

Zero Hunger

-Hunger Warriors

Foreword

We, the Hunger Warriors are a passionate team of four high school students from Global Indian International School (Singapore) working unanimously in the journey towards our common goal of Zero Hunger, which has taught us that you can never have an impact on society, if you have not changed yourself. Be true to yourself as integrity unfolds the rarest strength of character through success or failures. We raised S\$ 10000 (5694 Pounds) either through fund raising events or by generous donations of the donors and were able to feed approximately 5100 needy people both in Singapore and India. Our grit and determination was put to test during Covid-19, but our team spirit, resilience and kindness triumphed over the deterrents only to contribute 3500 plus hours in action to champion the cause of Zero Hunger, which we believe in.*

Our Journey

Our brain storming sessions since October 2019 and regular meetings till date, made us realize that all the seventeen goals upheld by GSL are interlinked and can never be achieved in isolation. We embarked on our journey with a food donation drive to Foreign Migrant Workers (FMW) who earn a meagre salary and often upgrade themselves by undergoing driving training, in our vicinity at Sri Vadapathirakaliamman temple, Singapore. *We were blessed to feed around 2000 FMW through generous food donations (Annadanam) by our teammate of S\$4500 over a period from October 2019 till March 2020. We were touched to experience that **greatness is not in what we have, but what we give.*** We also motivated donors who contributed S\$150 to Sivananda Saraswathi Sevashram for a noble cause to benefit 50 needy people.

In November 2019, 'Breakfast with Love', a community awareness promoted by Ms. Denise Phua, Member of Parliament (MP) and Mayor Central Singapore to foster community bonding, where our teammates gave a mesmerizing performance followed by question and answers helped us instantly connect with the community. With a clear road-map, we devoted our Christmas holidays to share our blessings with the needy through meticulously planning our maiden Fund-Raising event cum Arangetram presented by one of our teammates organized at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Chennai in the presence of world renowned dancer Vyjayanthimala Bali, wherein we raised Rs100,000 (S\$2000) and in turn donated food to 1000 needy people.

The touching experience for our team was our visit to Udavum Karangal (Helping Hands), Chennai, India where we got an insight of difficulties faced by the people in orphanage, single mothers, their stories and struggles, yet they were thankful with a smile for everything, as they taught us the quintessence of life - **Never to give up HOPE...** Infact, one of the stories shared on our blog with due permission from the founder, Pappa Vidyakar, who shares his name with every child there as a father, left an indelible impression in our minds. We convinced the donors to contribute to provide a healthy meal to 400 people on the eve of Christmas and New Year. Heading back to Mumbai via Shirdi we were blessed to donate sumptuous meal to 100 needy people. At times, we cooked with love and shared with warmth creating ripples only to be shared with many. Undeterred by the panic created due to Covid-19, our team diligently earned S\$1500 by giving virtual tuitions, which were used in donating food to 500 vulnerable people to Food from the Heart, Singapore in mid-January 2020. This was followed by a food donation to 50 Foreign Migrant Workers (FMW) during the Chinese New Year to help them through the stressful times of the pandemic.

Kindness begets kindness

In midst of the stringent rules by the Government of Singapore to combat Covid-19, when the well-to-do were engaged in panic buying, our clarion call for the Food Donation Drive was supported vigorously by our school, GIIS. Transcending barriers, through our persistent efforts we could mobilize empathy from people to donate wholeheartedly. Pre-Awareness Surveys indicated that only 14% of the students were aware about UN goals, but our interactive Presentation with emphasis on reduction of food wastage as per the Post-Awareness survey, especially during recess by donating it to a needy person inspired 73% of the students to donate out of pocket money savings, birthday gifts, which made the Food donation drive a roaring success as we gathered almost 100kg Rice, 50 litres oil, noodles and snacks which was donated to Free Food for All, Singapore to feed around 500 people for a few months. We exhibited outstanding negotiation skills by convincing the authorities to deliver the awareness campaign in the Multipurpose hall with altruistic intention. It taught us never to procrastinate and stand up tall firmly with unflinching faith in the earnestness of the cause to which we dedicate ourselves.

How Hunger Warriors carved a niche

We also engaged creative ideas like Mimes, Posters, Poems, Skit, Quiz, Brain teasers, animated video, news and inspiring articles to motivate people to contribute towards Zero Hunger. Above all, the over whelming response to volunteer with us by teachers in spreading the UN goals made us confident that our positivity and proactive approach paved a way to enlighten many more through the multiplier effect.

The focus group sessions by GSL channelized us to reach out through Social Media Links:

- Facebook: We are privileged to share our teammate on GIIS Facebook (with a striking 17k likes) for selfless service, forbearance and stoicism and also on GSL Webpage as a role model.
- Blog (we-care.blog) {with 1000++ visits}
- Instagram (@hunger.warriors)
- Youtube (we-care)

Look beyond, reach beyond - Sustainable measures

- Access to education by encouraging sustainable projects,
- Donating food and reducing the food waste,
- Empowering women with vocational training and education is the best weapon against poverty, unemployment and hunger especially in underdeveloped nations.

Making a difference: A special mention for one of our teammates, with a golden heart, who donated the scholarship amount to Shop for Change, a NGO, incubated by the European Union and Traidcraft UK for empowering 500 tribal kids to impart self-sustainability in growing organic crops and thereby making them self-reliant in couple of years. In the midst of uncertainty due to Covid-19, our endeavor to harness technology to empower 10000 farmers, 500 tribal kids and 500 women blazed a trail as he says, "While working hard academically, we also need to ensure that we use our skills for a cause larger than us – positively give back to the society with empathy and compassion. Everyone strives for one's own happiness, but those who live to help others enjoy eternal happiness and contentment beyond words. It has to be experienced. Tomorrow someone from them can share their blessings."

Our journey has taught us that everything in life teaches us something, be thankful and humble to the ones who stood by you through thick and thin. We express our heartfelt gratitude to the GSL team which guided us through our satiating journey and supported us to resolve our doubts by providing guidance to make a difference, the MP and Mayor of Central Singapore, Ms. Denise Phua, who has been an inspiration to us, GIIS Management, who were instrumental in being a torch bearer, esteemed Principal of our school, Ms. Melissa Maria, who is our role model and supported us unequivocally in every endeavor, and all the teachers, parents, peers, donors and well-wishers who have been a constant source of support towards the betterment of mankind to rekindle a hope to the needy as

Mother Teresa aptly said – **'If you can't feed a hundred, feed just one.'**

Together we can make a difference.



(Note: Please find 5 photos enclosed and Annexure 1,2,3,4,5 attached)