



Hot News from the Field, and 3/16 Celebration in DC 🍷

Tue, Mar 12, 2024 at 9:22 PM

Dear Friends,

The heart of our work lies in the field – where the dreams and goals we co-create with local partners take tangible shape. Recent site visits by our Program Director **Surabhi Prabhu** and Program Associate **Carley Salerno** have been a whirlwind of learning, sharing, and fortifying our commitment towards the **UN Sustainable Development Goals** that inspire all our projects. Below is a glimpse into their visits.

Education + vocational/entrepreneurial skills at Vidhyalay Udhyam



The first stop for Surabhi and Carley was at **Vidhyalay Udhyam (VU)** in Udaipur, where education, critical thinking, vocational skills and entrepreneurship training intertwine to empower the next generation. Our team members interacted with the enthusiastic students and educators, experiencing first-hand the dynamic learning environment that VU fosters. Visiting some of the 20 government schools where this project is active, our team was impressed with the way students take charge of their own learning journey. VU is all set to transform learning for over **10,000 students** in three years, using

SoCCs (Social Capital Credits) for encouraging local ownership and responsibility. You can read more about this initiative [HERE](#).

Capacity Building at Mera Gaon Meri Dunia (MGMD)



At **MGMD**, Surabhi and Carley led capacity building sessions, sharing tools and knowledge in crucial areas such as sexual health, financial literacy, grant writing, and leveraging Chat GPT for enhancing program delivery. These discussions will echo through all of MGMD's work. By empowering village youth to take ownership of teaching and learning at local schools, MGMD has successfully transformed **20 villages**, ensuring running water, electricity, and vastly improved educational outcomes. You can read more about this initiative [HERE](#).

Field Visits with VIEWS in Odisha



With our partner **IEWS**, Surabhi and Carley participated in their day-to-day activities, engaging with both the beneficiaries and the diligent staff who drive VIEWS' mission forward. The field visits showcased the practical implementation of our **SoCCs** system, where each individual's contributions to the community are both recognized and rewarded. The palpable sense of ownership the community members have in VIEWS projects, whether in education, health, or vocational training or nutrition gardens, speaks volumes

about the success of participatory development that fosters a strong sense of solidarity and self-reliance among the communities. You can read more about this initiative [HERE](#).



These site visits are more than just check-ins; they are a bridge between design and practice, a chance to listen and learn, and an opportunity to strengthen our partnerships. Surabhi and Carley's experiences, as well as those of our board member Lisa Robins and advisor Anna Rubbo before this, have been filled with stories of resilience, hope, and the wonderful spirit of community development. We're excited to bring these learnings and insights to inform and continuously improve our programs.

**Join us on March 16 in Washington DC
to celebrate our SuperNovas!**

We're excited to be co-sponsoring the first **Supernova Summit** with our partner: **Isn't She Amazing**. This event will honor women who have made a significant impact on the world around them by helping other women. We are delighted that members of the Asia Initiatives family will be honored/featured at

this event including **Kylie Schuyler, Susan Blaustein, Kathy Matsui, Reema Nanavaty and Helen Yang**. You can sign up [HERE](#) to join us at the Dulles Marriott in case you can be in Washington D.C. on March 16. Please also feel free to share this invite with friends there who may be interested.

JOIN US FOR OUR INAUGURAL EVENT

SUPERNOVA SUMMIT

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024 9 AM-2:30 PM
WASHINGTON DULLES AIRPORT MARRIOTT
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH INCLUDED, \$125 PER TICKET

AWARDEES



Susan Blaustein Novita Rumngangun Kylie Schuyler Kathy Matsui Reema Nanavaty Yvonne Aki-Sawyers

PANEL OF EXPERTS



KEYNOTE SPEAKER
MARY GRATE PYOS

Kirsten Dueck
CEO of NESST

Pamela Sams
Behavioral Financial Advisor

Helen Yang
New Horizons Consulting

HOSTS



Geeta Mehta
Co-Founder, Asia Initiatives

Marianne Clyde
Co-Founder, Isn't She Amazing

Lorna Magill
Co-Founder, Isn't She Amazing



Thank you for being part of this journey and for your continued support in making meaningful change!

With renewed enthusiasm,

Geeta and the Asia Initiatives Team

Click [HERE](#) to change a life today!



Asia Initiatives has special consultative status with the
Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC)
of the United Nations



Asia Initiatives is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that promotes sustainable development for underserved communities, with a particular focus on women and their families.

You can contact us at info@AsialInitiatives.org

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