

UPDATE JANUARY '24

Donors and friends of PADA, Teddy arrived



Remember Teddy....in our Fall Update we shared the vision of donor Shirley. Could our sewing graduates make stuffed toys for a possible cottage industry plus a gift for their own children? The cottage industry is unknown but our sewing teachers who gathered for *Teddy 101* have shouted an affirming “Yes” along with their children.

For our new donors, each summer our 400 hour traveling sewing program goes to 6 new villages. Women use this program primarily for sewing for their own extended families plus extra income sewing for neighbors. This summer there were 51 graduates. With their graduation certificate a local bank extends a loan for a machine purchase. PADA gifts each graduate a down payment valued at 25% of a machine purchase. A new treadle machine sells for \$115.

Celebrating 10 years with PADA

My good fortune was to celebrate in India my 10 year anniversary of fund raising and program consulting with PADA. Time flies and my photo library allowed me to build a 100+ slide video telling the PADA story for the Annual PADA Meeting gathered on December 18 & 19. .

My PADA connection started in January 2014 when Linkage Treasure Sherry Marshall and Linkage Secretary Kate Petranec asked me to join them building a Study Center “shed” under the sponsorship of Global Citizens. Now 10 years later: five “sheds”, 635+ healthy babies & moms, several 1000 tutored children, and 166 sewing trained ladies later...lucky me, lucky you...we’ve been putting our hearts and good fortune to work for amazing good._____ murray



Songs of empowerment in the journey of the “untouchables” families into a modern India.



This year I timed my visit to India to coincide with the Annual PADA Meeting. These meeting date back to the founding of PADA in the late '80s. This year representatives from 50+ villages gathered to discuss, propose, encourage, and to my surprise sing.



My own notebook! For our children a clean scrap of paper for one's personal use is an item to be treasured! Each year our Study Center pro-grams distributes paper notebooks and supplemental curriculum materials to 700+ children. For an added treat we provide pencils and pens. This cost PADA approximately \$440 annually. That amount may seem miserly but in India that purchases a mound of books. A “Thanks” was shouted to you by the students of Velour, Andhra Pradesh, India.



There were songs of the field laborers, pitfalls of the dowry and women's laboring woe. They sang about the folly of the politician's election promises, and the sadness of laboring children. There was a mix of joys and happy times. Perhaps they are the caste of laboring poor, but they are rich in comrade and human spirit.

I created a video so the gathered representatives could see the faces and the work across the different villages and program areas. Consequently there was a new sense of unity and purpose among the participants.

GIVING GOAL MET! Thanks donors! Your generosity allowed us to achieve our 2023 goal! Again 100% of your donation is here in India doing good. No “fat cats,” Land Rover SUVs or AC offices here in India; I donate all travel and USA expenses. **My only regret is that I am unable to capture and surround you with the expressions of gratitude given by the children, parents, young mothers, sewing mothers and the villages we serve. Well done!** murray