

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

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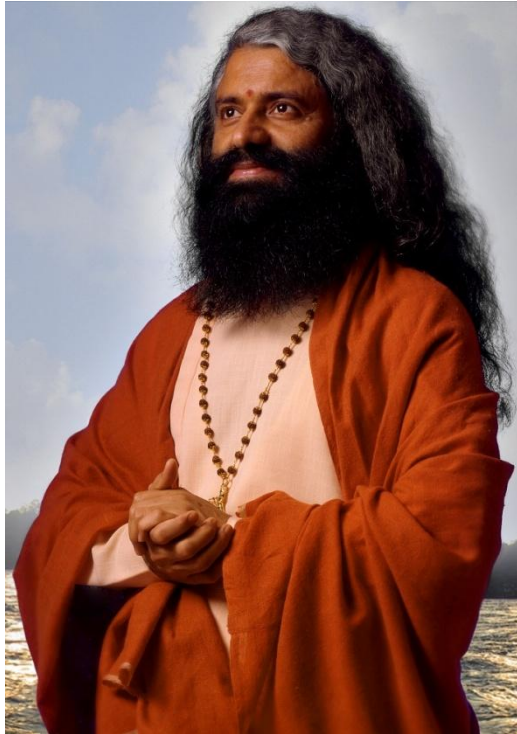


VISION

The goal of the Trust is to holistically provide for the well being of women, their children, and orphaned/abandoned children. The Trust will identify needs and design and implement programs to support women and children (especially orphaned/abandoned children) to be socially and financially self-sustaining. The Trust will raise awareness of the problems facing women and children through education and mass communication. The Trust will be engaged in activities for the preservation of Mother Earth especially protecting Holy Ganges River and providing a safe and natural environment for India's revered cows. Further the Trust will support and promote cooperation and association among the people who are interested in the objectives of this Trust.

MISSION/ OBJECTIVES

- Provide comprehensive needs of poor and widowed women and orphaned/abandoned children.
- Plan activities and instructional programs designed for spiritual development and growth
- Provide and promote educational advancement with children's schools, adult educational services, computer training, scholarship funds, etc
- Promote vocational training and provide, free of cost equipment for general training centers, cottage industry training, day care centers, etc
- Teach and promote effective parenting skills. Establish parenting training centers for mothers and expectant mothers.
- Design programs to preserve cultural and family values
- Provide programs for holistic healthcare. Support research intended for advancement of women and children's healthcare concerns, particularly debilitating diseases such as HIV, AIDS, breast cancer, etc. Support other organizations involved with holistic healthcare and research designed primarily for women and children
- Support programs for public health maintenance including preventative holistic health, basic hygiene instructions, nutritional counseling, Ayurvedic cooking instructions, etc.
- Establish homes for unwanted and orphaned children.
- Promote and support rural development training.
- Raise awareness and promote programs designed for ecological preservation especially programs for protecting and preserving the sacred River Ganga.
- Provide a safe, serene and natural environment for stray cows through creation of Gaushalas and Gaudhams,
- Protect and preserve of all life including animals with a commitment to prevent animal killing and cruelty wherever possible.
- Provide immediate and long term needs of women and children affected by natural disasters. Support other organization involved with similar goals and objectives as this Trust.



OUR FOUNDER- HH PUJYA SWAMI CHIDANAND SARASWATIJI

H.H. Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji's motto in life is, "In the Service of God and humanity." He left his home for the Himalayan jungles and forests at the tender age of 8 years, under the guidance of his spiritual master, in order to live a life devoted to God and in the service of humanity. Today, he is world renowned as a spiritual leader, visionary and divine guide.

Pujya Swamiji is the Founder and Chairman of the Divine Shakti Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to using the energy, strength and capability of women to help bring the light of life, hope, education and assistance to the abandoned, orphaned babies and young girls, as well as widowed and impoverished women. He is deeply committed to the

protection of women, girls and Mother Earth, as the future of India will only thrive if these grow and thrive.

To learn more about our founder, click here: <http://www.divineshaktifoundation.org/pujya-swamiji/>



OUR PRESIDENT-SADHVI BHAGWATI SARASWATIJI

Sadhviiji was raised in a traditional, upper class American family in Hollywood, California and graduated from Stanford University. She was completing her Ph.D. when she left America in 1996 to come and live permanently at Parmarth Niketan Ashram, on the holy banks of the Ganges river in Rishikesh, India. She has been serving the poor and needy of India since. She was officially initiated into the order of Sanyas (vows of renunciation) in June, 2000, by her guru His Holiness Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji Maharaj, marking her pledge to a life of service, renunciation, purity and devotion.

