ANNUAL REPORT

2017
Dear Friends,

Thank you for your incredible support in 2017, as it was our biggest year yet! The Desai Foundation entered its 21st year with a focus on partnerships, growth, and deepening our commitment to women.

Our journey over the past four years as a public foundation has been an exciting one. We have been able to participate in partnerships, apply for grants, and host fundraisers that have helped impact more lives. And our commitment to you, our donors, remains that 100% of our overhead is covered by the initial endowment of the Desai family, as well as our incredible Board of Directors. That means that every dollar donated by you goes directly to our programming on the ground.

We also appreciate that you understand that our growth is cautious and slow. Though we do aim to reach our lofty numerical goals of lives impacted, it is equally important for us to impact each life with dignity. We would prefer to grow slowly and ensure that our programs are cultivating dignity, than expand quickly to get our numbers up – it’s about the people we serve after all, and not just about the numbers.

We want to take a moment to thank the 555 individual donors, 11 companies and 7 non-profit organizations over the past year that have helped us reach our goals. We know that there are many organizations that you can choose to give to, and we are honored that you choose to place your trust and faith in us.

The Desai Foundation has become known for its incredible events. Diwali on the Hudson was sold out for the fourth year in a row, and featured a star-studded fashion show for Payal Singhal. Lotus Festival this year featured speaker and author Nilofer Merchant, as well as WCVB anchor Karen Anderson! And our Spring Garba helped connect many in Boston to Indian culture. In addition to our great events this year, we also had incredible partnerships – with companies like Payal Singhal, Dogeared, West Elm, and AirBnB. We were featured in Forbes, Vogue India, and so many other platforms for these powerful partnerships.

2018 is already gearing up to be an exciting year of programming, partnerships, events, and women’s empowerment!

Thank you for helping us reach over 387,000 people in the US and India to #DreamBeyond their circumstances.

Yours,

Megha Desai
President
OUR MISSION:
We empower women and children through community programs to elevate health and livelihood in India and the U.S.
The Desai Foundation was born out of the desire to give back to communities in the U.S. and India. Our projects have served New York City and the Metro Boston Area in the U.S. and rural Gujarat in India by empowering underprivileged people to take charge of their lives and uplift those around them. The Desai Foundation’s primary goal is to elevate the health and livelihood of the greater community, targeting women and children in particular to ensure sustainable growth. Over the last 21 years, we have significantly improved access to health services, education, and vocational opportunity, impacting over 387,000 lives.

1997 Founding
Since our founding in 1997, we have supported the work of private initiatives and public nonprofits, NGOs, and other organizations to improve quality of life in the U.S. and India. In the U.S., we support efforts for cultural engagement, community service and outreach, while also hosting lively and impactful fundraisers for our programs in India.

2014 Going Public
Our commitment to social impact led us to reestablish ourselves as a public nonprofit four years ago. This transition allows us to strengthen our strategic partnerships, work with governments, and expand our programming the way it deserves. We’ve also established our NGO status in India, under the Desai Foundation Trust. This allows us to take donations and align with organizations in the Indian Subcontinent. Our transition to a public charity and uplift more communities was with one goal in mind: the ability to help more people and uplift more communities. This transition has not been easy, but your support and faith is why it works. We are committed to keeping our finances transparent, our expenses low, and our impact high.

Our Future
The future of the Desai Foundation depends on you. We are committed to continue carefully vetting partners and fostering our deep connection with the communities we serve. Our focus will always remain in health & livelihood for women & children. However, we are always looking to grow geographically! Our modular programs allow us to expand with one program or many. We are committed to creating strong partnerships both in the U.S. and India.
We are driven to promote health and livelihood, particularly for those who are both traditionally underserved and powerful agents of social change: women and children.

Working with the existing strengths of a community, we focus on providing a healthy life, the dignity of a job, and the fulfillment of an education.

