

Dear Shoshana friends,

This Christmas newsletter reaches you with great **joy and gratitude**. I am always overwhelmed that you support us so loyally, even though I rarely get in touch. We, Bindu, I and all our Shoshana members, appreciate it very much.

We have achieved a lot again this year and I would like to share it with you. It is a great success that Bindu has taken over the work completely and is responsibly managing our projects with new ideas. We currently **have 11 sewing projects, 17 medical centers and 1 computer center**. Bindu visited some women in the slum areas who successfully completed the sewing course last year and are now reporting how they are doing.

My name is **Rebeca Rani**. I was a student at Shoshana Sewing Centre Gannavaram. I come from a backward tribal community. I was one of the very first women to complete the tailoring course in 2023. I am **married** and **have two children**.



This is Rebeca in her new tailor shop.

My husband is a **garbage collector** and **sewage cleaner**. Unfortunately, he is very irresponsible and does not take care of my family's needs. Most of the time he is drunk and unemployed. My health is also not good so I could not work as a daily wage laborer. I **could not feed my children or send them to school**.



Shoshana offered me to take a **free sewing course**. After completing the course, they provided me with a **sewing machine** and the necessary equipment to **start my own business**. With their encouragement, I started a tailoring shop in my village Indupalli. The government provided me with temporary accommodation to set up the shop. I have been **working as a tailor for almost a year** now. I am very happy to be **financially independent** and to be

able to **support my family and give my children a better life**.

*I thank all Shoshana donors who help many women like me to have a better life.*

My name is **Martha**. 28yrs old. I am a school dropout. I am married and I have two daughters. My husband was an auto driver. He was an alcoholic and was not taking care of the family responsibilities. I use to work as a domestic helper. My children are still small kids and I couldn't leave them alone and go to work.

Because of his bad habits, my husband got **paralyzed** and is **bedridden**. All the family burdens fell on me. Besides that, I had to take care of my husband's medical expenses which is extremely difficult for me. I was **depressed** and even thought of ending my life.

In this situation Ms. Hemima, instructor at Shoshana sewing center, **Giripuram, Vijayawada** heard my story and encouraged me to **join the sewing class**. With her support I was able to finish the class and Shoshana provided me with a sewing machine to **start working** immediately after finishing the tailoring course.



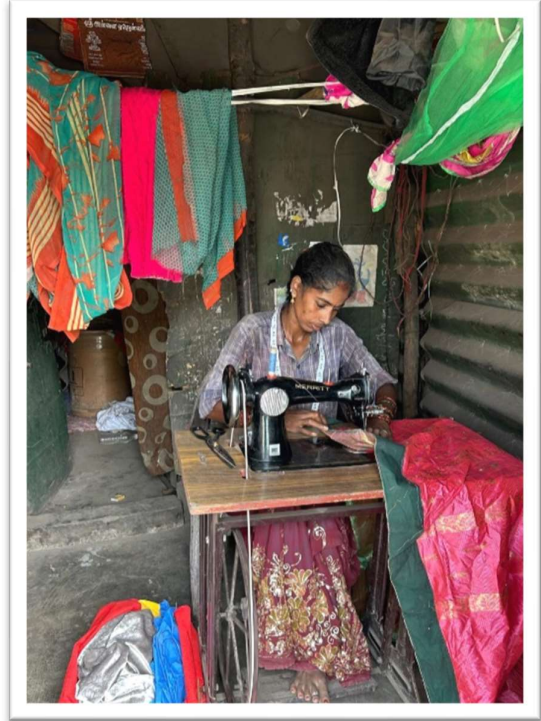
I **opened my own shop** at home and started working. Slowly my income started growing. I am able to earn 300 to 500 rupees per day depending on my orders. Since I am working at home it is convenient for me to **take care of my kids as well as attend my husband**. My children started going to school and I am able to **give them a decent life**.

All thanks to my instructor Ms. Hemima and Martha Madam for providing me with an **opportunity to change my distressed life** into a more **self-reliant** and meaningful life.

**Whole hearted thanks to all the donors for helping many needy women like me.**

My name is **M.Kavitha**. I am 25 years old. I am **married** and have **two daughters**. My parents died when I was very young. I used to **beg on the streets** and my neighbors supported me to some extent. After my marriage, I lived with my husband in Gamela Bazar area of Vijayawada where some garbage collectors live. After a few years of my marriage, my husband also left me. I **was left alone with my two children**. I worked as a **garbage collector** and sometimes also **begged for food** to feed my family. Since we live in a terrible situation in slums, society mostly treats us as **untouchables**. No tailor likes to sew clothes for us.

When **Shoshana offered us a free sewing class**, I was very happy to take the opportunity. I was in the very first group. After completing the class, we were **given sewing machines**. So far, no strangers have come to our area to give us work, but at least we have been **able to sew clothes for ourselves and our children**. This way, we have been able to save some money on sewing expenses. I hope that we can make this our profession in the future.



*Thank you to the donors who have come  
all the way to our area and helped us  
learn a skill that will enable us to earn a living.*



These are three women among many others whose **lives** we have been able to **improve considerably** thanks to our joint venture.

*The latest news & info can be found  
<http://cde-shoshana.blogspot.com/>*



We are **constantly reorganizing** and changing, especially the sewing centers. This year we **expanded** two projects by offering sewing courses in slum areas. The demand for medical centers is still very high, but at the moment our resources are limited to start new projects. So we are trying to use our know-how to **encourage self-help** in the communities.



My special **thanks go to God**, who has brought us this far, but also to **all of you who have donated** faithfully and time and again, and last but not least to **Bindu**, my partner in India, whose great foresight and enormous commitment keeps the projects going. **Together** we can achieve a lot...

Now I wish you all a **happy, blessed and peaceful** Advent and Christmas from the bottom of my heart.

With blessings from

*Martha B. Förch*

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