

OUR HISTORY

FROM HUMBLE BEGININGS IN 1948...



Founded in 1948 by Rev. Maxton Strong and his wife Shirley from the United States, the GSAM was one of the first NGOs registered by the new Indian government after Independence. Back then, the land was true jungle, where tigers and elephants routinely roamed the grounds. Malaria was a constant threat. There was no electricity for ten years. It was a difficult time full of sacrifice and selfless service.

In 2004 after the death of Rev. Strong, current Director Rick Shipway, his wife Maxine (Rev. Strong's daughter) and their son Clifton moved from Australia to take over the daily care and development of the Mission. Faced with their own challenges, the Shipways have taken the organization to the next level, growing a thriving and respected school, raising the overall standard of the mission and creating a spirit of fun that is hard to miss on the smiling faces of the children in their care.

Labelled by Dr. Sanjay Dubey, the Director of the National Human Rights Commission of India as, "the best (orphanage) I've ever seen" and "an example for other NGOs" today's thriving Mission compound is a living tribute to the pioneer spirit and unwavering faith the Strongs carried with them to India so many years ago.



VOLUNTEER

BE THE CHANGE YOU WISH TO SEE



India draws people from all over the world, attracted to the vibrant culture and diverse beauty of the country. For those looking to add the deeper connection of a volunteer component to their trip, we welcome around 100 visitors per year to the Mission. Bring your skills and open your heart. As we have seen time and time again, even a short-term experience can change the way you look at the world forever. Volunteer's can apply by visiting:

www.IndianOrphanage.com/volunteer



The Good Shepherd Agricultural Mission

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Banbasa, Uttarakhand, India



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OUR ORPHANAGE

THE VERY HEART OF WHAT WE DO



If the word “orphanage” makes you think of some grim loveless institution, you should plan a visit to the Good Shepherd Agricultural Mission. Here you’ll find seventy-five children living in five separate hostels, with boys and girls separated above nursery age. A diverse and inclusive family, our orphanage is full of fun and laughter. As we have learned, family doesn’t always mean where you were born. It’s who loves you. And love is something there is plenty of at the GSAM.

OUR SCHOOL

EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO CHANGE



Originally founded as a way to provide a quality education for our own kids, the Maxton Strong School has since grown into a respected establishment with more than 700 students from the local community. With extremely reasonable fees and a not-for-profit heart, our school looks to serve children of all income levels, never turning a child away because of money. Learn more at our school website: www.MaxtonStrong.com



MEET OUR KIDS



WHERE OUR KIDS COME FROM

Less than half of our children are true orphans, meaning both of their parents are gone. Most of the remainder have one parent—but all come from destitute conditions, often leaving hunger, abuse or extreme poverty to join our safe and welcoming home. We are not in the business of breaking up families, but when a child is unwanted or in danger, we are happy to open our arms.



OUR FARM

THE KEY TO OUR SELF-SUFFICIENCY



Fifty acres of farmland. A large dairy filled with cows. Two fish ponds stocked to the brim. Clusters of free-range chickens at every turn. It’s all part of our working farm that puts the “agriculture” into the Good Shepherd Agricultural Mission. It’s hard work as every farmer knows, but it provides us with wheat and rice to eat, excess crops to sell, and is another piece of the self-sufficiency we pride ourselves in. From our dahl to our milk to our daily bread, we live off the land and thank God for the bounty it provides us.

OTHER PROJECTS

WHAT ELSE WE ARE INVOLVED IN...



In addition to our orphanage, our school and our farm, the GSAM is always looking outward to serve others in need. We run a leper colony, providing a home, food and dignity to some afflicted individuals. We started a sewing centre where local women can learn new skills and better provide for their families. We also are quick to offer food, rescue and relief whenever our neighbours are in a crisis. It’s all a part of our mission to serve those around us.