**OBJECTIVES**

**HEALTH**

Good health and well-being are the most fundamental human rights and basic necessities of social progress. In partnership with other nonprofits as well as local universities, hospitals, and community centers, we offer health camps that provide free screening, treatment, and education to those who otherwise would not have access to the care they need.

We partner with organizations to provide youth mentorship, workshops, and vocational training. These programs provide an opportunity not only to develop a skill set, but a sense of dignity. We recognize livelihood not only as the capacity to pursue educational and vocational opportunity, but to live a fulfilling, purposeful life on one’s own terms.

**WOMEN**

Women are the backbone of any community and the discrimination that they face limits social progress as a whole. By targeting their needs, we address the well-being of the greater community. Supporting women is essential to overall growth, as 90% of what women earn is invested back into their community. **

**LIVE LI HOOD**

Children too have the potential to advance their communities. The Desai Foundation provides quality education and enrichment programs to equip children with the knowledge to meet the many challenges shaping our world today.

**CHILDREN**

** statistic taken from the United Nations

** statistic taken from the United Nations
**APPROACH**

Our work in both India and the U.S. stresses inclusivity, sustainability, and accountability. We work under a community-based approach to ensure a strong and positive impact.

**STRONG FUNDAMENTALS**

We work in communities we know well—therefore we know we are tackling real issues that they face—not simply creating band-aids to fix problems.

**ROBUST INFRASTRUCTURE & COMMUNITY PARTICIPANTS**

We identify the right local leaders to spearhead each project. This ensures community buy-in and a deep understanding of issues. It also promotes self-sustaining empowerment among the whole community.

**TRUSTED & QUALIFIED NONPROFIT PARTNERS**

These organizations help push our work and our dollars donated even further. It also spreads credit for the work—which in turn builds morale in the community.

**PROVEN PROGRAMS & MODELS**

For every major initiative, a test program is set up to ensure its effectiveness and to understand its impact. We make adjustments to these programs when necessary so we can be confident in expanding them.

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

We are looking to solve long-term problems, not simply create short-term solutions. Our goal is to truly inspire those we serve to dream bigger and lead healthier and more economically stable lives. We are in it for the long run.
ACHIEVEMENTS

This past year, we came a long way with our partners in promoting access to health and opportunity, as well as the ideal of local engagement.
Since our inception...

$1,650,569
Received in contributions from 2,055 individuals, 73 corporations, and 31 NGOs

387,000
People have been impacted by our programs

2,000+
People have attended our fundraisers in the US

71
Communities reached
We hold health camps at each of our four current project sites with the help of our partners in Untdi, Talangpur, Kharel, and near Gandhinagar. Collectively, these camps provide basic services such as checkups for general, eye, and dental health as well as for diabetes; distribute medicine, spectacles, and other resources; promote awareness through health education; and particularly address the health concerns of women and children.

All of our partners at each project site understand the importance of addressing women’s health through inclusive care. In Untdi, Talangpur, and Kharel, we support locally-run, gynecological camps. These camps rely on grassroots-level outreach to provide extremely vital services in remote areas.

Hygiene education is a vital preventative measure for a child’s overall health. We provide hygiene education at our health camps, in schools and through our Sanitary Napkin Program. We also believe these students bring their learning home and spread their knowledge to their families.

• pediatric camp with blood group & hemoglobin check-up
• general medical check-up with dermatologist
• pre-natal clinics and seminars
• blood-type testing
• distribution of medicine, vitamins, and glasses
• minor operations (ex. cataracts at eye check-up camp)
In the village of Untdi in Gujarat, India, Shantaben Vidyabhavan is a vital community center, providing quality education, vocational opportunity, and health and developmental services. Since reconstruction, Shantaben Vidyabhavan’s school, “Lok Vidyalaya” has tripled in size and we are adding four more classrooms to meet rising demand. We now provide quality education to over 780 students from 13 surrounding villages and have doubled our teaching capacity to children from kindergarten to 12th standard. Unlike many schools in rural India, our curriculum covers all major subjects: language, math, the arts, history, and science through the use of our state of the art science labs. Our science school is the only one of its kind in the region, offering a rich curriculum to students hungry for a level of academic rigor and exploration that they would not otherwise have access to. This school already has a waiting list to meet the demand.

