

A GIRL & HER WORLD ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2012 AND 2013

Thanks for taking the time to read our Annual Report for calendar years 2012 and 2013.

There are two reports in one as we are a volunteer-run, grassroots organisation and we sort of hit the ground running, not expecting the growth we have seen when we started out supporting 5 girls at the beginning of 2012. As of November 2013, we support 28*. It's been an amazing journey so far and I am overwhelmed at the support we have gathered and the people, passionate about making a difference, who have taken ownership along the way.

A simple response to a friend who needed some help getting her daughter to high school has grown into a registered charity organisation with a wonderfully efficient and much loved in-country Co-ordinator, **Urmila**, who is helping girls in rural Fiji get back to school and thrive there. Urmila, and one of her daughters Sonam, has helped most of their families with an income generating project, a honey bee box, a veggie garden, a chicken coup; and gathered a local volunteer team around her made up of police, teachers, mums and social welfare workers. Together they strengthen the work of **a Girl & her world** in their community.

And I love that, a local community finding local solutions, it's what we are all about.

Our team in Australia has written policy documents, filled out funding submissions, baked and lovingly wrapped hundreds of cakes for each Christmas appeal, met with the Global Ambassador for Girls and Women, asked everyone we know to sponsor us in the Sydney Bridge Run each year, 'liked' and 'shared' updates on **Facebook**, travelled the Pacific establishing new and potential connections and to Fiji numerous times meeting the girls, their families, the school principals and the shop owners who give us good stationery deals...

We've loved every minute.

Enjoy the stories in the next few pages, cast your eyes over our finances and see where your donations go, and connect with the lovely girls we serve and their determination to create a life for themselves outside of the poverty cycle.



Jane with Ritika

If you'd like to delve a little deeper, I have just released an e-book '**Behind the Smiles**', about my time living in Fiji and the beginnings of a Girl & her world. All profits will go back into our program and you can order it from the '**shop**' tab on our website.

Warmly,

Jane Kennedy

Co-ordinator
a Girl & her world
November 7th, 2013

**We were supporting 30 girls but one girl graduated school last year and sadly another was taken into the care of social welfare earlier this year. We have 11 on a waiting list"*



Did you know?

- If all girls had a secondary education, there would be two-thirds fewer child marriages ⁽²⁾.
- Education empowers women to overcome discrimination. Girls and young women who are educated have greater awareness of their rights, and greater confidence and freedom to make decisions that affect their lives, improve their health, and boost their work prospects ⁽¹⁾.
- In developing countries, the #1 cause of death for girls 15-19 is childbirth ⁽⁴⁾.
- Child deaths would be cut in half if all women had a secondary education, saving 3 million lives. And all maternal deaths would be reduced by two-thirds if each mother completed primary education ⁽³⁾.
- A literate mother has a 50% higher chance that her child will survive past the age of 5 ⁽³⁾.

1. Education First: An Initiative of the UN Secretary General, 2012 2. EFA Global Monitoring Report, 2012 3. UNESCO, 2011 4. World Health Organization, 2012

We are currently supporting 28 girls to stay in school, with 11 more on a waiting list, and 10 of families with income generating projects. Five other income generating projects are in process, chicken coups and veggie gardens for example and we are seeing the difference these small businesses make for the families we work with. One mum, who we setup with a pedal powered sewing machine, makes bags from recycled saris and we **sell them on our website**.



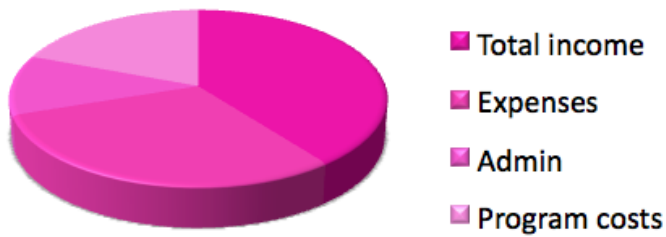
we have been supporting his daughter to stay at school from the beginning but expect that he will soon start to take back some of this responsibility.



we set this dad up with a freezer so he can store fish caught on his brother's trawler and sell it in the market. He sources electricity from a communal source in his settlement and showed us his business plan that Urnila will assess in 6 months.



2012



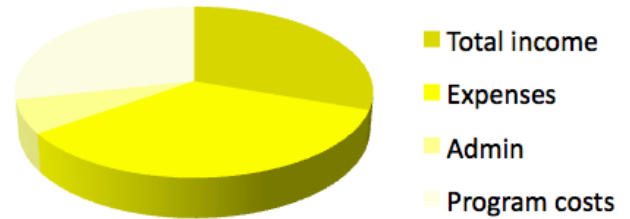
Total income \$16,796.02

Expenses - \$12,820

* Admin - \$4668.00

** Program costs - \$8,152.00

2013



Total income \$12,328.20

(note this figure is YTD and doesn't capture Cmas appeal donations)

Expenses - \$14,161.00

* Admin - \$2,599.00

** Program costs - \$11,562.00

* Admin includes things like getting business cards printed and paying for (heavily discounted) digital and promotional costs. When our Fiji based volunteer team get together we cover their costs to do so.

** Program costs include the cost of getting girls back to school such as school fees, uniforms, shoes, bags, stationery, travel expenses, sanitary pads, one off homework costs such as internet usage or printing. It also includes a 2 day per week allowance for the in-country Coordinator Urmila at the Fiji award rate and her costs for running the program such as a mobile phone allowance and transport. Program costs also cover expenses associated with setting families up with income generating projects.

