



FONDAZIONE SKYCHILDREN ETS REPORT 2024-2025

Dear Friends,

Before reading this report on the activities we have carried out over the past twelve months, we would like you for a moment to close your eyes and think of your two-year-old child, one of your grandchildren, or yourself when you were that age.

In our world, **the basic needs of a child** in the first months and years of life are met without question: your child, you yourselves were fed, cared for, and protected, beyond any reasonable doubt. Our species is unique among all others precisely because of the long period of care devoted to the youngest, a time in which the foundations for their independence are built. It is in this phase that **the basis of physical, emotional, and cognitive development is laid**.

Now imagine that child left alone for hours in a shack, or worse, among the waste of a dump. Imagine them without food or water, while their parents are struggling with exhausting work that begins before dawn and often ends after sunset. Picture them spending the whole day without anyone to change their diaper, keep them clean, or above all, look at them and smile.

A terrible image, which **in Calcutta is the reality for thousands of children**.

For this reason, aware of the strategic importance of early intervention, in recent years we have chosen to invest our love and yours **in early childhood centers**.

In our preschools, every child is seen, heard, and supported.

In our preschools, every child can play, learn, and grow together with peers, because isolation can irreversibly compromise their healthy development.

Our teachers know how to **seize their "learning windows"** (each day is an opportunity not to be missed) and they are not only qualified professionals, they are affectionate and attentive presences, capable of recognizing signs of distress and **intervening promptly** in cases of abuse or neglect.

We guarantee our children at least one nutritious meal a day, because we know that malnutrition in the early years of life can cause permanent damage, even at the cognitive level.

Finally, with early entry into the educational system, we trace a **path that keeps children away from the street, from addictions, from violence**.

Open your eyes, your heart, and your mind; discover how, every day, we defend the right of the children of Calcutta to grow up healthy, loved, and free. Because change begins with those who choose not to stand by. **Because every child we save today is a future reborn.**

The founding members,

Four handwritten signatures in purple ink, arranged horizontally. From left to right, they appear to be: 'Shepe', 'Anna', 'Indira', and 'Kavita'.

INDEX

Our numbers	p. 4
Our areas of intervention	p. 6
FEMALE EMPOWERMENT	p. 7
• Safe house for abused girls	p. 8
• Boarding schools for girls over 18	p. 9
• Educational support for girls reunited with their families	p. 10
EDUCATION	p. 11
• Preschool in the landfill	p. 13
• Bridge schools	p. 15
• “Rising Star” school	p. 16
• Holistic disciplines	p. 17
• Academic support for students over 16	p. 18
CHILD PROTECTION IN HIGH-RISK AREAS	p. 20
• Rescue Team	p. 21
• Emergency shelters	p. 23
• Reunification	p. 24
• Red-light districts	p. 26
• Stations	p. 27
HEALTHCARE	p. 31
• Mobile clinics	p. 32
• Equipment for the hospital and diagnostic laboratory	p. 34
• Children with disabilities	p. 36
• Psychological support and family counseling	p. 38
• Solar-powered well	p. 40
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	p. 42
• Identity documents	p. 43
• Access to government subsidy programs	p. 44
• Awareness of children's rights, monitoring groups	p. 45
Main meeting moments	p. 47
Other ways to donate	p. 48
You can be the protagonist	p. 49
Thank you	p. 50

OUR NUMBERS



5.913 VULNERABLE CHILDREN
protected, cared for, nurtured



19 EMERGENCY SCHOOLS/SHELTERS
For street children
2 emergency buildings/shelters
renovated, retrofitted, furnished
2 school buildings
Constructed and furnished



5.656 children/youth NO LONGER "INVISIBLE"
(to date birth certificate or digital identity obtained)



3.325 LINKS TO WELFARE (obtained scholarships,
ration cards, grants)
(12.038 are children/youth)



96 ITINERANT MEDICAL CLINICS
In slums and rural villages with doctors and nurses
5.629 PATIENTS CURED (1.457 are children/youth)



12 MEDICAL EQUIPMENTS for operating rooms
3.858 PATIENTS CURED within 12 months with this
equipment (1.686 are children/youth)



5 SPECIALIST LABORATORY for medical analysis
16.295 MEDICAL TESTS performed
3.262 PATIENTS CURED (1.064 are children/youth)



1 SOLAR PANEL WELL
Drinking water for 2.000 families



156.012 people reached

OUR VISION

A WORLD IN WHICH EVERY CHILD IS GUARANTEED THE RIGHT TO A DIGNIFIED LIFE, TO EDUCATION, TO PROTECTION, TO GROWTH, AND TO LEARNING.

OUR MISSION

SKYCHILDREN WORKS TO IMPROVE THE DESPERATE LIVING CONDITIONS OF CALCUTTA'S STREET CHILDREN, PROVIDING EDUCATION, HEALTHCARE, PROTECTION, AND HOPE, TO ACHIEVE IMMEDIATE, CONCRETE, AND LASTING CHANGES IN THEIR LIVES.

100% OF DONATIONS TO THE KIDS

THE ORGANIZATION'S ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS ARE PERSONALLY COVERED BY THE FOUNDATION PARTICIPANTS AND SPONSORS.

AREAS OF INTERVENTION



1. FEMALE EMPOWERMENT



2. EDUCATION



3. CHILD PROTECTION IN HIGH-RISK CASES



4. HEALTHCARE



5. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

FEMALE EMPOWERMENT



It was precisely the sense of urgency in saving twelve abused girls that led us, fourteen years ago, to found Skychildren. We met them in a makeshift room, taken from the streets, abandoned by families who could not afford a dowry, intercepted by the police after yet another passage between traffickers, found in red-light districts. In our eyes, they were, and are, proof of what it means to be born a girl in India: a curse from which it is difficult to free oneself alone. Often they are **sold by their parents** when still very young as “domestic workers,” finding themselves **enslaved, victims of continual sexual and psychological abuse**. In other cases, they are daughters of girls forced into **arranged marriages around the age of 10**, who are often abandoned by their husbands after having multiple children. Other times, they are the ones who run away from a daily hell of abuse and violence perpetrated within their own family, from that “uncle” who should care for them while the parents are out “working.”

Thanks to our support, these girls find a **refuge, loving care, psychological assistance for the traumas they have suffered, and the support necessary to begin or return to school**. We stay close to them throughout their lives, even when they reach adulthood, strengthening their self-esteem at every important stage of their growth, encouraging them to **continue their studies, and to acquire professional skills to later become economically independent**. Only in this way can they, as future women, ensure for themselves and for future generations a society that is just and free from violence and discrimination.



