

Yearly Newsletter 2023-24

GREETINGS FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Tradition often serves as a guide, yet there are moments when breaking from it can yield meaningful outcomes. This year, we're embracing such an opportunity by presenting a joint message from both myself and Ineke Zondag.

For nearly two decades, Ineke has been an integral part of FFLV, with her influence expanding significantly over the past seven years since the founding of FFLV USA. Her unwavering dedication spans continents, as she tirelessly raises awareness and vital funds

for FFLV across the Americas, Middle East, and Europe. Moreover, her presence "on the ground" in Vrindavan has grown in tandem, offering invaluable support as we strive to uplift and safeguard as many girls and women as possible in our ongoing mission.

Reflecting on the preceding fiscal year (April 2022 to March 2023), we must acknowledge the continued challenges faced by the residents of Vrindavan.

Today, we continue to stand alongside numerous families, offering assistance ranging from rent and medical support to food supplies, enabling them to rebuild their lives and regain stability. None of this would be possible without the unwavering generosity of our dedicated donors and sponsors.

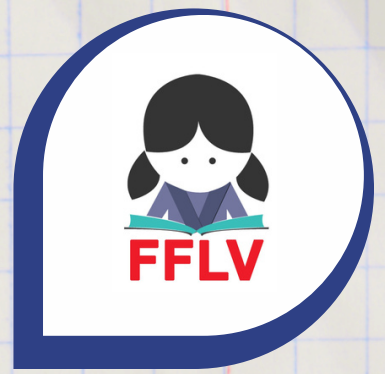
We humbly implore your continued support in championing the education of girls, for in doing so, we not only empower individuals, but also pave the way for a brighter, more equitable future.

While the challenges may seem insurmountable at times, Education stands as a beacon of hope, offering a pathway out of poverty and serving as a crucial safeguard against child marriage, labor and trafficking.

with Gratitude
and Resolve
**Rupa Raghunath Das
& Ineke Zondag**



Financial Report A.Y. 2023-2024



Tilak House Shelter
for Rural Women
\$75,207 (7.4%)

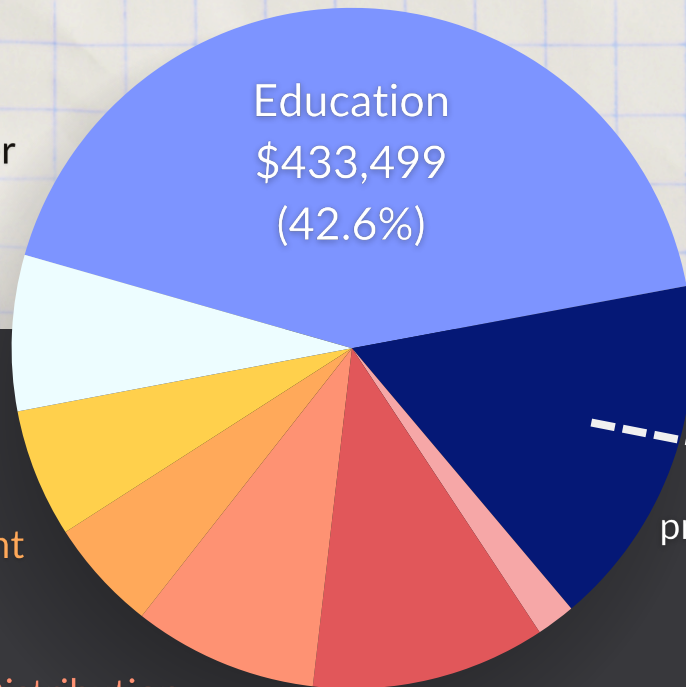
Maintenance
\$62,055 (6.1%)

Social Development
\$89,910 (5.3%)

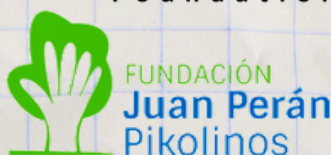
Food Distribution
\$88,995 (8.8%)

Administration Ex.
\$140,976 (11.1%)

Environmental
\$18,791 (1.8%)



OUR SUPPORTERS





INEKE ZONDAG

Founder/President of FFLV USA


We are thrilled to announce that Ineke Zondag, leader of FFLV and Founder/President of FFLV USA, participated in the 68th annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68) at the United Nations HQ in New York. This global platform serves as a powerful arena for advocating gender equality and women's empowerment.

