Urgent Appeal to support the fight against the COVID-19 in Varanasi

As you all are aware, the second wave of COVID-19 infection has wrecked havoc across the whole world. However, the eastern part of the Uttar Pradesh, most populated state of India, took the hardest hit. The densely populated, but resource-starved region is currently on the brink of disaster. More then 2000 new cases and approximately 15 deaths are being reported everyday in the city of salvation Varanasi. With the highest daily rise in new cases and deaths, covid bodies heap up at cremation grounds of Manikarnika and Harishchandra Ghat. The government and civil society organization trying their level best to mitigate the devastating consequences of the pandemic. Nevertheless, there are several impediments standing on the way:

- 1. The government has designated hospitals for special treatment of COVID-19 infected patients according to level 1, level 2, and level 3. Furthermore, home isolation for the patients with mild infections has been advised. It is imperative that patients in home isolation receive medicine kits containing antibiotics, paracetamol, vitamin C and zinc tablets.
- 2. The requisite priority medical devices such as Oxymeter, Thermometer, Ambubag and Oxygen Concentrators are not available to local ASHA health workers. Due to this, their efforts to provide essential health services in community are extremely limited, if not helpless.
- 3. In spite of the availability of hospital beds, patients continue to die, as hospitals refuse treatment because of the oxygen shortage.
- 4. As the Government Ambulances are numbered, the pandemic has turned out to be an opportunity for the unscrupulous private Ambulance owners. They arbitrarily charge Rs 10,000/ to Rs 15,000/ for just 2 to 3 kilometers only.
- 5. Many daily wage earning families are on the brink of starvation due to lockdown restrictions.
- 6. The pandemic has an adverse impact on the lives of the people in general. The number of domestic violence cases is reported to be on the rise.
- 7. Schools and colleges are closed and learners seem to have been deviated from their studies. Meanwhile, there has been a steep rise in the incidents of child labour, child sexual abuse and child marriages, etc.

In view of the above challenges, the Dr. Shambhunath Singh Research Foundation (SRF), founded on 9th November 1989 in the fond memory of noted Hindi poet, culturalist and social thinker Dr. Shambhunath Singh, owes its social responsibility.

Registered under section 21 of Societies Registration Act 1860 on 31st December 1991, this organization directly deals with various social issues such as Health, Nutrition, Water & Sanitation, Education, Protection, Livelihood and Disaster Management in and around districts of Varanasi.

In the past year, SRF has actively fought the coronavirus disease with active support of likeminded allies such as CRY, PLAN India, as well as other CSR partners and individuals. Approximately 5000 families were provided direct or indirect aid. (Detailed Report Attached).

This year, harder then ever before, with our scant resources and a team of dedicated volunteers, we are trying to reach to the masses with following designs in our minds:

- To grant free-of-cost ambulance services, equipped with life saving devices.
- To provide ventilation beds at charity hospitals affiliated with this organization to make them accessible to the poor and others in need.

- To supply 10 portable oxygen concentrators in order to meet the urgent oxygen needs of home-isolated patients, struggling for their lives.
- 100 Oximeters, Ambu bags and Thermometers to be provided among the poor and needy on rotation basis.
- To provide COVID medicine kits to 1000 patients for 14 days containing medicines such as Ivermectine, Azithromycine, Doxycycline, Paracetamol, Vitamin C and Zinc Tablets, etc.
- 10,000 triple layer masks must be distributed free of cost among the most vulnerable communities.
- To supply needy families with one month ration to 1000 through ration kits containing 10 kg flour, 10 kg rice, 2 kg pulses, 1 kg gram, oil, spices, salts, onion, potatoes, etc.
- To grant 100 budget tablets for distance education and spread awareness to the most marginalized children and their families.

We appeal to your sense of community and charity to contribute in cash or kind to alleviate the suffering of humanity during these immensely tragic times. You are most welcome, if willing to volunteer, as a Doctor or Counselor too. Your contribution shall be utilized in a very transparent manner and we assure you to revert even a single penny back to you in the form of the breathings of the suffering humanity.

Your contribution shall be subject to exemption under Section 80 (G) of Income Tax Act. You can donate in cash or kind on following details:

	Indian Donations	Foreign Donations
Bank	Indian Bank	State Bank of India
Branch	Kashi Vidyapeeth University	Parliament Street
City	Varanasi (U.P)	New Delhi
Account No.	210 458 718 11	400 835 769 43
IFSC	IDIB000K619	SBIN0000691
Swift Code		SBININBB104

For donating above mentioned supplies, please reach out to us @:

Rajeev Kumar Singh

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