

## Programmes in a nutshell

### Education

**Helping Overcome Poverty through Education (HOPE):** Provides financial support to meritorious children who have scored well in class XI- XII and in College examinations. Tuition fees, books, study materials and transportation costs are all covered under this programme.

**Basic Assistance for School Education (BASE):** Provides education materials support and motivates children to continue with their education. This support is provided to all children.

**BASE PLUS:** Covers school fees/tuition fees of children who are at risk of dropping out of school.

**English as Second Language (ESL):** Teaches English reading, writing and speaking skills to children between 16-18 years of age and who are planning to join a job.

**Group Tutoring:** Provides high standard of supplementary learning support to children from standard 1- 5, for age specific competency development in terms of improving reading and writing skills in Vernacular, English and Mathematics.

**Library:** To develop reading habit to enable holistic development of children. Library facilities are available on weekends too.

**Computer training:** To help children and the youth obtain basic computer literacy skills.

### Child & Youth Development

**Youth Leadership Training (YLT):** Offers young people scope to participate in leadership skills and also provides opportunity to practise them. This program enhances life skills and social responsibilities through the medium of training activities.

**Aflatoun:** A social & financial literacy programme that empowers with the understanding of rights, responsibilities and the know-how in setting up social enterprises and better management of finances.

**Youth Empowerment Fund (YEF):** Youth implement projects to addresses socially relevant issues which help in, developing life skills and social responsibilities through community involvement.

**Child Protection:** Teaches children about how to be safe and self-protection from different forms of abuse.

### Health & Nutrition

**WASH:** Training to induce healthy habits and maintain hygiene.

**Medical services:** Clinic at our centres with treatment facilities and referral services for children.

**Dental services:** Clinic at our centres with screening and treatment facilities.

**Youth Health Corps (YHC):** Addresses the specific needs of adolescents by providing comprehensive information on topics of reproductive health, gender, sexuality and substance abuse.

**Nutrition Rehabilitation:** Provides nutrition to all malnourished children and nutritional awareness to their parents.

**Training of Trainers (TOT):** Workshops and training programmes to develop training skills of youth for replication with friends and community.

CI : Children International

Akash  
Hazra, Kolkata



**"Ranked 3700 in West Bengal Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) but for me, Vincent Van Gogh reigns supreme."**

My father used to work as a driver and with a paltry income it was difficult for him to sustain a family of four including my mother and a sibling who is also a sponsored child.

I was eight years old, a student of class III at Ballygunj High School when I was inducted into the CI-SAHAY sponsorship programme. Educational support including school supplies and training on health-related issues has helped me to cope with the challenges of poverty, adolescence and issues that plague the economically impoverished section. These factors have immensely contributed towards my growth and transformation.

I opted for Science in Higher Secondary school level. HOPE scholarship took care of all my expenses at the Higher Secondary level; I passed the examination in 2011. Throughout school, I have consistently performed well in academics. I sat for Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) and cracked it, achieving a rank of 3700. But, my all-time inspiration has been Vincent Van Gogh and therefore I chose to pursue Bachelor of Fine Arts from Government Art College, there, I specialised in designing.

I have won much-coveted prizes like SATYAJIT RAY award for poster designing and been the 2<sup>nd</sup> runners-up at the Annual Children International's art contest 2010.

I have worked with some of the most reputed designing agencies as a freelancer; interior designing for eminent

singer Rathijit Bhattacharya, graphic art for a Bengali rock band, mythological painting for a religious body in Rosenheim, Germany and collaboration with renowned graffiti artist Akim Walta (Zebster) at the German Embassy, on 25<sup>th</sup> year of The Fall of The Berlin Wall are some mention-worthy milestones I have reached as an independent artist.

I work now in Cognizant Technology Solutions as a graphic designer since December 2015. I am drawing a monthly salary of 25,000 rupees.

I have keen interests in photography and travelling, whereas, music and reading books are my favourite pastimes. I want to expand my realm knowledge through such varied experiences.





**Samanta**  
Hooghly, West Bengal

**"Today, I realise that there are various ups and downs in life but I am really happy that I was able to overcome the hardships and end the sufferings of my parents."**

I live in Hooghly, West Bengal. We used to live in a mud house. My father worked as a labourer in an iron foundry in Howrah, he stayed there the entire week and only returned on weekends with just 300 rupees. My mother worked at a nearby rice mill. I remember that she would wake up at 4 am, just to cook for us and then leave for the entire day, working under the scorching sun. And when my father was home during weekends, we would all go out to the field to husk grains.

Despite such odds, my brother, sister and I, pursued our studies. I was in class III when I was inducted into the CI-SAHAY's sponsorship programme. Once inducted, I was provided with every kind of assistance in terms of education and health, vocational and Leadership training.

After passing out of high school, I completed my graduation with an honours degree in Physics. As it was impossible for my family to support my education, CI-SAHAY and Satya Bharati went a notch above protocol and made provision to grant me a special scholarship. This helped me continue my dream of completing Master of Science.

I received training from the local coaching centre for several competitive exams and worked hard to clear them. I was qualified for admission at some places but could not join as the admission fees were far too steep.

I sat for SSC (School Service Commission) exam and cleared it. At first, I was happy but seeing my name on the waiting list frustrated me. However, all that is history now as the very next year I got a job as a laboratory assistant. The following year I qualified to join as an assistant teacher at a government run institution called Baratajpur High School, and the year after, I joined as a primary school teacher. My current salary is over 30,000 rupees.

I will certainly complete my Masters through distant learning course and also plan to appear for West Bengal Civil Service examinations.

Today, whatever I am is due to the encouragement I received from my family. But honestly speaking, all this would have been impossible without the help of CI-SAHAY and Satya Bharati. I am glad that we are far removed now from hardships and sufferings of the past.

My best wishes to all brothers and sisters who are in this sponsorship programme.



**Nita**  
South Dinajpur, West Bengal



**"Despite adverse economic condition, our education did not come to an abrupt halt. I can now proudly say that I have an M.A. degree under my belt"**

I am 28 years old and I live in Dakshin Dinajpur, West Bengal. My father is a farmer and cultivates on a small piece of land that we own in our village. He would earn about 4,000 rupees a month which was not even remotely sufficient to fund my brother's and my education. Despite such adverse economic condition, our education did not come to an abrupt halt and we could continue with our studies.

At eleven years of age, I was inducted into the CI-SAHAY's sponsorship programme. This programme helped me sail through difficult times without any hindrance and I completed my studies. I could avail all educational and health related benefits under the purview of this programme. My learning throughout this programme have completely brought about a transition in me.

I can proudly say now that I have an M.A. degree under my belt. I am more confident about my own self and sure about my future. Currently, I am employed as a teacher at Lambachar High School (West Bengal board) and earn 8,200 rupees a month. My brother has successfully completed his B. A. degree and he is now looking for a job.

My family and me, we all are grateful for the constant support extended to us through this sponsorship programme. We thank CI-SAHAY for bringing this change into our lives and being the reason for my success and economic independence.

Moreover, unlike most girls of my age who consider marriage as a priority, I did not succumb to this logic. I decided to be independent first; to settle with a job before settling with a life partner.





**Amit**  
North 24 Parganas, West Bengal

**“Extreme poverty drove us away from home in search of work. Landing a government job was of prime importance to me. My prayers were shortly answered.”**

When my father and I came to West Bengal, we took a rented house at Ghidha, Barrackpur. He started a saloon in a makeshift establishment under a tree. My mother, three sisters and a brother lived with my elderly grandmother back home, in Bihar, my birthplace. My father was the only earning member. It was extreme poverty that drove us in search of work so that, we could send money back home to feed our family.

I took admission in class 1 at Ghidha Primary School. By the time I reached class III, I would do all household chores that included preparing food for my father and me.

Soon, I joined the CI-SAHAY's sponsorship programme which took care of my education. Simultaneously, I attended various training workshops and awareness programmes on Leadership, Health, Child Rights and Protection. My learnings through these training sessions have tremendously increased my confidence level and clarity of thought. I can now express my ideas fluidly in words. Hard work and perseverance paid off and brought me success.

I became the Youth Council leader in 2007, and in 2010, I was the manager of the Youth Resource Centre. Now, I am an alumni member of Socio Legal Aid Research & Training Centre.

