Whole Planet Foundation® (WPF) funds microlending programs in India where Satva Living and Traditional Medicinals source ingredients for their clothing and teas, which are sold in Whole Foods Market® (WFM) stores. WPF is a WFM non-profit whose mission is to alleviate poverty by funding microlending programs where WFM sources products as a way to alleviate poverty and give back to our global communities.

Through the Whole Foods Market Team Member Volunteer Program, WFM gives Team Members the unique opportunity to travel abroad with WPF to learn about WPF, see where and how WFM products are grown, provide community service, experience and learn from other cultures, and challenge themselves by exploring exciting countries around the globe.
WFM TEAM MEMBER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM TRAVEL IN INDIA

**Trip 1**
- Arrive in Mumbai
- Community service at Dreamland children's home in Maharashtra
- WFM supplier partner Satva Living in Rajkot
- Optional trip to Taj Mahal in Agra
- Depart from Delhi
- WPF microlending partner CASHPOR in Varanasi

**Trip 2**
- Arrive and Depart Delhi
- Community service at Anwesha children's home in Agartala, Tripura
- WFM supplier partner Traditional Medicinals in the Thar Desert
- Optional trip to Taj Mahal in Agra
- WPF microlending partner CASHPOR in Varanasi
13 WFM Team Member Volunteers traveled to India to volunteer in an children’s home supported by The Miracle Foundation called Dreamland. This team built a large garden, garden pathways, planted trees and painted murals at the children's home. They visited with microcredit clients of WPF's microlending partner CASHPOR in Varanasi and learned about organic cotton production with Satva who uses it in the creation of their beautiful yoga clothes which are for sale in WFM stores. Team Members learned about Indian culture, food, traditions and dance.

### TEAM TRIP 1 - 2 WEEKS

- Allison Olivier (North Atlantic Region, Wayland Store)
- Carlye Wisliceny (Florida Region, South Beach Store)
- Debra La Belle (Rocky Mountain Region, Park City Store)
- Dena Cherenson (North Atlantic Region, Somerville Store)
- Felicia Renee Bell (Florida Region, Davey Store)
- Francesco Marongiu (United Kingdom, Kensington Store)
- Helen Michaela Peros (Rocky Mountain Region, Colorado Blvd.Store)
- Julianne Wilson (Rocky Mountain Region, Fort Collins Store)
- Matthew Tschimperle (Mid-Atlantic Region, Regional Office)
- Melanie Reinke (Rocky Mountain Region, Pikes Peak Store)
- Philip Laura (South Region, North Carolina Bakehouse)
- Sarah Beecher (Rocky Mountain Region, Highlands Ranch Store)
- Steven Keith Appel (Southern Pacific Region, Las Vegas Boulevard Store)

### GROUP COORDINATOR

Barbara Joubert

### INDIA GUIDES

Barbara Joubert
Snigdha Raha

### PROJECT COORDINATOR

Barbara Joubert

### WFM TEAM MEMBER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM MANAGER

Genie Bolduc
TRIP 1 ITINERARY- 2 WEEKS

Day 1 - Thursday September 10 - Arrive Mumbai
Day 2 - Friday September 11 - Depart Mumbai for Rajkot
Day 3 - Saturday September 12 - Visit with WFM supplier partner Satva Living
Day 4 - Sunday September 13 - Depart Rajkot for Varanasi
Day 5 - Monday September 14 - Dawn boat tour on Ganges, sightseeing
Day 6 - Tuesday September 15 - Visit with WPF micro lending partner CASHPOR, car to Dreamland boy’s home
Day 7 - Wednesday September 16 - Depart Varanasi for Dreamland boy’s home
Day 8 - Thursday September 17 - Community service with The Miracle Foundation at Dreamland boy’s home
Day 9 - Friday September 18 - Community service with The Miracle Foundation at Dreamland boy’s home
Day 10 - Saturday September 19 - Community service with The Miracle Foundation at Dreamland boy’s home
Day 11 - Sunday September 20 - Community service with The Miracle Foundation at Dreamland boy’s home
Day 12 - Monday September 21 - Community service with The Miracle Foundation at Dreamland boy’s home
Day 13 - Tuesday September 22 - Depart for Delhi
Day 14 - Wednesday September 23 - Depart for optional extension to Taj Mahal or home
15 WFM Team Member Volunteers traveled to India to paint and upgrade a resource center in a children’s home supported by The Miracle Foundation in Agartala. They visited with microcredit clients of WPF’s microlending partner CASHPOR in Varanasi and traveled to Jodhpur and then the Thar Desert to learn about senna, which is the herb in Smooth Move tea that Traditional Medicinals sources there that is for sale in WFM stores. Team Members learned about Indian culture, food, traditions and dance.

