Our 107 Good Shepherd Schools bring freedom through education to the poor and needy sections of society, and this would not be possible without your support and prayers.

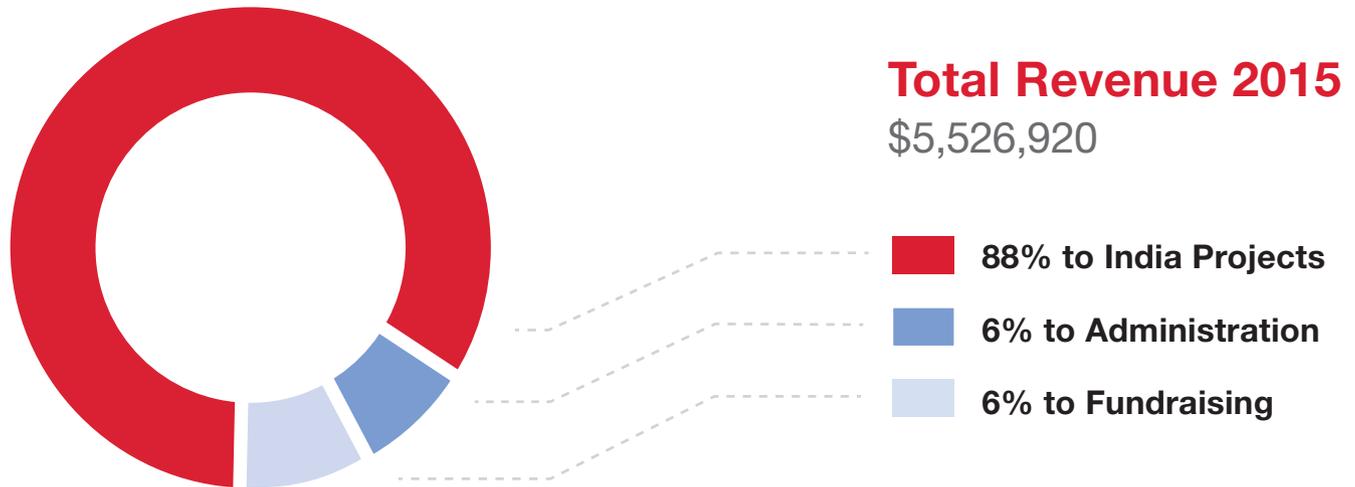
The Good Shepherd movement demonstrates a range of work through schools, health care, women's projects and more. Through our efforts, people in 6,000 communities across the nation experience the love of Jesus in one way or another. You are an important part of how far and wide this work has reached in this country.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph D'Souza".

Joseph D'souza  
International President, Dalit Freedom Network

# Your Generous Gifts in Action

At Dalit Freedom Network, we're so grateful for the generosity of people like you—whether you've given special one-time gifts, given towards a particular program or become a sponsor to a Dalit child so they can gain freedom through education. We truly value you, and we want to publicly share this breakdown of our financials with you.



## India Projects Funded

\$4,402,844



**70%**

**Education Sponsorship**

\$3,048,865

**18%**

**Classroom Construction**

\$795,351

**6%**

**India Program Coordination**

\$294,137

**3%**

**Hope for Dalit Women**

\$148,643

**2%**

**Health Initiatives**

\$90,925

**1%**

**Equipping Schools and Teachers**

\$24,923

## Past Reports

Year	Total Revenue	India Projects	Administration	Fundraising	Revenue Over Expense
2015	\$5,526,920	\$4,402,844	\$280,692	\$319,059	\$524,325
2014	\$3,638,862	\$2,815,750	\$244,033	\$334,611	\$244,468

*None of this would be possible without your help.*

# Stories of Hope

*And the Discovery of Freedom*



The Dalit people have been facing caste discrimination for too long, but over the last ten years, your caring investment in the work we're doing has enabled them to rise above their situation and find hope for their future! Your gifts truly change Dalit lives, so we hope that you'll enjoy these stories of some of the Dalit people you've helped.

## Education

We get so excited when we see graduations at our Good Shepherd Schools. Years of hard work culminate in those thrilling moments when students who might never have received an education walk across the stage. Behind each and every cap and gown is a story of hope, made possible by your gifts.

Six years ago, a few members of our staff met Deepthi in a Bangalore slum and listened to her heartbreaking story. For many years, she and her mother were physically abused by their family before they were able to escape to a slum. Unfortunately, in their new home they were even more vulnerable to abuse.

Thankfully, when one of our staff members found Deepthi, she was open to telling her story. She was brought into one of our shelters and cried as she told her story and showed her scars. With support, Deepthi was able to recover emotionally and physically, and soon she began attending one of our Good Shepherd Schools.

Deepthi flourished in her new, caring environment where she also discovered that she is a child of God. She became an outstanding student, working hard at her studies to beat her achievements every year. Last year, she graduated from Grade 10 with distinction!

Today, Deepthi is studying physics, chemistry, math and biology at a local university, earning the prerequisites to become a medical doctor. She is a beautiful, confident girl filled with hope for her future, and promises to be not only a skilled doctor—but also one filled with compassion for each person she treats.