After completing Higher Secondary, I received HOPE scholarship. I did a course in Financial Accounting from Brainware Academy with the scholarship grant. Post completion of my degree in Commerce, I attempted several competitive exams for a public sector job. Landing a government job was of prime importance to me. My prayers were shortly answered.

I work for the Government of India in the Defence sector with a monthly income of 22,000 rupees, needless to mention the perks and privileges. I have also constructed a house for my parents.

I thank CI-SAHAY for their unconditional support which has brought me where I am today.



**Ashoke**  
Hooghly, West Bengal



**“CI-SAHAY is the sole reason for whatever I am today. I look up to them as my surrogate parents.”**

My father's dairy business was not sufficient to feed all of us. A paltry sum of 3,500 was an entire month's earning. There were times when we would be content to satisfy our hunger, albeit partially.

It came as a relief when I was inducted into the programme as a sponsored child in 1995; I attended various training programmes of Youth Council like YHC, YLT, drama and origami workshops. I completed a diploma course in Computer training under Youth Foundation programme. I would also earn as a tutor from the Vocabulary programme of CI-SAHAY while in class 11. Besides all this, I have learned mime and won many accolades for my performances.

I graduated in 2008 with a B.Com degree and joined the Jorasanko community centre and gathered three months experience in data entry as an operator with a monthly remuneration of rupees 4,500. Later in 2009, I joined community centre clinic as a Health Assistant for a monthly remuneration of 14,500 rupees. I have even presented the budget for the community centre.

I have always enjoyed working with the youth. In 2012, I completed my Masters in Social Work from a private institution and was subsequently promoted to a Field Officer in 2014.

The various training sessions that I have undergone has taught me invaluable

lessons which come handy in the real world. Therefore, blending into new roles or taking up on new responsibilities have never been a problem for me.

This year, I landed a job at Bandhan Bank and am currently working as a senior officer of its CSR wing. I earn about 25,000 a month. Today, whatever I am, CI-SAHAY is the sole reason for it. I look up to them as my surrogate parents.

The financial condition of my family has now improved considerably. My brother works as an Accounts Officer at a firm and earns about the same as me. My sister-in-law has a Master's degree in Geography and she is looking for a job as a teacher. I have a two-month-old niece as well, and we have big dreams for her future.





**Suprabha**  
Midnapore (East), West Bengal

**“My parents received a marriage proposal for me, but I flatly refused. First, I want to become an independent individual.”**

I come from a poor family and much like other poor families of our village; we lived in a single room hut made of mud and tiles. I spent my childhood with my parents and two sisters. My father was the only earning member of the family; he worked as a daily labourer. Income was inadequate for our sustenance. Life was extremely difficult for us. My wish to complete education and get established in life was bleak.

I was just six years old, when I was enrolled under CI-SAHAY sponsorship programme. The programme breathed a fresh lease of life into me. It helped me continue my education. The constant guidance of my teachers and social workers motivated me to do better. I passed my Secondary school examinations in 2007 and received HOPE scholarship to pursue higher education. I cleared Higher Secondary school examinations in 2009. Alongside academics, I joined “Para-Dal” (area wise group) as a leader and was involved in various activities undertaken by the Youth Council. It renewed my confidence and reinforced my belief in self.

I later joined YHC programme as a Co-Facilitator and it changed my life completely. After completing my graduation, I received training as a

Rehabilitation Therapy Assistant. I was in Bangalore for a year. At first, I was apprehensive about living there all by myself-alone; the language barrier and the local food, which is spicy, further compounded the problem. But, slowly I realized that this will only make me stronger, and it did! My horizon expanded in terms of thinking and exposure. After returning, I joined as a social worker in community-based Rehabilitation programme. I draw a monthly salary of 10,000 rupees.

I am happy with my job and at the same time thankful to CINI-Moyna and CI-SAHAY for this wonderful opportunity to transform our lives. You all will be proud to know that I have taken up the financial responsibility of my elder sister's wedding.

My parents had received a marriage proposal for me too, but I flatly refused. First, I want to become an independent individual. I am confident of a bright future that beckons me.



**Anima**  
Midnapore (East), West Bengal



**“My brother left his studies to help my father in his business. Education or going to school were more than wishful thinking.”**

My family comprises of my parents, an elder brother and me. My father is a fish vendor. He sold fish to earn our livelihood and the only earning member of the family. As income was not enough for daily sustenance, my brother left his studies and joined my father to help him in his business. We were living our lives in abject poverty where education or going to school were more than wishful thinking.

Good fortune smiled upon me when I was six years old. I was enrolled under CI-SAHAY's sponsorship programme. This allowed me to continue my education, thus averting the same fate as my brother, where he had to quit his studies due to our poor financial condition.

The constant encouragement of teachers and social workers motivated me to continue with studies. In 2007, I passed the Secondary school examinations. I was the first in my area to have successfully completed secondary level school. For higher education, I received HOPE scholarship and completed my Higher Secondary in 2009. I completed graduation in 2012.

I have actively participated in Youth Council's “Para-Dal” (area wise group) as a leader and various other activities undertaken by the Youth Council. In turn, it fortified my confidence.

On August 2013, I got a government job in the Indian Police Services. My dream came true! For me, this was nothing short of a blessing.

There are lots of children and youth who do not progress in life due to poverty. I am thankful to CINI-Moyna and CI-SAHAY for bringing forth this opportunity that helped me complete my education and secure a government job. My life has changed forever. I am happy that I can take care of my family now.





**Soumitra**  
24 Parganas, West Bengal

**"I did not hesitate to start my own venture and turn it into a success story in every sense. I was confident that if I work hard, my business would surely expand."**

Even though we have a small agricultural land where my father grew crops, we were still struggling every day in the clutches of poverty. We depended on the income that came from selling crops and with that miniscule amount it was extremely difficult to maintain a family of four. Even arranging a mere sum of 400-500 rupees per month for my elder brother's education was a very tough proposition.

However, in 1997, while I was in class I, CINI-Moyna identified and enrolled me into the CI-SAHAY sponsorship programme.

Here, I could continue my education. Alongside studies, I received training in YHC, where I gained awareness regarding adolescence, health, nutrition and maintain healthy habits. Undoubtedly, it is from these sessions that I learned about social values and self-respect. It helped me imbibe leadership qualities develop a friendly and pleasant personality with me. I was the "Gram Dal" (Village group) leader, where I organised and conducted numerous activities.

I passed Secondary school examinations in 2007 with 64% and in 2009, I passed Higher Secondary. In 2012, I did a vocational training course and joined INJO technical services, a leading company in the domain

of industrial radiography, headquartered in Pune. I was stationed in Haryana and worked there for two years as a technician.

I came back to my village and started a ready-made garments shop with a small capital. Training session in entrepreneurial segment of the Aflatoun programme, helped me a lot at the initial stages of my business. I was confident that with proper planning and work hard, my business would surely expand. And it did!

Now, my business gives me a monthly turnover of about 17,000 rupees. I have also purchased a land and have built a house for my family. I take care of my father's complete medical expenses.

I shall always remain thankful to all those who have contributed in shaping my career and helping me reach where I am today. It is because of them and the confidence they instilled within me. I did not hesitate to start my own venture and make it a success story in every sense.



**Sourav M**  
South 24 Parganas, West Bengal



**"Education and literacy is far-fetched for youngsters and youth of my village. I work now at Falta Dhatri Corporation as a junior engineer at the Quality Control department."**

My family of four consists of my parents, a sister and myself. For us, life was not easy amidst constant poverty. My father was the only earning member. Education or literacy is far-fetched for most youngsters and youth of my village. Many of whom never had the means or access to education.

But CI-SAHAY changed the course of my destiny forever when they enrolled me under the child sponsorship programme. The training that I received here had a holistic approach, covering almost all facets to leading an exemplary life. YHC and other training sessions helped me gain major insights regarding health and wellness.

My teachers and well-wishers always provided me the encouragement to better myself. This gave me the wherewithal to be self-reliant. I passed Secondary school examinations in 2008 and Higher Secondary in 2010.

In 2011, I joined a diploma course in mechanical engineering from Belgharia Ramkrishna Mission Shilpa Pith. Post completion of my course, I sent my CV across to various organizations, seeking internship in order to acquire practical experience. I was selected and I received a year's training from Timken India Ltd., (leading manufacturer of bearings and mechanical power transmission products) based in Chennai.

I am now working at Dhatri Corporation Ltd, which manufactures various types of castings in stainless steel, alloy steel & cast steel located at Falta, West Bengal. I work there as a junior engineer at the Quality Control department and draw a monthly salary of 10,000 rupees.