Community Impact (CI), a student-run organization at Columbia University, serves underprivileged communities in the Morningside Heights, Harlem, and Washington Heights neighborhoods of New York City.

CI’s programs empower both youth and adults to pursue educational and vocational opportunities, promote health and wellness, and foster a spirit of community service. Community Impact (CI) is making great strides in continuing their work of engaging students at Columbia University to serve local, disadvantaged youth and address the needs of the overall community.

CI’s volunteers and coordinators have donated over 3,500 hours of their time. To put that in monetary terms using the NYS industry standard rate of a volunteer hour of $28.06, CI’s volunteers and coordinators have donated almost $100,000 worth of their time.

We are proud to have partnered with IIT Gandhinagar’s NYASA and NEEV programs to help transform the rural communities near the school. These programs, like the program at Columbia University, uses the resources present at the school to help uplift its surrounding areas. We have partnered with them on large scale health camps, vocational programming, and helped to connect our other centers to this invaluable resource of knowledge and talent. Our annual joint Sanjeevani health camp in 2017 served the villages of Palaj, Basan, Lekawada, Alampur, and Shiholi. All attendees received a general physical exam and the children learned about health and hygiene. We are proud this year to expand our programming offering in this region with our partners at IIT GN – to focus on more vocational programs. The power of connecting the student body at IIT to this type of work we know has a long lasting powerful impact on the students.
VOCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

SEWING CLASSES

The sewing classes we provide train local women over the course of a three-month program, equipping them with vocational skills that can secure them opportunities at local textile companies. These women learn essential skills necessary to stitch garments such as salwar suits, churidar, blouses, and dresses.

• electrician classes
• sanitary napkin program
• beauty parlor skills
• plumbing training
• welding training
• jewelry-making
• seminars on: personal finance, teacher training
• English language classes
• library + research services
• entrepreneurship programs

COMPUTER CLASSES

These classes teach valuable digital literacy skills to help advance personal, educational, and professional development. In 2017, 200 children learned to use computers at our Shantaben Vidhyabhavan community center.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

The candlemaking workshop classes in Untdi and Talangpur began as a community building experience and has grown into a vocational training program. Many of the women in these programs have begun their own small businesses, and sell their candles to local shops. In 2017, 20 women participated in our candlemaking workshops in our Hansa Community Development Center.
SANITARY NAPKIN PROGRAM

We are incredibly proud of our Asani Sanitary Napkin program, and are so happy to report its expansion. The program trains women to manufacture, distribute & sell high quality, low cost sanitary napkins through their communities. This empowers girl & women to take control over their health + livelihood, and enables girls to pursue higher education beyond the onset of puberty.

The vocational training provided though the Sanitary Napkin Program has a profound personal and public impact. The program also has the added effect of combatting stigma and giving women and girls a fundamental sense of dignity that will empower them to pursue long term opportunities.

After launching our program, we got some valuable feedback on the size and quality of the pads our team was creating. After months of research and development, we are happy to report that we have solved these issues, and are expanding this program with retail quality pads.

This program currently runs in the Kharel region, Untdi region and will soon expand to the Talangpur region. As one of our most all encompassing programs, we are thrilled to announce that the Asani Sanitary Napkin was given a spot in the 2017 Global Giving Girl Fund – which helped us raise significant funds for this program!
The Shantaben Vidhyabhavan Community Center and School is one of our favorite examples of true holistic community development. With our partners Untdi Vibhag Kelvani Mandal, and Lok Vidyalaya we opened the school and community center in 2012. The broken school that was built nearly 100 years ago, had roughly 185 students. Today, the thriving private school has 850 students enrolled, and a waiting list to boot. The school was built on the principles of quality education, safe bathrooms and drinking water, and teachers that inspire them to dream beyond their circumstances. It is remarkable how far this school and center has come in five short years.