Sadhviiji teaches meditation to seekers from every

corner of the globe who travel to the Himalayas to learn the divine practice. She also counsels people who come looking for answers and guidance. She leads discourses and question-answer sessions on topics ranging from Indian spirituality to the bridge between science and spirituality to the keys of true happiness and meaning in daily life.

She travels across the world, in the seva of His Holiness Pujya Swamiji, giving lectures and question-answer sessions and teaching meditation. Her talks blend the knowledge and logic of the West with the insights, spirituality and wisdom of the East.

She is President of Divine Shakti Foundation, a foundation dedicated to bringing education and empowerment to poor women and children which runs free schools, women's vocational training programs and women's empowerment programs. In addition to being the President of Divine Shakti Foundation, she also oversees myriad humanitarian programs run by India Heritage Research Foundation, and is the Managing Editor for the monumental project of the Encyclopedia of Hinduism. She has a Ph.D in Psychology.

FLOOD RELIEF AND REHABILITATION

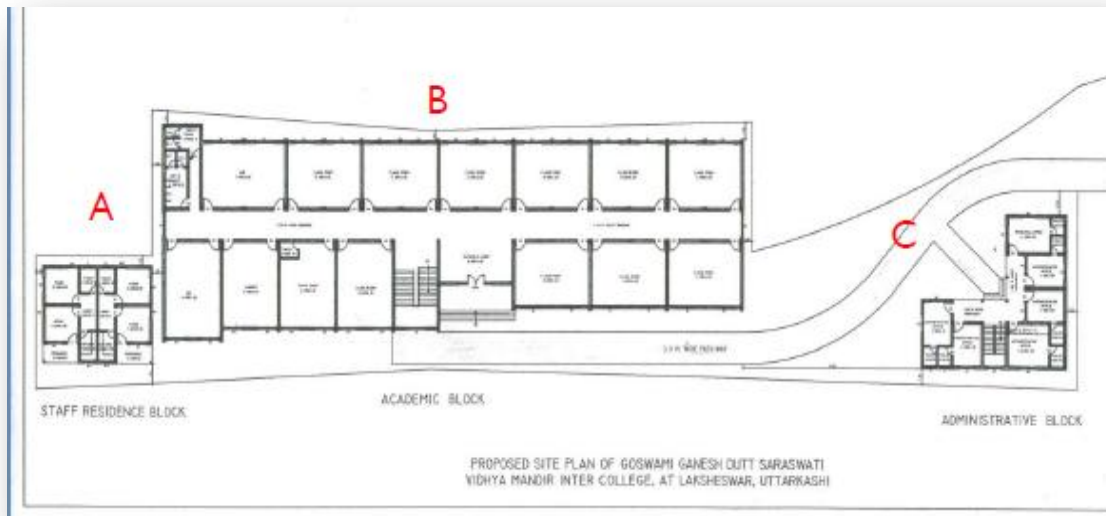


In the tragic flooding in Uttarakhand mid-June 2013, innumerable people (estimates report in the thousands) lost their lives. They couldn't escape as Mother Ganga's waters rose to heights unseen in over 100 years, flowing brown and fast: with forces greater than a speeding train. Countless lives were lost, as were

property, possessions and hopes.

Led by Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, Divine Shakti Foundation has been working alongside other individuals, organization, NGOs, administration, volunteers and doctors to provide not only emergency, immediate relief, but also permanent eco-friendly rehabilitation and reconstruction for the surviving villagers. Divine Shakti Foundation has helped create several programs which uplift and empower women and children who have survived this tragedy, as well as help care for and protect the animals affected by the floods.

REBUILDING SCHOOLS IN DISASTER AFFECTED REGIONS



- ▶ Project Hopes is also reconstructing and rebuilding the **Goswami Ganesh Dutt Saraswati Vidya Mandir in Laksheshwar, Uttarkashi.**
- ▶ The school had been completely washed away during last year's floods. DSF plans to work in a newly relocated and geologically safer location.
- ▶ Nearly 2000 children were displaced and will be provided with a newly built and newly furnished building in a safer location.
- ▶ 40 classrooms, serving as one of the only inter-colleges in that area providing for students with education up to the 12th standard.





In Augustamuni, Rudraprayag, a seven classroom school is being rebuilt in 5000 Sq Ft area, which will be attended by approximately 200 students, ranging from class LKG to VII. School Building was completely washed away during the floods. Based on the size of the land, the SEEDS architectural team confirms that the building would be a two storey building with 5 rooms on the ground floor and 2 rooms on the first floor.

Constructions in both schools have been started this year and will be completed early next year.



retaining wall

RESTORING LIVELIHOODS IN DISASTER AFFECTED REGIONS



In Pujya Swamiji's visit to Rudraprayag soon after the floods many women and many widowed women affected by the floods expressed that their collective need was to restore their source of livelihood. They sought simply to make ends meet and to give themselves a new reason to live after having lost so much. Recognizing this immense need, Divine Shakti Foundation is working to bring skills development and training to more and more women.

