

## ODANADI SEVA SAMSTHE (Regd.)

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Dear Gabbi and LUSH friends,

Thank you for inviting us to submit project proposals for LUSH's charitable giving program. In the Kannada language, Odanadi means one who walks hand-in-hand with you through life's long journey; a soulmate; a friend for all seasons. We welcome you to be part of our community and hope we can find some way to work together.

***Odanadi Seva Samsthe***, situated in Mysore, India, is a non-governmental organization working for the rescue, rehabilitation, reintegration and empowerment of survivors of sexual exploitation and human trafficking for the past 16 years. Trafficking refers to all acts involved in the recruitment, transportation, forced movement, selling, and buying of people within or across borders by deceptive, coercive, threatening, or abusive means. At present, we take care of 81 rescued children, providing shelter, education and skills development training to eventually help them lead independent lives.

Odanadi's founding duo, Stanly KV and Parashuram ML (fondly referred together as 'Stanly Parashu'), launched a relentless campaign in 1990-91 to curb and expose the flesh trade. A chance encounter with a sex worker who accused the two then-journalists of hypocrisy when dealing with people of their kind, she threw them the challenge of doing something to improve the lives of women like her, and to date, they have busted 54 trafficking networks, rescued 1,800 prostituted women and children from their clutches, and 135 traffickers have been booked. At least 600 minors have been reintegrated with their families, and over 1,200 women have been rehabilitated with alternative livelihoods.

The mainstay of Odanadi's approach is its highly successful social policing program. Odanadi follows a three-tiered methodology to combat human trafficking in the state of Karnataka and beyond. The organization first identifies and exposes organized trafficking networks, mainly gathering its information about these brothels and traffickers through collectives, the Odanadi-initiated Vimochana Mahila Sangha (a women's association numbering more than 1,300 members) and vigilant committees in villages and rural areas. After the rescue, Odanadi then arranges for the rehabilitation and reintegration of trafficked victims and their children. Simultaneously, it pursues an intensive campaign in advocacy, awareness building, training civil society, non-government and government organizations in the ways to curb the problem and plays an active role in the policy-making process.

Odanadi's programs and endeavours have evolved essentially based on the experiences of rehabilitated women and children. Their feedback forms a crucial component in the formation of any project, scheme or proposal. Many rescue operations have been possible only because of the active involvement of sex workers themselves. Social fencing through public hearings on the experiences of rehabilitated women in the urban segments and social

policing through vigilant committees in rural areas, both aimed at prevention and empowerment, are two specific outcomes. Recognized by both the state and central governments, Odanadi is frequently consulted at the national level on its strategies for tackling this social problem. The Union Human Resource Development Ministry has also adopted the Odanadi model, and other state governments (Maharashtra, Delhi, West Bengal) have sent rescued girls to Odanadi to facilitate their rehabilitation. Enclosed is a longer description of some of our other milestones.

## **CHARITABLE SUPPORT**

We like to dream big so there are many projects we seek funding for. The following two, however, we think may be of particular interest to your company.

### ***Building an Open Library to Increase Educational Access***

After 6½ years of mobilizing support from all different corners, we completed the construction of a new home for trafficking survivors in 2006 called Madilu, meaning Mother's Lap in the Kannada language. While it has set the standard as a model rehabilitation home in India, we still have a ways to go in fundraising for the utility and ongoing maintenance of some parts of our building.

In the original design, we designated one large room for the sole use of a learning and interactive library. We believe that an open-access library (led and supervised by the older girls and monitored only from a distance) is essential to the promotion of curiosity, critical-thinking and creativity among our residents. Reading is the heart of every subject in school, and a child's overall progress depends on their ability to read and to derive joy from books and other multimedia and audiovisual materials.

Many of the women and children who come to our organization have never had or had little opportunity for rudimentary education. Odanadi, however, ensures that all children who come to our organization receive schooling, either through public education or by receiving non-formal classes at the house for those who are not yet able to be integrated into mainstream school. The challenges are tremendous though because the methods used here for the teaching of reading and writing, both in government schools or private tuition, are quite obsolete and incapable of sustaining the learner's motivation. Rather, these traditional methods turn reading and learning into a chore and mere recitation.

Thus, we hope that we can build a library with ample tables and chairs and a computer area to promote self-enrichment, discovery, and knowledge. The projected cost of establishing this library is 6 lakh 8,400 rupees (about £7,640).

