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Care & Share

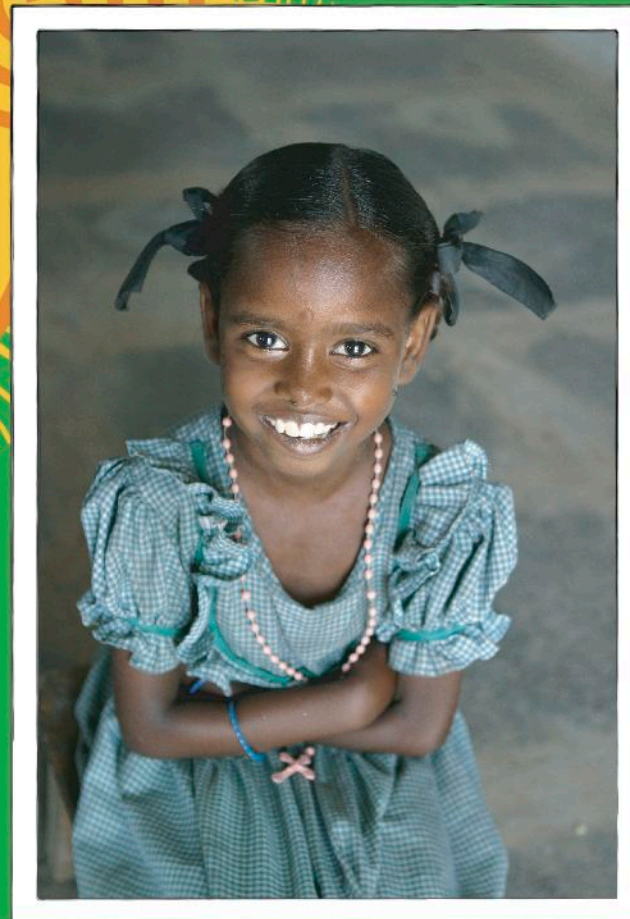
Care & Share is an international NGO based in the city of Vijayawada, in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. Our person-to-person sponsorship program benefits over 6500 children living in the city's slums and nearby villages. **Care & Share** also runs a host of other programs serving slum dwellers, sex workers, and those displaced in the wake of natural disasters.

Care & Share USA is a tax exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the US tax code. Any donation is tax deductible within the limits specified by the law.

The Slums

In spite of the economic growth experienced in the last decade, a high percentage of Vijayawada's population still lives in the miserable makeshift homes made of scrap plastic, tarp, palm leaves, cardboard, and mud that litter its landscape. Slums have arisen just about everywhere: around markets, bus terminals, swamps, warehouses, along the river Krishna and the city's many canals. 320,000 people — approximately 30% of the population — are amassed in over 20 slums. These sprawling slums share the total lack of hygiene, drinking water, and sanitation. In such places, where many parents cannot provide for their children's most fundamental necessities, the children are often forced look out for themselves the best they can.

It Takes a Village To Raise a Child



About us

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Slum development



Our Work

The people of the slums are mainly low castes and “untouchables.” Many of them come from tribal communities. These people have migrated to the city in search of work, but lack the necessary skills to make a decent living. 98% of them are illiterate; most work as “coolies” (porters) at construction sites, rickshaw pullers, or garbage collectors. The women work as housemaids, petty vendors, and prostitutes.

Care&Share has been serving Vijayawada’s slum dwellers since 1992. Our intervention focuses primarily on the slums of Kandrika, Brahmarambapuram, Autonagar, Alankar, Rajarajeswaripeta, and Vambay Colony. **Care&Share**’s community development strategy is centered on 4 pillars: nutrition, medical care, literacy, and economic self-sufficiency.



Nutrition: For years, we have been providing every child attending our schools with at least a glass of milk per day. This helps us offset some of the disastrous effects of malnutrition. We distribute 128 liters of milk (32 gallons) every day, for a total cost of \$60 per day. We also provide a mid-day meal to the school children

Medical Care:

The lack of hygiene, sanitation, and medical facilities exposes slum dwellers to all sorts of diseases, often contagious. Over the years, we have intervened to treat and vaccinate the people, children and adults alike. We regularly conduct medical camps, organize immunization programs, offer free dental care, and operated on hundreds of patients.

Literacy: **Care&Share** has built a literacy center in five slums to allow children to at least acquire basic literacy skills. In some of these slums, the centers we built are the only buildings standing. In 2004, we also built a school in Rajarajeswaripeta, which now educates 1500 children.

Economic Self-Sufficiency:

We assist the slum’s parents by providing them with the means to feed their families. We have often provided slum dwellers with rickshaws - one of the main modes of transportation in the city. To others, who work as fruit vendors or as ironers, we have given pushcarts (\$250). In other cases still, we have provided sewing machines (\$80).

