Reducing Poverty One Small Loan at a Time

Shanti Life, was founded in 2009 with a mission to provide the poor in India with access to seed capital for small enterprises as well as financial literacy and hygiene training. Shanti’s holistic approach to solving economic and social problems is extended through the building of basic sanitation in their homes.

Many of the women don’t have access to sanitation and face a long journey to use a toilet where they risk getting bitten by a snake or being sexually assaulted. Providing an eco-sanitation toilet is often the first vital step in their journey to independence. Many of these women face domestic violence at home and have no sense of dignity.

One of the most unique aspects about Shanti is how funds are directly given to the recipients on the ground.

Shanti provides women entrepreneurs with loans to start new businesses. Many of these women have been victims of sex trafficking and they are the poorest of the poor. With funding from Shanti they can buy sewing machines, set up cooking stalls, or develop their textiles for sale.

One of the most unique aspects about Shanti is how funds are directly given to the recipients on the ground. At the time of receiving a loan, every recipient is given a new bank account. By opening an account, the poor finally make it onto the financial ladder of independence. It also helps Shanti to ensure a smooth repayment audit trail while minimizing its own overhead costs.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

You can help the disadvantaged get their new businesses off the ground or improve the wellbeing and dignity of women by funding the installation of a sanitation unit in their home.

To make an investment that keeps on giving as the repayments are recycled into new loans, go to shantilife.org/donate or email the founder Sheetal Mehta Walsh at sheetal@shantilife.org

Shanti Life is a non profit microfinance institution (MFI) with charity status in Canada, USA, UK and India.