Safe house for abused girls



Here, girls rescued from situations of abandonment can finally experience an environment of love and care: in addition to **meeting their basic needs** (quality food, shelter and protection, clothing, etc.), they are ensured regular **school** attendance along with academic support from **private tutors** to prevent school dropout, **free legal assistance, individual and group psychological support, recreational and therapeutic activities** for their physical and mental well-being and growth (e.g., music, dance, taekwondo, football, cricket, drawing, painting, yoga, and meditation). Within the home, the girls can attend courses in **embroidery, cutting, sewing, crafts, cooking, English, and computer skills**, led by qualified staff dedicated to their professional training.

When, upon reaching adulthood, the girls are legally required to leave the shelter home, they are still **supported by our staff for at least two years**, ensuring that their family environment is constantly monitored and, if necessary, interventions can be made to guarantee their well-being.

Results achieved

- The home has welcomed **71 vulnerable girls** aged 6 to 18..



Boarding schools for girls over 18



Since, after the age of 18, it is not legally possible to remain in shelter homes, we support girls who wish to continue their studies by covering the **cost of boarding and enrollment in subsequent training courses**, up to the completion of their educational path, which often coincides with their **university degree**. Girls who do not wish to continue their studies are **guided into the workforce** through training courses that are as closely aligned as possible with their skills and preferences (all attend computer and English courses during their time in the home) and are assisted in **finding a job** and a decent place to live if they do not return to their family of origin.

Results achieved

- The girls supported in the boarding school/dormitory this year were **2**.



Educational support for girls reunited with their families

The family is always the best place to grow up, and as soon as the conditions are met and the socio-economic situation has improved, the girls are reunited with their family of origin.

Once back home, the girls are **supported to continue their studies** and receive **educational assistance at home**.

Results achieved

- We have assisted **38 girls** in this path.

SUCCESS STORY

Mahi (not her real name) arrived at our shelter when she was 13 years old. At first, she was a quiet child, closed off in a world she couldn't talk about. **She had never attended school** and struggled to express herself; it took time and sensitivity for the staff to truly understand her deepest needs.

Thanks to the constant care and attention of a special educator, Mahi slowly began to blossom. **She learned to speak, write**, and give voice to her thoughts and dreams. Today, she enthusiastically attends fourth grade, where she actively participates and achieves small but significant successes.

When she was rescued, Mahi could not say anything about her parents, nor could she remember a place to call home. Despite tireless searches, her family was never found.

With time and **patient guidance**, Mahi learned to understand the meaning of adoption. She embraced this possibility with courage and expressed her desire to be adopted, marking a precious and delicate moment in her journey: a step towards a future where she can finally feel part of a family, loved and welcomed.

EDUCATION



Calcutta is the city with the **highest number of “street children” in the world**. 250,000 children live in desperate conditions, on sidewalks without shelter, in illegal slums, along railway tracks, or among the garbage mountains of a vast open-air dump. They are constantly exposed to different forms of violence: **physical, economic, and sexual abuse**. Their daily lives consist of **child labor, early marriages, human trafficking, child prostitution**, but also hunger, with **no access to education or medical care**. The only way out of this continuum of ignorance and violence has been proven to be school, because only with quality education can these children gain the training and skills necessary to find a dignified job and break free from the grip of poverty in their families of origin.

They are children of **illiterate parents** who live below the poverty line, unable to protect them from their own misery, incapable of understanding the importance of education. Often, child labor is essential for the survival of the family: pushing very young children into work is therefore the norm. In this daily reality, **regular attendance at public school becomes impossible** or, at the very least, useless. A street child, in fact, completely lacks the material resources to access it (documents and money for enrollment, for purchasing a school uniform and books, etc.), but above all the support of someone who believes in the importance of this effort, helps with homework, motivates them to take exams, and supports them in filling pre-existing gaps.

In Indian public schools, the **teacher-student ratio is usually 1 to 70 or 80 children**, so if they cannot rely on external help, they will hardly be able to learn even the most basic notions and be motivated to continue their education. The dropout rate is very high, with child labor being the only real alternative. Private school is, of course, completely out of their reach.

Skychildren offers these children the opportunity to build a future far from misery through school centers built directly in the slums or on the sidewalks where they live. These are **“bridge schools”**, which prepare children between the ages of 6 and 16 who cannot read or write for entry into public schools. In parallel, once this **preparatory work** has been completed, and the **children have been enrolled in school**, our centers provide, through qualified teachers, **constant daily support with homework, exam preparation**, and facing everyday challenges, while also maintaining motivation and countering school dropout.

In addition to education and school materials, we provide them with all the resources necessary to gain **awareness of their rights**, self-confidence, and trust in teachers, psychologists, and educators — trust that is essential for them to confide abuses and violence and to be helped in processing and overcoming the traumas they have suffered. All our staff is specifically trained to handle this type of situation and, when necessary, to get in touch **with other psychologists, social workers, police, hospitals, and shelters**, depending on the needs. In addition to daily lessons and homework support, the children receive **one nutritious hot meal per day** (often the only one of the entire day), a safe shelter, regular **health check-ups**, and **both individual and group counseling**.



Preschool in the landfill

We introduce children to education from the very earliest years of life: **the nursery in the vast Baghar Dump landfill** represents the only way out of a true hell for 60 children between the ages of 2 and 5. Together with their families, they **live on mountains of garbage**, where wild pigs roam, amidst toxic fumes and infected materials.

The Skychildren nursery offers them a safe place and the educational preparation needed to later access primary school.

Purpose and Objectives of the Project

- Increase school enrollment and retention for children living in the slum.
- Provide greater safety and protection for the children of working parents in the slum.
- Improve school readiness among the children of these parents.





Preschool in the landfill

Results achieved

- **37** boys and **23** girls between the ages of 2 and 5 attend the nursery
- **41** children successfully enrolled in primary school at the end of the preschool cycle
- **294** members of the community supported, including 99 parents
- **60** children undergoing regular medical check-ups

Secondary outcomes

- The children of working parents benefit from nursery school services during working hours.
- Parents gain awareness of the importance of education and child protection.
- The children improve their skills in:
 - Personal hygiene
 - Communication
 - Self-expression
 - Self-protection
 - Fine and gross motor skills
- The children make progress in reading, writing, and math skills.