I thank CI-SAHAY for helping me to complete my education that has fetched me a good job and enabled me to take up complete responsibility of my family.





**Sathi**  
Hooghly, West Bengal

**"My learning at SAHAY helped me to pursue my aim relentlessly. 'NEVER GIVE UP' - my mantra, ultimately yielded results."**

I was born in Gopalnagar, a small village in Hooghly district, West Bengal. My father, the sole earning member in a family of five, worked in the fish market. It was difficult to make both ends meet with this meagre income.

Despite such adverse condition, my parents did not stop my education. While studying in class 5, I was inducted to the sponsorship programme of CI-SAHAY and brought under its wings.

What a flight it was from then on! Not only expenses related to education and health was covered but I was also exposed to various Leadership training programmes. This helped me in becoming a mature and confident individual. I saw life in a whole new dimension.

I cleared my class 10 examination in 2001, after which I enrolled for plus two classes. The programme gave a push to my aspiration to ascend newer heights through education. Made to think like an educated and responsible person, by then, I knew that I wanted to pursue a career.



**Avijit**  
Hazra, Kolkata



**"My family had begged me to continue with my studies but my mind was made up; at the age of 19, I decided to take up tennis as a career. My biggest dream now is to open my own tennis coaching academy."**

I have always been inclined towards sports, especially cricket and tennis. Even as a little boy of eight, I took a keen interest in tennis. I would often accompany my father, a trainer at a South Kolkata Club, and watch members practice and play.

It was only after some members of the club noticed my affinity for the game, that they gave their consent to having me practice and play at the club court, thus, granting me a scope for learning. Since affording a racket was out of the question for my family, the club members donated rackets and accessories. Both my father and uncle were trainers at the club and I trained under them. I went on to play in Under-10 and Under-18 level tournaments and have equal grasp over clay and synthetic courts.

I was inducted into the sponsorship programme when I was a student of grade two of Shishu Sathi. I took tiny steps to success when I walked into the centre with my mother.

Educational support like school supplies, school fee reimbursement etc. were provided and the Special Hug gifts were very beneficial for my family too. Going to school became fun!

YHC training was a big help during my adolescence and getting to know about my body changes helped me to cope with the challenges of transition. I graduated

from the programme in 2011. In 2014 I joined as a "mini" tennis trainer at Sri Sri Academy School in Chetla and simultaneously started working part-time in Calcutta Club, Gymkhana Club and later joined Space Circle Club. I am now working at South City Club and Sri Sri Academy as a full-time trainer earning around 18,000 rupees per month.

I am now 24; married and with a ten-month-old son Arijit. I live in a 200 sq. ft house with my family of eight that includes my father, mother, wife, son, grandmother, aunt, uncle and myself. I plan to invest in the transport sector and also buy a plot of land to build a house in future.

Although I am getting offers from other cities including Dubai to train and coach expats and their children, I wish to be based in Kolkata with my family. My biggest dream now is to open my own tennis coaching academy someday!

I thank CI-SAHAY for the sponsorship programme which was a boon for me. I couldn't have reached this far in life without it.





**Sourav D**  
Narkeldanga, Kolkata

**"My dream of becoming an artist has come to a full circle now as my passion has turned into my profession. I am a poet with a paintbrush."**

My father abandoned my family when I was just a toddler. My mother, who worked as a nurse, brought me to my maternal grandmother's house in Kolkata, where we started living with my grandma, uncle, aunt and two cousins. I started calling my uncle "Baba" (dad).

Baba always encouraged me to dream. He runs a small business from a make-shift stall and calls me his middle son since one of my cousins is older to me and the other is younger.

My modest living is a cement hut on whose doors and windows I have painted murals. There is a fresco of a starlit sky painted on its wooden ceiling, which is actually a partition to the loft above. The loft, accessed by my younger cousin and me, is our own artists' recluse. It is tiny and only has space to crouch but it is like an "escape" to imagination.

I became a part of the CI-SAHAY sponsorship programme in 2004. I became an active Youth Council member at the community centre and took part in several

Youth Activities like Leadership training and was YHC Peer Contact. My passion in painting propelled me to take part in every art competitions organised by CI-SAHAY. And I won it every single time.

In 2014's Children International's Annual Art competition, along with the best artist's award, I won a medal and a double-decker coloured pencil set, which I still treasure. I also got a camera as a special gift from my sponsor once.

My dream of becoming an artist has come to a full circle now as my passion has turned into my profession. The festive season is the busiest in my calendar as I get a lot of projects to create artwork in Durga puja pandals. Last season I was assigned to three such projects, where I had designed the entire artwork myself!

I am also teaching in the same school where I learned to draw. My message for youngsters is to follow their heart's calling and dreams will come true.



**Manirujjaman**  
Bankura, West Bengal



**"I wish to see the future generation realise their dreams under my guidance."**

I am from Vihurdihi village in Bankura. My father was a hawker who sold bakery products and my mother, a housewife. The income my father brought home was bare-minimum for our daily sustenance.

However, I continued with my studies and in 1999, life took a new turn when I was selected to join the CI-SAHAY sponsorship programme through Gandhi Vichar Parishad.

Numerous training and workshops touched upon various attributes of my personality which I always wanted to nurture. I flourished in various fields. This exposure made me gain new perspectives; it was life's lessons learned.

I passed my class 10 examinations in 2006 and in 2009, cleared my class 12. Thereafter, I pursued engineering and completed the same in 2015.

Now, I teach as a Guest lecturer in Aliah University and stay in Kolkata. Embarking on a Ph.D. programme is my next venture. This shall enhance my career prospects and help me undertake more responsible positions.

I hope to be a part of a bigger organisation and impart education to children. Under my guidance I wish to see the future generation realise their dreams.

I am thankful to CI-SAHAY for giving me a chance to come under their programme. This induction proved to be a lifesaver and without its help, I would have never come this far.





**Riya**  
Hazra, Kolkata

**"Income was not sufficient and establishing a career was still a pipe dream. Completing my graduation in Journalism in spite of all odds was a big accomplishment."**

Our family of four includes my parents, sister and me. My father works in two shifts; in the morning as a housekeeping staff and at night doubling up as a watchman. My mother works as a Para-medical staff via a private agency and takes care of patients. Even then, income was not sufficient and establishing a career was a pipe dream.

I joined the CI-SAHAY sponsorship programme as a 9 year old. My education and health related requirements were covered in the programme. YLT imparted skills like decision making, problem solving. YHC programme helped me grow in confidence and ability to express myself. Awareness on sexual-health improved my understanding on relevant issues. HOPE scholarships at both Secondary school and Higher Secondary school levels helped me continue with further higher studies.

My biggest challenge was to continue my education despite the financial constraints of my family. Completing my graduation in Journalism in spite of all odds was a big accomplishment. I also wanted to join advertising. But, my biggest achievement was to bag a job in Delhi Public School as an assistant teacher.

I started working since 2015. The scope of learning that my workplace offers is the biggest impetus for me. Even though I am a junior teacher, I still get the respect at par with senior faculty, a feat in itself considering I am still 23!

My elder sibling too, works as an assistant teacher in Delhi Public School. The total monthly income of our family is now 25, 000 rupees approximately.

I thank CI-SAHAY for their support. Without their help, nothing would have been possible. Thanks for making my life. I owe it all to you.

And for youngsters in the programme, I would tell them to remain grounded always, make the most out of this wonderful opportunity and never forget to repay your own people.



**Papiya**  
Pailan, Kolkata



**"I helped a younger girl escape from the clutches of sexual abuse. I remained firm and stood by the victim to ensure justice."**

I remember my visits to the community centre in the beginning. Timid and reserved by nature, I would grip my mom's hand tightly. It made me feel secure because the world beyond my family was completely alien to me.

I come from an economically marginalised family of four, comprising of my father, mother, my younger sister and me. My father is a fish vendor in Thakurpukur market while my mother is a housewife.

I wanted to continue with my studies but poor financial condition posed as a deterrent. Bearing educational expenses were beyond the means of my family. But soon, all that changed when an opportunity came calling and CI-SAHAY inducted me into their sponsorship programme.