The school is K-12 and has a science track – including a state of the art science lab, the first of its kind in the region. After only five years, the school has just been ranked first in the district.

Aside from the thriving school, the large community center is the epicenter of many of our vocational programming in the region. This helps bring together the teachers, parents and students onto a state of the art campus to all grow together.

The structure has three media labs and computer center that is used by students and for community programs, a large hall which the community uses to come together and celebrate, a library and a huge playground.

At Shantaben Vidhyabhavan we offer sewing classes, English classes, jewelry and candlemaking classes, hygiene programs, health camps, computer classes, and is the home of one of the main Asani Sanitary Napkin manufacturing sites.

Shantaben Vidhyabhavan is a shining example of what we believe is possible when the right stakeholders on the ground come together to build something great for a community.
**MOBILE HEALTH VAN**

We are developing a new partnership with the Rotary Eye Institute in Navsari connected with their Mobile Eye Camp. The goal is to join them on their route which brings eye health services by bus to 300 villages. We will supplement their general and surgical eye health services by providing relevant educational services. These will include menstrual health, hygiene education, pre-natal care, etc.

**LAHEY CLINIC**

We are in discussions with Lahey Clinic in MA for what we hope becomes the South Asian Health Center at Lahey. Its mission would be to reduce the higher incidences of cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, high blood pressure and other such diseases common in the South Asian population. This center should include nutrition, wellness, and health literacy for patients. This will be achieved through comprehensive and culturally appropriate programs that incorporate education, advanced screenings, lifestyle changes and core management.
Known for her elegant patterns, acclaimed Indian fashion designer Payal Singhal generously donated two of her signature patterns exclusively for the Desai Foundation. All Payal Singhal products — from ready-to-wear apparel to men’s pocket squares to Indian bridal fashion — that are sold in these signature patterns will benefit the Desai Foundation.

To take this partnership a step further, Payal Singhal had a training session with the women in our vocational sewing program. Seventy women participated that day, and now twenty women are making products for Payal Singhal. Being a part of this partnership allows these women to have a global impact. They are not only making an impression in their villages, but also in the international marketplace.

This partnership has been celebrated in Vogue India, Elle India, Cosmopolitan India, Life & Style, NBC Boston, Forbes, and more. The partnership had a star-studded launch in Mumbai in September, a debut fashion show in NYC featuring celebrity models, and pop-up shops around the US.

“THE PAYAL SINGHAL x DESAI FOUNDATION ASSOCIATION IS VERY CLOSE TO MY HEART. I’VE BEEN YEARNING TO CREATE AN ENTITY THAT NOT ONLY PROVIDES WOMEN FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE, BUT ALSO GIVES THEM SENSE OF PURPOSE AND ADDS VALUE TO THEIR LIVES.”

- PAYAL SINGHAL
Meet Charlotte Douglas!

Charlotte is a fashion designer based in Brooklyn, who was introduced to the Desai Foundation when she attended our 2014 Gala. Inspired by our work, Charlotte wanted to get involved and got the perfect opportunity to lend her expertise to the Desai Foundation in August 2017. Our Payal Singhal x Desai Foundation partnership was just launching, and Charlotte joined Payal Singhal’s team in our center and trained 70 women in sewing techniques.

Charlotte did a homestay with a local family and made true friendships with the women she worked and trained with.

“I love the sewing vocational program because it is designed to fit the busy women’s lives and give them the opportunity to earn some supplemental rupees and mingle. It is my hope that they will be inspired to practice sewing and be able to make many more PSxDF bags, earning a respectful income.”

