FUTURE HOPE

Giving Today's Street and Slum Children a Better Tomorrow

Founded in 1987 | NEWSLETTER | Spring 2026

Small gestures bring big systems change: this is our daily takeaway from Future Hope. How to convert a dry smile into long-term hope, how to wipe a tear and make it a dream, how to share a simple meal and build a lasting bond.

This is what we define as impact, not always the measurable metrics, which we have in plenty, but as immeasurable happiness challenging distress that numbers can never capture.

We carry a huge responsibility, a responsibility of trust from our children and their families. This "job description" is both humbling and deeply inspiring. The whole team lives this inspiration.

When we see a little child enter our system, we don't see the tatters, we see a future leader, a changemaker, an entrepreneur, a role model for society. This almost always comes true.

There are those who take longer to adjust in life because of deep trauma suffered in childhood, and the healing process is longer, sometimes lasting a lifetime. We cannot call them failures, because if we self-reflect, we all carry our own weaknesses and mistakes.

We just have to set judgement aside and add large doses of empathy. Through that something beautiful emerges, the quiet return of confidence, potential and possibility.

The trust our children and their families place in us is a gift we never take lightly and it is shared with everyone who supports us, believes in us and gives us their time, thoughts and generosity. I thank my trustees who standby through thick and thin, and the whole wonderful, happy, caring team.

Sujata Sen, CEO

Belong, Grow, Thrive

THE FUTURE HOPE JOURNEY

Putting the Children at the Centre

A PLACE TO BELONG

Safety • Care • Trust

A nurturing foundation where every child feels safe, valued and supported after experiencing trauma & vulnerability

Homes | Medical & Nutrition | Community | Wellbeing

A CHANCE TO SHINE

Education • Sport • Creativity • Values

A vibrant environment where children discover their strengths, explore talents and build confidence for the future.

Schooling | Arts | Life Skills | Personal Growth

A FUTURE TO BUILD

Skills • Employability • Independence

A pathway to adulthood where young people gain the skills, support and opportunities to build independent, meaningful lives

Vocational Training | Mentoring | Higher Education | Alumni

Breaking The Cycle of Poverty In A Generation

From a single room to a world of possibility

He grew up in a very small room in a derelict house where he lived with his father who never had the chance to go to school and is a sweeper, working long hours for scarce pay. Life offered little hope for Basant but everything changed when he came to Future Hope where he quickly felt cared for and free to enjoy learning amongst his friends.

It wasn't long before we spotted that he had real talent—on the chessboard, he outplayed everyone! That talent was nurtured with lessons and encouragement and in Class 9 earned him a full sponsorship from a chess academy, giving him the chance to learn from the best, travel and achieve an International FIDE rating.

“Chess was a big part of my school life and had a meaningful impact on my development. I loved to play but it also taught me to focus on study, stay patient under pressure, think logically and for long periods, as well as teamwork. These skills have helped to shape me and the way I solve problems and make decisions today.”

But his curiosity stretched far beyond the chess board. “In class 3 I became very curious about science when I studied the chapter “Our Solar System” . I kept thinking about how the solar system and stars work, especially about the biggest planet, Jupiter. The revolution and rotation period taken by each planet and many more hidden facts. I asked my teachers questions during break and used to go to the Future Hope library and read the encyclopaedia of the solar system.” That early wonder grew into ambition and a Master’s in Microbiology. At university he often spoke about wanting to give back,

“I hope that with my education I can help my community to adapt to healthy behaviours, promote good health and wellness.”

To realise his dream he applied for a job at Sun Pharma, India’s number one pharmaceutical company. Hundreds were rejected at the online stage and out of 150 who made it to the face-to-face interview, only six were selected. He was one of them.

"I feel genuinely proud and excited about my recent appointment as Quality Assurance in a Microbiology Laboratory. It's an important step in my professional journey and I plan to continue my years of hard work, learning and dedication to build a career in the science field. Everyday I learn new things about the Pharma Industry, especially the importance of medicine in people's lives.