A refuge where one can receive **education, books, school materials, a meal, and psychological support**; a protected oasis where children can learn the basic notions needed to be guided into government schools, or where they can receive help with their homework. This is the purpose of the Naboasha education centers and the “Four-Wheeled Classroom” run by Skychildren in the slums of Calcutta, places that allow hundreds of boys and girls to move away from violence, abuse, and illegal activities, and to find, through access to education, a path toward their own redemption.

The project has proven highly **successful in reintegrating school-age children** and helping them enter the government school system: only through education can these children **change their future**, develop more qualified skills that allow them to aspire to more dignified jobs than those of their parents, and thus, in the long term, bring about an overall improvement in the living conditions of the entire community.

- **Results achieved**
- **581** Students aged between 6 and 18 attend our centers.
- **79** new students enrolled this year.





Rising Star School

The lush vegetation of the countryside contrasts sharply with the extreme poverty and misery of the rural community in West Bengal, about 60 km from Calcutta, where Skychildren supports a school dedicated to boys and girls, the sons and daughters of laborers and farmers, most of whom are illiterate and raised in disadvantaged conditions in one of the poorest regions of India.

With our school, we aim to provide children with a quality education, engaging them in **recreational activities** that help develop their cognitive and social skills while fostering their growth and self-esteem.

Raising awareness among parents and the entire community is an essential component of the project. It is crucial to help parents understand, through specific meetings with teachers, the importance of education and how to support their children so that they continue their studies instead of being pushed into child labor or early marriage.

Results achieved

- **140** Students attend our Rising Star school: 67 boys and 73 girls.



Holistic disciplines

Painting without following a model or aiming for a specific goal, free from pressure and judgment, guided only by one's own rhythm and pleasure, becomes a **moment of fulfillment, an opportunity for growth, and a source of self-esteem for our street children.**

Our volunteer, Luisa Adami, has created spaces for free and creative painting in several of the schools and shelters supported by Skychildren.

In our centers, boys and girls can also practice **yoga, karate, and sports**, and take part in **dance, theater, music, and poetry workshops**. Access to these activities gives street children the opportunity to express abilities previously unknown even to themselves, providing them with confidence and deep satisfaction, laying the foundation for building trust in the classroom, fostering self-sufficiency, and supporting their development as whole individuals.

Results achieved

- **448** children attended the Painting Workshop
- **130** children were enrolled in the Football School
- **70** children took Karate lessons
- **400** children attended the Dance School





Support for education beyond the age of 16

Turning the hopes and dreams of young students from the slums of Calcutta into reality, this is the goal of the Young Students project, which carries the faces and stories of boys and girls who are building their future thanks to our support.

Together with our local partners, we recognized the need to support certain students during the last 12–18 months of high school, as receiving adequate external assistance during this crucial period is essential to achieving strong academic results and **successfully passing the final high school exams**, a necessary requirement for admission to their desired university courses.

For these young men and women, **Skychildren's support continues throughout their university years**, after which they will have the opportunity to enter the job market quickly, gain **financial independence**, and in turn support their families and the wider community.

For students who, after class X, do not wish to continue their studies, or who, after class XII, do not enter university, Skychildren offers access to **vocational training and professional courses** in tailoring, computer science, and beauty therapy, depending on each student's interests and inclinations.

Results achieved

- **10** students we support with this project
- **9** are enrolled at university and one is attending a vocational training or professional course



SUCCESS STORIES

Ruhan (a fictitious name) is a three-year-old boy from the Bhagar community. He lives with his mother, a single parent who struggles to care for him adequately. To support the family, she is forced to take on multiple jobs during the day, which prevented her from cooking for Ruhan, leaving him often without food or proper care, with **visible signs of neglect**.

Ruhan was identified by the community and enrolled in the Skychildren preschool. At first, he appeared very weak and resistant to change, but over time he was **guided through a path of improvement**, learning good hygiene habits such as dressing appropriately, combing his hair, cutting his nails, and wearing shoes.

Through regular meetings with tutors, the preschool teachers involved and educated Ruhan's mother on the importance of personal hygiene. Correct practices were explained and discussed together, leading to greater awareness on her part.

During one of the follow-up visits at their home, significant changes were observed. **The mother recognized the value of a more careful lifestyle and adopted new habits**. She now presents herself neatly, well-groomed, and attentive to self-care.

Ruhan has also made great progress. He once suffered from hunger and struggled to adapt, but now he appears calmer, participates enthusiastically in the center's activities, and enjoys playing with his peers.

His transformation is a **concrete testament to the positive impact of our program** and demonstrates how education and awareness can help spread good hygiene practices.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN HIGH RISK AREAS



Of the 13 million children who every year around the world fall **victim to human trafficking**, most appear to come from India. These are statistical estimates, because typically **these minors do not have birth certificates and therefore “do not exist”** in the eyes of society. It is certain, however, that every day thousands of children alone, having fled abuse, violence, and poverty, or who have been kidnapped or simply lost, are at risk of being drawn into human trafficking. Children who run away from their families, from villages sometimes very far away, to other countries out of fear or poverty, or who are forcibly removed, **are drawn to Calcutta**. They arrive seeking safety, adventure, or a better life, but end up living among the rails and platforms of the major railway stations, stunned by the cheapest and most destructive drugs, **only to be kidnapped, raped, forced into prostitution, child labor, or outright slavery**.

Our goal is to stop them in time and **provide rescue and protection**, but also to **trace them when they are already in brothels** or invisible in the stations. We have thus **set up a specialized and dedicated team of operators** who monitor the highest-risk areas of the city (at Sealdah station alone 1.5 million people pass through daily, reaching 2 million during holidays) to identify children before it is too late. Over the years we have renovated houses to serve as emergency shelters where these children can be protected initially, and we have long been committed to the ambitious reunification project, returning them, when possible, to the care and affection of their families.



A 24-hour, 7-days-a-week rapid response team constantly monitors some of the most sensitive areas of the city and responds quickly and effectively to any emergency involving the most vulnerable children living on the streets and along the railway tracks.

We have been working on this project since 2017, and over the years we have **built a dense network of local collaborations** to engage the relevant authorities, raising awareness of the urgency of the problem and the need for a **joint and structured intervention**. Our rescue operations are carried out in coordination with the railway police, anti-trafficking units, judicial authorities, and other institutional actors.