"Gender equality is not just a goal; it's a fundamental human right, leading the path to a brighter, fairer future for all."

The CSW68, held from March 11th to 22nd, emphasized the urgent need to accelerate progress towards gender equality and elevate women out of poverty. Unfortunately, gender equality has reversed since COVID-19, and we find ourselves back at square one. Women are disproportionately affected by disasters, conflicts, and inflation compared to men, highlighting the crucial work FFLV has been doing since day one.

"In 2023, 129 million girls and young women are still out of school"

The current rate of progress toward ending poverty and achieving gender equality falls significantly short. We need to increase the rate by 26 times to reach the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. This data underscores the urgent need for collective action to ensure a future where all women and girls have equal opportunities and rights.




"Amidst **floods**' cruel
might, all turned to dust,
Your **God-sent** hands
emerged, in them we
trust"

The Flood Disaster

Yes, God-sent. When no one could reach some places for help, not even the government, your support allowed us to reach those places. We found over 350 families stuck, hungry, and thirsty, praying for someone to come with water, food, and basic necessities. Your support answered their prayers.

Food for Life Vrindavan not only provided these families with food rations and basic needs but also organized medical camps once the water settled down. We continued supporting all the families as much as possible. These families lost everything in the floods—household furniture, electrical equipment, even their rickshaws which were a means of livelihood for many. With your support, all the families have been rehabilitated with new furniture, and we continue to provide them with monthly rations.



Nandini, who had been **stuck in the floods** for over a month, **burst into tears** upon receiving basic food rations from the Food for Life Vrindavan **rescue team**.

A girl who never missed a day of school.

For a girl from an underprivileged family, getting a good education is in itself can be a challenging task. However, when such a girl achieves a hundred percent attendance in her school, it is truly remarkable.

These girls often face financial and societal barriers to education, but our school girl Par-ul has demonstrated her commitment to her education with her 100% attendance.



Remarkable Remembrance

Venupriya, an 11-year-old student in the 4th grade at Sandipani Muni School, has achieved an incredible feat: she has memorized all 700 verses from the 18 chapters of the Srimad Bhagavad Gita.



Her father works as a temple servant to provide for their family of four. Despite her circumstances, Venupriya excels in her studies and consistently wins various competitions.

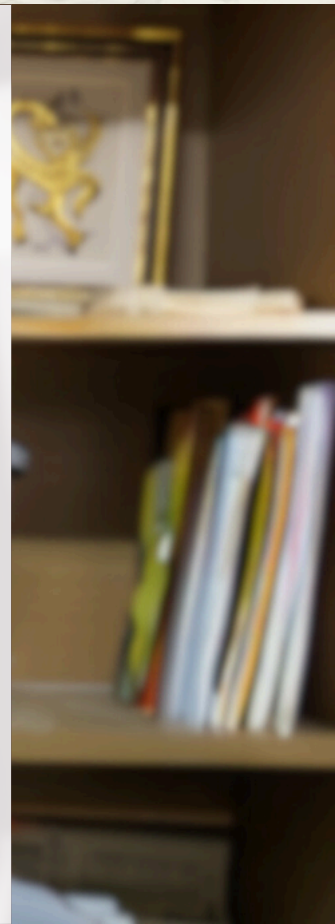
Venupriya's journey is a shining example of what young talents from underprivileged backgrounds can achieve with the right support and opportunities.

"The girl who topped the district"

Who would have ever thought that a girl from an underprivileged background would not only top her school but also the entire district? Yes, Vinita made headlines by leading her district in the 12th exams with an impressive score of 92.80 percent.

Vinita's father sells Deities' dresses to support a family of six in Vrindavan, leaving little for education. But Vinita's hunger for knowledge was evident from day one, and she immersed herself in studies wholeheartedly.

