

# Outreach Partnership Program Updates

MARCH 2022 | INDIA

2021 challenged us all with some obstacles that were bigger than any of us could have expected. But rather than halting our progress, you still came through, making our victories even bigger than we could have imagined. We were all fatigued from uncertainty and isolation, from having to adjust to a new normal. And as volunteers and fundraisers, you had to rethink strategies to keep helping us do our work with your support. And you succeeded, as always, more impressively than ever.

So, thank you. Thank you for your perseverance, for advocating for our mission, for sharing our story in new and creative ways. Thank you for being our voice that allowed people everywhere to continue to make a positive difference during these unprecedented times.

We envision a world where communities work together to overcome the challenges of chronic poverty. Your partnership makes this a reality. The victories you have made possible are your victories, too.

**We're proud to present you with this partnership update, so you can see a small example of the good that your generosity makes possible in the country you choose to support.** And enclosed is your 2021 Giving Report, summarizing the contributions made toward your partnership last year.

*We hope you enjoy and find inspiration in this edition of the Partnership Program Updates. If you need more resources to share with your group, please visit our website at [outreach-international.org/resources](https://outreach-international.org/resources). If you have specific questions or just want to say "Hello!", please contact Marsha Penrose at [m.penrose@outreachmail.org](mailto:m.penrose@outreachmail.org)*



## The School in Gumiguda Receives Top Marks

Like the rest of the world, the pandemic affected the Gumiguda School, which reopened in October 2021 after 18 months of COVID-related closures. For grades 1 through 8, 160 students enrolled for the 2021-2022 school year (111 boys and 49 girls) with an average of 20 students per grade. The vast majority, 136 children, are boarding students. And at the end of the 2021 school year, 19 students graduated, with opportunities awaiting them that will no doubt make full use of their newly earned potential.

Sadly, the Gumiguda School Manager, Aliya, passed away from complications of COVID in 2021, as well as an assistant teacher. The school committee is in the process of hiring and is also focused on exploring methods of securing government support, so their school could obtain other benefits and keep educating and inspiring students now and into the future. Rashmirekha, our Indian Program Coordinator, and the school committee have been researching, investigating, and meeting with government officials to identify the steps that need to be taken to gain that support.

It's because of the support of people like you that this work can continue. With their ongoing dedication, and yours, these children have a real chance at a better future.

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## Kurumpeta Earns Total Independence

There is cause for celebration in Kurumpeta! After 11 years of learning, growing, hard work and perseverance, the community is graduating, ready to continue functioning independently to create their own future. And they didn't just learn, they accomplished real work, and brought much-needed development to their own community. The list of successes is truly amazing:

- > Water wells
- > Smokeless stoves
- > Toilets
- > Land rights
- > COVID mitigation
- > Electricity
- > Housing improvements
- > A community hall
- > A working animal project
- > Elderly and widows' pensions



In a community with a population of 675 people, the total number of people who benefitted from all these accomplishments is 720 – because all the good work they have done has spread to others outside of their community as well.

They have developed a strong community-based organization of 150 people, with 25 leaders, half of whom are women. With this level of participation and 11 years of training and success, they're ready to move forward on their own in total independence.

At the graduation ceremony, which included the performance of an original song to thank the facilitators for all they've done, a fruit tree was planted. It will grow, thrive and produce, just like the entire community.

These projects came to fruition, and this graduation was made possible, because of your ongoing support. Now, the facilitators can move on and help even more communities learn, grow and develop.