To prevent and address emergencies such as abuse, child exploitation, kidnappings, and violence, our team works in three phases:

- **Continuously patrolling** the highest-risk areas, such as crowded transit terminals, depots, markets, and railway stations, in search of alone and vulnerable children
- Responding immediately in emergencies, **providing basic assistance** and including the presence of a psychologist to help the intercepted child feel safer and manage trauma in the moment
- In the post-rescue phase, our operators take the child to the hospital for immediate care and to the police to **complete the necessary legal procedures**

The Rescue Team continues to support the child even after the rescue, assisting with all bureaucratic needs, accompanying them to medical check-ups, and taking them to the temporary emergency shelter. Once the rescue phase is completed, if the child is not reunited with their family, they are placed in a long-term protection and care system and simultaneously added to the lists for foster care or adoption.

Results achieved

Number of children identified in vulnerable situations, rescued, and presented to the CWC (Committee for the Welfare of the Child): **279**

Of these:

- 203 were runaway children
- 40 were beggars
- 3 were waste pickers
- 13 were missing children
- 14 were unaccompanied minors
- 1 case of sexual abuse
- 1 case of substance abuse
- 1 case of child marriage
- 3 girls were victims of child labor



Emergency shelters



Since 2018 Skychildren has managed the renovation of two four-story buildings in central Calcutta to host **children in emergency situations, providing care, protection**, immediate trauma management, and psychosocial and medical support even in cases of multiple layers of trauma. By law, boys and girls must reside in separate protected houses, so we restored two different buildings, each designed with child-friendly furnishings and colors. Each building houses dormitories for **50 children**, a space for first aid and individual psychological support, indoor and outdoor play areas, a kitchen, and a dining area.

The renovation of our first emergency shelter was recognized by the government as a **"National Reference Pilot Project."** In these shelters, children rescued by our Rescue Team are received. Upon arrival, they are assisted with their immediate needs with the goal of building a relationship of trust that allows our operators to understand their needs and the reasons that brought them away from home. With the support of our psychologists, a **personalized plan for physical and emotional recovery is designed with a view to family reunification**. The aim is to strengthen the child's abilities through **education and training in life skills useful for daily life**.

Risultati raggiunti

- With our two emergency shelters, **we have rescued 355 children in one year (168 boys and 187 girls), but the ultimate goal remains to reunite them with their families as quickly as possible**, after verifying suitability and providing the necessary support so that the family can truly be the best place for the child to grow.



Family reunification



Almost 80,000 children, according to the Indian Government (data from March 2022), are “guests” (formally admitted but in practice subjected to severe restrictions on personal freedom) in several thousand **“government child care institutions,”** facilities that resemble closed and strictly controlled environments more than true orphanages. The United Nations General Assembly recognized in 2019 that orphanages harm children, noting that over 80% of children residing long-term in these facilities have living close relatives.

Supporting deinstitutionalization and **investing in the process of family reunification** is therefore a crucial step for the welfare of these children. CINI, one of Skychildren’s local partners, has developed an effective reunification model, which has been recognized in India’s juvenile justice guidelines. Following positive outcomes, since 2021 **the Government has formally entrusted us with the care of children in “government homes”** and in shelters supported by other NGOs.

Family reunification is a delicate and complex operation that unfolds in several phases:

- **Tracing the biological family**, a process that can be long and difficult when the child is too young to cooperate in the search and often comes, as frequently happens, from other states
- **Strengthening the family** and enabling access to public economic support programs: parents are almost always illiterate, live below the poverty line, and need assistance to submit subsidy applications
- **Supporting the child and family in rebuilding a bond** that has sometimes been broken for years (often the case for children coming from government homes)



Family reunification

- **Raising awareness among children, parents, and the community** about children's rights, the importance of education, and the dangers of child labor, early marriage, and trafficking, in order to address the issues that led to the child being removed from their home
- Creating a **"safety network"** in the community, bringing together local actors and institutions to act in the child's best interest
- **Investing in long-term follow-up** (from 6 months to 2 years, depending on the case) to prevent the child from falling back into situations of revictimization, through in-person visits, remote meetings, phone calls, and indirect checks via the network of relationships built within the local community

These are highly demanding and costly operations that require **motivated, trained, and qualified personnel** such as psychologists, social workers, teachers, legal professionals, and **careful individual planning**.

If the conditions for family reintegration are not met or the family cannot be traced, the child is placed in one of the long-term care homes, such as the "shelter for abused girls" supported by Skychildren. **In some cases, foster care or adoption may be arranged for the child.**

Risultati raggiunti

- In one year we reunited **480 children** with their families

★ Children from red-light districts



Girls born in these areas of the city are often **pushed into prostitution** around the age of 10. For this reason, for years we have been caring for the children of sex workers and ensuring their safe survival within these neighborhoods.

To date, 187 children and teenagers aged 3 to 18, and 10 young adults aged 18, attend our center. The goal is to provide them with educational support to help them enter or re-enter the school system and to ensure they do not drop out, aiming for at least 10 years of schooling. At the center, the children have access not only to **psychological support and homework assistance, but also to leadership development workshops**. Over the years, these workshops have led to the creation of a Group functioning as 24/7 guardians, serving as a point of reference for the younger children facing difficult situations.

Throughout the year, meetings with the neighborhood mothers continue to involve them in initiatives against child abuse, including sexual abuse, early marriage, intergenerational entry into prostitution, and trafficking of minors under 18.

Results achieved

- **197** children and teenagers attend the center
- **150** mothers involved

★ Invisible Children of the Stations



Every year, our program for securing children living around one of the most at-risk railway stations in the state of West Bengal gains increasing visibility and **interest from various government administrative bodies**. Upon our arrival, we are welcomed by officials from the municipality and the provincial council, who in recent years have recognized the impact of our intervention on their community and now consistently support and facilitate the work of our operators.

A **dedicated team** regularly carries out interventions both on the tracks and in the adjacent communities, interacting with children who roam unsupervised, beg, or work. Our presence at these strategic points allows us to provide immediate assistance and continuous monitoring. The establishment of the **help desk** for children on the tracks has proven essential: through this initiative, railway officials, vendors, and passengers have been sensitized to the dangers of child trafficking and instructed on the correct procedures to follow in cases of missing children, those involved in hazardous work, forced marriages, or abuse.

In addition to education, in caring for the children of the stations, we focus on **strengthening families, helping them access social services** so they have the necessary resources to support their children. This holistic approach recognizes that a child's well-being is closely tied to the stability and support of their family environment. We also work to raise community awareness about the dangers and risks faced by vulnerable children, helping to build a **collective safety network** in which neighbors, local leaders, and institutions remain vigilant and ready to respond to the needs of the children.