Without work or economic opportunity, many people were forced, out of necessity, to migrate to distant cities. Migrant families find themselves living in the claustrophobic squalor of urban slums, in even deeper poverty.

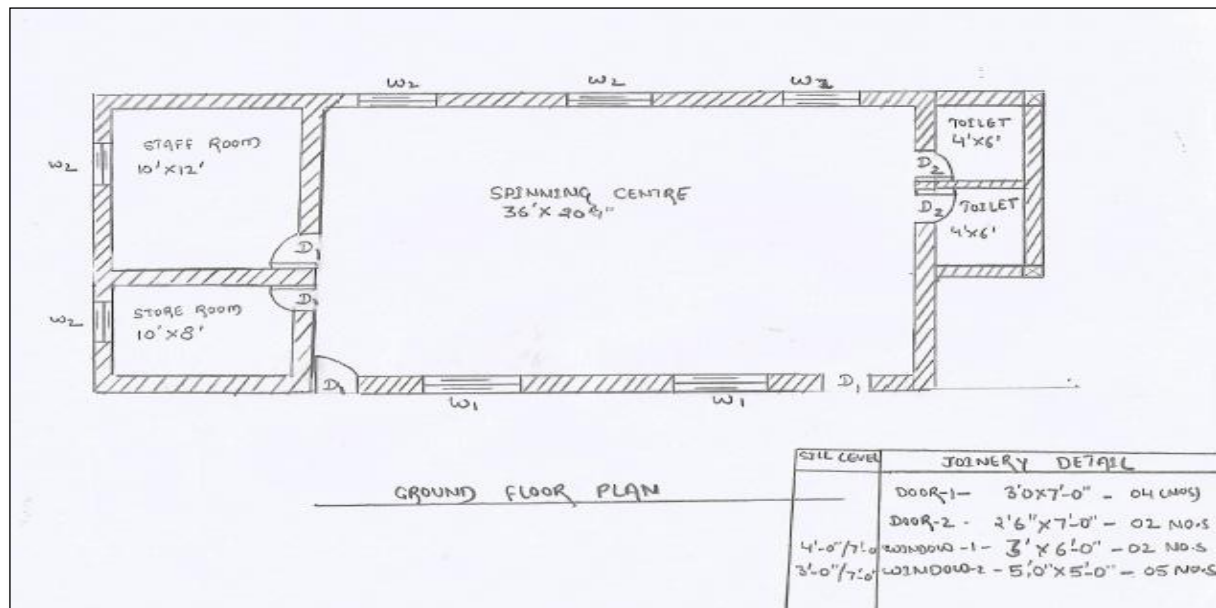
Divine Shakti Foundation is helping to support and provide training in the following areas:

- Handicraft Production
- Organic and Zero-Budget Farming
- Computer training
- Priest training
- Construction
- Women's empowerment training and so much more





Project Hope plans to sponsor three livelihoods centre in Triyuginarayan, Guptakashi and Devli Mani Gram to benefit over 500 flood affected families



One of these centres is already underway in **Triyuginarayan**, just 25 km south of Kedarnath- the epicentre of the floods last year. It is a 1200 sq ft area where Project Hope will set-up 20 handlooms and over 100 families will be beneficiaries in the first phase of the project. The project has been started and will be completed by the end of this year.





