

Our Mission

Raise awareness about global poverty and lack of sanitation in slums

Raise funds for Shelter Associates to build toilets and bring dignity to the slum poor

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Current Steering Committee

Sunil Bhatia, Chair*
Sheila Dobbyn*
Jyoti Ganesh
Apurv Gupta*
Gyan Pareek*
Karin Wetherill*

* *Board of Directors*

Recent Projects

FSA will fund 180 households for individual sanitation in Solapur, Maharashtra, India. Construction is expected to begin in Fall, 2009. This will be the first pilot project in the city.

Key Stats

- World's population with NO access to improved sanitation - 2.6 billion, 700 million in India
- 1,000 children in India under 5 yrs die of diarrheal diseases each day, 94% of which is preventable.
- Every \$1 spent on sanitation saves at least \$9 in health costs, lost productivity and delayed economic development (UN estimates).

About Friends of Shelter Associates

Friends of Shelter Associates (FSA) is a Non-Profit organization comprising of student groups, faculty, and community members from New England region that unite to bring social change in India.

Our Impact

Since its inception in 2005, FSA's education and fundraising efforts have funded toilets that have benefited over 300+ families. These families now have improved access to sanitation that helps reduce child mortality, diseases, and ensure environmental sustainability. We work with Shelter Associates to select the most deserving funding recipients.

History

FSA was founded by Dr. Sunil Bhatia in 2005 after witnessing the appalling lack of access to sanitation to the urban poor in his hometown of Pune. After reading about Shelter Associates' exemplary work in bringing sanitation to the urban poor, Dr. Bhatia contacted Pratima Joshi, Director, and started a chapter of Friends of Shelter Associates (FSA) at Connecticut College, New London. The first fundraiser was held in 2006.

About Shelter Associates

Shelter Associates is an internationally recognized Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) comprising of architects, planners and social workers. It aims to link the poor and agencies that fund or provide the resources for housing and basic infrastructure. Shelter Associates works closely with Baandhani (Building Together), a federation of slum dwellers to further its mission to promote community participation in housing and infrastructure projects for the urban poor.

Architect Pratima Joshi set up Shelter Associates, in 1997 in Pune, India to improve sanitation and basic accommodation in slums. She has received worldwide recognition for her work and in 2005, BBC named her as one of "India's New Pioneers" for her exemplary role in improving the sanitation conditions in the slums of Western India. That same year, Pratima Joshi was selected for her work as a social entrepreneur by the Ashoka Foundation.

About Dr. Sunil Bhatia

Sunil Bhatia, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor of Human Development and Director of the Holleran Center for Community Action and Public Policy at Connecticut College. He has published over 20 articles and book chapters on issues related to language, self, immigrant identity and cultural psychology. His most recent book, *American Karma: Race, Culture, and Identity and the Indian Diaspora* (New York University Press, 2007), is based on an extensive, two-year ethnography of the middle-class Indian Diaspora in Southern Connecticut. In 2009, Sunil Bhatia received the Martin Luther King Jr. Faculty Service Award given to a faculty who upholds the legacy of Dr. King's work with their demonstrated commitment to social justice and serving underrepresented communities either on campus and/or the New London community.