★ Invisible Children of the Stations

By educating the community on the importance of child protection, we have significantly reduced the risk of children falling victim to exploitation or abuse. Our **approach** is therefore **multifaceted**: protecting and educating vulnerable children, strengthening their families, and empowering the entire community. Through collaboration, vigilance, and continuous support, we are creating a safer and more welcoming environment for children's growth. Once identified through awareness activities or at the help desk, **children are immediately directed to safe spaces** and then to school, or to the relevant government services for urgent assistance and protection.

Results achieved

- In the past twelve months, we have reached **305 vulnerable children** and provided protection through two reception centers and the emergency help kiosk open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on the tracks
- **School enrollment and educational support: 79 children** who had never attended school or had dropped out for various reasons were successfully enrolled in formal schools; 85 children regularly received educational support through remedial courses to reach the level of their peers
- **Empowerment through karate: 70 boys and girls** participated in karate sessions, acquiring self-defense skills and boosting self-confidence and self-esteem



★ Invisible Children of the Stations

- Stakeholder Engagement: **154 stakeholders**, including local government authorities, police, and influential community members, were actively involved through meetings and workshops focused on child protection issues. This collaborative effort ensures a unified approach to safeguarding children and responding effectively to their needs.
- **Community Awareness: 272 community members** were engaged through awareness sessions on child protection topics to create a safer environment for children.
- **Parental Awareness: 218 mothers** were educated on adopting positive parenting approaches for the well-being and safety of their children and trained on government support programs to provide effective economic assistance to their children.
- Prevention of Early Marriages: **14 early marriages** were prevented through early identification and reporting by the community.
- **Family Reunification: 8 unaccompanied children** from other communities were reunited with their families in their villages of origin.
- **Social Safety Support: 229 families** of children attending our centers were connected to social security programs to enable them to adequately support their children.



SUCCESS STORIES

At just 16, Sneha (not her real name) never imagined that the people she trusted most would turn against her. She lived with her parents and two older brothers in Park Circus, Kolkata. Her father worked as a driver, her mother was a housewife, and her brother worked at a petrol pump. Despite their financial difficulties, **Sneha dreamed of finishing school.** But one trip changed everything. Sneha and her family traveled to Bihar to attend a relative's wedding. After the wedding, Sneha stayed at her aunt's house for a few extra days. One evening, Sneha's uncle entered the room where she was resting and molested her. For the next few days, Sneha lived in fear, avoiding being alone. She called her older brother and asked him to take her home, explaining in detail what had happened. When she returned to Kolkata, her aunt called her mother, claiming that Sneha was lying. Her parents believed her aunt. With nowhere else to go, **Sneha ran away from her boyfriend Shabbir.** They had been together for three years, and he had always promised to protect her. Shabbir had been living with a friend in Kolkata for five years. When Sneha arrived, he assured her they would build a new life together. But her nightmare was far from over. **She had been lured into a trap.** Her boyfriend was considering selling her into prostitution. Fortunately, a neighbor, sensing something was wrong, contacted the police, who quickly intervened, arresting Shabbir and his friend and rescuing Sneha. By order of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), she was placed in the **Skychildren-supported Shelter**, where she received the support she had long been denied. She received food, clothing, and a safe place to stay. But most of all, she was given something extremely precious: understanding.

Our team didn't stop there. To have a stable future, Sneha needed her **family's support**, so they began family counseling. Her parents were initially reluctant, still reeling from her aunt's false accusations. But session after session, they began to understand. They saw their daughter not as a liar, but as a victim who had been abandoned when she needed them most. Finally, after weeks of effort, her parents agreed to take her back. During the follow-up visit, Sneha's mother revealed their financial difficulties. Her father had lost his job, and they were struggling to buy books for Sneha's studies. Once again, we stepped in, providing all the necessary support. Sneha, now full of determination, **is preparing for next year's state exams.**

HEALTHCARE



The children we rescue from violence, send to school, and protect from traffickers come from communities that have **no access to any kind of healthcare, not even basic services**. Many were born on the streets or in slums, not in hospitals, and are therefore not registered: they have no birth certificate, and **for the government, they do not exist**, even when they need medical care.

Our intervention therefore cannot ignore their health needs. We address this by organizing **regular health assessments and “home-based” care** in their communities through mobile clinics, supporting the Hope Hospital for street people by providing diagnostic tools and trained staff, and developing the entire laboratory department. We assist disabled children in rural areas who had never left their shacks before our care, provide psychological support, and therapy programs for traumatized children rescued in our emergency shelters, residential homes, and street schools.

The broader and most socially impactful effort is educational: in every project, qualified healthcare staff work on the streets, in slums, rural villages, and our schools to educate children and families on **basic hygiene practices**, necessary vaccinations, and the proper use of medications provided by our medical teams. Attention to safe food and clean water is also crucial in the desperate living conditions of these communities. For this reason, we have built a drinking water well in the rural areas near Calcutta.



Once a week in one of the **city's most degraded unauthorized slums** and once a month in some **rural villages** of West Bengal, healthcare days are held. We work in areas inhabited by migrant families and illiterate farmers who live **far from hospitals**, in extreme poverty, and mostly without birth certificates, leaving them **excluded from government healthcare services**.

The project consists of setting up a **temporary clinic and dispensary**, allowing local residents to access **free basic medical care**, including check-ups, vaccinations, medication therapies, and nutritious meals for infants. Our staff includes 4 doctors, 4 nurses, 2 social workers, and 3 volunteers.

Activities performed for each patient:

- Medical examination, identification of serious cases, care planning, prescription of medicines, wound dressing (doctors and nurses)
- Distribution of medicines (nurses)
- Management of medical records (volunteers and social worker)
- Counseling (social worker)
- Transport to hospital by ambulance (serious cases)
- Follow-up/check-ups (volunteers and nurse)

Additionally, **personal hygiene kits are distributed**, including soap, toothpaste, and toothbrush. Women of childbearing age receive sanitary pads and contraceptive pills.

Mobile clinics

Patients requiring **“second-level” medical care** are transported by ambulance to government hospitals or to Hope Charity Hospital, which we support, for diagnostic tests or hospitalization. We have established a collaborative network with these facilities, allowing us to ensure that even second-level care is provided free of charge.

The project includes an important **counseling component** carried out by qualified social workers. These sessions promote awareness of the most common illnesses, the importance of prevention, personal hygiene, check-ups, early diagnosis, and the necessity of having a birth certificate. During these sessions, people are also informed about government programs, the importance of accessing them, and how to do so with our support (most are illiterate and need help completing the forms).