Charlotte Douglas
Community Impact
AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

U.S.: 2017

3,500 HOURS DONATED BY
900 STUDENT VOLUNTEERS
7,500 NUTRITIOUS MEALS SERVED TO LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS

13,650 COMMUNITY MEMBERS SERVED BY 28 PROGRAMS
400 ADULTS PREPARED FOR THEIR HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA
In 2017, we served a population of over 260,000 in India, both directly by providing services in health, vocational training, and schooling, and indirectly through our outreach. Our outreach through universities and community centers promotes awareness for health and other vital resources and creates spaces to support both individual and communal advancement. We are working to expand our reach, ensuring that our services are accessible to thousands of others in neighboring regions.

**260,000 TOTAL POPULATION REACH**

**SHANTABEN VIDHYABHAVAN**
- 20 villages
- 40,000 reach

**HANSA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER**
- 6 villages
- 10,000 reach

**GRAM SEVA TRUST**
- 40 villages
- 200,000 reach

**IIT GANDHINAGAR**
- 5 villages
- 10,000 reach
34 villagers who received treatments - many of whom had never had medical attention before.

2,500 children have attended our kids health camps (Bal Health Mela).

300 women have attended gynecology health camps.

2017
LIVELIHOOD

200

STUDENTS HAVE BEEN TAUGHT HOW TO USE A COMPUTER

780

K-12 STUDENTS ARE ENROLLED FULL-TIME AT SHANTABEN VIDHYABHAVAN

162

WOMEN HAVE RECEIVED VOCATIONAL TRAINING
800 students have been taught computer skills

13,900 children have attended our kids health camps

362 women have received vocational training

9,000 members of the Harlem/Morningside Heights community have been impacted by Community Impact at Columbia University annually

60,000 health treatments we’ve performed on villagers in India

120,000 sanitary napkins have been produced at our centers

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**OUR OVERALL IMPACT**

Since 1997, we have served more than 387,000 lives in both India and the United States.

Our new goal is to impact 1,000,000 lives.

We hope to achieve this by empowering entire communities to show them that they have to power to succeed, all on their own.
After many years, the Desai Foundation has understood that not every program will yield the same results. Not every vocational program leads to job placement. Not every girl that enters a classroom goes to college. Not every child going through hygiene education lives a disease-free life.

We are focused on two main areas to measure our success:

1. Are we providing access & awareness?
2. Does this program cultivate dignity?

Sometimes the rupees in a woman’s pocket is less important than the self-worth she feels after learning a skill. Our growth is intentionally slow, as we care more about the people we serve, rather than the numbers we report.
Our efforts tap resources in the communities we serve, not only ensuring long-term progress but promoting a spirit of local engagement. Inspiring those inside the community to know that they have the power to shift their own circumstance is an important part of successful community development. Our work also acknowledges the broader spectrum: how community development in turn translates to global advancement. By operating under the mission of forming more inclusive societies, our goals not only support participatory action on the local level, but also intersect with the goals established by major national and international bodies for a prosperous future. Our mission runs parallel with both that of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Indian government’s social initiatives. We share the goals of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao; Swachh Bharat; and Digital India to educate and empower girls, improve hygiene and sanitation, and promote digital literacy.

By elevating health and livelihood, all of our projects collectively address several of the UN Sustainable Development Goals: Good Health and Well-Being, Quality Education, Gender Equality, and Decent Work and Economic Growth. As our projects continue to thrive, we are working toward one day impacting 1 million lives, a goal that while ambitious, aligns with vital objectives like the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Our work was validated in the concluding outcome from the 62nd session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women: “rural women and girls are essential to sustainable development, and their rights and empowerment needs to be prioritized.”

We are thrilled to continue moving forward alongside the objectives of global and national powers for a healthier, more equal world. Together, we can empower those with the greatest need and potential, helping strengthen communities.
COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS

We are proud of the growth our projects have seen. And perhaps the best metric for the success of our work is the stories it inspires:

Meet is a 12th grader at our high school. Although his interest is human biology, menstruation has always been taboo.

