



Chalice has partnered with Good Shepherd Sisters (Province of South West India) since 1998. The Sisters work with a highly diverse population across communities, each with distinctive challenges and needs. They support families in impoverished urban neighborhoods around the booming city of Bangalore. They also work with families from very rural communities and members of stigmatized and marginalized populations, including families affected by HIV/AIDS and Hansen's disease (leprosy). The site focuses on keeping children in school, providing academic support and extra-curricular activities. They also ensure families have access to quality healthcare, nutritious foods, and proper sanitation.





- Bangalore site has 1498 sponsored children.
- Classes continued online throughout the pandemic shutdowns. The site staff report that most children were able to pass their grade and graduate to their next academic year.
- Parents used sponsorship funds primarily for food and reported being able to provide at least two full meals per day to their children.



- The COVID-19 pandemic and economic shutdown created fear among families in addition to the economic hardships. Nonetheless, site staff report that sponsored families, through sponsorship, the gift catalogue and Chalice's COVID-19 disaster relief, had access to nutritious foods, medicine and the means to provide the essentials to their families.
- Through mobile phones, Chalice site staff helped families to access their funds through their bank accounts.





Community

- Staff had previously conducted trainings on creating home gardens. During the shutdown, many families implemented what they learned, and had greater access to fresh produce and were less food insecure.
- Through mobile devices, site staff continued to educate and inform guardians about COVID-19 precautions. They also offered advice and encouragement about parenting and supporting their neighbours in need.