Follow-up activities are also crucial. Our staff conducts home visits, family by family, to ensure that the medicines provided are not resold, forgotten, or taken incorrectly.

Results achieved

- During the reference period, 96 mobile clinics were organized, treating **5,875** people who had no access to medical care, including **1,457 children**.
- In rural areas – **48 mobile clinics** – **3,639 patients** treated, including **2,236 adults** and **546 children**.
- In the unauthorized slum – **48 mobile clinics** – **2,236 patients** treated, including **1,325 adults** and **911 children**.



Equipment for the Hospital and Diagnostic Laboratory



Our support for the charity hospital for street people has been ongoing for 14 years and is provided through the **donation of diagnostic and surgical equipment** necessary to deliver specialized medical care.

HOPE Hospital guarantees **high-quality and completely free healthcare, therapeutic, and diagnostic services to disadvantaged people** living on the streets and in slums **below the poverty line**. These are “invisible” people, without access to any government support and unable to receive appropriate medical care.

Opened in 2008, the hospital is a beacon of hope, managed by top-level doctors. Today, it employs a staff of 80, including 40 doctors, and has 32 inpatient beds and 10 intensive care beds, 2 operating rooms, 1 clinic providing ophthalmologic and dental care, 1 diagnostic and surgical center with endoscopy units, a dialysis unit, and a diagnostic laboratory. All types of interventions can be performed here except cardiovascular surgery. Part of the hospital also includes a **street-facing pharmacy**. The hospital also provides day hospital services.

Over the years, we have donated: electrosurgical units, dental chairs, forceps, orthopedic reamers, BIPAP machines, mechanical ventilators, audiometers, a Skin Graft Mesher (to prepare skin grafts for patients with severe burns at risk of infection), and medical equipment for performing endoscopies (gastrosopies, colonoscopies, and ultrasounds).



Equipment for the Hospital and Diagnostic Laboratory

In 2022, we opened a medical analysis **laboratory within the hospital and donated next-generation diagnostic instruments** and machinery to equip **five specialized departments**:

- Biochemistry (blood tests to evaluate lipid levels, urea, blood sugar, etc.)
- Pathology (tests on urine, feces, and other bodily fluids)
- Microbiology (identification of bacteria, viruses, parasites, and fungi and diagnosis of infections)
- Histopathology (microscopic analysis of tissues and cells)
- Immunochemistry (assessment of antibodies in biological fluids including serum, urine, and cerebrospinal fluid to analyze the immune system)

Previously, samples were sent to third-party laboratories; now they are processed on-site. The specialist laboratory significantly enhances the hospital's medical services by **enabling faster diagnosis**, developing optimal treatment plans, and improving patient care.

The laboratory is also used by other medical centers and external hospitals, making it a valuable **source of revenue that supplements payments from low-to-middle-income patients** who can access care at subsidized rates based on their means.

Thanks to the laboratory we donated, the hospital can now cover almost all costs independently, allowing free access to care for an increasing number of needy and vulnerable people.

Additionally, the hospital provides a **community outreach service: a night ambulance**, staffed with a doctor, nurse, and medicines, patrols the streets and slums of Calcutta to identify and assist marginalized individuals and transport them to the hospital when necessary.

Results achieved

- During the reference period, thanks to **equipment donated** by Skychildren, **6,632 patients** were treated, including **2,226 children** and **4,406 adults**.
- **Laboratory tests: 3,262 patients** treated, including **1,064 children**. A total of **16,295 laboratory tests** were performed.
- During the reference period, we donated:
 - ERCP equipment for endoscopic retrograde **cholangiopancreatography**
 - **Ultra 4K camera system** with cart for arthroscopic surgery in the operating room



Children with Disabilities



Before the arrival of our **physiotherapist, speech therapist, wheelchairs, and walkers**, children with severe disabilities living in rural villages outside Calcutta survived in a reality that simply ignored them. They were left to fend for themselves or relied on young, inexperienced mothers who were unable to help them. These children are normally unable to leave their huts, which often means they remain completely alone, without comfort or social interaction while their mothers work in the fields. **This isolation, combined with the impossibility of attending school,** leads to worsening physical, intellectual, and social difficulties. If they survive, as adults they have no hope of independence and almost always end up **living by begging**. In 2021, we became aware of their situation while visiting the “homes” of children attending our school, and we immediately felt a strong urgency to intervene.

Twice a week, a qualified speech therapist helps them improve language disorders and learning difficulties. The physiotherapist works five times a week with the five children in greatest need of care and three times a week with the other children in slightly less critical conditions. The physiotherapist carries out treatments and teaches the mothers how to assist their children and perform the exercises most suitable for addressing their motor dysfunctions. Each session lasts 45 minutes.

Children with Disabilities

Children who require special diagnoses or treatments are accompanied by our staff to the NILD (National Institute of Locomotor Disabilities), where they undergo a thorough medical examination and tests, after which specific medicines and therapies are prescribed. These treatments and therapies are extremely important, as they not only provide tangible physical and cognitive progress, improved autonomy, and pain relief, but also offer significant support to the families.

Since last year, we have established a **special class for five disabled children**. The classroom is bright and welcoming, with child-friendly drawings on the walls and specially designed wooden desks painted light blue to meet their physical needs. A qualified teacher assists them and, through play, teaches basic concepts, the alphabet, and numbers. The mothers and a caregiver also provide a nutritious snack during breaks. Children and their mothers are accompanied to school and back home by the **school minibus**.

Results achieved

- We support 12 children who lack motor autonomy due to severe physical and/or cognitive disabilities.



Psychological Support and Family Counseling

Each of our projects includes an important component of **counseling for the children as well as engagement and strengthening of their family and the community in which they live.**

On a **monthly basis, we organize meetings with parents at school**, and in parallel our staff carries out **home visits** to help adults, especially fathers, understand the role they play in their children's lives. Engagement continues within the community, where our operators move around together with the children, members of the support/volunteer group, and some parents, holding meetings and **awareness seminars**. Older children, with the help of teachers, prepare posters at school to explain various topics to the younger ones and to those who have more difficulties.

In all our classes, **every three months** we hold **motivation** and training sessions with the group of **10 community support members** on the importance of receiving an education and on how to plan their work with the community together. These volunteers play a crucial role in helping spread awareness within the communities.

