



Little Sisters Fund

Education for Empowerment

ANNUAL REPORT **2020**



Letter from the Executive Directors

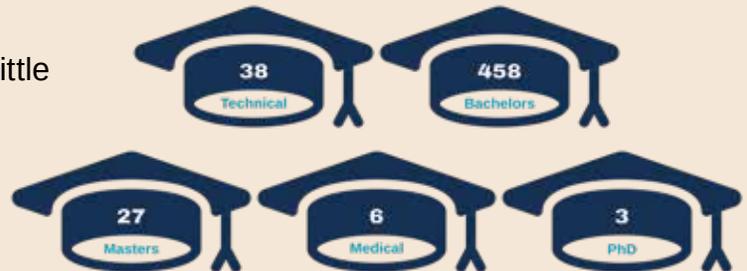
When LSF was born 23 years ago, we knew our mission of educating and empowering girls in Nepal would pay big dividends. We also knew it would take 10-15 years or more to fully realize the impact education would have on the lives of the Little Sisters. That day has come where over the past 7 years more than 90% of LSF graduates have gone on to seek higher education. In fact, three of our graduates are now pursuing PhDs and this year alone, 7 Little Sisters received scholarships to engineering school, which is HUGELY remarkable, particularly in light of the fact that only 20% of girls in Nepal graduate from high school. We are in awe of the Little Sister's dedication and determination to fight for an education that was once in jeopardy.



As COVID continues to rage in Nepal, we know there are likely more challenges yet to come. We also know none of our accomplishments would be possible without you, our donors. We are tremendously grateful for your continued support through these uncertain times. Please take a moment to review our 2020 results and achievements and to give yourself a "pat on the back" for making what we do possible.

Your generosity has transformed the lives of over 3,000 Little Sisters in Nepal. धेरै धेरै धन्यवाद - Thank you so much!

Trevor Patzer and Usha Acharya
Co-Founders and Co-Executive Directors
Little Sisters Fund (LSF)



2020 THE YEAR OF THE COORDINATING MENTOR

The biggest challenge of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic, took the world by surprise. The way LSF's Coordinating Mentors (CMs) rose to that challenge didn't surprise us at all! Over the course of the year, CMs met with the Little Sisters to raise awareness about COVID-19 prevention and delivered **4,000** masks and **10,000** bars of soap to the Little Sisters. Additionally, CMs were instrumental in distributing **2,500** months worth of emergency food assistance consisting of rice, lentils, cooking oil, sugar, cooking gas, etc. to cover the basic nutritional needs of Little Sisters and their families during COVID lockdowns.

The CMs encouraged each of their Little Sisters to stay engaged in studying and learning activities while schools were closed. LSF also helped Little Sisters gain access to mobile technologies and data packages so they could attend virtual lessons when they were made available. But even more importantly, the Coordinating Mentors became a lifeline for Little Sisters through regular phone calls, encouraging text and video messages and physically distanced outdoor meetings.

Because of their incredible commitment and dedication to be there for the Little Sisters when they needed them most, nearly all of the 1,900+ Little Sisters were ready and able to return to school once they opened for in-person classes. In fact, we expect to continue our string of success where our year-on-year continuation rate is above 98%. This is compared to a national year-on-year continuation rate of just 60% for girls in Nepal, which may end up being even lower this year due to the pandemic.

We cannot overemphasize the importance of our Coordinating Mentors and we cannot thank them enough for their extraordinary love, care and compassion for all the Little Sisters they mentor.

Giving Back **PAYING IT FORWARD**

In 1998, Bindhaya Sharma became the very first Little Sister when Trevor sponsored her full education. Two decades later, Bindhaya is a nurse, proud mother and LSF sponsor! Bindhaya graduated in 2005 and went on to become a successful nurse at Dhulikel Hospital, one of the top hospitals in Nepal. She began sponsoring her first Little Sister, Ashmita in 2011. Ashmita has followed in Bindhaya's footsteps and will graduate with her nursing degree in 2021. Bindhaya has since begun sponsoring her second Little Sister, Gauri.

Bindhaya is an extraordinary example of the power of giving back by paying it forward and she is far from the only one! Little Sisters Fund currently has 10 graduates of its program sponsoring the full education of current Little Sisters. Another 40 LSF alumni are partially supporting younger Little Sisters.

“LSF changed my life. I am proud to be able to pay it forward and help other Little Sisters like me.”

In addition to the financial support given by LSF alums, 20 of our graduates are serving as Coordinating Mentors who provide Little Sisters with positive role models while also monitoring their progress and wellbeing. Our graduates have a proven desire to make a positive difference and are committed to helping future generations of Little Sisters. This is one of our proudest accomplishments!



A Meaningful and Lasting Impact

10 LSF GRADUATES FROM 2020 ARE PURSUING DEGREES IN ENGINEERING. **99%** OF 2020 GRADUATES ENROLLED IN HIGHER EDUCATION.

188 LITTLE SISTERS TOOK THE 12TH GRADE NATIONAL EXAM. **97%** SCORED AN A+, A, B+ OR B, TRIPLING THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.

