
Udayan Care USA Winter Newsletter

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Udayan Care USA's quarterly newsletter.

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Himachal Pradesh Gujarat Bihar Madhya Pradesh**

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This is the season of giving, but this year the holiday season has also been one of great hardship. We know that many are hurting, but we encourage you to give whatever you can to help protect the most vulnerable from the ravages of a pandemic that has disproportionately affected them. Much has changed this year, but your donation can still make a difference in the lives of disadvantaged young women and children--now more than ever. Thank you for your support and generosity, and happy holidays.

The Udayan Care USA Board: Rakhi Agarwal, Jesse George-Nichol, Shraddha



Meet Priya

A Shalini Fellowship Student - Chennai

Priya was born into a family plagued by both hardship and tragedy. Her father passed away when she was in fifth grade, and since then her mother has struggled to support the family as a garment factory worker. Her friends and neighbors urged Priya to give up her studies, but she was determined to make a better life for herself and her family. She would wake up at 3am every morning to study, dreaming of one day becoming a chartered accountant.

The Udayan Shalini Fellowship has given Priya the chance to make that dream a reality--a chance that Priya describes as answering all her prayers. She has been able to continue her education, and she has gained confidence through the Shalini Fellowship skills workshops. Priya is also being mentored by a chartered accountant, who is helping her to pursue her career goals.

Yet since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, the Udayan Shalini Fellowship has also become a lifeline. USF has ensured that Priya and her family have groceries and cash support for other needs. This aid has saved Priya and other Shalinis from the fate that has met many impoverished young women in these difficult times--a speedy marriage to relieve their families of the economic burden of keeping them. But Priya has done more than survive; she has thrived. Generous donors have provided her and her sister Chennai fellows with data plans to allow them access to online classes. Their USF chapter, like many others, has also established a parallel online school, which offers additional classes and workshops

to continue their education and development. At a time when the pandemic is placing new burdens on disadvantaged young women, USF is working to make sure that Priya and her sister fellows are given new and more expansive opportunities. You can help to support these remarkable young women [here](#).

Providing Access



During the early months of lockdown, Udayan Care moved rapidly to make sure that the basic needs of its Shalini Fellows would not be threatened by the pandemic. Nearly 3,900 Shalinis and their families have received groceries or cash support since the start of the pandemic, and more than 100 of the most vulnerable families have been given aid on a monthly basis. Udayan Care has also worked to secure digital access to school, jobs, mentorship, and skills training for its Shalini Fellows. Through a Herculean effort and with the support of donors like you, UC has distributed smart phones and laptops to those in need, and each Shalini now has access to the internet through at least one device. You can continue to ensure that these Shalinis not only survive but thrive by donating [here](#).

Giving Back



Eight years ago, at just seven years old, Sejal Akerkar traveled from her home in Seattle to an Udayan Ghar in Delhi for the first time. She volunteered with her mother and would trail behind Gurmeet (pictured above, far left), who lived there. Now, at fifteen, Sejal is finding new ways to give back. She just self-published her first collection of poetry on Amazon, all proceeds from which will go to Udayan Care. You can get purchase your own copy [here](#)--for a gift this holiday season that truly keeps on giving.

Udayan Care USA's Mission

To provide a nurturing home for every orphaned child; an opportunity for higher education for every girl; and for every adult, the dignity of self-reliance and the desire to give back to society. To learn more about the Udayan Ghar (Home) and the Udayan Shalini Fellowship Programs, please go to www.udayancareusa.org

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