Here, I was engaged in different activities which motivated me to participate in a number of Youth programmes. This gradually helped me in overcoming my shy nature; it built my confidence and strengthened my resolve to help those in need. In fact, I helped a younger girl in escaping from the clutches of sexual abuse. She was emotionally scarred and it took her a long time and sustained effort to

recover from the turmoil. During this time, I remained firm and stood by the victim to ensure justice for her. Finally, she did get justice and the guilty was brought to book.

I have completed my graduation and am currently working as a social worker in the same programme! My sister is doing her graduation.

I am always reminded of those days when my parents struggled to give us a good life. I am grateful to CI-SAHAY's sponsorship programme as it has completely transformed our lives for better.







**Rintu**  
South 24 Parganas, West Bengal

**"My father drove a matador to support our family; now I contribute to the family and have reduced the burden of responsibilities upon my father's shoulders."**

I come from an adivasi family that also comprises of my parents and a sister. My father drove a matador to support our family, while my mother is a housewife. Our family expenses and early school days could be sustained by his income.

But, when my sister got married, my father had to use most of his savings for the wedding. Although it was extremely difficult, he nonetheless, went ahead. In 1996, I got into the CI-SAHAY's sponsorship programme and my dream for a better future seemed tangible. I received every kind of support for my educational and healthy upkeep. I have been a part of Youth Council and participated in TOT and Leadership training programmes. In addition to these, I have also been an active participant in drama, singing and other recreational activities. I graduated from the programme in 2010 and completed my M.A. in Bengali in 2015.

Currently, I am employed with SASTA SUNDAR.com, a web based portal for Health & Wellness information and e-commerce. I work here as an Assistant Manager of Procurement (Purchase) and partially oversee the Logistics. I am drawing a salary of 9,000 rupees, currently.

I am 25 now and throughout this journey, I have always relied on my parents' blessings and CI-SAHAY's support. I would have never reached this far without this support.

I contribute to the family expenses now and reducing the burden of responsibilities off my father's shoulders is the biggest success for me.



**Tapas**  
South 24 Parganas, West Bengal



**"I have worked on the sets of many popular serials of Zee Bangla and Star, but within my heart, I wanted to do something that was more meaningful to me."**

My family comprises of my parents, two brothers and me. My father used to be a fisherman. We had a tiny patch of land but it hardly contributed any income to our household. I am 24 and I am associated with social projects where I mentor kids. I try to uphold myself as an example for them as the early years of my life were spent in abject poverty

The sponsorship programme of CI-SAHAY was like a ray of hope that changed my life forever. As a student, I received all education and health related assistances. I joined YLT and was a youth leader at Youth Council where I received plenty of exposure by participating in its programmes. Eventually, after my Secondary and Higher Secondary examinations, I had undergone Computer training.

My first job was in a television production house. I have worked on the sets of many popular serials on Zee Bangla and Star channels as a floor assistant. I am even privy to the functions and handling of professional cameras and equipment. It was a great learning experience indeed,

but within my heart, I wanted to do something that is more meaningful to me. I shifted to Baikanthapur Shishu Seva Kendra, after I got an opportunity to work with children.

I am now working with Humming Bird Foundation project. It is an NGO, working for the betterment of poor children. I am also a mentor of Badlao, which is a Youth Empowerment programme in which the youth are encouraged to hone life skills and understand their social responsibilities.

I always work with complete devotion. I thank CI-SAHAY for this opportunity to lead a respectable life. I hope to grow in my career while remaining involved with SAHAY all my life.





**Sourav G**  
South 24 Parganas, West Bengal

**"My family has always had a hand to mouth existence. My father worked as a daily labourer in a small factory, mother is a housewife, elder sister is married and my elder brother too has a modest job. We live in a two-roomed house."**

I had never imagined a better life would be ever possible until in 1996, when my fortune took an upward turn. That was the year I enrolled in the CI-SAHAY sponsorship programme. I received support in education and all related expenses. For sustaining good health and balanced nutrition, periodic check-ups were conducted. I received Leadership training, TOT and was a mentor at YHC. The material benefits that were extended to us as well, easing the financial pressure on my family. These were the major reasons that I managed to continue my studies and my father too was partially relieved from his financial burden.

But in October 2010, my father fell ill. He had developed a brain tumour and had to be operated upon in Vellore. It was not possible for him to work so I had to drop out of the programme. I desperately needed a job to supplement the family income.

I was called in by Institutional Strength of Gram Panchayats, a governmental undertaking for rural development, as a team leader of survey. It was contractual job and the area of operation was Nadia. Unfortunately, I had to decline the offer because of the distance.

Soon, I landed a job, where I was in charge of purchase and operations at a local factory that manufactured ducts for industrial use. I also received help of 1 lac rupees for my father's treatment from SAHAY, where I later joined as a data encoder. I am now in final year, pursuing Bachelor of Arts from Baruiipur College.

I can now help my family to make ends meet. I am grateful to CI-SAHAY for helping my family when we had nowhere else to turn as a last resort. I would have probably lost my father, but for SAHAY's timely intervention, for which I shall remain ever grateful.



**Sukhdeb**  
Hooghly, West Bengal



**"I promise to serve the nation, defend my country and protect its people."**

From early childhood, I felt a deep-rooted connection with patriotic songs and movies. Love for the nation, the grit and glory of a soldier's life has always fascinated me. My determination to join the armed forces was unflinching and I knew that my resolve will lead me in the right direction. And indeed, my dream was realized as I joined the Indian Military Service.

But, it was not long ago when my family was living below poverty line. My father, the only earning member, worked in a sweet shop. The income he brought home could hardly sustain all of us. Despite such a miserable condition, my mother filled me with optimism, she always taught me to be self-reliant.

It was the child sponsorship programme of CI-SAHAY that brought a remarkable change in my life. I was provided with every kind of assistance in terms of education and health. I scored over 80% and passed Higher Secondary school examinations with letter marks in Geography. I was determined to join the Indian army. For this, I was coached and trained at Bhola Training Centre (a local training centre) facilitated by Kalyan Bharati, that guided me to the right path.

Treading on with dedication and perseverance brought me success.

Now, I am the primary earning member of my family. I am happy to support my father and brother's education. I am also planning to construct a house for my family.

Currently, I draw a monthly salary of 20,000 rupees, along with other perks and privileges of a military man!!

Jai Hind!





**Pappu**  
Hooghly, West Bengal

**"I started my life" with the sponsorship programme as a sponsored child, and now after graduating I am working with sponsored children as a staff of SAHAY."**

I lost my father at an early age. I was brought up by my mother along with my two elder sisters and two brothers. Living together with my aunt, we were a family of seven. Our household expenses were borne with my mother's pension and elder sister's earnings from private tuition. It was indeed a trying time for our family, needless to say, it was hard to sustain our education and basic health necessities.

In 1989, I got into the sponsorship programme of CI-SAHAY, which helped me further my studies as the programme took care of my tuition fees, school fees, textbooks and stationaries. I went through periodic health check-ups, given medicines when required along with monitoring physical growth to ascertain and fulfil my health and nutritional requirements.

In this programme, I attended numerous training and workshops including Leadership Training, TOT and drama workshops to name a few. Communication, presentation, decision making etc. are set of skills that I acquired through such training sessions.

I "started my life" with the sponsorship programme as a sponsored child, and now after graduating I am working with sponsored children of SAHAY. I pursued BA and completed my graduation in 2005.

I began my career as a social worker at the same centre at Tarakeshwar, where I learned the finer nuances of work and life. Now, I work as a Facilitator in gender sensitisation since August 2015. I conduct training sessions on gender awareness and related issues. There are about 250 boys under this programme. I feel extremely satisfied working with children. This is the biggest achievement that I could ever dream of. I draw a salary of 16,000 rupees a month.

I want to thank CI-SAHAY for the sponsorship programme that takes care of many poor and needy children, grooming them for a brighter future; a better tomorrow.



**Ranjan**  
South 24 Parganas, West Bengal



**"At first, it was difficult for me to understand the importance of this programme; but now I know, it gave me such hands-on experience that I am reaping its benefits even now."**

The tiny piece of land we own was used for agriculture. Income from it was too meagre to support our family of five, consisting of both my parents, two older siblings and myself; therefore both my parents would venture into the waters to catch fish. Even after selling the catch, income was trivial. We were still living in abject poverty.

It was only after I got into the CI-SAHAY's sponsorship programme that my life transitioned. My education and health needs were addressed. I went through Leadership and YHC training sessions too. At first, it was difficult for me to understand the importance of this programme but later I realised how it has contributed to my life's progress. It gave me such hands-on experience that I am reaping its benefits even now.