He visited our Asani Sanitary Napkin Program center and learned what menstruation is. Today, Meet does not feel ashamed to speak & study about menstruation and has shown a greater respect towards his female classmates.

Riya is an 11th grader at our science school - one of the best in the region. Riya is currently outperforming all of her classmates, including the boys.

Each day, she travels 15 km each way to get to school, knowing that this is the best education available to her.

She dreams of becoming a doctor.

Sruti is a member of our Sewing Vocational Program. The hours that she spends there have made a meaningful impact on her life.

Sruti now has an outlet in which to learn new skills, make new friends, and earn wages that allow her to contribute towards her family. The dignity that she has gained from this program has given her a new lease on life.

KS Santosh is a student volunteer from IIT Gandhinagar.

“I find it good working for the betterment of needy, who still are finding it difficult for going outside and checking their health. I was totally satisfied with the camp as it can do a lot for the betterment of the people in the village. And also the villagers received us with a lot of love.”

A shy high schooler, Shirley sought out a mentorship via Community Impact at Columbia University. She says the mentorship made a crucial difference by helping her to realize her own potential during the daunting college application process.

A year later, Shirley became a freshman at Barnard College, where she took courses in French and International Politics.
**OUR COMMITMENT**

Every dollar raised for the Desai Foundation from individuals will go directly to the work on the ground. Our overhead is covered by the initial endowment, Board of Directors, and corporate donors. We work hard to ensure maximum value for every dollar you generously trust with us.

**OPERATIONAL SPEND**

In accordance with Indian law, the Desai Foundation Trust was established in 2014. All money raised in India is directed to the Desai Foundation Trust. To be as transparent as possible, we will disclose financials of both the Desai Foundation (US 501(c)3) and the Desai Foundation Trust together to present a full picture.

**A FULL PICTURE**

Desai Foundation 501(c)3 Tax ID#: 04-3433749
Desai Foundation Trust 80(G) Registration Number: E-31940(M) PAN Number: AACTT7301H
Our growth over the past four years has been remarkable, and we expect to see even more expansion and growth in the future.

Short-Term Goals
- Spread our Asani Sanitary Napkin Program to at least five new regions
- Deepen our existing partnership to expand programming and impact
- Expand our health and hygiene offering to the communities we serve
- Identify new partners in the United States to help our mission
- Geographic expansion of our model and programming
- Deepen our commitment to measurement and tracking

Keeping an Eye on 2030
- Reach our ultimate goal of impacting 1 million lives
- Play a role in supporting the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the areas of gender equality, quality education, good health and well-being, and decent work and economic growth

We are honored to do the work we do. We continue to learn from our partners, advisors, and friends. We hope our work empowers you to make a difference in your own life.
We know you can donate your money to many causes. At the Desai Foundation, we are grateful you have entrusted us to exercise your commitment to women and children.

This is an example of how we multiply the impact of your dollar with us.

$4,000
YOUR DONATION

WHAT YOU’RE FUNDING
A KIDS HEALTH CAMP INCLUDES:
- educational games & shows
- general health check-up
- hygiene education
- oral & dental check-up
- sickle cell check-up
- good touch, bad touch workshop
- art zone
- dance performance
- parent help desk

100% MATCH BY THE DESAI FAMILY FOR ALL DONATIONS BY INDIVIDUALS

DONATED STAFF + SUPPLIES

DONATED INFRASTRUCTURE

LOCAL FUNDRAISING

2,000 CHILDREN SERVED AT A HEALTH CAMP
2017 EVENTS

SPRING GARBA
MAY 13TH | HILTON BOSTON WOBURN

LOTUS FESTIVAL
SEPTEMBER 16
THE COLLINGS FOUNDATION ESTATE
STOW, MA

Diwali ON THE HUDSON
OCTOBER 18 | HUDSON TERRACE | NYC
Each of our events are essential to strengthening our support in the U.S. and raising awareness for all of our projects. Beyond that, they provide several opportunities a year for vital cultural engagement and expression. This commitment to celebrating Indian heritage is key to the original values of the Desai Foundation. We are proud of how far we have come in sharing this pride in identity, reaching the greater South Asian diaspora and additional supporters in New York City and the Metro Boston Area.