Looking back, I know I would not be where I am without the influence of supportive teachers and opportunities that Future Hope has given me.

They encouraged and motivated me to choose the right profession and are always by my side.

A PLACE TO BELONG

SHAH'S STORY: CONTINUITY, CARE AND THE CHILDREN WHO GREW UNDER HIS WING

Shah or Saha da, as he is lovingly known in the Future Hope family, is a long-standing and steady presence at Future Hope whose quiet continuity shapes daily life in countless ways and forms a thread that links past and present.

An association spanning over three decades, Shah has witnessed the changes in Future Hope first hand. He joined Future Hope as security personnel for the boys' home back in 1994 when the main focus was sports and says,

"The biggest change I have seen is how education has realised the dream of transforming a child from the street into an independent, employable, self-supporting member of society."

Shah was appointed as a houseparent in 2004. He brings his fun and caring personality to the home, creating a space where the little boys can be care free, play, let out their energy but all the while being gently guided by him. The laughter and smiles on faces, not least Shah's, as he was covered in green, pink and orange as the children celebrated Holi a reminder of their close bond.

But his energy and care extends through school and into the community. From jumping in the ambulance to help a family with a medical emergency, to leading a massive relief effort for the families during Covid Shah helps so many.

Recently Shah took a trip to Hyderabad and Bangalore and much to his delight, managed to catch up with several of our alumni who grew up in his care. He recounted how they are doing like a proud parent:

- **Ganesh:** He needed a lot of attention and guidance in the Homes and as house parent, he was a handful. He was famously fond of food — I still remember him eating 11 pieces of fried fish on a holiday to Bakkhali! I relentlessly urged him on to complete his class 12 exams, which he did. Being very good at sport and communications he got a job in a pan-Indian fitness company and now works as a personal fitness instructor.
- **Alla:** He was always helpful and supportive to others and worked on his studies regularly in order to clear his class 10 exam. He has done very well and is now an assistant manager for Events at a leading IT company. Still the same Alla, he continues to help all the other boys from Future Hope when they are looking for jobs.
- **Munni:** After completing her hospitality training with our help, Munni is working in a five star hotel in the front office, which is every new joiner's dream job in a five star hotel. The hotel is supporting her to graduate and she has a bright future.
- **Subhadeep:** He was not academically inclined but very good in sports and now works as a fitness trainer in a gym. Delighted to see that has found the right niche.

Homes | Medical & Nutrition | Community | Wellbeing

600+	1350	Weekly	140
Youth provided medical care each year	Medical consultations	Counselling sessions for children & families	Boys & girls safe in our 6 happy homes

A NURTURING FOUNDATION WHERE EVERY CHILD FEELS SAFE, VALUED AND SUPPORTED

It takes nothing to be kind to the children. Yet it means everything to them.

Koushani, School Counsellor

COUNSELLING, TO ME, IS SIMPLY A FORM OF SELF-CARE. It is not something that children should feel the need to turn to only when things go wrong or when they are struggling deeply. It can be a space for everything in between. Sometimes, they just need a space where they feel heard.

Every now and then, a child leaves you with something that stays far beyond the Counselling Room.

There was a student I worked with who found it very difficult to be in school. Most days, she stayed away. And when she did come, there was a certain resistance to everything around her. The structure, the routine, the expectation of being present. What felt like defiance, was actually that she just didn't feel like she belonged.

So we started slowly. Conversations, long pauses, a few words here and there. No pressure to change, no need to explain everything. Just showing up and letting her take her time.

Over weeks and months, something began to shift. She started coming in more often. Sitting a little longer. Trusting the space a little more. And then one day, very casually, in the middle of a conversation, she told me that she finally feels at home in her school, after a very, very long time.

It is so important to understand that, children don't need perfection or control from us. They need patience. They need gentleness. They need empathy. They need us to slow down, to listen and to meet them where they are.