1. Furniture (book shelves, reading tables, chairs, etc.)	Rs. 1,00,000
2. Books (encyclopedias, study books, children's books, study materials)	Rs. 2,00,000
3. Newspaper and periodicals: Rs. 1,200 per month x 12 months	Rs. 14,400
4. 5 computers with 1 printer (with internet connection)	
- Computers: Rs. 35,000 x 6 computers	Rs. 2,10,000

- Printer: Rs 6,000 x 1 printer	Rs. 6,000
- Telephone and internet charges: Rs. 2,500 p.m. x 12 months	Rs. 30,000
5. Stationary: Rs. 1,000 per month x 12 months	Rs. 12,000
6. Honorarium for a librarian: Rs. 3,000 per month x 12 months	Rs. 36,000
TOTAL	Rs. 6,08,400

Some of these costs may be offset by solicitation of new and gently used books, CDs and DVDs from companies and individual donors. We require books and materials in Kannada, Hindi, and English.

### ***Fostering Community Exchange by Raising Environmental Awareness***

At the heart of Odanadi's approach is the concept of seva, which means service. As you have learned, Odanadi runs a rehabilitation home for trafficked women and children. As a result of their background, they come from situations where they are not traditionally asked to serve. Odanadi encourages volunteer action, and during rehabilitation, all residents learn more about themselves by contributing each day something to their community and world around them, be it very small or very large. Several times a year, they also decide together to organize various outreach programs and activities.

One such project that the youth have identified is to form a collaborative relationship with neighbouring villages and tribal youth, focusing on our individual and collective responsibility for the environment. They will first begin the process by researching fruit-bearing trees and then teach participants from village schools how to sustain their renewable resource.

In India, fruit is usually something too costly for the average person to include in their diet. One jackfruit, for example, may cost upwards 100 rupees (just over £1) and would be a luxury expense for most of these village families. Instead, our volunteers can teach them to plant trees that yield good fruit, like guava, jackfruit or figs, and the cost is only about 70 rupees per plant and produce ongoing fruit for the whole community to share. By targeting youth, environmental awareness can be instilled in a population that can carry forth environmental action for years to come. They could also, for instance, replant the seeds from the fruit to bear more trees.

Odanadi could begin by outreaching to 10 tribal villages. A selected committee would develop a plan by getting to know what sustainable resources already currently exist in the village, select the type of fruit tree to be donated, and teach the other Odanadi women and children about the care needed to plant and maintain the health of the new fruit trees. Together on a designated day, we could split up and send teams of 8-10 volunteers to plant the trees with the village participants. We will ask the village panchayat, the local elders that are chosen and accepted by the village community, to inaugurate the community service event between the Odanadi children and the village children. We will also play a role in educating and facilitating a larger discussion about our human impact on the environment and ways we can all personally help to protect it.

Our main expense is the cost of the fruit trees that will be donated to the 10 different tribal villages. Our hope is that each village will receive at least 40 trees. On the day of the event, the volunteers will need to be transported to the villages by hired auto rickshaw, and petrol for the organization's vehicle is required. At the event, refreshments of fruit and juice will be served, enough for 1000 individuals. Our own shovels will be used for planting the trees, so no cost is incurred. To continue the relationship formed, the Odanadi residents and the village youth will meet again in 3 months time to assess the progress of the fruit trees and to socialize, affirming the bond between the two groups. Not only will a new relationship be established, but it will also be founded on environmental education, nutrition and youth leadership.

1. Fruit-bearing trees: Rs. 70 x at least 400 trees	Rs. 28,000
2. Auto rickshaw hire: Rs. 300 x 10 villages	Rs. 3,000
3. Refreshments	Rs. 1,500
4. Petrol for organization car	Rs. 1,000
5. Administrative costs (telephone, printing, etc.)	Rs. 800
6. Follow up (transportation, food, etc.)	Rs. 4,500
TOTAL	Rs. 38,800

The projected budget is only about £500, but the outcomes are numerous. The volunteer youth from Odanadi will gain self-esteem by helping others and from taking on leadership roles. Everyone involved will learn something more about continued care of plant life and the importance of environmental awareness, and in turn, the collaboration promotes teamwork skills. Additionally, the ongoing relationship developed will act as a mainstreaming activity for both the rural children and those affected by sex trafficking. We anticipate the event to be very fun, and all will gain further knowledge about seva and caring for the environment by taking personal action.

In conclusion, we thank you for your interest our grassroots work and organization. Odanadi has its doors open always for any assistance, be it in cash or kind, and all gestures are remembered with gratitude.

Warm regards,



Nancy Yu  
on behalf of Odanadi Seva Samsthe