

# 4 Face of Damien Foundation India Touch Today...

Being a Medical Doctor, what inspired you to join an NGO like Damien Foundation India?

Way back in 1996, I had an opportunity to work in one of Damien Foundation India projects and was highly moved by their genuine work. After my graduation from Medical College, I came directly to work in Damien Foundation in 2003. Looking back at the journey of 21 years, I am proud to be part of an organization that supports thousands of leprosy and TB affected not just medically but also emotionally and socially through our various programs. I can confidently say that the three pillars that anchor the organization are a Patient Centric Approach, Transparency and Non-Discriminatory attitude towards the stakeholders and staff. We value our patients as individuals who deserve be respected and treated with utmost respect and dignity.



**Dr. SHIVAKUMAR**  
Secretary - Damien Foundation India Trust

Can you explain the reason for the impressive retention rate and commitment observed among staff of Damien Foundation India?

Thank you. We like to value our staff as much as we value our patients and give them freedom to work within their domain of expertise. This creates a healthy working environment and has created a team of highly dedicated staff committed to the organization values and mission and willing to work for many years—we have many staff serving over 20 years. We operate like a professional family. Our Staff are our biggest asset.

Do you have a message to your donors and supporters?

Damien Foundation India is a member of International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations. Overseas funding is reducing as donors believe that India can self-support the projects. Yet the need and magnitude of problem remains the same. I therefore like to thank our Indian donors who have chosen to stay with us and encourage them to provide continuous support. Corporates have a major role, I am not talking about just donating money but a continuation how they can be key players/spokesperson in spreading awareness about Leprosy and TB. They are most welcome to be part of our exclusive awareness campaign called the “Touch and Tag”. The CSR of corporate can help bridge the resource gap caused by reduced funding from the Government and International agencies.

Small act of kindness... will make a Big difference for one person!

Show them you Care

Support the TOUCH CAMPAIGN Today...

▶ There are 3 ways to donate regularly ◀

OPTION 1: Direct NACH debits from your savings bank account

OPTION 2: Cheques/DD payable to 'Damien Foundation India Trust'

OPTION 3 : Contribute Online through our secure payment gateway

Sign up for our  
monthly support  
@  
**Rs.500/**  
month today!



Damien Foundation India Trust (DFIT) is registered under the Trust Act (213/1992)  
Donations are 50 % exempted from Tax under 80G of Income Tax Act, 1961

Office in - New Delhi ♦ Nellore (Andhra Pradesh) ♦ Patna (Bihar)

SECRETARY - DAMIEN FOUNDATION INDIA TRUST

No.14, Venugopal Avenue, Spur Tank Road, Chetpet, Chennai - 600031

P: +91 44 2836 0496 | 2836 1910 ♦ E: info@damienfoundation.in

www.damienfoundation.in/touchandtag ♦ www.facebook.com/DamienDFIT

# Touch Today

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**damien**



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4 Face of Damien Foundation India



SHANTHI

## RESTORING HOPE, REBUILDING COMMUNITIES!

“When I heard that word, I just wanted to end my life”

“Thank You to Damien Foundation India staff, for helping me find hope to live and feeding me for Life”

“When I heard that word, I just wanted to end my life. The doctor diagnosed the numbness on my right hand as Leprosy! Fear and tears were rising up within me. How am I going to feed the three children and an ailing husband with these deformed fingers, I cried to my mother?! They were being supported by my meagre income from the brick kiln”

Life of Gidhalaru Shanthi (42 years), a brick worker and mother of three children came to a standstill when she could not continue work in the brick kiln as she had developed a medical condition called right ulnar neuritis with claw hand (Early stage of Leprosy), a type I reaction which

made the deformity more and more visible on her right hand. The thought of social ostracization and stigma attached to Leprosy with the deformity becoming more visible was even more haunting.

### Hope revived!

Damien Foundation India social workers reassured her about regaining normal life and put her on anti-leprosy treatment in the Damien Foundation Urban Leprosy and TB Research Centre, Nellore. Sponsored by a generous donor like you, shanthi underwent a Deformity correction surgery executed by a team of experienced doctor and paramedical staff of Damien Foundation India.

**The surgery restored her will to live and good levels of functioning of the hand !**

Damien Foundation India encouraged Shanthi and her mother who stood by her as a pillar of strength to start a tiffin center. Damien India provided utensils and grinding machine worth Rs. 10,000 as part of their Livelihood Enhancement Programme provided for such affected by Leprosy or TB. Damien Foundation India Staff went further to convince the community to visit her tiffin centre!

Shanthi’s hard work for just 4 hours in the morning fetches Rs. 1000 per day! Her three children are going to School and her husband stands by her!

“Thank You to Damien Foundation India staff, for helping me find hope to live and feeding me for Life”, said Shanthi smilingly even as she was serving her tasty dosas to the volunteers!

### Major Activities ....



175

Major and 54 minor Reconstructive surgeries were performed to correct deformities



183

New leprosy patients were diagnosed across the Project Locations in India



4968

Demonstrated Self care to 4968 persons affected by Leprosy related disabilities



1260

New TB cases were diagnosed and also managed TB side effects through its eight referral hospitals



157

TB affected were provided Nutritious food supplement to facilitate treatment adherence and treatment completion



116

With 2 State of Art Laboratories in Bihar & Andhra Pradesh, Damien Foundation India has diagnosed 116 drug resistant TB affected and also initiated treatment for them



182

Leprosy reactions persons were managed through Damien Foundation India’s 14 referral hospitals



110

Livelihood support was rendered to 110 poor persons affected by leprosy and TB

## HEAD FOR BUSINESS; HEART FOR PEOPLE

“I feel that all the corporate/companies should enjoy the CSR process along with the employees and not just look at it as a compulsion enforced on the Management”



Meet Mr. NAVEEN PRAKASH

Damien Foundation India’s Corporate Donor and Director - Global Logistics

a) As a head of the organization, your thoughts on successful business heads driving a social mandate?

I have always believed in helping the poor and needy being driven by my religious conviction. Ten years back, when I started this company, I made it a point to share the available resources with the underprivileged section of the society. My personal definition of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is - “share the available resources with the underprivileged/neglected”. Like me, I also find my company’s employees enthusiastic to interact with the neglected section of the society and they enjoy taking up CSR as a team work.

b) What influenced you to donate to Damien Foundation India?

I turned empathetic towards one of the Prime Minister announcements made in 2016 in which he emphasized the need to eradicate TB & Leprosy. I discussed about this to one of my friend and he shared about the work of Damien Foundation India. I immediately took it up as our company’s CSR activity after getting to know the credentials of Damien Foundation India. Yes, I shall be very happy to continue this journey as our organization’s CSR activity.

c) What is your message for other corporate to take up CSR activities?

I consider CSR as a team strengthening activity and always ensure our team’s involvement in CSR activities. I observed that such an approach not only builds an attitude of sharing and caring and also enhances work productivity.

### Major Activities ....