At 22 years, I completed my graduation with Sociology Honours in 2015 and currently in first year pursuing Master of Social Work. I have also volunteered for an NGO called Speed and now, am working in Bardhaman Medical College & Hospital as the overall supervisor of the insurance department at Rashtryia Swasth Bima Yojna.

My salary is 7,000 rupees which is a sufficient amount for my family's needs. Besides, both my brothers earn and are doing well in their respective jobs.

I am grateful to CI-SAHAY for this transformation. Without this help perhaps I would have probably remained a fisherman or a farmer, who knows?

Today, I am actively involved with many self-help groups and motivate them with the knowledge I had once received from this programme.





**Shyam M**  
Malda, West Bengal

**“CI-SAHAY and my parents nurtured me with values that have shaped my character.”**

We are a small family of four, my parents, brother and myself. My father is a farmer while my mother is an Integrated Child Development Services teacher.

In 1996, I was 6 years old when, I joined the CI-SAHAY sponsorship programme. Throughout my school life, I received support beyond my comprehension. All educational expenses, namely; school fees, books, uniform, and stationary were taken care of and replenished from time to time. Periodic health check-ups and all medical expenses were met. To sustain good health and develop healthy habits, a toilet, and a concrete floor was built in the house that we lived. These privileges were extended to me as a sponsored child.

While in the programme, I was a member of the Youth Council and attended various training sessions. It is through these sessions that I started picking up life skills. The art of origami is one of the several activities I learned here. I have also

organised health awareness march for the folks of my village. The best part is that, it was organised sans sponsorship and the response in terms of both, participation and footfall was overwhelming!

CI-SAHAY and my parents nurtured me with values that have shaped my character. I graduated from the programme at 19 years of age and thereafter, completed my B.A. in History.

Now aged 26, I work as a Civic Police Volunteer and my salary is 5,500 rupees. Some time ago my brother got married and now, we are a family of five. I am happy that my financial contribution to the family caters to most of its expenses.



**Jagannath**  
Bankura, West Bengal



**“I want to learn and grow in my present job. I am working hard so that in future I can go abroad.”**

I live in Bankura. My family of five comprises of my mother, sister, brother and a relative. I lost my father at a very early age. My brother has a shoe repairing shop and my mother is a housewife. After my father passed away, my brother took over the responsibility of running the family by setting up set a shoe repairing shop where I would work to help at times, while continuing with my studies. Growing up was not easy as we struggled to make both ends meet. But once I came under the purview of the CI-SAHAY's sponsorship programme, pursuing my education became a reality.

In 1995, I was inducted in the sponsorship programme. This was extremely beneficial; it is because of their support that I was able to complete my studies up to class 12. It has contributed immensely to my overall personality development and helped me grow as an individual. Various training and youth activity programmes have given me the confidence to plan and evaluate numerous activities, significantly contributing to my holistic development as an individual.

Under this programme, I also underwent YLT and health training. I worked under the cultural group which trained me in theatre and dance. Confidence, clarity of thought

and teaching improved my innate skills as I trained other children. I performed on one of SAHAY's foundation day event, besides performing in numerous theatre shows at reputed venues across the city.

I am currently employed as a Captain in Miramar Hotel, Daman. I want to learn and grow in my present job. I am working hard so that in future I may be able to go abroad and work in the hotel industry. My monthly income is 12,000 rupees.

I thank CI-SAHAY for its endeavour in working towards betterment of the marginalised children of our society. A financially and socially backward place like Bankura will see its children realise their dreams, courtesy of the sponsorship programme.





**Debashish**  
South 24 Parganas, West Bengal

**"I volunteer on field by conducting awareness camps for villagers. As a teacher, I believe sharing knowledge is invaluable and it can neither be quantified nor replenished with money."**

Our family of three comprised of my parents and myself. My mother is a housewife and my father was a farmer. We own a piece of land in our village which my father used for farming. The household expenses were met with the money that came from selling the produce. Even then, the income would not suffice our daily sustenance. Education with its associated costs was the biggest deterrent for an economically impoverished family like us.

In 1998, I was inducted into the CI-SAHAY sponsorship programme. It was the only glimmer of hope in my life and ever since I have not looked back. All my educational requirements and health needs were addressed. Alongside, I participated in various awareness programmes by the Youth Council, where I learned about various aspects of society including my role and responsibilities in it.

I passed my Secondary school in 2008 and Higher Secondary level in 2010. However, in 2012, my father, who had been ailing for quite some time due to cardiac problems,

underwent a surgery and going to work was completely ruled out. The medical expenses for his treatment amounted to 2 Lac rupees. The emergent situation compelled me to take up a job. I got a job as a teacher, which brought in a steady flow of income.

I started teaching at Baikathapur Tarun Sangha School, my alma mater, which also happens to be an NGO. I teach children about the benefits of good health and meeting their social responsibilities. Alongside, I volunteer on field by conducting awareness camps for villagers, on topics like the impact of climate change on their daily source of sustenance.

Sadly, despite our best efforts, my father passed away in 2013. At 27, I am now the sole earning member of my family. As a teacher, I believe sharing knowledge is invaluable and it can neither be quantified nor replenished. All I can say that, we get by comfortably with whatever remuneration I draw. I thank CI-SAHAY for making me what I am today.



## Prasenjit

South 24 Parganas, West Bengal



**"At night I would sleep under my torn blanket and dream of helping others in need; now I have my own house, a car and have a reasonable bank balance."**

Our family comprises of my father's grandmother, my parents, two sisters and we seven brothers, twelve members in total! My father is a farmer and for us, poverty had become a perpetual companion. There were times where we would have only fermented rice to satisfy hunger. At night I would sleep under my torn blanket and dream that, one day I will make something out of my life, where I will be in a position to help my family and other people who need support. But frankly, I did not know how to reach my goal under such adverse economic situation. I did not have any answer to that.

I was very young when I came across a lady, whom I fondly called "aunty", a teacher at Mukti Ananda Seva Kendra, located just behind my house. Every morning she would wake me up and take me to school. It was then, that I began to feel the urge to grasp knowledge. I knew that it will only be possible through education.

After getting into the CI-SAHAY programme, all my educational and health requirements were addressed. Access to books, various training modules enhanced my skills and enriched me with practical experience. Mostly, I spent my time on studies than with friends. Few of them even ridiculed me when I said that I wanted to be a doctor. Their snide remarks would sometimes get me teary-eyed but each time, I consoled myself. Instead, I sought more knowledge as my sole refuge. I cleared my Secondary and Higher Secondary examinations securing first division marks.

In 2002, CI-SAHAY and Mukti Ananda Tirtha helped me in getting admitted to Ashutosh College with Bio-Science as my preferred choice of subject. Simultaneously, I worked as a salesman for an electronics company. Later, I took up the job of a medical representative and also started giving private tuition. In spite of all this, I did not get any satisfaction out of my job, so I joined a private institute and underwent training in medical practice.

Now, at 34 years of age, I am married and have a child. I own a house, a car and have a reasonable balance in my bank account. I earn between 50,000-60,000 rupees per month from my profession as a non-MBBS medical practitioner. What is the most rewarding factor? I treat poor people for free which gives me immense satisfaction. I am also associated with an organisation that helps needy but meritorious students.

To be successful, education and good health are of prime importance, none of which was within my reach. I thank CI-SAHAY for giving me this wonderful opportunity to succeed in life.





**Suman**  
Malda, West Bengal

**"Although, it is difficult to express my deep gratitude in words, I am indebted to CI-SAHAY for the countless benefits I received, that helped me cope with the challenges of poverty."**

My small family consists of my parents and a younger brother. My father ran errands as a daily labourer while my mother is a housewife. My brother is a sponsored child too.

As a student of class 1, I was taken into the CI-SAHAY sponsorship programme through ERDS. Since then, my family and I have received countless benefits that helped us cope with the endless challenges of poverty. All expenses related to my education and nutrition were covered. A rickshaw-van was donated to my family through the Income Generating Programme, which my father used for ferrying load to and fro, became an added source of income. In addition to this, my house was refurbished with concrete flooring and even a toilet constructed, thus inducing healthy habits years ahead of the Swachh Bharat campaign!



I was a part of the Youth Council where I received Leadership Training and became Youth leader in 2009 when I was in class 10. I always wanted to see Hazar Dwari in Murshidabad.

