

Volume 41 | December 2020



DECEMBER 2020



42,600+
lives impacted



4,199
leadership
students &
teachers trained



196
scholarships
awarded



3,478
students
attended
after-school
programs



200+
leadership
& teacher
trainings
conducted



273
international
volunteers
traveled
abroad



\$9M+
invested in
education
programs



5,173
students trained
thru e-learning
programs



Deliver the Gift of Education to Youth in Need Around the Globe

Dear Friends,

To say this year has been a challenging one for us all would be an understatement. Like all of you, we have had to rethink how we do things and navigate the many obstacles that come with living through a pandemic. For our education programs, this has meant shifting to mostly virtual means of instruction and engagement, which in turn has led to additional expenses.

Yet, when we needed financial support the most, we found ourselves unable to

hold events, meet with supporters in-person, or continue with our service-learning trips this year.

On the other hand, we have watched both the stock market boom and the IRS increase the [tax deduction benefit](#) for donating to charitable organizations in 2020 (which now allows individuals to deduct qualified contributions of up to 100% of their adjusted gross income vs. the standard 60% previously).

All of this to say – we need your support, and this is the year to give! With the end of the calendar year just 11 days away, **there is still time to get in your 2020 contribution and take advantage of these more generous tax deduction incentives.** We hope you will consider some of the giving options we have outlined below, which must be received by December 31st. Please contact us at info@visionseducation.org if you would like to discuss your gift at all.

Thank you for helping us through these trying times and ensuring that the youth & communities we serve in Sri Lanka, India, Ethiopia and Nicaragua have uninterrupted access to quality education.

With gratitude,
Greg & Meera
Visions Co-Founders

[Visit our Website](#)

GIVING OPTIONS

1. Work with us on a donor-driven initiative to realize your dream!

We regularly work with donors to realize a dream or to honor a giving preference, and we are always open to having a conversation. Provided the project is 1) in alignment with our mission, 2) can be properly vetted and logistically arranged by our team, and 3) is approved by our Board of Directors, we love to work with donors to realize a project that has special meaning to you.

Our school in Nicaragua ([Escuela Vera Angelita](#)) is the biggest example of a donor-driven initiative we have undertaken to-date. Here is another example of a donor-driven project we implemented in partnership with Moolai Cooperative Hospital in Jaffna, Sri Lanka this year: [CLICK HERE](#)

2. Purchase learning materials on our Amazon Wishlist for our new Visions Center for the Deaf in Awassa, Ethiopia

We are gearing up to visit our Visions Ethiopia team hopefully early 2021, and we are in great need of supplies to equip our new Visions Center for the Deaf in Awassa. If you are able to help out this holiday season, we would so appreciate your support with getting the items on our [Amazon Wishlist](#)!

3. Sponsor a student at our new nonprofit boarding school in Nicaragua

While [Escuela Vera Angelita](#) will not officially open its doors until July 2021, the campus is essentially built and teacher training starts in just a few weeks! Our inaugural student body will consist of 60 students total from Grades 5-7 (20 students per grade). In addition to an education like no other, these young women will be given room & board for the entirety of the academic year, transportation to/from home during the breaks, full medical care, all their uniforms & clothing, and much more.

The cost to sponsor a student is \$5,000/year. If you would like to become a sponsor and make a donation now, we will simply earmark your gift until the students are brought on campus in June 2021.

In general, sponsors can choose how involved they want to be (or not), such as doing virtual monthly "visits" via Zoom, exchanging letters, or even coming to stay with us in our onsite accommodation for guests for a few days each year.

4. Become a monthly donor

Monthly donors are the backbone of our organization and ensure our ability to continue our work without interruptions. Simply set up a monthly recurring donation via PayPal by visiting our [website](#), and we will keep you regularly informed of our work & its impact.

5. Donate appreciated assets

With the stock market hitting new heights this year, you might consider making a donation of appreciated assets. Donations made to qualifying charitable organizations like Visions are exempt from capital gains taxes. Visions is already registered with donor-advised funds (DAFs) like **Fidelity Charitable** and **Charles Schwab**, but we are always happy to do the paperwork to get Visions registered with other DAFs as well.

6. Company match

If you made / make a contribution to us in 2020, and your employer offers a matching gift option, please make sure to register your gift before the end of

the year and help further maximize your donation! Please follow up with us if you need any help getting Visions registered with your employer.

VISIONS' 2020 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Sri Lanka

- Funded the construction of a new 4-unit Elder Care facility and conducted a 12-week virtual leadership development training for staff at Moolai Cooperative Hospital in Jaffna
- Despite some roadblocks caused by the pandemic, the 10-month *Ezhuvazh* leadership development & English training program for young women (which was conducted by CACM and supported in-part by Visions) was successfully completed this year.
- Facilitated scholarships for 6 young women (all of whom are *Ezhuvazh* graduates) to begin their studies (*virtual for now) at Asian University for Women in Bangladesh, with another 2 *Ezhuvazh* graduates starting this January
- Supported e-learning and internship initiatives of [Care for Education](#) and [Noolaham Foundation](#)



ETHIOPIA

- Launched a new private Visions Center for the Deaf in Awassa, Ethiopia, which is staffed by 5 full-time employees (2 interpreters & 3 Deaf educators)

- Our Visions Ethiopia team took special efforts to keep students in Bahir Dar & Awassa connected to learning while public schools remained closed for the majority of the year
- Conducted our first service-learning trip in Awassa for two weeks for a team of 20 students and faculty from Nazareth College



INDIA

- Hard hit by the pandemic, our [Visions India](#) team had to find alternative ways of reaching our students and quickly shifted almost all of our programs to a strictly digital delivery.
- Tablets and bluetooth keyboards were provided to 27 of our university scholars in order to adapt to an all-virtual instruction



NICARAGUA

- Made major strides in building the school, residences, farm and campus as a whole that comprise the 385-acre Vera Angelita Estate
- Finalized our curriculum and education plan, which



is centered around the “Education for Sustainable Development” model, and will further prioritize technology, English, and vocational skills, to name just a few of our learning priorities.

- Built out our Visions Nicaragua team, including estate & farm managers, school administrators, teachers, chef, doctor, operations managers, etc. We now employ a staff comprised of nearly 120 people!

Our work is only possible with your support!

Join us in investing the leaders of tomorrow...

www.VisionsGlobalEmpowerment.org/donate

Visions Global Empowerment | 1621 Barry Ave. #PH1, Los Angeles, CA 92886

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