MORE THAN THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL—IT IS THE BEGINNING OF A FUTURE

The first day of term was the start of a life-changing journey for 48 of our newest children, especially those in KG and Class 1.

Every child joining us has been carefully identified as coming from some of the most challenging circumstances in Kolkata. For many, this is far more than a first day at school—it is a first real opportunity. An opportunity to learn, to feel safe, to be recognised and to begin imagining a different future.

Yet, what truly defines these children's first days in school are not the systems in place, but the moments that unfold. The excitement of new school bags, the shy smiles that slowly turn into laughter, the first friendships beginning to take shape and the quiet bravery each child shows as they step into something entirely new.

This is where their story begins.

I have been here since 7 years old. This place has given me many opportunities in different things. The houseparents love us like their own children. They make us feel safe and cared for every time.

My life changed as I came to Future Hope as it helped me see the world. It is my home and I want to do something for it as I grow up.

Muskan, Class 7

A safe home for a child

INR 137,500 a year

A PLACE TO GROW

EDUCATION OPENS DOORS, sparks confidence and gives every young person the chance to reach for a brighter future. We see that magic every day — from the first moment a child grasps something new to the joyful pride of mastering a skill.

Diverse academic pathways ensure learners can gain qualifications suited to their potential. Essential life skills through mentoring, leadership and environmental action prepare students for responsible citizenship and future employment. Counselling and emotional wellbeing help children overcome trauma and develop healthy coping strategies, building long-term resilience.

I have learnt how to think boldly and to speak with confidence.
I feel I can find my own goals and my own direction.

Sawan on the Leadership Course

BUILDING INDEPENDENCE AND AGENCY FOR FIRST GENERATION LEARNERS

Tailormade for Future Hope in partnership with Full Circle to help promote independence, critical thinking and leadership for classes 8 to 12, our Leadership Course has been running for 18 months and the results along with the stories coming through from students and teachers are powerful. 87 participants were assessed to measure how many had made progress in each life skill:

- ⇒ Interaction with others—46%
- ⇒ Problem Solving—63%
- ⇒ Taking Initiative—52%
- ⇒ Conflict Management—56%
- ⇒ Following Instructions—43%

"These outcomes reflect real shifts in confidence, independence and agency for first generation learners. When life has been all about survival the sessions offer a safe space for self-expression, to practice strengths such creativity and responsibility," explains project lead, Tina Brunett.

"As their confidence grows, the result can be multiplied. When one child learns to lead with empathy and confidence, they inspire others - siblings, peers and younger children,"

Schooling | Arts | Life Skills | Personal Growth

100%	100%	62	400+	45%
Pass Class 12	Pass Open Basic Education	new children in school	All round education	of our students are girls

A VIBRANT ENVIRONMENT WHERE CHILDREN DISCOVER THEIR STRENGTHS

KEEPING A CLOSE CONNECTION WITH THE STUDENTS' PARENTS AND COMMUNITY IS NOT ONLY DESIRABLE BUT, IN MY OPINION, ESSENTIAL TO PROTECT STUDENT WELLBEING

I had eagerly anticipated the day when I would start teaching at Future Hope. Looking back at that day, I see myself feeling confused as to why my students were not responding adequately to the techniques I had put so much confidence in. Furthermore, as a first-time teacher, managing a classroom of students about whom I had not yet processed enough contextual information appeared insurmountable.

With hindsight and context, I now realise how important it has been getting to know my students, their own unique personalities, abilities and experiences. And, the key to building that bridge with them and helping them build bridges towards a hopeful future has been visiting, experiencing and understanding their communities.

My first community visit took place with the aim of communicating directly with the parents of a student who had been facing challenges focusing in class. On getting near the address location, I realised that there were a few stark differences in the physical elements between what the student experienced at school and at home. The one that stood out to me was the physical space itself. While the student had to cram up his life and that of his parents in a small room at home, no bigger than the school washroom, he experienced a relatively much more open area in the classroom and the school at large.

