



Shreyas Foundation

# Sharing Joy

SHREYAS BALGRAM & SHREYAS GIRL CHILD  
EDUCATION PROGRAMME

NEWSLETTER



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have been helping  
transform lives

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## SHREYAS BALGRAM

When Shreyas Foundation shifted to the new campus on the hill in 1961, a deep urge was felt to provide a loving and secure environment to children who were lost, parentless and destitute. Thus, Shreyas Balgram was founded by Smt. Leenaben Sarabhai in 1962.

A deep calling motivated Leenaben to provide equal opportunities to deserving children in the need of a family and the security of a home. Balgram's values are based on the belief that the security of a home, love of a family and quality education are the fundamental rights of every child, regardless of their socio-economic background and situations.

Our first mother was Shantiben Shah. From 1964 to 1966 Shreyas Balgram became fully operational with self-sufficient cottages, each with a mother and nine to ten children.



While the children are not all biologically related, at Balgram, they are a family. As they grow up in one of the five houses, each with a foster mother, and attend classes at Shreyas Foundation, they learn important life-skills and imbibe values.

Many generations of children who have grown up at Balgram, now live a dignified and honourable life as independent, contributing members of society. Balgram operates with the support of donors spread throughout India and across the world.





## Celebrations at Balgram

As the COVID-19 pandemic weakened, some relaxations were brought in by the government authorities. Navratri was celebrated with due caution and safety measures. The celebration brought a lot of joy and the fervour of festivity amongst the Balgram children.

The children enjoyed the experience as they had celebrated something together after a long time.

Krunal Dani, an alumnus of Balgram, got a government project as a contractor.

During the lockdown period, children took to Yoga regularly. A cooking workshop was also organized at Vatsala Kitchen.

Here are some glimpses of the festivals celebrated at Balgram.





## Story of Bharat, who reminisces his Balgram days

Bharat Shobhan was barely six months old when Shreyas Balgram became his home.

Baby Bharat grew up with ample affection and unbridled joy, being the youngest Balgram family member then.

He studied till class 7 at Shreyas Foundation as, in those days, Shreyas did not offer classes beyond that. He was sent to pursue his further schooling from Swaminarayan Vidyalay in Gandhinagar and later from Shardagram at Mangrol.

Bharat stayed in Balgram's Tarun Ghar for 14 long years.

He says, "Shreyas Balgram gave me a family. I also imbibed honesty, a sense of responsibility towards society, the value of hard work and integrity that has stayed with me till date. Shreyas taught me that one should always try to give back to society."



Bharat appeared for his 10th matriculation exam in 1987. He then went on to pursue Maintenance (Technical) course from C. N. Vidyalay. After that, he began working at Narol, Ahmedabad and later in Vadodara. For some time, he even worked for Shreyas Foundation.

Now, Bharat lives happily with his wife and son.





## Two siblings crafting their future at Balgram

Kullu and Mollu are siblings and are learning important life skills along with studies.

These brothers are living in Balgram for six years now. Mollu, the younger boy, is 12 years old. He is studying in the 5th grade at Shreyas Foundation. His favourite activity is skating. As per the lead teacher, he is the most active child of Balgram. Mollu's favourite subject is Hindi. Five years ago, he met the then Gujarat Chief Minister, Shri Vijay Rupani.

Mollu says that he wants to become a professional dancer when he grows up. We hope his dream comes true.

Kullu, the elder sibling, is 13 years old and studies in the 6th grade. He has a special liking for Science in his class. Kullu aspires to become a pilot.



Kullu loves to play football and Cristiano Ronaldo is his favourite star. In the Shreyas Campus, he is also into swimming and horse-riding.





## Meet the teenager who grows her own food

Gopi Dantani is all of 14 but is known for her enterprising spirit. She has been pursuing farming, in the Shreyas campus, during her free time. Her passion to grow food began three years ago when she took to farming.

Now in the 8th grade, Gopi is successfully cultivating spinach, coriander, carrot, potato, eggplant, tomato, radish, chilli, onion and corn. She is assisted by Shiva and Suketu in her unique passion. Suketu Doshi is a Balgram alumnus and now heads the cooking and nutrition classes for students as a full-time staff with Shreyas Foundation.

Gopi can also cook very well. Her favourite dish is veg biryani. Gopi maintains a proper record book on the process of crop production, harvesting and also earnings. Most of the crops are consumed in the Balgram kitchen. A part of them are regularly bought by the staff, parents of school students and visitors.