Soon, on a YEF tour, I got the opportunity to go there and I can recall the trip as one of my most pleasant memories. Although it is difficult to express my deep gratitude in words, yet I would like to thank ERDS and CI-SAHAY for their continuous support and helping us shape our lives.

I am 24 years old and I work now as a Civic Police Volunteer and draw a monthly salary of 5,500 rupees. My family expenses are met with my salary. My brother will be appearing for his Higher Secondary school examinations in 2017. We are all hopeful of a bright future for him too.

**Samrat**  
South 24 Parganas, West Bengal



**"Insufficient income kept me away from education. Now, I own a tailoring shop and have employed local workers to generate some employment in my area."**

I am from Simla, a nondescript village in West Bengal and our family is extremely poor. My father worked as a daily labourer and insufficient income kept me far away from education.

I would have spent my life like any other child from a poor family had the team from CI-SAHAY not enrolled me under child sponsorship programme at the age of five. Since then, I have never looked back. All my educational and nutritional needs were fulfilled. All health requirements were addressed, as well. Simultaneously, training sessions of YHC and Aflatoun programmes helped me gain awareness regarding health and empowerment. Leadership training gave me invaluable insights that abated in development as a self-reliant individual.

Motivation from my teachers and social workers gave me the much needed encouragement. I passed my graduation - Bachelor of Arts in 2010 and completed Master of Arts in 2016. I also got a vocational course in tailoring.

For all these years CI-SAHAY has been by my side, helping me to complete my education and through training programs built my confidence, such that, it propelled me to establish my own business.

Now, I own a tailoring shop and have employed workers to reduce my workload. This has contributed, albeit marginally, in generating some employment in my locality. After paying off the workers, I take home around 10,000 rupees per month. I shall forever remain thankful to CI-SAHAY for gifting me a bright future.





**Sourav B**  
Hooghly, West Bengal

**"I knew that I would be at an advantageous position and therefore made the most of this opportunity."**

My family consists of both my parents and a brother along with me. While my mother is a housewife, my father was the only earning member and farming was the source of our sustenance. Income was 2,500 rupees- a pittance for survival in today's world.

In 1999, I was enrolled in the CI-SAHAY sponsorship programme. Educational and health requirements were looked after from elementary level till my passing out of school. I received extensive training in Youth Leadership, Aflatoun, YHC, Child Rights & Local governance. I have also received HOPE scholarship as a special benefit. I undertook Computer training programme because learning its basic use was essential for today's world. I knew that I would be at an advantageous position and therefore made the most of this opportunity. I was a Youth Council Leader and trainer of Aflatoun for HOPE scholars in 2013 and 2014.

I am 22 now and I graduated from the sponsorship programme in 2013, and in 2015, I completed my academics in B.Com with Accountancy (Honours). Thereafter, I joined Taraknath Maternity & Child Welfare programme as a social worker. My income is 7,000 rupees and I can support my family with this amount. I sincerely thank CI-SAHAY for their support and getting me this far.



**Ujjal**  
Hazra, Kolkata



**"Writing to sponsors is an experience that I still cherish. Dealing with people is my daily job. Shuttling between being 'friendly' and 'firm', my domain is loan retrieval."**

I was inducted in the sponsorship programme as a five-year-old. Supporting mine and another sibling's education was next to impossible for our family of four including of both my parents.

It was only after I was taken in for the CI-SAHAY sponsorship programme, things started looking up for me. BASE support helped me with school and education supplies. Leadership training and YHC training helped in developing my confidence and ability to negotiate with people.

Writing letters to sponsors and interacting with them is an experience that I still cherish. I graduated from the sponsorship programme in 2011.

After graduating from the programme, my professional career started as a tele-caller. I gained substantial experience in sales and knowledge about salesmanship. Thereafter, I joined Corporation Bank in 2014. I work in the loan retrieval department where, dealing with situations and interacting with people from various walks of life is a daily affair. Currently, I am

drawing a salary of 10,000 rupees a month. Some time ago, I bought a plot of land where I plan to build my own house someday soon.

I also have a long-standing wish to join housekeeping services on a merchant navy ship. The pay is phenomenal and a few years of hard work will surely help me accumulate enough money to start a business. I am confident that one day, I can give my family those luxuries that were, once upon a time, a far-fetched dream.





**Tauheed**  
Narkeldanga, Kolkata

**"If this story brings a smile to your face, take a selfie!"**

I had to grow up real quick and get established fast. Therefore, I did tailoring as a part-time job alongside my studies.

I live with my mother since my father passed away when I was in class 8. We moved to my uncle's house and continued living there. My uncle is a very caring person who looked after us well.

After I was taken into the CI-SAHAY's sponsorship programme in 2005, it proved to be a game-changer for me. Numerous workshops and training helped me to be more confident and grow self-reliant. All these factors contributed to my progress that changed my outlook towards life.

I have been an active youth member and became a Youth Leader in 2011-12. I have been a part of YHC, YLT, as well as monitoring and training, ESL, Computer training and various other youth activities.



In spite of all these, we faced a lot of hard times while I was growing up. Thinking of ways to earn was the constant worry. The responsibility of the family, especially of my mother lay solely upon my shoulders. To get substantial income into the household, I started working as a part-timer in the BPO industry in 2012.

I have been associated with Centre for Advocacy and Research (CFAR) and also have been a part of "Gali Gali Sim Sim" project.

Today after years of hard work, I am working in SAHAY as a photographer at the Narkeldanga community centre. I feel fortunate to be associated with the same organisation where I learned to develop my skills and which helped me grow as an independent individual.

**Bandana**  
Bankura, West Bengal



**"Like constant pillars of support CI-SAHAY helped me flourish as a responsible and independent person."**

I live with my family in a village called Patakhuri in Bankura. My father is a small time farmer. Extreme poverty was a constant threat to our family of seven.

It was March 1992, when I came under the umbrella of CI-SAHAY sponsorship programme and my father heaved a sigh of relief. A large chunk of financial burden was taken off his shoulders. Expenses related to education, food, clothing and health were all taken care of. Alongside studies I actively participated in sports activities as it is the love of my life.

After completing my graduation, I started to look for jobs. I wanted to support my family and only a job would solve that problem.

In March 2016, I was selected to join as a non-teaching staff member in The Department of Bengali, Bankura University. I am taking computer lessons for better prospects and also drawing salary of 6,000 rupees a month.

This journey would have been impossible and aspirations incomplete had CI-SAHAY not come to my aid through Gandhi Vihar Parishad.

I'm forever indebted to CI-SAHAY for paving the path to my success. Like constant pillars of support, it helped me flourish to become a responsible and independent person.







**Sahida**  
Bankura, West Bengal

**"I am content with my economic independence. Now, I am glad on being able to shoulder the entire financial responsibility of my family."**

I reside in Christandanga in Bankura, West Bengal. A family of six, we led a life of extreme poverty. My father was a daily wage labourer and mother worked as a cook in few households in the vicinity. Even then, the income they brought home collectively was not sufficient to run the family. It was almost next to impossible for my father to fund our education. But once I came under the sponsorship programme, our family no longer had to worry about my future.

Expenses pertaining to my education and health were covered under CI-SAHAY's sponsorship programme. A big cause of concern that was looming above our heads had finally disappeared. It brought a sense of relief. I pursued my education with great zeal and enthusiasm.

After clearing my class 10 examinations in 2009, I joined a two-year course in nursing at a private institution. On completion, I was employed in a local nursing home.

I gained work experience and looked forward to do something more challenging. Thereafter I underwent training at the police department and joined as Civic Police personnel in 2014. I am now drawing a salary of 5,500 rupees a month.

My father is unable to work as he is ill but my mother still works as a cook.

Being the primary bread earner for the family now, I am content with my economic independence. Now, I can shoulder the entire financial responsibility of my family.



**Rani**  
South 24 Parganas, West Bengal



**"It has been a huge blessing for me as I was able to continue my studies without being dependent on my family."**

I was admitted into the CI-SAHAY's sponsorship programme while in class IV. Growing up in my maternal grandmother's house, a joint family, the income was not much. Everyone, including me faced a lot of hardships due to financial constraint.

It was around this time, a lady social worker from ERDS enrolled me at the CI-SAHAY sponsorship programme. I got continuous support for my educational needs and healthy well-being. All educational requirements were met and periodic health check-ups were conducted.