Her success is not personal but it's a triumph for all underprivileged children.





BIG ACHIEVEMENT **0 CHILD MARRIAGES IN** **OUR SCHOOLS LAST YEAR**

Yes, something to celebrate, however it is still a monumental challenge to bring these underprivileged girls to school, battling against societal barriers and daunting odds. The biggest threat for a girl in rural India in an underprivileged situation is to be married underage. Child marriage remains a pervasive threat, FFLV with your support keeps a girl in school where she not only receives food, clothing, transport, medication and education but also the protection through our child protection team from getting married underage.

The image on the left depicts Sunita, who has developed a profound interest in her education. After school, she dedicates her entire day to studying and showcasing the transformative power of education in her life. While her progress is indeed worth celebrating, it serves as a reminder of the uphill battle we continue to face. Our next goal is to revolutionize the community's mindset against child marriage and leave a positive impact on people's perceptions.

"CELEBRATE YOUR SPECIAL DAYS WITH US"

"Help us organize a heartwarming feast where you and your loved ones can celebrate your special day while supporting those in need. Your contribution provides nourishment, comfort, and hope to those who go to bed hungry. The widows, kids, and underprivileged families in Vrindavan are eagerly awaiting for your special day."

Did You Know?

"194 million people in india are undernourished, making up about 14% of the population"





New Year Gift Festival 2024

We want to express our deepest gratitude and say a massive thank you for being absolute legends during the New Year Gift Festival 2024. Your generosity blew us away, and guess what? over 5000 kids who could use a little extra love got to experience the magic of unwrapping some awesome gifts.

Your donations, big or small, made all the difference. Those little faces lighting up with joy. That's the direct result of your kindness. Seriously, it's like you gave them a slice of pure happiness, and that is priceless.

Achievements since 1991

RATION

EDUCATION

FREE MEALS

MONTHLY RENT

UNIVERSITY

MEDICAL

- Distribution of **free monthly ration** over **39,215 times** to help over **8125 poor families** in the last 18 years.
- **Free quality education** to over **3600 girls** in **3 schools** in the last 23 years.
- Served over **26.2 million free meals** to the underprivileged since 1991
- **Free monthly rent** over **7412 times** to help over **382 needy families** with their accommodation in the last 18 years
- **Supported 402 girls** in completing their **university** in the last 11 years.
- **Free medical assistance** over **496 times** from free health checkups to Intensive care unit treatments.



THE SILENT STRUGGLE

In India, women shoulder a staggering 5 hours daily of unpaid care work, while men contribute less than an hour. The toll extends beyond economics; it manifests as heightened stress and compromised well-being. Urgent reforms are needed to recognize, redistribute, and value women's unpaid contributions, fostering a more equitable society.



Educate Girls/Send them to School

Ours educate a girl program offers a real opportunity for the poorest girls to improve their lives. Sponsors' contributions of Rs.3,500 (US\$ 45) per month enable these girls to attend our Sandipani Muni Schools and receive an education. This amount provides nutritious meals, school supplies, books, uniforms and medical care.

FFLV University Education

Every year we have girls who graduate from the 12th standard who wish to continue their studies. The donation amount includes college fees, books, uniforms, stationery and sometimes transportation at INR 3,600 (\$45) per month

Nitya Seva

A bank fixed deposit of INR 100,000 (\$1,500) yields an interest sufficient to sponsor one day's evening food distribution once per year. The results of this seva continue to be yours forever. To sponsor a meal write to us at info@ffiv.org

Food Ration

For just INR 2000 (\$25) per month, you can help provide essential groceries for families facing financial hardship and struggling to meet their basic needs.

Daily Seva

You can sponsor FFLV evening food distribution for a day INR 6,500 (\$100) on behalf of a dear one, on a special occasion, e.g. when there is a marriage, birthday, a newborn in the family, to honor a dear one's departure, or just because today you are happy and want to make others happy too.



To sponsor a girl's education or to receive our Monthly E-newsletter write to us at - connect@fflv.org



fflvIndia



fflvrindavan



fflvRupa



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