Dear all,

As we celebrate International Day of the Girl Child, it is only right we appreciate the #GirlBosses in our communities who are rising above their situation to transform their lives and those around them! Here are some of their inspiring stories.

Skills to learn and skills to earn.

Sangeetha, one of our employment readiness programme students in Bangalore is a great example of using time to its advantage. During the lockdown, Sangeetha learnt to weave doormats from used clothes, sarees and rags. With this new learnt skill, Sangeetha sold some of these mats to her friends and family.
In India, we often view women as victims of patriarchy and more often than not, it is true. But when we begin to view women to be empowered, our approach towards their growth and development shifts for the better. Sangeetha not only made and sold mats but also works at a mask manufacturing company while she attended college online classes. She took time out of her schedule to help us with our relief support distribution in the community.

Your obstacles do not define you but how you overcome them does. With her hard work, Sangeetha has proved to be a true #GirlBoss.

Thoufiya, 18, is one of our young tailoring programme students in Punganur. In her time at Oasis, Thoufiya has shown great interest in helping people. Thoufiya is very passionate about the safety of children. She accompanies children from the after-school programme (ASP) and drops them off at home safely after every session. She also volunteers at all our awareness events and has built great rapport with all the parents of our ASP children.

Thoufiya stays very close to our hub and is always a great help for the staff, especially during the time of COVID-19, when access to the communities were limited. Thoufiya says that she has learnt the importance of community while working with Oasis. She says, “Oasis works towards fulfilling the needs of the community
people and ensures the education of children. One day, I want to establish a good health facility in my village as we have no health centre for atleast 5 kilometers.”

#GirlBoss

In South of Chennai, Kannagi Nagar is a community with a population of over 1.25 Lakh people, housing the biggest resettlement tenements. It is known to be the hotspot for crimes in the city. This automatically makes this community a high-risk area for children, making it very unsafe with threats of sexual abuse and early marriage, especially for girls.

To empower them, we are creating Project Sarika (‘brave princess’ in Sanskrit) to teach young girls self-defence. Support our project in the link below.

[Project Sarika]

Isma, one of our change agents in Nalasopara is determination to help the children in her community. She believes in bringing change within oneself which in-turn brings change in the family and in the community around us. This is what being a change
agent is all about! Isma saw that some of the children in her community needed help in their academics and their parents were not able to help them. Nalasopara is known to have a very low literacy rate among children and the pandemic posed a threat to these young school-going children.

During the lockdown, Isma gathered the children in small batches and tutored them to help them remember everything they have learnt at school. Isma also requested guidance from our staff on teaching children how to take precautions during COVID-19 and carefully taught them as well! Because of Isma’s efforts, our ASP children are improving in their academics and are learning new things every day! Isma is a #GirlBoss

Buy ‘25 Years. 25 Stories.’ This book captures the transformation stories of individuals that we have worked with since 1993. The money raised from this coffee table book will go towards our grassroots work with women and children in the red-light areas of Mumbai.
Madras Fuse’s e-commerce website is live! This is an initiative of Oasis India to support women rescued from trafficking in Mumbai and women from the vulnerable communities in Chennai. This website will bring to you clothes made with love by these women. Dr. Ezhil Christadoss, our Committee Of Management President, launched the official website on October 1st. Madras Fuse hopes to bring sustainability and women empowerment through ethical fashion in India.

Take a look at the Green Girl Campaign in www.madrasfuse.in offering 50% off on all ethnic wear products!

The Joy Of Giving week brought together many individuals and groups who took initiatives to bring joy to the women and children in our communities. Here are some of those events from this past month.

Our team in Bangalore distributed dress material for free for the women in the vocational tailoring programme at Hallegudadahalli in Bangalore.
Dr. Christopher Joel and Dr. Ashika Rachel volunteered to conduct a dental awareness session for the change agent group in Kannagi Nagar, Chennai. They also gave free toothbrush and toothpaste for all of them to continue practicing oral hygiene at home!

*Kindness Unlimited* works towards inspiring individuals and communities with the power of kindness. This motivated bunch provided milk and biscuits for 300 children in Nalasopara for a week!

*Sampoorna Shiksha* has education and skill development projects that enables every child to become great students and fulfill their dreams. They donated stationary kits for over 400 kids in the slums of Nalasopara.
You are Loved, a non-profit organisation donated 5 machines for women from our vocational tailoring programme in Kannagi Nagar, Chennai. Their Project Rebuild focuses on providing seed investment for those from low income backgrounds to start small scale businesses.

Mukthi Bike Challenge is back this year with a twist! Ride any distance and any route of your choice to raise awareness on human trafficking. To know more, contact:

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