(Gopi is sitting on the left)

She has quite a few dreams in the life ahead. "I would love to travel across India one day. As a profession, I will be happy to oversee the development of agriculture at the national level. But becoming an IPS officer would be my ultimate dream," says Gopi.

In her leisure time, she likes to dance and sing occasionally.

Gopi's younger sister Tara also lives with her at Balgram. A distant grandmother, who is the paternal aunt of her late father, is all she has got in her close biological family. Gopi, along with her sister, visits her grandmother for ten days during the Diwali vacation.





## Farewell of Foster Mother

Savitaben Parmar, the veteran foster mother of Balgram, was warmly felicitated in a farewell ceremony at Shreyas Santhagar (the prayer hall). She took retirement after nurturing many generations of Balgram children for 30 long years.

Shreyas Executive Trustee Shri Abhay Mangaldas and Principal Smt. Parbati Patel graced the occasion. Shri Mangaldas presented her with a shawl and honoured her with a garland of flowers. Coordinators from different Centres at Shreyas had also come together for the farewell ceremony. The committee members of Balgram were present as well.

Savitaben fostered around 20 children while serving at Balgram. Manjari, Madhu, Nimisha and Suketu were amongst her foster children who had especially made it to the ceremony. The children shared their experiences with her. It was an emotional moment for everyone.

With warm feelings, Savitaben went home to Valsad in the official car where she would live with her only daughter. She will always find a special place in the hearts of the Shreyas family, including the children.





## Achievers



Priya Rajubhai Vaghela represented Ahmedabad in the Gujarat State Roller Skating Championship and won 3rd prize in free skating. Nine-year old Priya lives in Balgram and studies in standard 5th in Shreyas Foundation.



Shlok Naimeshbhai Suthar secured the first position in the free skating category in Gujarat State Skating Championship. A very active child, 11-year old Shlok is studying in standard 6th in Shreyas Foundation.

## Shreyas Girl Child Education Programme

Shreyas Girl Child Education Programme was launched in 2013 at Shreyas Foundation with a vision to ensure quality education to underprivileged girls who otherwise would have dropped out of study owing to poverty or difficult circumstances at home.

In the current session, as many as 39 deserving girl children are shaping their dream future free of cost at Shreyas Foundation. The plan is to enroll 20 more children under the programme this academic year.

Under this programme, donors can sponsor an individual girl child by supporting her annual fees of Rs. 31,900/-. A donor can even support a part of the amount, which will go into the common and collective pool for other girls.

We are hopeful that with your support, these girl children can prepare themselves to lead an empowered and self-reliant life when they grow up.





# CONTRIBUTE

## Give a child a second opportunity to have a family!

Pay via NEFT / RTGS / Cheque / SWIFT

Deposit money directly to our account

Bank	<b>Bank of India, Sharda Mandir Road Branch, Ahmedabad, India</b>
Account Holder Name	<b>Shreyas Foundation A/C-VI</b>
Account No.	<b>2019 1010 0006368</b>
SWIFT Code	<b>BKIDINBBAMB</b>
IFSC Code	<b>BKID0002019</b>

Contribute towards general expenses of Balgram **Any amount**

## Education

Contribute the annual fees of one Balgram child **INR 45,000/-**

Contribute the annual expenses for a Balgram child  
- food, clothing and other requirements **INR 84,000/-**

Contribute the annual expenses of one Balgram  
home (one foster mother and up to nine children) **INR 9,24,000/-**

You can also scan this QR Code for online contributions using any digital payment application





# CONTRIBUTE

## Contribute and give an underprivileged girl an opportunity to pursue her dreams

Annual fees for the education of one girl child **INR 31,900/-**

(Gift a future to more girls by contributing in multiples thereof)

Pay via NEFT / RTGS / Cheque / SWIFT

Deposit money directly to our account

Bank	<b>Bank of India, Sharda Mandir Road Branch, Ahmedabad, India</b>
Account Holder Name	<b>Shreyas Foundation A/C-I</b>
Account No.	<b>2019 1010 0006363</b>
SWIFT Code	<b>BKIDINBBAMB</b>
IFSC Code	<b>BKID0002019</b>

# CONNECT WITH US

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We will be happy to receive your feedback or any query you might have about Shreyas Balgram SOS or Shreyas Girl Child Education Programme





(Shreyas Balgram Family)

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