Nandini - West Bengal

Empowered Women
Empower Women

In a tiny village in West Bengal over 400 miles away from the capital city of Kolkata, baby Nandini was born. She was born into a community where girls are not valued. They are uneducated and treated with disrespect. Her parents were raised in this area and had never traveled outside their village. In their small community, no one had ever seen any craniofacial birth defects.

When Nandini was born with a cleft palate, the milk during her feedings would come back out of her mouth and nose. She was rejected by everyone in the community, except for her parents and her big sister. When she was three months old, she was finally examined by a doctor. This was when her cleft palate was identified as the reason for her malnourishment and inability to swallow milk. The family had limited resources and could not afford any modern methods for feeding. They used a spoon to feed their 3-month-old baby.

The months passed and the parents did their best to help Nandini feed and grow. They received a call about Love Without Reason and the free cleft camp in Kolkata, India. Nandini's mother put her fears aside about making the long journey to a strange city and focused on improving her child's chance at life and survival.

Director's Update

The end of 2022 was probably one of the busiest seasons of Love Without Reason with two cleft camps in two weeks in two countries - India and Kenya. We ended the year with a record four international cleft camps and one outreach camp inching Love Without Reason closer to the 1,000 surgery mark.

In the fight against human trafficking, Love Without Reason stepped up our awareness campaigns in Uganda, Kenya, Nepal and India, reaching over 2,000 women and children and giving them the good news and hope for the future. Our teams distributed over 600 kits with the Set Free biodegradable sanitary pads in the red-light areas to women who are being trafficked. We want to expand this project and distribute over 10,000 free kits over the next two years in the areas where the majority of the vulnerable women live.

As we speak, negotiations are underway for the next camp in Zimbabwe from March 26-31, 2023 and in Kenya from June 18-23, 2023. On average the medical camp prepares for 50 transformed smiles through free surgery. The cost of one camp is $75,000 and the impact is immeasurable for children like Nandini. When you partner with Love Without Reason, together we are changing lives and changing destinies.

Santhosh Mathews

Leadership

Strategic meetings with our international leaders over the year 2022 have empowered them to take ownership of their country's development and mission through Love Without Reason.

The formation of the Love Without Reason branch in South Africa and the passion of this board to be a funding support for medical camps in countries within Africa is changing the dynamics of development.

Rescue Children

Boys and girls were brought to Mumbai's red-light district to be sold into human trafficking networks. During the covid pandemic, many parents felt there was no alternative but to sell their children. Through the support of our partners, 22 children and women were rescued from the red-light area and taken to our partnering safehome, Asha Nepal. We are happy to report the health and well-being of these amazing survivors.

In 2022 we celebrated 105 new smiles of children and adults in three countries with a record F O U R medical camp. Two of these camps were in new locations, requiring a buildup of new partnerships, hospitals, and volunteers.

Doctors from Zimbabwe, Uganda and
Vietnam working to provide new smiles in Kenya

People, not Products

Education is a critical piece to eradicating human trafficking. In 2022, with each medical camp, fundraising event, and volunteer training locally and internationally, we have been able to teach over 500 individuals the link between facial birth defects and human trafficking. The more information that people have about this crime will help us recognize and penalize the perpetrators.

This is the purpose of the event, "People, Not Products." Learn more at www.peoplenotproducts.org and see how you can bring us to Y O U R city!

Welcome
Sumita Bhadra
Project Manager, Camp Coordinator

Sumita Bhadra joined the Love WIthout Reason team as a volunteer for the Assam, India camp in November 2021. She had worked with another nonprofit organization in India up until the birth of her son, Aaron, who was born with multiple craniofacial differences. Her compassionate care of the parents waiting in the pediatric ward for their children came from her own journey. Her expertise in Hindi and Bengali languages allowed her to explain instructions from the medical staff to the patients.

Sumita joined LWR in 2022 with the hope to bring a medical camp to her town of Kolkata, India. Children like Nandini were living with shame, hopelessness, and rejection and she sympathized with the parents because of the struggle in caring for Aaron. She led the first medical camp in Kolkata and built a team in a span of a few months to bring about the transformation of 7 smiles for children in Kolkata. Perseverance, hard work, and leadership are her gifts and skills that were put to the test. Welcome, Sumita to the Love Without Reason family!

Empowered Women ... contd

Nandini had successful cleft palate repair. Her mother observed the quality treatment that her beautiful girl received by the Love Without Reason family.

This inspired her mother to say, "My community talks badly about both of my daughters and says all girls are cursed. But I understand that my girls are precious and I will not allow anyone to treat them with dishonor or disrespect. I want them to be strong women who can make the world better."

Do you want to help more girls experience freedom from social stigma? Your gift today empowers girls for a greater, healthier and stronger tomorrow.

Nandini with her father after her palate surgery

Make it Count

VOLUNTEER & DONATE TO CREATE A SMILE

WWW.LOVEWITHOUTREASON.ORG