

## Global Grant For English Immersion Education For Indigent Village Children in Puri, Odisha, India

### The Problem:

Many children in poor village areas are trapped in a cycle of extreme poverty and low expectations that has defined their families for generations. Lack of basic literacy is a core problem, especially for women, where the rate of literacy can be as low as 25%. Many women can't even sign their names – they sign with a thumbprint. While the middle class is growing in big cities in India, Puri consists of mainly agricultural and fishing villages and remains very poor. Because of an ever-widening wealth and education gap, inequality in India is at its highest level in nearly a century. The only chance destitute children have for a brighter future is by giving them a solid foundation in values, academics, and real English language literacy so they can qualify for higher education and good jobs in modern India.



### Global Grant Project (\$80,000):

**This global grant will enable Prashanti International School (PIS) to provide quality education for indigent children Kindergarten through High School, with an emphasis on English language learning and building strong values.**

The English immersion PIS program includes strong academics and computer literacy, as these are essential for higher education and for good jobs. Weaving the human values of Truth, Right Action, Peace, Love and Non- Violence throughout daily curriculum enriches the program, and instills a sense of worth in young students who have been marginalized most of their lives. PIS is committed to equal education for girls, and to helping girls and boys stay in school through high school graduation and beyond. The PIS culture emphasizes selfless service and teaches the children the importance of giving back to the community. PIS is unique because it is a non-profit English immersion school that keeps its tuition affordable for poor village families. PIS currently educates 210 children from low-income local village families in addition to 40 bright indigent students who board at school on full scholarship because their mothers are not able to provide basic support or education for them.

### The Global Grant will provide:

- (1) Facility upgrades and required security features. PIS must complete strict facility and safety requirements to qualify for certification as an English education high school, so that PIS graduates can qualify for college entrance examinations and quality jobs. The grant will fund the application fee and complete important components such as boundary walls, security gates, access road, grading and planting for flood control. **Cost: \$58,600.**
- (2) Furnishings for 6 classrooms (desks, benches, whiteboards, locking metal cabinets, teachers' desks and chairs, overhead projector); equipment for science lab; computers for computer lab; fixtures and tile for school bathrooms; 2K liter water storage tank and plumbing. **Cost: \$14,500.**
- (3) Teacher training to improve (a) advanced English skills & how to incorporate English into all curriculum areas; (b) relevant computer literacy; (c) science education through all grades, (d) hygiene education for students. **Cost: \$3000.**
- (4) Teacher training program in Human Values and yoga. Village life can be very harsh. When children learn good values, their lives are transformed. They learn to respect themselves, respect others, and become community leaders. **Cost: \$1800**
- (5) Application fee for government certification as English-Immersion high school. **\$2100**

### Global Grant partner clubs:

**Host club: Rotary Club Srikshetra Puri (D3262); International Partner: Rotary Club of Ojai (D5240)**

Both Rotary clubs and individual Rotarians have supported Prashanti International School for many years. Projects have included clean drinking water units, laptop computers; tile and fixtures for bathrooms, water storage tank, improving classroom facilities, and clothing and school supplies for the boarding students. Four Ojai Rotarians met with Puri Rotarians in January 2018, to draft a district grant for a new septic system, which is the precursor of this global grant project.



Students come from surrounding villages and fishing camps



Some are raised by grandmothers



Construction of first phase of school



Ojai Rotarians examine PIS projects in January 2018

For information contact Rotary Club of Ojai: Kay Bliss [kblissojai@gmail.com](mailto:kblissojai@gmail.com) (805) 798-5782  
or Leslie Bouche [lesliebouche@me.com](mailto:lesliebouche@me.com) (805) 796-1616. Follow the project at [www.worldfamilyfnd.org](http://www.worldfamilyfnd.org).