While talking to the parents about the student, deliberately in a positive and solution-oriented manner, I started placing myself in that small room in which the child had already started to do his homework.

I realised that the school, which was hitherto for me a space for excellent learning, was a respite and haven for a student who probably could not sleep well the night before.

I started to look at student behaviour through the lens of their context and a lot of what they exhibited started making sense. For instance, this particular student would love to catch a quick nap in the middle of lessons and would love to run around the class when he got the chance. What seemed like a disruption before was now clarified to be a natural reaction to the student's lived experiences. This evolved my understanding of my role as a teacher and how, to ensure that my students grow, I had to become a 'student' of community affairs. Using the collected insights, I could then be capable enough to meet my children's needs and ambitions.

By Antarleen, Teach 4 India Teacher

NURTURING TALENT WITH HANDS ON LEARNING

The Resource Room runs an engaging Skill Training Programme giving students chances to learn by doing. Indoors, they tried their hands at baking, tailoring, bag making and candle making — activities to spark creativity, build fine motor skills and reliance. Outdoors, students rolled up their sleeves to cultivate organic vegetables at Rajarhat, learning firsthand about sustainability, teamwork and caring for the environment. Together, these activities make learning practical and enjoyable, helping our youngsters discover new vocational interests while building confidence along the way.

I believe every experience has given me something valuable to carry forward. I learned that challenges are not just obstacles but opportunities to improve myself and build resilience.

One important lesson is the power of consistency—small steps taken every day create meaningful progress over time. I also discovered the importance of communication and support from others, as sharing thoughts made many situations easier to handle.

Education for a child

INR 69,000 a year

A PLACE TO SHINE

The most important skills I learned are acting, showing confidence and believing in myself. I can do everything, nothing is impossible.

"I always look forward to Karate classes, they are a big motivator for me."

Ankon

"I can do anything the boys can do, makes no difference to me I just want to play."

Koel, our trusty goal keeper

Insights Into Sustainability from the East Kolkata Wetlands

by Avrajeet and Sweta, Class 11.

Makaltala is a village filled with emotion, simplicity and deep connections between people and nature. Located within the East Kolkata Wetlands, it represents a unique ecological harmony that we observed during the "Disappearing Dialogues" internship.

We conducted a survey of the small water body covered with water hyacinth and lotus and surrounded by trees such as tal, khejur, and akond. Meeting local residents and learning about the community's strengths and challenges we saw the impact of industrial pollution from nearby leather factories. In recent years the biggest concern for the community has been chemical pollutants and land encroachment.

Makaltala serves as a living example of what needs to be done for sustainable development; protecting this ecosystem is essential for biodiversity, local livelihoods and future environmental balance.

Sport | Creativity

100%
Of children playing sports

50
Green initiatives by students

3000
Youth development through sport

60
Enrichment Activities

A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE TALENTS AND BUILD CONFIDENCE

Looking Out for Each Other – From the Ground Up

Pratap, Khelo Rugby Coordinator

For us, rugby is not only about playing. It's where we start to understand what is happening in children's lives.

When a child comes regularly, plays with energy and is part of the group, you can see it. But when something changes, we also notice that. Maybe they stop coming for a few days. Maybe they are quieter than usual. Sometimes they look tired or they are not fully involved like before. That's usually the first sign for us that something is not right. Because we are with them every week, we can pick up these small changes early.

When we see this, we don't just leave it. We try to check in. Sometimes it's just a simple conversation after practice. Sometimes we visit their home. Our young leaders are often the front line in this or sometimes we do this together as a team. We talk to parents, understand what is going on and see how we can help.

"Care" for us is not one big thing. It is small, consistent actions. Checking if a child is going to school. Asking if they have eaten. Helping them come back to training. Sometimes even just sitting and listening.