## Health & Meal Program

Jayan loves school. His parents are unskilled labourers who are currently unemployed and it's a tremendous struggle for them to feed Jayan and his six siblings. Too often, Jayan arrives at school hungry and without adequate lunch.



But through our meal program, he receives a healthy lunch that includes an egg, milk and fruit—luxury items for a child like Jayan. When asked for his thoughts about the meal program, Jayan responded, *“I like the food because I don’t get to eat these things at home. I especially look forward to the eggs since I never get to eat eggs at home.”*

It’s astounding that something as simple as an egg can have such a huge impact on a child, and we’re so thankful for those of you who help make this kind of gifts possible. Your generosity is helping children like Jayan stay healthy, strong, and have energy for their classes.

# Nandigaon Good Shepherd School Timeline

**2008**

*42 Kindergarten children enrolled and met in a rented house.*

**2011**

*We opened a sewing class for village women.*

**2010**

*We constructed a new school building, with 5 classrooms.*

**2**

*We added*

## School

The Nandigaon Good Shepherd School began in 2008 in a small, rented house, with 42 eager children sitting on the floor. We'd purchased two acres of property for the new school site but still needed construction funds. As our team stood on the empty property and tried to imagine this school in the future, the school manager pointed out the location where the well would soon be drilled—using sacrificial funds provided by a high school student in Canada.

Over the next eight years, many more kind-hearted Canadian donors gave and the first phase of the school became a reality by February 2010, including 5 classrooms. The new building became a focal point in the region, and the community put their confidence in us. Today, the school is educating 290 children from Kindergarten through Grade 7, in 15 classrooms. And all of this was only possible because of Canadian donors and caring sponsors like you.

## Women's Projects

Recently, one of our vocational training centres celebrated the graduation of 21 disadvantaged women! This graduation ceremony was Laxmi's first. She married in Grade Seven and dropped

out of school, leaving little chance of ever having a decently paid job.

Years later, when her husband had an accident, Laxmi desperately needed to find work so that she could look after her husband and two children. Then she heard about the free tailoring training we offer. She signed up immediately and completed the 6-month course with flying colours.

The women in Laxmi's class shared similar stories of living in one-room huts and earning meager livings by working long hours alongside their husbands as rag-pickers or labourers. Once they found our tailoring training centre, though, they were filled with hope and the joyful discovery that they're valued in the sight of God. Laxmi is so thankful for this new, dignified skill that has empowered her to provide for her family.

*Please give today to bring freedom to more Dalit people like Deepthi, Jayan and Laxmi.*

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## One Donor's Story: From Suffering to Sympathy

Dalit Freedom Network donor Heather Davies has been suffering from a brain injury for the past two years. But instead of letting her suffering dictate her life and her actions, she's used it as inspiration. This past year, Heather organized and hosted the Beauty from Ashes Gala to celebrate her 30th birthday and more importantly, to raise funds to support women and children in need.

*"I wanted to use my suffering and use what everyone has done for me to help alleviate the suffering of others."*

"I wanted to use my suffering and use what everyone has done for me to help alleviate the suffering of others," she explains. She's passionate about helping women as their suffering affects so many others, saying, "These are not 'women's issues,' they are 'human issues.'"

And we agree! Once Heather had decided that she wanted to make a difference, she started looking for an organization to work with, and that's when she approached us with her idea.

"I have such a profound respect for Dalit Freedom Network," says Heather. "I had the good fortune to

*hear Dr. Beryl speak at their Hope for Dalit Women Dinner in October 2014 and it stirred my heart. I've been deeply touched by the story of the Dalits."*

Heather's gala dinner featured a silent auction, speakers from her chosen organizations, live music and henna. In total, the evening raised \$5,500 to help Dalit women and children, and we're so grateful!

Heather says she isn't stopping there, either. "The suffering of these women and children are not a picture of a thriving world, and my heart is to stop suffering and bring hope to humanity. I picked this issue because I believe that if we see women start to thrive, we'll see the world thrive together."

At Dalit Freedom Network, we're incredibly thankful for Heather's support. Together with the generous contributions of donors like you, she is truly changing the lives of Dalit women and children.

***Thank you Heather!***

# Your Compassion

*reached so many people in 2015*

We believe that education is the key to freeing Dalits from lives of poverty and inequality. As our Good Shepherd Schools become well-known in their regions, freedom spreads from the children to their families and communities! This year we've been able to expand a number of our schools into community hubs by educating more children, offering a number of health initiatives as well as tailoring training centres for women who are seeking economic independence. Find out what your support has accomplished this past year!

## Your generosity has...



### Education

- Sponsored 1,258 children, bringing the total number of sponsorships to 7,116



### Health

- Provided 2 community health workers
- Funded 20,400 patient visits at our medical clinic
- Provided 103,922 lunch supplements



### Women

- Funded 7 new women's tailoring training centres, to reach 560 Dalit women



### Schools

- Provided 21 new classrooms, accommodating 630 students
- Funded 1 multi-purpose leadership and vocational training centre
- Provided 100 teachers with English language training
- Provided 26 pieces of playground equipment
- Funded 2 buses for student transportation
- Provided 100 desks

*Thank you for supporting*  
**Dalit Freedom Network**  
*for 10 years!*

*“Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; defend the widow.*

**—Isaiah 1:17**