As we have grown as an organization, our events have attracted some more recognizable faces: celebrities and change-makers all at the top of their industry and field.

- Nilofer Merchant: Tech Exec & Author
- Karsh Kale: Global Fusion Pioneer
- Karen Anderson: WCVB Channel 5 Boston
- Sirey Moran: Miss Honduras 2016
- Diva Dhiwan: Top International Model
- Jay Sean: Thara Natalie

1,000 Attendees

$214,426 Raised
Thanks to these incredible sponsors for helping bring our work and our events to life!

For upcoming event sponsorship opportunities, please contact Tess Fenn at tess@thedesdaifoundation.org
The Desai Foundation is proud and grateful to have the support of so many generous donors. In 2017, we received donations from 555 individual donors, 11 corporate partners, and 7 nonprofit organizations. We are deeply honored to serve, and thank you for your continued support. We’d like to take the opportunity to thank some of our generous and long-standing donors.

Here we feature a random sampling of contributors. Your donations are important to us, even if we didn’t list your name.
“By giving to the Desai Foundation, you can truly make a difference in the lives of women in rural India by ensuring that they have the opportunity to dream beyond her circumstances.”
- Sonia Patel Jain, Co-founder & Chief Pharmacist at Capsule Pharmacy

“I love that the sewing program provides opportunities for job placement in local factories, while also providing women with the tools they need to start their own small businesses!”
- Raina Kumra Gardiner, CEO of Juggernaut

“The Desai Foundation is a nonprofit with a mission that I’ve been proud to be a part of since 2010! I am inspired by the foundation’s work empowering girls in rural India to #DreamBeyond through health, livelihood and education programs.”
- Payal Kadakia, Founder & Executive Chairman at ClassPass

“The Desai Foundation's approach to creating impact in South Gujarat through its partnerships with NGOs, schools and health care providers has begun to show important results. Thousands have attended health camps and been treated for preventable ailments, while women in the region know that they have a strong advocate on their behalf”.
- Nishith Acharya, Author, “The India-US Partnership: $1 Trillion by 2030” by Oxford University Press
Here Are the Finalists for the Second-Annual Shorty Social Good Awards
Empower Women, Empower The World: How The Desai Foundation Is Elevating Lives In Rural Gujarat

Our partnerships and campaigns over 2017 have helped garner us some valuable press in nationally and internationally recognized outlets on TV, print, and online. We are proud of this recognition, which brings great validation to our work. Here are some selected placements from this year:

NBC Boston

Empower Women, Empower The World: How The Desai Foundation Is Elevating Lives In Rural Gujarat

GLOBAL CITIZEN

GLAMOUR

They’ve set the bar pretty high...

“By Women, For Women” – Encourage Menstrual Hygiene In India

This Nonprofit Is Fighting Period Stigma by Treating Pads Like Lipgloss
Our team in the U.S. and India contributes through their diverse backgrounds in a variety of fields, united by their desire to have a true impact on communities in each country. In our fourth year as a public nonprofit, the Desai Foundation is ready and eager to take on the challenges of serving greater communities areas in the regions close to our heart. If you want to work with us, please email info@thedesaifoundation.org
Stay up to date on our events and other news by following us:

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HOST A COCKTAILS + CHAAT

All you need are 20 of your friends, drinks, and some chaat (snacks)! We’ll provide the Desai Foundation materials!

DONATE YOUR BIRTHDAY

Creating a birthday campaign is a piece of cake. Have your friends & family give the gift of health & livelihood!

SHOP FOR A CAUSE

www.thedesaifoundation.org/psxdf/