

HOPE NOW ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Adapting to our changing world and building resilience.

WHERE WE ARE

What a year it has been!!

The world is still adjusting to a global pandemic. India has been hit hard. Our kids have weathered it all with a grace that astounds, a willingness to sacrifice and a determination to see this to the end - whenever that may be.

Lockdown in India has been severe and long. We are now into our 18th month of remote learning at the high school and collegiate level. The world around us continues to open and close as the virus rages in cycles across India. Our kids have had to learn how to cook, do laundry, clean the home and take care of the grounds as we have had no support staff from the beginning of the pandemic. All of this on top of keeping up with school studies, homework and time in the computer lab to engage in remote classes.

The 2021/22 school year has begun. Some of the kids are on campus and some are still engaged in remote learning. We will continue to persevere and do our best with the ever-changing landscape.

It was a year of transition and change. We look forward to a successful year ahead.



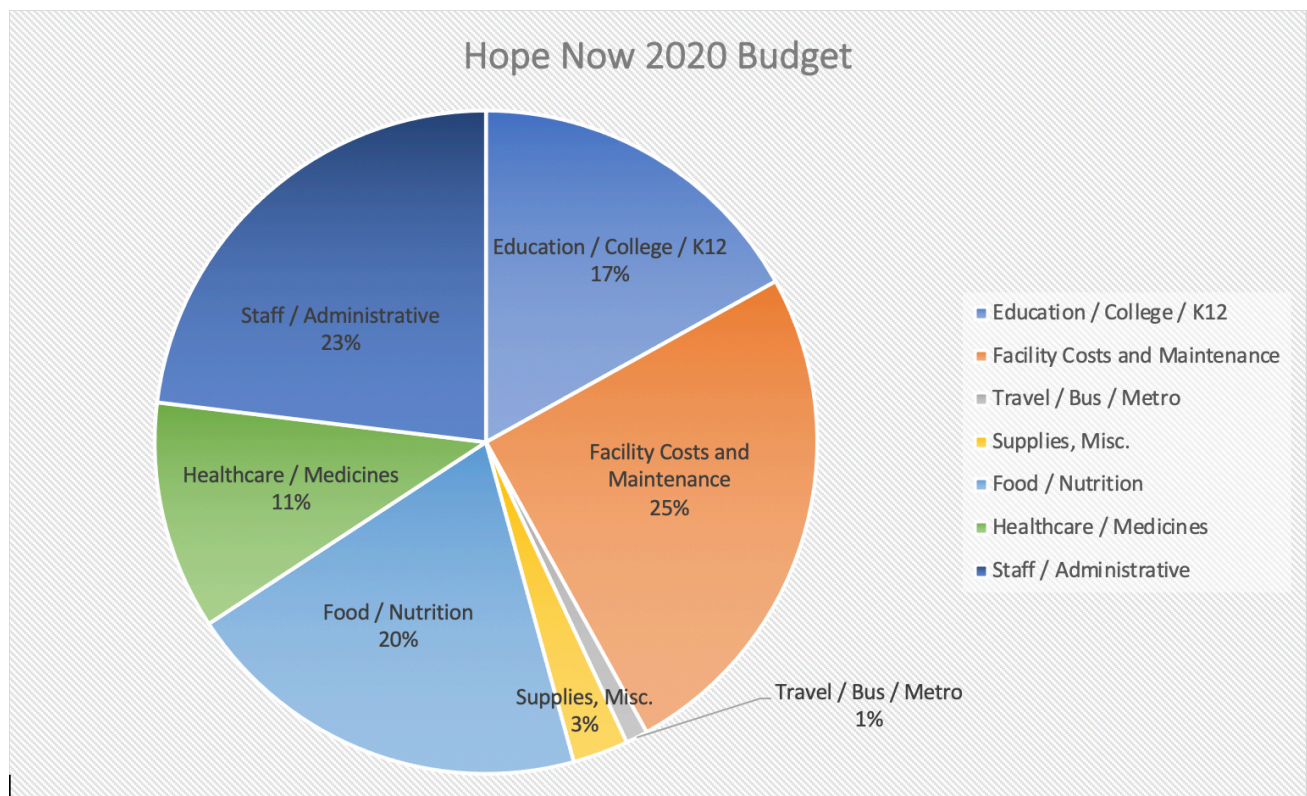
Having a little fun with the camera on a day off.