In our communities, many children are facing challenges. Some are not regular in school. Some have family pressure to earn money. Some are dealing with illness at home. And sometimes, there is just not enough support or guidance around them.

One example I remember clearly is a boy who used to come regularly when he was younger. At one point, he stopped coming for his practice. We noticed because he was very active before—always involved, always smiling. We found out that he had dropped out of school and had started working doing small jobs. There was also pressure at home and slowly he got disconnected from everything.

We went to his house and spoke with his family. It was not easy at first. They were thinking more about earning money than anything else. But we kept visiting. We kept encouraging him to come back, even if just for practice. Slowly, he returned. First just for rugby, then we supported him to think again about his future. He started building some routine and discipline again. He became more regular, more responsible.

One big turning point was when he took on small responsibilities in the group—helping younger players, assisting in sessions. That gave him confidence again and he became interested in cycling, taking part in rides, small competitions and becoming part of our cycle maintenance team. Today, he's putting those skills to work at Decathlon in Kolkata, repairing customer cycles. When we hear about him now, it feels like a big change from where he was.

For us, his journey shows what is possible.
Not everything changes quickly and not every story is the same. But when someone comes back, stays connected and finds a path, it gives belief to the whole community.

For me personally, it reminds me why we do this work. It's not only about rugby sessions. It's about staying connected to the children, especially when they start to drift away. Sometimes just being there, again and again, makes the difference.

I have many interests and this year I would like to learn guitar, piano and international languages.

My dream it to become a doctor. I scored 75/80 in science which is really important for this so I felt really happy.

Srishti Class 7

Sport youth development for 100 children

INR 667,000 a year

A PLACE TO THRIVE

EACH CHILD HAS THEIR STORY, THEIR CHALLENGES TO OVERCOME

Delighted to celebrate the incredible achievements of our new Hospitality students as they graduated from our Skills Training Centre and took an important step towards independence. The smiles on their faces said it all—well-earned and full of pride. Each student has overcome challenges with resilience and determination to successfully complete both the course and on-the-job training in restaurants and hotels. They are among the 500 trainees who have completed eight different skills courses at our centre, ranging from electrical, two, three and four-wheeler servicing, air-conditioning and refrigeration, to beauty, and computer hardware.

We believe every child deserves a pathway that reflects their potential, interests and dreams. Our role is to walk alongside them as they discover who they are and what they want to become, ensuring each young person finds a route that feels right for them.

Thanks to the six month training of theory and On Job Training in hospitality, I was able to crack a service job at the famous Glenburn Cafe and it has been smooth sailing for me so far.

Suparn, Future Hope George Telegraph Training Institute graduate

Data collected over nearly four decades confirms that higher education, be it skills or college, is the most effective catalyst for Intragenerational Upward Mobility for our students. Most of them successfully transition to higher income and occupational levels compared to those of their parents within their own lifetimes.

With a tough and evolving job market we have to give our students the soft skills that will help them to stand out to potential employers. Increasingly we are supplementing their higher education courses with additional qualifications and industry exposure wherever we can. From running a computer certification for our sports management students to delivering communication courses for our hospitality students the remit is growing and showing results.

But above all, on-going mentoring is key to the success of our students as they navigate new ground for themselves, their families and their communities.

“It has been challenging managing everything but I stayed strong. I managed my exams, online classes and a film project, whilst also handling personal difficulties, including my father’s health scare and increased household responsibilities. A major positive was getting a three-month paid PR internship where I could learn how work is actually done in a professional environment. Moving forward I will help my family by using my storytelling skills to advocate for issues that matter to us.” Supriya, Media Science.

Vocational Training | Mentoring | Higher Education | Alumni

126	52%	100%	502	18
supported in university	university students are girls	go on to higher education or skills	completed skills training courses	University graduates

A PATHWAY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO BUILD INDEPENDENT, MEANINGFUL LIVES

DHRUB'S DETERMINATION—DRIVEN BY THE DREAM OF A BETTER FUTURE FOR HIS FAMILY

Dhrub resides in a household of five, including his parents and two siblings. His father is the sole earner for the family, operating a street-side phuchka stall. Given the modest and fluctuating nature of this income, the family faces significant financial challenges.

