



Since 2000, over 60,000 women and children have benefited from your support



WIN rescues Jyoti from a life on the streets of Nagpur

In August Jyoti was found wandering the streets. Meeting such women is often a chance encounter that leads us through a tried and tested process from rescue to rehabilitation and repatriation with family. Jyoti was homeless for 9 months following the onset of post-natal depression. Determining whether women like Jyoti leave the matrimonial home of their own accord or are forced out is sometimes hard to decipher, however being homeless means they are exposed to rape, malnutrition and disease. All have mental health issues; some even die on the streets, being unceremoniously and anonymously taken away and cremated without an investigation.

Jyoti however is one of the lucky ones. After just 3 months at the charity's Women's Welfare Centre, her life has improved beyond measure, and she is back home continuing to be supported and monitored.

In her own words:
"I can finally sleep peacefully without worrying what may happen through the night"

Top right – Jyoti is found by Usha

Thanks to Women in Need Priyanka is well on the road to recovery



In our latest 22-23 report we highlighted our work with mental health and suicide prevention.

An aspect of this work is supporting cases of attempted suicide in their recovery.

The Lancet highlights the leading cause of death amongst Indian women aged between 15-29 is suicide.

Unable to meet her medical expenses 20 year old Priyanka was referred to WIN for help after swallowing acid following an altercation with her father-in-law. She was rushed from a small village hospital in the district of Bhandara to Nagpur for emergency treatment. The result of her attempted suicide caused catastrophic damage to her digestive system and part of her bowel. She had dysphagia and a perforated oesophagus and had to be fed by a tube.

It's important to add that WIN's crucial role in Priyanka's survival included the dedicated support and counselling from our MSW's, often extending beyond their working hours. There was a pivotal point when the consultants involved in this case told our staff that unless Priyanka was motivated to live, she would not be expected to survive.

I am proud to highlight that as a result of our teams' efforts and financial support for treatment Priyanka is alive today and able to eat unassisted. WIN continues to provide treatment for post-natal depression and her damaged digestive tract.

Above left: Priyanka today is making tremendous progress in her recovery. She is extremely thankful to be alive and looks forward to being able to watch her daughter grow.

Remember these women? 10 years on, where are they now?



Kishnakumari is from a village near Nepal but was found 1000 km away from home malnourished and traumatized. WIN's tried and tested rehabilitation program consists of psychiatric treatment, counselling and patience under the guidance of a dedicated team of specialists. It takes on average 2 years to achieve lasting improvements in the women's' psychological and physiological health. It also takes a long time to trace their families – but the wait is always worth the positive outcome of an emotional reunion. Kishnakumari was eventually reunited with her son and was able to return home to her village.

Top left: Kishnakumari when she was found / **Middle:** after spending 2 years in WIN's care/ **Far right:** being reunited with her son at our shelter.



Kishnakumari was rescued by WIN in 2014, 1000km from home. Suffering from PTSD, she was malnourished and covered in lice. 10 years on she is alive and well.

“If WIN hadn't rescued me then I wouldn't have been able to see my grandchildren”.

Left: Kishnakumari today



Reshmi comes from Raipur but was found 300 km away in Nagpur suffering from PTSD. Years of violence at the hands of her husband led to serious mental health issues. Treatment and care at our shelter brought great improvements. The icing on the cake was when WIN traced her daughter, which she hadn't seen since she was 10 yrs old.

Top left: Reshmi when she was found on the streets.

Top right/far right: Reshmi after being reunited with her daughter.

Reshmi today



Reshmi was found by Leah and Usha lying on the roadside close to where they lived. Her condition was catatonic as she was unable to walk or communicate or feed herself for weeks. 2 years in our care and Reshmi made a complete recovery. The best part of her recovery was being reunited with her daughter and Granddaughter.

“Witnessing the miraculous transformation of such women from a catatonic state, to seeing their true personality shine through... it's the most rewarding experience”

(Leah)

MSW's from Nagpur University give voluntary service to WIN



Objectives of social workers in India are: Empowering individuals, families, and communities to improve their lives. Promoting social justice and human rights. Addressing and alleviating poverty, oppression, and social problems. Providing support and assistance to marginalized and vulnerable populations.

