

Livermore Innovation Fair: Empowering global community across 8,622 miles!



The community at Livermore has always believed in empowering children in our local communities. But this time, they took it **8,622** miles further --- and reached out to empower kids on the other side of the globe in rural India!!

“Livermore Valley Performing Art Center just made the world a better place – one bag at a time! And we did this by ordering giveaway bags from girls at Asha Sadan, a HELP shelter in India.” - says Kiran Guleria, Education Program Manager at Livermore involved with the initiative.

The girls at Asha Sadan share a traumatic bond: they are all victims of childhood sex trafficking. Every year, hundreds of children in the rural India are rescued from sex trafficking, severe abuse, and violence. Traumatized and facing an

uncertain future, they are disoriented and desperate. That’s where Asha Sadan comes in — it provides a home for them, replete with a safe place to sleep in, daily nutritious meals, counseling, and excellent healthcare. And perhaps most importantly, Asha Sadan offers the girls crucial vocational training, necessary for the survivors’ reintegration into society.

The vocational training program is provided to these teen survivors by a non-profit based in our very own Bay Area: **Empower and Excel**. As part of their training, the girls at the shelter had taken sewing lessons and were eager to showcase their newly acquired skill. The order couldn't have come at a better time! They tackled their very *first* project with gusto, a passion reflected in the quality of their final product. And to top it all off, they finished the order weeks before the promised date!

Livermore Innovation Fair has offered these survivors HOPE, and the promise of a financially independent future. *“Your support has been a critical step in the sustainable reintegration of these children in the mainstream society. From the bottom of our hearts, a huge thank you to Livermore Innovation Fair for partnering in the healing journey of these survivors!”* - says Ayesha Chargulla, the President of Empower and Excel.

- Reported by Alpa Kohli