Deeply motivated by these circumstances, Dhrub views his education not merely as a personal achievement but as a vital means to provide long-term financial stability and support for his parents and siblings.

Dhrub is in his first year at The Bhowanipore Education Society College, studying for a Bachelor of Commerce while also preparing for the Certified Management Accountant (CMA) foundation exams. It's a demanding combination, but he's built a steady home/study routine that helps him balance both his CMA work and his college classes.

He hopes to qualify as a Chartered Management Accountant — a step that would open the door to a career in the corporate sector and create real financial stability for his family.

Despite the initial pressure, Dhrub has successfully adapted and is learning so much more than just academics through his time at university,

"I really like the overall learning environment and opportunities for personal growth. I feel more confident and ready to face new challenges in the future."

EMPOWERING MOTHERS, STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

At Rowland Road, a simple idea has grown into a powerful source of confidence and independence for local mothers. After noticing that many women felt overlooked at home and financially dependent, the team converted a classroom into a small beauty studio and brought the beautician course from our skills centre to the community for mothers who weren't working.

Word spread quickly. What started as a small idea has now grown into a group of nearly 30 mothers attending classes four times a week for two months at a time.

Their reasons for joining are simple but powerful:

- ⇒ They want to earn their own income.
- ⇒ They want to look and feel presentable.
- ⇒ They want confidence—equal footing with their husbands
- ⇒ And they want to help other women do the same.

The results speak for themselves. Several mothers are already offering services in their communities, earning Rs 4,000 a month and another has just joined a top end beautician and wellness parlour next to school earning Rs 8,000 per month—income that brings dignity, choice and a new sense of identity.

I am very proud of myself for choosing the nursing field. I want to be independent in my life and do not want to depend on anyone.

Nursing gives me confidence, respect, and the ability to stand on my own. It allows me to help others while building a strong and secure future for myself.

Sobita, BSc Nursing

University for a young person

INR 168,000 a year

Creating Better Tomorrows

OPTHALMOLOGIST

BANKER

CHEF

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

TRAINEE NURSE

Multidimensional & multigenerational poverty

In India it takes 7 generations on average to break the cycle of poverty

Intragenerational Upward Mobility

Previously vulnerable children from poor families living below the poverty line, our alumni become self-reliant members of society and enjoy fulfilling careers

Education is the key to success. If I was not studying then I would be a rickshaw puller or a drug addict as all my locality friends are. I am thankful to Future Hope that I got the opportunity to grow in society.

Education and knowledge helps me to encourage others into education.

Md Tanveer, Law

New Campus Project To Increase Our Impact

We're getting close. After months of patient work, we've reached the final stage of planning permission for our new Future Hope campus in Rajarhat. Once this last approval lands, we can start building a school for 750 children and homes for 200 — all in the wonderful green space where our children already enjoy playing sports and growing their own fruit and vegetables. A big step towards a brighter future.

Creating Real and Lasting Change Child By Child—Impact 2025

Quality Education

400+ children from the streets & slums provided an all round education

Decent Work & Economic Growth

126 students supported in university

500+ youth completed skills training

Medical Care & Counselling

600+ youth with access to 24/7 medical care

100% of children have access to counselling

No Poverty & Zero Hunger

800+ families supported by successful alumni

6 safe and caring homes for 140 children

450+ nutritious lunches per day

Advocacy for 400 students' families and many more in the community

3000+ children provided with opportunity through community sports

Gender Equality

45% of our school students are girls

52% of our university students are girls

donate now!

Online donations
www.futurehope.net

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Future Hope has an FCRA bank account with SBI (NDMB Branch). For further queries please write to the CEO, Sujata Sen

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