20 MSW's from Nagpur university are undergoing a 6 month placement with WIN to gain experience in all on the above objectives. This is an invaluable opportunity for them and of course for WIN – **a WIN WIN for both parties!**

- Limited Funding and Resources for Social Welfare Programs
- Inadequate Public Awareness and Understanding of Social Work
- Stigma and Discrimination Against Social Work as a Profession
- High Demand and Limited Availability of Qualified Social Workers
- Complex and Diverse Social Issues, Including Poverty, Healthcare, and Education
- Insufficient Access to Mental Health Services and Support
- Inequality and Social Disparities Across Different Regions
- Lack of Collaboration and Coordination Among Various Social Work Agencies
- Inadequate Government Policies and Implementation of Social Welfare Programs
- Cultural and Linguistic Barriers in Engaging with Diverse Populations
- Ineffective Data Collection and Monitoring Systems
- Corruption and Misuse of Social Welfare Funds
- Limited Opportunities for Continuing Professional Development
- Challenges in Providing Services to Remote and Rural Areas
- Legal and Ethical Challenges in Dealing with Sensitive Cases
- Workload and Stress Leading to Burnout among Social Workers
- Addressing the Needs of Vulnerable and Marginalized Communities
- Ensuring Inclusivity and Accessibility in Social Work Services
- Lack of Recognition and Appreciation for Social Workers' Contributions
- Navigating Bureaucratic Hurdles and Red Tape in Implementing Programs
- Addressing Emerging Social Issues such as Digital Divide and Cyberbullying

MSW's are dedicated to their profession because to be a social worker in India is challenging.

A new chapter for Ekta and her younger brothers

Ekta is 17. Unlike other 17 year olds from loving, secure homes however, Ekta and her brothers have struggled to source food and lived without electricity since their parents died over a year ago. Their mother and father died from AIDS within 6 months of each other, leaving the siblings to fend for themselves. Due to the stigma associated with HIV and AIDS family members were unwilling to help.

The siblings left school to look for work. Ekta was a receptionist at a gym but didn't get paid and when she challenged the owner, he threatened her. Her brothers are labourers but earn very little.

Though new to WIN we have put into motion a care package that will focus on HEALTH, HOME, EDUCATION and VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

Thanks to your donations WIN can support these vulnerable teenagers.

Monthly expenses:

Food and groceries – 5,700 rupees / transport to hospital and medical expenses 2,800. Electricity bill and cooking fuel, 2,500 = Total 11,000 rupees per month / Euros 122 / \$132.15 / £105



The siblings had not been tested for HIV before, so it was a tense moment taking them for their results.

We're thrilled to confirm none are positive and all are making great progress.

Above all else, they now have hope for a better future.

Happy Diwali!

Gifts, fireworks, and new clothes for 50 youngsters in the shanty towns of Chikli and Sewadal, Nagpur



World AIDS day 23 – “Let Communities Lead” (UNAIDS)



In 2003 we encountered our first AIDS case. Mina was found on the side of the road with a large, infected headwound. Homeless and suffering from schizophrenia Mina spent years subjected to violent, sexual assault. When we took her to the general hospital doctors refused to admit her, suspecting she might have AIDS. We were told to take her back to where she was found as she would be dead within a couple of days. That was our first introduction to the outrageous stigma within the medical profession towards people with HIV. We spent the next 10 years fighting on behalf of others like Mina, subjected to prejudice, abuse, and at best apathy.

20 years on and thankfully attitudes towards people living with HIV and AIDS have changed for the better. WIN however is still instrumental in spreading awareness and paying for antiretrovirals during local authority shortages.

WIN is part of a small network of NGO's providing support to those living with HIV and AIDS. In honour of World AIDS Day, we came together to celebrate our achievements.



Nothing stops Chaitalli!

This inspiring 17 year old will perform a contemporary dance piece depicting her life to an audience of 2,500 in the US



Chaitalli has been featured before as WIN has supported her medical expenses for 3 years. She has a benign brain tumour requiring ongoing medical support. Thankfully, treatment has significantly improved Chaitalli's quality of life.

Chaitalli is an optimist – she exudes joy. Our team and other beneficiaries continue to be inspired by this remarkable young woman.

Despite a list of unpleasant symptoms, including vertigo, pain and nausea, Chaitalli doesn't let her condition stop her from pursuing her goals.

Thanks to our friends in JAZBA Chaitalli now has the chance to fulfil a very special dream...

She is currently being trained by a top choreographer in Nagpur to perform a contemporary dance piece depicting her story which will be aired in Feb 24 in the University of Minnesota Northrop auditorium in honour of JAZBA's 10th year supporting WIN.

We can't wait to share the final performance with you in the New Year!



Highlights in images from 2023





Thank you for enabling WIN to remain a beacon of hope to some of these women and girls during their darkest moments.

Wishing you all peace and joy this festive season xxx