A lot of our work is done by volunteers contributing time, resource and skill in kind and is not reflected here by income and outgoing figures.

We never hand out cash to anyone and have accounts with a number of local businesses who provide the above items for the girls to collect. Money is transferred to Urmila through Western Union as it is cheaper than through a bank. One of the members of our local volunteer team is a Policeman and will accompany Urmila to pick up transfers if necessary, when the amounts are sometimes large and need to go straight to the costs of a chicken coup for example.

Our income comes mainly from our fundraising drives such as the annual Sydney Bridge Run and Christmas appeal, during which time we sell chocolate Christmas cakes and the bags one of our girls' mums makes from recycled saris.

In 2014 we are hoping to attract grants from the Corporate Sector; and the Development Sector through the connections we are forging through DFAT (formerly AusAID) and other organisations.

We received grants from the Commonwealth Bank and Rotary in 2013 and have had increased support from our sponsor schools in Australia where our Girl Ambassadors raise funds for us.



Child Protection

Two of our Australian based team, **Jane Kennedy** and **Jackie Robertson** work in their 'day jobs' for Sydney based International Relief and Development agencies, one with a focus on child centred development. a Girl & her world as a result, has benefited from this expertise and been able to implement its own Child Protection policy and each member of the team both in Fiji and Australia has been trained or is in the process of being trained on the policy and signing the corresponding code of conduct that is part of this. This policy is informed by the Australian Aid Child Protection requirements.

We only use respectful images of the girls and their families and only with their verbal and/or written permission. We are not always able to get written permission as some parents and guardians are illiterate.

We don't use the girls' real names in our promotion or connect them to the school they attend or the area they live in.

Snapshots of Change 2012

Sunita* was a normal 14 year old attending school until the travel costs for her hour and a half journey each way became too much for her family and her fees added up to more than they could afford.

Struggling with rusted, archaic gardening equipment to plough a large field and then harvest veggies for sale, her family were having a hard time feeding their 4 children and keeping their heads above water, and made the call to take Sunita out of school. Our Co-ordinator Urmila become aware of the situation when she heard that Sunita was hitch hiking into town in the afternoons to read over the homework her friends had been given so she could stay up to date. She was hopeful that one day she would get back to school. Urmila assessed the family's situation and found that the barriers to keeping Sunita in school could be overcome from a number of angles. First, she made Sunita's school aware of the situation so she and her family wouldn't 'lose face'. Next, she organised for her fees to be paid and her uniform updated. Urmila then set up a travel pass arrangement with the local bus company paid by term (this was a new concept but the company was happy to arrange it). Once Sunita was back at school, Urmila talked with the family to see how they could become more self-sufficient and spoke with them about their small business of growing and selling veggies. Sunita's dad had been diagnosed with a mental illness and wasn't physically strong, so mum was waking before the sun to use the heavy, ancient machinery to work the land, before cooking, cleaning and washing for the family each day.

After discussions with Sunita's parents, Urmila went with them to the hardware store in town and set them up with light, user friendly gardening tools and also looked into ways that dad could sell Indian sweets from a cart in their settlement.



Sunita's grateful dad embraces Urmila

A year on, the family is now thriving. Mum has a lot more time; dad is able to do something that he enjoys while bringing in an income; they can cover Sunita's uniform and stationery expenses themselves and are donating a portion of their veggies each week to a family in their area who is struggling.

*Not her real name



Snapshots of Change 2013

Priti* is a gorgeous, smiling 17 year old who loves her mum. Before she was supported by a Girl & her world she was living with relatives near her school as home is a long way out of town and her parents weren't able to cover her travel fares to school each day or update the uniform she had grown out of. They also don't have electricity and she wasn't able to study in the dark once she arrived home from her long journey. The family reasoned that if she moved close to school, at least they would be able try and get her a new tunic and get on top of the fees and other items like stationery packs. But Priti missed her family and was unhappy living away from home in what turned out to be an unhealthy environment and this was affecting her school work.

Priti is a hard worker; she wants to be an accountant and is good at maths and commerce. Urmila met Priti and her family and assessed the barriers to seeing her flourish. a Girl & her world covered her school fees, provided her stationery, negotiated a term travel pass with her local bus company and bought some kerosene lamps for her family so she could study at night. Or, as we came to discover, at 3am in exam time!

Priti's family chose to go with a honey bee box for their income generating project and we also supplied them with some seeds and gardening tools so they could make use of their extremely fertile land. During Tropical Cyclone Evan at the end of 2012, they lost part of their house and we were able to help them rebuild and replant their crops. Amazingly the bees made it!

This year Priti is shining. We visited her at home during one of our trips and she showed us their (leased) land and the creek where she washes twice a day and we met her cheeky brother who chases the chickens. Priti is very happy to be back with her family and they are starting to become self-sufficient. We expect that the family will be able to cover most of Priti's expenses soon.

With one more year of school left, we can't wait to see what's next for this young woman!

*Not her real name

Contact us

Website www.agirlandherworld.org

Email info@agirlandherworld.org

We are on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)

We'd love you to connect with us or drop us a line if you'd like to get involved. Or let us know how what we are doing resonates with you.

Vinaka!



Priti receives her stationery pack from Urmila at the start of the term

