



SHUKHAR FOUNDATION

OUR JOURNEY

Dear Gujarat Journey Family members;

Spring has sprung and COVID-19 is hopefully on its way out like winter. Thanks to the Almighty for bringing us through to the other side. Yet, we should not be lulled into complacency and by no means should we throw caution to the wind. Prudence and vigilance should guide us in our interactions with others.

The Gujarat Journey Team wants to celebrate the successes of our hard working and diligent students who have made remarkable progress and achievements, even while living under unfavorable and challenging home life conditions and within a harsh and unfriendly milieu.

Needless to say, the Gujarat Team could only guide these students with the knowledge that our very generous and benevolent donors had our and our students' backs. We are most grateful and indebted to you all. May you all be blessed with plenty for your amazing contribution to our efforts to improve the quality of life of our unfortunate brothers and sisters, especially the young and vulnerable ones, in Gujarat.

This edition of our Newsletter is going to highlight a student who has achieved personal success and who, God Willing, will play a major role in uplifting the standard of living for her family and give back to the Gujarat Journey Program. We are happy to announce that we have found her a job at the Rajkot Girls Hostel. She will look after our students in the hostel where she is residing and teaches at the Girls Academy nearby.

Introducing Farzana Abwani who we first started supporting, along with her family members, in 2006.

Abwani Family



Farzana During 2006 Interview.

Farzana in Kindergarten.



Farzana in Grade 5.

Farzana in 2012.



A few years ago, with the help of our donors we found them a flat in our community amongst other Ismailis. Previously, their living conditions were not good at all. Farzana's father, Bahadur, sold items by

taking a vegetable cart (rekdi) around and her mother stayed at home with a third child, Sarfraz who is mentally challenged.

Farzana began her studies at Maliya and then went on Sidhpur Girls' Hostel where her sister eventually joined her as well. After Grade 12, Farzana continued her studies in Mumbai and graduated with a B.A. in Sociology. She came home to Ranavav during her vacation and worked at a telemarketing job. She aspired to complete an online B.Ed. Degree and become a teacher and we were able to fund her further studies as well.

Attached is an audio of her lovely singing; she sings both ginans and qasidas:



Here is one of the testimonials from Farzana Abwani, now working in Rajkot after completing her studies.

"Ya Ali Madad,

I want to thank you all for the things you do for me and my family. Thank you for always supporting me, guiding me and helping me in every possible way. To be honest, thank you is a very short word because your favours are infinite. Sometimes I wonder how someone can be so selfless when I think of you all. The way you treat us, The way you put efforts to give us better life. No matter what, no matter when and no matter where you are, you have always make sure that we are alright. No one can work this selflessly except the ones who are chosen by Allah. You'll are the angels sent by Allah in our life, who don't expect anything in return just our wellbeing. I always thank God for your existence. Because of your life, our life is meaningful.

I am happy here in Rajkot and doing my best in my work. I want to assure you and promise you to ask you before taking every decision of my life. Again, I would say thank you is not enough for you'll that's why we make sure to remember you'll in our prayers. May God reward you all and your loved ones with his choicest blessings in this life and the next.

Ameen 🙏 "

Farzana Abwani, now working in Rajkot after completing her studies.



Since we began our program in 2004, the tuition and hostel expenses have continued to rise every year. About 15 more students are stuck in the current educational system and often they have to compromise with their food/living conditions or get part time jobs to pay the cheaper boarding/lodging option about 500-800 rupees a month. In addition, they have to pay for all their personal expenses. Our success stories include accountants, physiotherapists, nurses, teachers and computer programmers who are in their second or third year of further studies. It is now costing us \$3,000 to support these exceptional achievers with their further studies past Grade 10.

Breaking News:

Save the Date Evenings of Friday, June 17th Vancouver and Saturday, June 18th Calgary.

Vishal Vaid blends Eastern and Western, ancient and contemporary, to create spellbinding Sufi songs/ghazals. He has performed worldwide, appearing on television shows in New York, London, India, and Morocco, and has worked with renowned artists Anoushka Shankar, Bill Laswell, Michael Franti, and Karsh Kale.