Nutrition was supplemented and growth was constantly monitored. It has been a huge blessing for me as I was able to continue my studies without being dependent on my family.

I was a minor when I was inducted into the programme. ERDS has been an extended family where I spent my growing up years. Under their guidance I have grown up as a mature and responsible human being. I have learned to give flight to my dreams. The various training sessions under the programme has helped me to become self-reliant.

Currently, I am doing my M.A. in English and I give private tuition at home. My monthly income is 2,000 rupees a month. Whatever, I am today is solely because of the CI-SAHAY's sponsorship programme.





**Shyam H**  
Jorasanko, Kolkata

**“Leadership training developed my oratory prowess and persuasive skills. Opportunity to work with children and help the youth of our community are my biggest ambitions.”**

I am 21 years old. My father is an employee at a medicine shop in Burrabazar. My mother is a housewife. I live with my parents, grandparents and a younger brother. Our family income is 6,000 rupees a month. Reading biographies and listening to classical music are my favourite pastimes.

I have been in the sponsorship programme since 2006. It took care of my education and health needs. I undertook YLT, Child Protection training and First-Aid training from St. John's ambulance under YEF. In 2012, I became an active member of youth council and in 2013, I was elected as an organisation level leader till March, 2015.

I became confident and my spectrum of knowledge increased after going through various training programmes. It developed my efficiency in planning, monitoring, management and communication skills. Leadership training developed my oratory prowess and persuasive skills. It made me inclined to lead social causes related to children and youth, which, subsequently gave me the opportunity to work closely with active politicians of my locality. I also started a community Kali puja near my house, in Shambhu Chatterjee Street,

Kolkata. I can now say that I am a decisive individual with good public speaking skills.

I passed Higher Secondary examinations in 2014. Currently, I am doing Bachelor in Social Work from IGNOU and am also the current General Secretary of the Alumni Association at Jorasanko community centre since 2015.

I am the monitor of Youth Council and mentor of YEF at Jorasanko community centre. Under my leadership, Jorasanko community centre has won the first position in YEF for two years consecutively. I was the Best Leader of the year 2014 of SAHAY's youth council.

I am still learning new skills from the training programmes of SAHAY. Leading a cause, becoming a social worker, the opportunity to work with children and help the youth of our community are my biggest ambitions.

I am thankful to all the members and peers at CI-SAHAY for giving me the opportunity to hone my skills. I will forever remember the time spent, while in the programme.



**Chandrima**  
Jorasanko, Kolkata



**“Fashion embroidery to paper quill jewellery, honing culinary skills to designing newly born baby's kit comes easily to me. Or you could even call it a cue for my future entrepreneurial aspirations.”**

I am 19 years old. My father is a bookseller. My mother is a housewife and at times she does tailoring as part-time job. I live with my parents, grandmother and a younger sister. Our family income is 7,000 rupees a month.

Since 2006, I was a part of the CI-SAHAY's sponsorship programme, where all my requirements, be it educational or health, were fulfilled. In 2009, I became an active member of youth council, and in 2011, I was elected as organisation level leader till March 2013. I undertook Aflatoun, YHC, Youth Leadership training, Child Protection training and First-Aid training from St. John's ambulance under YEF. I was Co-facilitator of Youth Leadership Training at Jorasanko community centre in 2012 & 2013. I passed my Higher Secondary examination in 2014.

I have been the mentor of Aflatoun since 2013 and have become the President of Alumni Association at Jorasanko community centre in 2016.

Training and practise sessions in different programmes have developed and increased my efficiency in a holistic manner. I am now a self-reliant individual with a penchant for collecting and using information to enhance my realm of knowledge on subjects that interest me the most.

On many occasions I have embroidered clothes for sponsored children on request of their sponsors. Also, during several events at our community centre, I had put up my own food stall. It was a complete “sell-out”, every single time.

Currently, I am pursuing Bachelors of Commerce with honours degree from Surendranath College for Women. My ambition is to become a Chartered Accountant. I like listening to music and making handicrafts is more than a hobby. Fashion embroidery to paper quill jewellery, honing culinary skills to designing newly born baby's kit comes easily to me. Or, you could even call it a cue for my entrepreneurial aspirations.

I will be forever grateful to CI-SAHAY for instilling the much needed confidence in me to tread upon the path of success.





**Babu**  
South 24 Parganas, West Bengal

I completed my graduation in 2016 with a degree in Accountancy and currently, I am preparing for my MBA entrance examinations.

**"The sponsorship programme opened doors which I never knew existed. It has immensely contributed in more ways than one."**

I come from a very needy family consisting of my mother, father and myself. My father is a mason and he is a daily wage earner while my mother is a home maker. I have grown up seeing my parents struggle to provide means for a basic living.

In spite of battling the odds, my mother made me dream big. She insisted that it would only happen through proper education. At 5 years of age, I was enrolled and the CI-SAHAY's sponsorship programme opened doors which I never knew existed. It has immensely contributed in more ways than one. Not just education and health, but through Leadership, Aflatoun, YHC training programmes, I gained the confidence to speak clearly, express my thoughts and adjust to various situations.

I train children now as a mentor and my family has started seeing happier times. This current engagement in the sponsorship programme fetches me 5,000 rupees a month.

This programme is a weapon that sharpens one's abilities. It has helped me develop as an independent and responsible individual, giving me the courage to think big.

Go out, learn more, challenge limits and develop talents is my message to all the youngsters in this programme.



**CONGRATS!!**

## TOPPERS OF GRADE X BOARD EXAMINATIONS 2016



**Name** : Shubhajyoti                      **Marks** : 94%  
**School** : Kalagachia Kailash Kamini High School  
**Father** : Daily worker  
**Mother** : Teacher  
**Fav Sub** : Maths  
**Hobbies** : Outdoor Games, Drawing



**Name** : Sudipta                              **Marks** : 93%  
**School** : Beraberi SNM High School  
**Father** : Daily worker  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Bengali  
**Hobbies** : Playing with friends, Drawing



**Name** : Saumya                              **Marks** : 92%  
**School** : Dakshin Moyna High School  
**Father** : Store Operator  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Maths  
**Hobbies** : Outdoor Games, Drawing

## Toppers of Grade X examinations



**Name** : Madhusri **Marks** : 89%  
**School** : Garalgacha High School  
**Father** : Factory worker  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Bengali  
**Hobbies** : Outdoor Games, Drawing



**Name** : Supta **Marks** : 87%  
**School** : Sarisha Ramkrishna Mission, Sarada Mandir  
**Father** : Office worker  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Science  
**Hobbies** : Playing, Drawing



**Name** : Neha **Marks** : 87%  
**School** : Nabagram Hiralal Pal Balika Vidyalaya  
**Father** : Daily worker  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Bengali  
**Hobbies** : Indoor Games, Singing



**Name** : Susmita **Marks** : 86%  
**School** : Khandalia High School  
**Father** : Daily worker  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Bengali  
**Hobbies** : Playing with friends, Drawing



**Name** : Prity **Marks** : 86%  
**School** : Khalsa High School  
**Father** : Factory worker  
**Mother** : Tailor  
**Fav Sub** : Bengali  
**Hobbies** : Playing with friends, Drawing



**Name** : Poulomi **Marks** : 86%  
**School** : Srinath Institution  
**Father** : Vendor  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Physics  
**Hobbies** : Reading, Singing



## Toppers of Grade X examinations



**Name** : Atanu **Marks** : 86%  
**School** : Ballygunge Govt. High School  
**Father** : Watchman  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Science  
**Hobbies** : Cricket, Drawing



**Name** : Md. Hasnain **Marks** : 85%  
**School** : Rajabazar Boys & Girls School  
**Father** : Tailor  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Hindi  
**Hobbies** : Drawing



**Name** : Soumi **Marks** : 85%  
**School** : Nabagram Hiralal Pal Balika Vidyalaya  
**Father** : Small Store Owner  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Bengali  
**Hobbies** : Playing with friends, Drawing



**Name** : Rajesh **Marks** : 85%  
**School** : Ambikanagar Hari Priya High School  
**Father** : Daily worker  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Science  
**Hobbies** : Soccer, Drawing



**Name** : Sayan **Marks** : 84%  
**School** : Tarakeswar High School  
**Father** : Small Store Operator  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Physics  
**Hobbies** : Drawing



**Name** : Banashree **Marks** : 84%  
**School** : Bankura Mission Girls High School  
**Father** : Street Vendor  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Languages  
**Hobbies** : Playing, Dancing