During counseling and awareness sessions, the following topics are addressed:

- Prevention: its importance
- Hygiene and sanitation conditions: how to improve them
- Health: how to receive basic medical care and free medicines
- Girls' menstrual cycle: related issues
- Family planning: use of contraceptive pills, how to obtain and use them
- Nutrition: the importance of receiving at least one nutritious meal per day, which is often provided at school and may be the only meal of the day
- Child labor: its severity and impact
- Early marriage: consequences and how teachers can intervene with the support of the law
- Difference between "safe and unsafe touch": to prevent sexual abuse and harassment
- Education at least until class X: how to access it and its impact; these children will become the first educated generation in their family
- Vocational training courses: how to access them and their impact
- Gender discrimination: we are all equal
- Reducing expenses on addictions: alcohol, gambling
- Importance of savings: even small amounts; children have suffered from hunger and survived the COVID-19 lockdown thanks to distributed food rations, and saving is essential for the education of their future children

- Birth certificate (or digital identity)
- Social rights: theirs and their children's
- Government welfare programs: awareness of their existence and guidance on how to apply. Parents, who are mostly illiterate, need support to complete the necessary documentation
- Opening a bank account: a prerequisite for any social support application



Solar-powered well

It is estimated that in India less than 50% of the population has access to safely managed drinking water and that two-thirds of districts are severely affected by an extreme water crisis (UNICEF report). In West Bengal, **arsenic contamination in drinking water sources** is a widespread problem and causes cardiovascular diseases, skin lesions, and other health issues.

In 2022, we built a drinking water well in a rural village inhabited by approximately **2,000 families**, of which 1,700 live below the poverty line. The existing public pumps near the village are non-functional and, in any case, cannot reach the depth required to provide safe drinking water. The water table had dropped and was contaminated with arsenic. To pump uncontaminated water, the well was **dug** to a depth of 1,200 feet (approximately **356 meters**). The water was tested in government-certified laboratories, and a **“purity certificate”** was issued. Regular tests are conducted to ensure ongoing safety.

The well is solar-powered because solar energy is ideal in areas where the electricity grid does not reach or is often interrupted by monsoons. Moreover, it has zero environmental impact. Once a month, our operators check that the well is functioning properly, carry out necessary maintenance, and **hold awareness sessions** to explain the importance of drinking safe water and how villagers can access it through our well.



SUCCESS STORIES

Amina (a pseudonym), an 11-year-old girl, came to the Mobile Clinic with severe pain and a larval infestation in her right knee. The patient's family reported **having neglected a minor knee injury** that had occurred weeks earlier.

Due to the lack of care, the wound became infected.

The social worker conducted an immediate assessment of the family situation. It became clear that the delay in treatment was due to a **lack of awareness and access to healthcare resources**. The social worker built a relationship of trust with the family, focusing especially on reassuring them that Amina would receive proper care and that their decision to seek help was a positive step.

Treatments provided:

- **Wound care:** The wound was immediately and thoroughly cleaned, and the larvae were removed.
- **Dressing:** A sterile dressing was applied.
- **Medication:** Antibiotics and pain relievers were prescribed to treat the infection and manage pain. Regular dressing changes were scheduled to monitor the healing process.

The family was instructed to return regularly for dressing changes and **wound monitoring**. Amina's condition gradually improved thanks to proper care and medication. After several weeks, the **infection was fully resolved**, and the wound healed.

Through regular follow-up visits and continuous support, the family was actively involved in Amina's recovery and learned the importance of seeking timely medical attention, thus preventing further neglect. Amina has now fully recovered, and her family is extremely relieved and happy with her progress. They expressed their gratitude to the Clinic for providing timely and effective care.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Because all the initiatives we implement to save, educate, care for, and nurture our children must be **sustainable** and **successful in the long term**, it is essential that they also trigger a **real and profound change within the entire community**. Parents, families, and teachers who interact with our children need to adjust their approach to childhood so that education becomes a priority for mothers and fathers, so that the safety of these children becomes a central concern for the neighborhood, and so that their healthy development becomes the mission of their peer group.

Of the approximately 16 million Indian children born each year, many are not even **officially recognized**: their birth—occurring on a sidewalk or in a slum, to illiterate parents—is not registered. **This lack of registration** affects their entire lives, as it **excludes them from any system of assistance and public services**. An unregistered child has no right to attend school, receive medical care, or even file an official report with law enforcement in cases of violence or disappearance. In every project, we work to **inform and educate families** and parents about the importance of these bureaucratic steps for the future of their children.

★ Identity Certificates



An important part of our work consists of raising awareness in the most vulnerable local communities about the importance of obtaining an identity document.

Through regular workshops, parents understand how crucial it is for their children's future to attend school, have an official identity, rely on the government support network, and access grants and social welfare programs essential for improving their socio-economic conditions.

On a monthly basis, our staff visits families at their homes and supports them in the process of **obtaining digital identity** and **government assistance**: the operators identify and accompany the most vulnerable individuals to the relevant offices for biometric recognition, cover any associated costs, prepare all required documentation, complete online forms, and submit requests for government support programs.

Results achieved

- We have obtained **513 identity certificates**.



Access to Government Subsidy Programs

In addition to supporting families in obtaining identity certificates, we help vulnerable families **access a variety of government welfare programs**, including:

- **Bank account opening:** essential for applying for state subsidies.
- **Ration card:** allows families to receive basic food rations for free or at subsidized rates from the nearest government store.
- Secondary and tertiary **medical coverage:** for all family members.
- **Financial aid** for women from low-income or specific ethnic groups: includes monthly cash transfers of 500, 1,000, or more rupees depending on the category, support for old age, and care for grandchildren.
- **Scholarships for adolescent girls:** an annual scholarship of 500 rupees to continue schooling and a larger scholarship of 25,000 rupees upon turning 18.
- **Support for adolescent girls' empowerment:** to improve nutrition, health, and access to family planning.
- **Economic support for children** from disadvantaged backgrounds (grades V–VIII): an annual scholarship of 500 rupees to continue their education.
- **Student credit card** (grades X and above): financial aid to continue studies in India or abroad for meritorious students.

Results achieved

- We successfully facilitated **820 connections to government welfare programs**



Awareness of children's rights, monitoring groups



A key component of our projects is the creation of **youth and adult groups** that act as a “bridge” between the most vulnerable individuals in their community and our staff. Adult groups are composed of parents and other community members. The **peer-to-peer message** they convey is highly effective: their involvement has proven crucial in helping illiterate parents understand the importance of education for their children, spreading awareness, and identifying early cases of child marriage, trafficking, or domestic violence, allowing timely intervention before it's too late.