54 LITTLE SISTERS ARE CURRENTLY PURSUING A TECHNICAL DIPLOMA COURSE IN AREAS SUCH AS NURSING, DENTAL HYGIENE, PHARMACY, RADIOLOGY, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MORE.

27 LITTLE SISTERS LEARNED LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION SKILLS BY COMPLETING **9** COMMUNITY PROJECTS.

323 TEACHERS TRAINED.

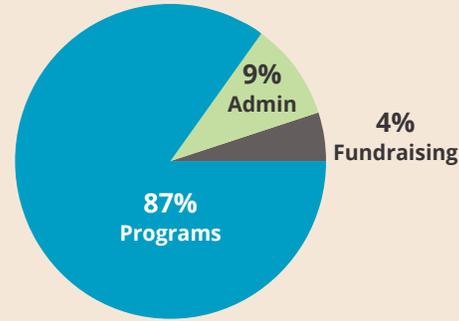
“Many people told me I should not study engineering. They believe Aeronautical Engineering is just for boys and definitely not a cup of tea for girls. But the encouragement from LSF and my family helped me achieve my dream. I decided to stand out from the crowd. I am really grateful to LSF for my education and knowledge and their encouragement. Yet I know I still have to a lot to do. I must work hard. As Robert Frost once said, ‘I have promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep.’”

Bhawana, 2020 LSF graduate

Financial Stewardship

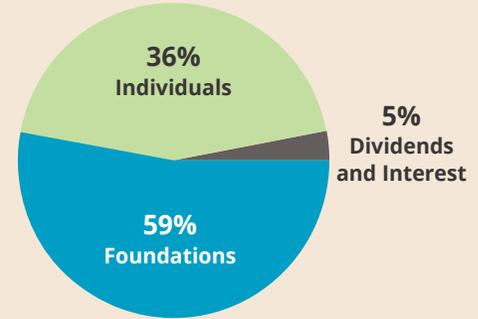
Expenses:

Programs:	\$ 558,177	
Management & Administration:	\$ 60,845	
Fundraising:	\$ 26,501	
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Total:	\$ 645,523	



Income:

Contributions from Individuals:	\$ 283,226	
Contributions from Foundations:	\$ 462,106	
Dividends and Interest:	\$ 37,221	
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Total:	\$ 782,553	



LSF is making a real and lasting impact by not only providing access to basic education, but also supporting the whole girl, including health, mental health, career preparation and social and familial support. To be able to witness this with each Little Sister I've sponsored and to follow her growth over the years has been a true privilege".

Kristen Zecchi, Sponsor since 1999

My Dream Fulfilled **PRATIKSHYA'S STORY**

Pratikshya's parents suffered greatly during the Maoist insurgency in rural Nepal from 1996-2006. They eventually fled to Kathmandu in search of a better life and education for their children. However, on the way they were involved in a terrible accident as the brakes failed on the truck they were riding in. Her whole family was injured, yet luckily everyone survived. Pratikshya's family arrived in Kathmandu and recovered from their injuries, but their troubles weren't over. It was difficult for her parents to find jobs to support their basic family needs while also paying to educate Pratikshya and her siblings. LSF stepped in to help when Pratikshya was in 3rd grade.

Pratikshya, a model student, graduated from Gyan Niketan English Boarding school in 2018. She had always dreamed of being a pilot. After graduation, she enrolled in and completed a year-long training course at the Royale Flight Training Academy in Dumageti, Philippines. "I want to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped me achieve my dreams, especially LSF and my parents," Pratikshya said. "My first experience flying a plane was very beautiful. I felt I could conquer the world."

*"If you have a dream,
work hard to fulfill it.
If a person like me
who comes from such
difficult circumstances
can fulfill their dream,
others can too!"*



14th Feb, 2021

Dear Trevor Dai,

Namaste! Writing a hand written letter to you after all these years feels like I've come full circle. Thank you for being there for me every step of the way and I am grateful for your presence in my life, today and always.

Thank you for always being here for all of us Bahinees. And for making us feel special and loved when we were younger. I had a dictionary (I believe it's still there, with my things, back in Nepal) that LSF gave me. On one of the covers of the dictionary, there was a paragraph, with all signatures of LSF office members below it. The paragraph said you are special and loved. I remember I used to look at it whenever I felt down, and that happened a lot. Thank you for always telling us that you're proud of us. Now I realize how important it is to hear that when you're growing up, especially in Nepali society. Thank you for teaching us about unconditional love. And as weird as it may sound, thank you for crying every single time you went on stage to talk. [Even though I knew you didn't do it on purpose]

I feel that words will never be enough for me to express how grateful I'm for having you in my life, but this is me trying anyway. Hope at least some of it the things made sense.

Love,
Anupama

Thank you to our
sponsors, donors
and the hundreds
of volunteers who
make our mission
possible!

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