



# FAMILY SPONSORSHIP

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**Foster Care Society**

**Family Support Centre**

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## ParivarSahyog Kendra

We are constantly inspired by the strong women who visit our centre. These women are striving to overcome challenges in their lives and many are widows or separated from their husbands. Most families that we serve are living in extreme poverty and are in need of sponsorship.



The translation of ParivarSahyog Kendra is “family support centre”. As the heart of Foster Care Society’s Non-Institutional Alternative Care (NIAC) work, this centre offers case management services and community activities for families in Udaipur. The goal for these services is to provide “gatekeeping” for families, ensuring that children are not entering into orphanages unnecessarily due to their family’s poverty.

Each month, we hold community meetings which connect our staff with people who are seeking services and empower community members to become advocates for their families. During summer holiday, we provide free classes and programs for school-aged children teaching skills like English, yoga, recycling, and healthy relationships. This provides children with a safe place to learn and grow, while letting community members share their skills and interests.

With the ultimate goal of strengthening families, Foster Care Society’s Family Support Centre desires to be a light of hope for all families in Udaipur. The following pages include a few of the stories of families who need sponsorship in our community. We hope that these stories inspire you to donate to our sponsorship program.

## **BISSORAH**

Her husband suffered from depression. Living in a community that often stigmatizes getting mental health treatment, he did not seek help and quickly became physically ill. Multiple blood vessels in his head burst and he was rushed to a local hospital. There, he was on a ventilator for seven days before he was officially pronounced dead. This was devastating for the family, both emotionally and financially. Shortly after her husband's death, her eldest daughter fell ill with Typhoid and was beyond the point of recovery when she arrived at the hospital and died.

For the two years following her husband's death, Bissorahi was unable to leave home and grieved deeply for her daughter and husband during this time. She realized the urgent financial need of her family and took up stitching work. Foster Care Society's Family Support Centre connected the woman's son to enrollment in Palanhar and she hopes to get Palanhar for her two younger daughters. Bissorahi herself is trying to get connected with a self-help group which she can lead and get paid a stipend for each month. The youngest daughter, who recovered from pneumonia as a baby, is now six years old and thriving. She hopes to be a doctor when she grows up.

Bissorahi is a picture of resiliency, always looking to give back to her community. During summer camps and special activities for children hosted by the Family Support Centre, she not only brings her own children, but brings neighborhood children who want to attend, ensuring their safe arrival and return home from the events. Her future hopes include getting her two eldest daughters connected to income generation schemes around stitching and making sure her younger daughters get the best education possible.



## HEENA

The woman has been married five years. Her husband was diagnosed with throat cancer a year and a half ago. They have a four-year-old son. One year ago, he had an operation for the cancer and has been unable to work since then. He was readmitted to the hospital four months ago and the doctors say that his condition is not good.

Heena has never attended school, as her village did not educate girls. She cannot read or write and can only sign her name when she needs to. She desperately wants her son to receive an education. Last year the child was in school, but now he is not able to go because the family does not have the money to pay for school fees. Her son says that he likes school because he learns poems, gets to play and color pictures, and enjoys studying. She is seeking stitching work so that she does not have to leave the home since she cares for her husband.

ParivarSahyog Kendra is seeking opportunities for Heena's son to receive education sponsorship and for her to get stitching jobs at home.

## SAYRA

This family includes an 8 year old girl who lives with her paternal aunt and uncle. At the time of the girl's birth, she remained in the hospital for an extended time. The father became addicted to drugs and alcohol. The mother chose to divorce her husband due to his substance use and she became a Nata (left her marriage and daughter to live with another man). She signed away her parental rights to the girl when she was 5 months old and brought the girl to live with her husband's sister, Sayra.

Recently, Sayra's husband was diagnosed with severe diabetes. He is becoming weak and in his old age is not able to work. Last month, he was hospitalized for 14 days and the woman had to sell possessions from their home in order to pay for his medical bills. When her uncle was working, the girl was able to go to English Medium school since the family had a steady income.



Now, there is no way to guarantee the girl's education and her aunt often has to go door-to-door to ask for money from neighbors. Her school fees each month are 700-800 INR.

Sayra says that she would be very grateful towards a donor, corporate or government, for the help in supporting the girl's education. She is a very bright girl and is capable of doing well in school. Sayra never received an education and she wants to see the girl succeed and be able to stand on her own two feet and have a role in the community. The girl hopes to complete school and become a police officer when she grows up.