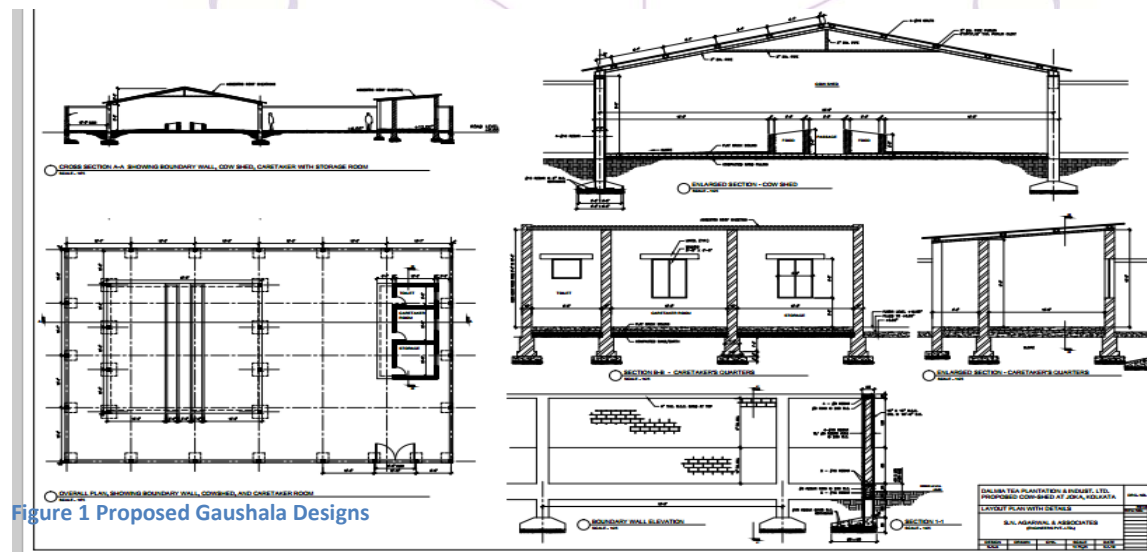
NECTAR OF HOPE PROGRAMME

Through the Nectar of Hope Programme, impoverished survivors of the Uttarakhand flooding will be given the gift of a cow, a chance to restore hope to widows and families that have lost everything. They will be taught skills so that they may learn how to also earn a living from their new animals,

such as how to produce and market natural medicine and improved milk. They will also learn organic gardening techniques that will be accentuated by the fertilizer naturally provided by their cows. In such a way, family incomes can be earned and healthy food can be put on the table for growing children.

SAVING STREET COWS

As an added component of our work, relocation services are also being provided for ailing street cows who have no homes and desperately require veterinary care. For too long, these animals have been forced to graze on solid waste, ingesting plastic bags and toxic materials in their search for food. Through the help of compassionate sponsors, they can be relocated from alleys, roadways and trash heaps to rich, green pastures.



EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



YOUNG FICCI LADIES ASSOCIATION TAKES THE DSF PLEDGE

YFLO Kolkata chapter, inspired and engaged in a number of different service initiatives for the betterment of humanity, recently visited Parmarth Niketan and took part in the divine Ganga Aarti as well as recieved Puja Swamiji's and Sadhvi Bhagawati's blessings and satsang.

Puja Swamiji inspired each of the young Shaktis to pledge to work as an integral part of the Divine Shakti Foundation from and transform their businesses into green and sustainable industries with products and services that have zero effect on the planet.

They were encouraged to lead their corporations with a spirit of taking less, by reducing their carbon and water footprint, while giving back more, engaging in service projects that clean and green their environment.

LIVELIHOODS PLANNING WITH DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS



Fruitful meetings have taken place consistently throughout the year after the floods with stakeholders such as the Jagdish Store, textile industries and corporate representatives to plan a livelihoods program for the women who lost their husbands in last year's floods in Uttarakhand. These women

where housewives whose husbands had gone on the popular Char Dham-Kedarnath yatra

and never returned leaving them not only widowed but with no means to sustain their lives.

With Pujya Swamiji's vision and Sadhvi Bhagawati's leadership, DSF is working to provide effective means of vocational and skills training and resources to those affected by the floods, so that the flame of hope and healing can be lit in their hearts once again.

"EMBRACING THE DIVINE FEMININE" PANEL AT THE INTERNATIONAL YOGA FESTIVAL 2013 IN RISHIKESH

An annual part of the International Yoga Festival held every year in Rishikesh at Parmarth Niketan Ashram, a panel on women and spirituality entitled "Embracing the Divine Shakti" was held. The panel was an inspiring talk on various topics surrounding the divine feminine, inspiring both men and women to embrace the more feminine aspect of life, and how that can help bring change to the world.

"SHAKTI & PRAKRITI" EVENT DURING THE DIVINE SHAKTI FESTIVAL, KUMBH MELA 2013 IN ALLAHABAD



As part of the Divine Shakti Festival, the Ganga Action Parivar camp at the Kumbh Mela in Allahabad was honoured to host inspirational environmentalist Dr. Vandana Shiva as guest speaker at an afternoon conference held to discuss the protection of Mother Earth, in connection with the celebration of the divine feminine.



DIVINE SHAKTI FESTIVAL, KUMBH MELA 2013

From January 24th to 29th, the first Divine Shakti Festival took place at the Kumbh Mela in Allahad. A festival in celebration and reverence of the Divine Feminine, approximately fifty participants came from around the world to take part in yoga

classes, meditation, inspirational motivational talks and discussions about the Divine Feminine, and its role in the world today.

NATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD



The National Day of the Girl Child was celebrated at the Maha Kumbh Mela on 24th January, 2013 at the Ganga Action Parivar camp with a unique ceremony in which

60 daughters of low-caste fishermen were worshiped by priests in training as goddesses. The ceremony, which is practiced in some parts of India during the Navaratri Festival, has never before, in knowledge, been performed at the Kumbh Mela, the largest gathering of humanity in the world. Its purpose is to shed light on India's girl children as worthy of respect and reverence.