### Toppers of Grade X examinations



**Name** : Ekram **Marks** : 83%  
**School** : Md. Jan High School  
**Father** : Daily worker  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Biology  
**Hobbies** : Drawing



**Name** : Sonam **Marks** : 82%  
**School** : Arya Bidya Mandir  
**Father** : Deceased  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Maths  
**Hobbies** : Dancing



**Name** : Sanjukta **Marks** : 82%  
**School** : Khandalia High School  
**Father** : Farmer  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Biology  
**Hobbies** : Drawing



**Name** : Aman **Marks** : 82%  
**School** : Ballygunge Govt. High School  
**Father** : Driver  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Science  
**Hobbies** : Cricket, Soccer



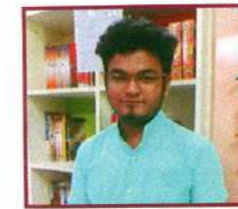
**Name** : Sk. Saddam **Marks** : 80%  
**School** : Naity High School  
**Father** : Deceased  
**Mother** : Daily worker  
**Fav Sub** : Bengali  
**Hobbies** : Drawing



**Name** : Poulomi **Marks** : 80%  
**School** : Beltala Girls Morning High School  
**Father** : Office worker  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Maths  
**Hobbies** : Dancing, Singing

## CONGRATS!!

# TOPPERS OF GRADE XII BOARD EXAMINATIONS 2016



**Name** : Nausherwan **Marks** : 91%  
**School** : Momin High School  
**Father** : Butcher  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Science  
**Hobbies** : Painting



**Name** : Sourav **Marks** : 91%  
**School** : Talpur Pathsala  
**Father** : Labourer  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Maths, Drawing  
**Hobbies** : Playing with friends, Drawing

## Toppers of Grade XII examinations



**Name** : Sukhendu **Marks** : 89%  
**School** : Tarakeswar Mahavidyalaya  
**Father** : Daily worker  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Geography  
**Hobbies** : Watching TV, Acting



**Name** : Biplab Ketan **Marks** : 89%  
**School** : Harindanga High School  
**Father** : Vendor  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Maths  
**Hobbies** : Fishing, Sports



**Name** : Triparna **Marks** : 89%  
**School** : Victoria Institution  
**Father** : Small Store  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : History  
**Hobbies** : Sports



**Name** : Krishna **Marks** : 89%  
**School** : Tarakeswar Mahavidyalaya  
**Father** : Small Store Operator  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Bengali  
**Hobbies** : Sports, Drawing



**Name** : Newton **Marks** : 89%  
**School** : Hare School  
**Father** : Teacher  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Maths, Science  
**Hobbies** : Cricket, Drawing



**Name** : Shipra **Marks** : 88%  
**School** : Gyan Bharati Balika Vidyalaya  
**Father** : Daily worker  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Accounting  
**Hobbies** : Drawing

## Toppers of Grade XII examinations



**Name** : Subham **Marks** : 88%  
**School** : Umesh Chandra College  
**Father** : Vendor  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Economics, Accounts  
**Hobbies** : Outdoor games, Drawing



**Name** : Subhas **Marks** : 87%  
**School** : Tarakeswar Mahavidyalaya  
**Father** : Vendor  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Bengali  
**Hobbies** : Playing with friends



**Name** : Md Reza **Marks** : 87%  
**School** : Md. Jan High School  
**Father** : Small Business  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Language  
**Hobbies** : Drawing, Outdoor games



**Name** : Munmun **Marks** : 87%  
**School** : Tarakeswar Mahavidyalaya  
**Father** : Labourer  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Geography  
**Hobbies** : Indoor games



**Name** : Bishal **Marks** : 87%  
**School** : Hindu School  
**Father** : Factory worker  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Languages  
**Hobbies** : Sports



**Name** : Shania **Marks** : 86%  
**School** : Baitulmal Girls High School  
**Father** : Daily worker  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Languages  
**Hobbies** : Sports

## Toppers of Grade XII examinations



**Name** : Kartik **Marks** : 85%  
**School** : Dankuni Sree Ramkrishna Vidyashram  
**Father** : Vendor  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Languages  
**Hobbies** : Playing with friends



**Name** : Kunal **Marks** : 85%  
**School** : Taki House Government School  
**Father** : Vendor  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Languages  
**Hobbies** : Drawing



**Name** : Supriya **Marks** : 85%  
**School** : Bansdrone Binoy Balika Vidyalaya  
**Father** : Brick layer  
**Mother** : Small store operator  
**Fav Sub** : Languages  
**Hobbies** : Drawing



**Name** : Chayna **Marks** : 84%  
**School** : Sarisha High School  
**Father** : Daily Worker  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Languages  
**Hobbies** : Drawing



**Name** : Bikram **Marks** : 84%  
**School** : Taki Govt. Boys School  
**Father** : Daily worker  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Languages  
**Hobbies** : Playing with friends, Drawing



**Name** : Suranjan **Marks** : 84%  
**School** : Naktala High School  
**Father** : Daily worker  
**Mother** : Small store operator  
**Fav Sub** : Languages  
**Hobbies** : Playing with friends, Drawing

## Toppers of Grade XII examinations



**Name** : Tanmay **Marks** : 83%  
**School** : Chanda High School  
**Father** : Daily worker  
**Mother** : Daily worker  
**Fav Sub** : Maths  
**Hobbies** : Cricket, Drawing



**Name** : Amit **Marks** : 83%  
**School** : Akuni BG Biharilal Institution  
**Father** : Cloth weaver  
**Mother** : Daily worker  
**Fav Sub** : Languages  
**Hobbies** : Playing with friends, Drawing



**Name** : Bijoy **Marks** : 82%  
**School** : Rajgram Vivekananda Hindu Vidyalaya  
**Father** : Mechanic  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Languages  
**Hobbies** : Outdoor games, Drawing



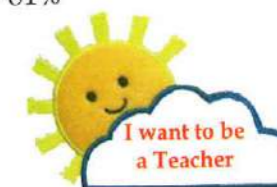
**Name** : Moumita **Marks** : 82%  
**School** : Tarakeswar Mahavidyalaya  
**Father** : Daily worker  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Languages  
**Hobbies** : Outdoor games, Drawing



**Name** : Tumpa **Marks** : 81%  
**School** : Jogesh Chandra Choudhury College  
**Father** : Brick layer  
**Mother** : Cook  
**Fav Sub** : Languages  
**Hobbies** : Dancing



**Name** : Aparna **Marks** : 81%  
**School** : Baikunthapur High School  
**Father** : Farmer  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Languages  
**Hobbies** : Outdoor games, Drawing



## Toppers of Grade XII examinations



**Name** : Gyaneshwari **Marks** : 81%  
**School** : Maheshwari Balika Vidyalaya  
**Father** : Small store operator  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Language  
**Hobbies** : Outdoor games, Drawing



**Name** : Sohail **Marks** : 81%  
**School** : Diamond Harbour High School  
**Father** : Daily worker  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Literature  
**Hobbies** : Reading



**Name** : Piyali **Marks** : 80%  
**School** : Janai Training High School  
**Father** : Carpenter  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Languages  
**Hobbies** : Outdoor games, Drawing



**Name** : Nigar **Marks** : 80%  
**School** : Taki House Government School  
**Father** : Daily worker  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Languages  
**Hobbies** : Reading



**Name** : Saikat **Marks** : 80%  
**School** : Julpia Andarmanik High School  
**Father** : Labourer  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Languages  
**Hobbies** : Outdoor games, Drawing



**Name** : Mahtab **Marks** : 80%  
**School** : Islamia High School  
**Father** : Deceased  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Languages  
**Hobbies** : Outdoor games, Drawing

## Toppers of Grade XII examinations



**Name** : Kainat **Marks** : 80%  
**School** : Indira Gandhi M.S.S. School  
**Father** : Small store owner  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Languages  
**Hobbies** : Music



**Name** : Rinika **Marks** : 80%  
**School** : Tarakeswar Mahavidyalaya  
**Father** : Daily worker  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Geography  
**Hobbies** : Volleyball, Sports



**Name** : Sneha **Marks** : 80%  
**School** : Balika Siksha Sadan  
**Father** : Small store owner  
**Mother** : Homemaker  
**Fav Sub** : Maths  
**Hobbies** : Reading, Dancing



SAHAY TEAM