Youth groups are selected from each class and are responsible for identifying children in the community who have never attended school, have dropped out, or are at risk due to **dangerous or abusive situations**.

These groups also play a vital role in motivating peers to attend school regularly and continue their education. Thanks to their leadership skills, they are highly attentive and effective in detecting risks among their peers, such as early marriages, trafficking, and abuse.

SUCCESS STORIES

Ashadul (a pseudonym) was **born and raised in one of the largest red-light districts** of Kolkata, a challenging environment where his future seemed already predetermined. Like many boys in the neighborhood, he could have ended up as a pimp, a smuggler, or a drug dealer.

But his story took a different path. At just **10 years old, he joined our program**, which provided him with educational opportunities and support. This transformed his life profoundly.

Today, Ashadul is 17. He has just completed his Class X exams and has become a **recognized youth leader in his community**. He actively advocates for gender justice: he persuaded his family to respect his sister's wish to attend school rather than start working at a young age. He is a role model for his peers and actively participates in initiatives against sexual violence, both in his school and in the neighborhood. Recently, **he spoke on a BBC radio program**, highlighting how sexual and gender education is crucial for adolescents, especially to prevent the common abuses in the neighborhood where he was born.

His story demonstrates that even in a difficult environment, with the right support, it is possible to build a different and brighter future.

Main events and fundraising activities organized in 2024/2025 with our supporters

- Christmas Aperitif at “Bobino” in Milan
- Theater performance by Compagnia SDEA
- Guided tours of major Milan exhibitions accompanied by Professor Alberto Marchesini (Il Genio di Milano, Casorati, Leonor Fini, Art Deco, Niki De Saint Phalle)
- Presentations at Rotary Club SEDECA and Monza
- Presentation at Liceo Classico Zucchi in Monza
- Charity Dinner organized by the “Amiche della Franciacorta” at Saint Georges Premier in Monza
- Golf Tournament “Baldinini Golf Cup” hosted at Brianza Golf & Country Club
- Private parties by our supporters for baptisms, communions, confirmations, birthdays, graduations, and weddings, accompanied by personalized Skychildren postcards
- Fundraising via Facebook and the Skychildren.org website
- Shawls, belts, bags, and clothing, all made in India by the Calcutta Rescue Association, sold at Antognelli Abbigliamento in Monza, Chris Cerf in Milan, and Ottica Redaelli in Concorezzo
- Lamps and necklaces made by Luisa Adami, available at the Volta 26 store in Monza

Other ways to donate... at no cost to you:

- On your tax return, in the box dedicated to the **5x1000**, write our tax code: **94621150153**. Thanks to your contribution, we can expand our initiatives to fight poverty, violence, ignorance, and injustice.
- You can support Skychildren in a very special way: through a **Testamentary Legacy**. This form of support allows you to continue safeguarding the rights of your loved ones while helping the most defenseless and vulnerable children in the world. Your gesture of love and solidarity will allow you to live on in the memory, life, and future of these children. In this way, you will be reborn in schoolbooks, in clean water, and in medical care that we provide through our work. *"Immortality is what you leave behind on this earth."* Dalai Lama. Supported in collaboration with the National Council of Notaries.

How to donate:

- Online by visiting our website: **www.skychildren.org**
- Bank transfer: **IBAN IT 89 K 0344 0204 0200 0000 437100**
- Via PayPal

You can also help us by spreading the word about our Foundation to friends and acquaintances.

You can be the protagonist

If you would like to organize a fundraising event for Indian children (with your friends at home, at a venue, via a crowdfunding campaign, for your birthday, for Christmas greetings, for a baptism, etc.), contact us to receive all the informational material about our work to share with your guests. Celebrating a special moment by doing good is always an extremely rewarding experience for everyone involved!

Organizing an event is not always easy, and for occasions such as births, baptisms, communions, confirmations, graduations, and weddings, choosing **favors** can often be difficult. These items carry a message about you over time and remind relatives and friends of your important event. To give meaning and value to this memory, we can create custom charitable cards for you, which can accompany a simple donation.

You can also create a **fundraising campaign for your birthday or a special event** through your Facebook page and share it with all your friends.

Contacts

If you would like more information about our work or how to support us, you can visit our website at www.skychildren.org, call us at +39 335 6652279, or send us an email at info@skychildren.org.

Follow us on social media:



THANK YOU!

5,913.

It's not the height of some famous peak, but rather the number of children we save each year, as you read at the beginning of this report. As high as it is, it seems like a simple figure: we imagine them all in a line, the little ones first – those children we introduced to you in the pages about our kindergartens – then a crescendo of boys and girls, up to our “older” ones, like Puja and Ahmin, who now work and attend university.

But it's not that simple.

The reality is far more complex, because many of them enter and exit the magic circle during the same 12 months we are describing, and countless new little and older children we meet for the first time in this period. We try in every way to keep them with us, and when we succeed, you'll read about them in the next report. It's an endless job, a canvas we compose every day, which we vigilantly protect every night to endure. It's work that, for so many, **we can now carry out only thanks to the irreplaceable presence and immense support of our Foundation Participants, our “volunteers,”** those managing accounting, those who donate food and expertise in preparing our charity dinners, those who give us their time and professional skills, those who print brochures, invitations, and postcards, those who create wonders with videos and publicity, those who lend us beautiful locations, and those who pay their way to travel to Calcutta. All of them, like us Members, are repaid “only” with the joy of contributing to the dream of these 5,913 children.

We could take pride in this **“100% for the children,”** invest time and resources in publicizing that not a single cent of every donated euro is withheld from supporting the projects.

Instead, we want to transform this priceless wealth of trust, time, and appreciation into a springboard toward an even bigger dream: that in exactly 12 months, we can write the report on **initiatives and projects that we know are necessary** to save our 5,913 children, even if they seem ambitious today. We want to tell you how we will have created the Flying Classes, classrooms without walls for children who cannot be removed from the train tracks and whom we want to send to school on real... flying carpets. We want to tell you about the new English teachers we will have hired for the children at the stations, the opening of another kindergarten in a neighborhood where there is no shelter for the youngest, the renovation of our emergency shelters with a fire prevention system for the safety of our little ones, the addition of more teachers in the shelters so that every child who enters can truly receive the best possible care. We want to tell you about when we will have launched the painting atelier in the boys' shelter, something they asked for with tears in their eyes.

It's true, it's a rather grand list of wishes, but by now we dream like the little Skychildren dream (in big!), and you are our magic wand.