THE NUMBERS

The past year was a challenge on every level, including the budget. We had significant costs we don't typically budget for directly related to COVID. We added additional computers to our library for remote learning, including battery backups to protect our new equipment. As COVID ran its course through the home, there were unexpected healthcare costs. The food budget expanded and we became professional chefs as each child took a turn in the kitchen to make our daily meals.

Due to rolling lockdowns and our inability to leave the home, we had all of our supplies delivered to our front door, including food, medicines and school necessities. That costs money. When the budget is stretched we get creative and find ways to shave off where we can to make up for where we fall short. The kids were absolutely key in this daily process and took on all we asked of them. As with everyone else in the world, it was a long, slow slog to get to where we are now. A new school year, more kids in college and college graduates finding jobs and moving into their own apartments.

For the 2021/22 school year we have more kids in college than we ever have before. This will impact the budget going forward and we are already looking for new sponsors and supporters.



WHERE WE ARE GOING



For the first time, we have more kids in college and trade school than we do in K12. It is a logistical mountain to climb finding the proper placement for each of our kids, with so many varied interests, skill sets and dreams. Our resident tutors Solomon and Sunjani - who have been working with the kids for the past several years - were instrumental in placing each student on the proper campus. Some of the kids are physically on campus and other schools have opted for remote learning, at least for now. There are many schedules to keep, homework to monitor and bus routes to figure out as the kids go their own way each day. It is an exciting time for Hope Now to see so many of our kids engaged in higher education that will enable them to create a stable life for themselves.

We reached another milestone this past year - six of our college graduates found jobs and have moved into their own apartments. Many are sharing to keep costs down, which also provides a continuity of life with family. Roja and Asheshwani share an apartment in Hyderabad. David, Linga, Ravi and Samuel are sharing an apartment in the Banjara Hills neighborhood. This is the primary goal of Hope Now, to create possibility for each child to succeed, build an adult life and find their place in the world.

Maintaining our health is vital and good nutrition is critical. The ARVs that keep us alive can only do their work when the kids are properly fed. After two years of intensive attention to our meal plan, all of the kids t-cell count has gone up significantly, almost all maintaining the gold standard of 500 or better. This is the guideline that dictates the virus will not be passed on to another. It can take years for this number to move. We have put a lot of effort and resources to reach this end and we will continue to ensure we stay on track.

With the school year started, we will focus most of our attention on our studies. Our resident tutors will continue to meet with the kids daily to ensure everyone stays on track with their homework, filling in the gap when needed and providing additional attention to any child who is struggling with a subject.

WHAT IS NEXT

Our home is thriving. We are accomplishing precisely what we set out to do from the start. We cannot do it alone. We need people to support us and sponsor our kids financially so they can fulfill their purpose and promise. Consider becoming a monthly sponsor. Give the gift of an education - it really does change the world.

We have spent years working with the kids on how to set goals. Making story boards, visions boards, creating a narrative of resilience and gratitude. All of these skill building sessions really do create an environment where anything is possible when we set our minds to a particular end.

Goals for the next year are set.

~ Grow our monthly sponsor list. With 21 kids in junior college, university or vocational school we need your support to maintain our educational goals.

~ Grow more of our own food. Our garden has grown but we need to create a more sustainable food chain for the home. This requires additional capital investment to build a space where we can grow all year round.

~ Purchase 2 printers for our computer lab.

All nonprofits have one thing in common – we rely on partnerships to survive. Hope Now is a powerful voice for change in modern India. With education as our primary objective, this ensures our kids will go out into the modern world and create a space for people living with HIV in a country where stigma still shuts doors at every level of life.

Become a monthly Hope Now sponsor and be a part of our family. Go to www.hopenow.asia and give today.