TEAM TRIP 2 - 3 WEEKS
Elaine Arrowsmith (Pacific Northwest Region, Regional Office)
Francesca di Donato (Northern California Region, Regional Office)
Heather Griffith (Rocky Mountain Region, Sugarhouse Store)
Jaclyn McNulty (Southwest Region, Lamar Store)
Jenni Neu (North Atlantic Region, Regional Office)
Jennifer Huss (Northern California Region, Walnut Creek Store)
Kaitlyn Spink (Mid-Atlantic Region, Foggy Bottom Store)
Kerry Page (Rocky Mountain Region, New Center Point Store)
Leandro Pichardo (Northeast Region, Tribeca Store)
Lindsey Dvorak (Northern California Region, Regional Office)
Melina Montano (Mid-Atlantic Region, Tyson Store)
Nancy LaBreacht (Midwest Region, Park Ridge Store)
Sharyn Clark (Southwest Region, Forest Store)
Sydney Fenelon (Florida Region, Bayhill Store)
Teqwona Roberts (Northeast Region, Bowery Store)

GROUP COORDINATOR
Barbara Joubert

INDIA GUIDES
Barbara Joubert

PROJECT COORDINATOR
Ashvin Mishra

WFM TEAM MEMBER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM MANAGER
Genie Bolduc
2015 INDIA TRIP 2 ITINERARY
OCTOBER 13 - 31

TRIP 2 ITINERARY - 3 WEEKS

Day 1 - Tuesday October 13 - Arrive Delhi
Day 2 - Wednesday October 14 - Leave for Varanasi
Day 3 - Thursday October 15 - Visit with WPF micro lending partner CASHPOR in Varanasi
Day 4 - Friday October 16 - Boat tour on the Ganges Varanasi
Day 5 - Saturday October 17 - Leave Varanasi for Agartala
Day 6 - Sunday October 18 - Community service work at Anwesha children’s home
Day 7 - Monday October 19 - Community service work at Anwesha children’s home
Day 8 - Tuesday October 20 - Community service work at Anwesha children’s home
Day 9 - Wednesday October 21 - Community service work at Anwesha children’s home
Day 10 - Thursday October 22 - Community service work at Anwesha children’s home
Day 11 - Friday October 23 - Depart Agartala for Delhi
Day 12 - Saturday October 24 - Leave Delhi for Jodhpur, attend Rajasthan International Folk Festival
Day 13 - Sunday October 25 - Depart Jodhpur for Bap in the Thar Desert, learn about senna and sand dunes
Day 14 - Monday October 26 - Thar Desert with WFM supplier partner Traditional Medicinals, project at school
Day 15 - Tuesday October 27 - Thar Desert with WFM supplier partner Traditional Medicinals, school fair
Day 16 - Wednesday October 28 - Thar Desert with WFM supplier partner Traditional Medicinals, harvest and taanka digging
Day 17 - Thursday October 29 - Thar Desert with WFM supplier partner Traditional Medicinals, school visit
Day 18 - Friday October 30 - Drive back to Jodhpur
Day 19 - Saturday October 31 - Leave for Delhi and home
The Experience

Attending a center meeting with WPF microlending partner CASHPOR to meet microcredit clients

Boating on the Ganges

Visiting local markets

Taking the boys on an outing

Making new friends

Learning about organic cotton production

Learning about and harvesting Senna
**FOOD**

Team Members were treated to all kinds of delicious Indian food, from eating dishes in the local market from street vendors to food they cooked with the housemothers at the children’s home. They went to local markets and learned about cooking Indian food from the women who cook for the children at the children’s homes.

**TRADITION**

The team got to receive and administer henna tattoos in Varanasi. Team Members boated on the Ganges learning about Hindi funereal traditions and religion. They participated in creating effigies and celebrating Durga Puja at the children’s homes.

**CULTURE**

The team learned about cultural traditions from many parts of India. They got to experience both rural and city life and many of them participated in the optional trip to the Taj Mahal as an opportunity to learn even more about Indian history and culture,
WPF INDIA MICROCREDIT PARTNER
CASHPOR MICRO CREDIT

100%
FEMALE CLIENTS

1M
CASHPOR CLIENTS BY 2017

99.76%
REPAYMENT RATE

History:
CASHPOR began operations in 1996 and CASHPOR Microcredit was started in 2002 as a poverty focused, Not-For-Profit, Section 25 Company, with the undiluted commitment to alleviating poverty through a model which is operationally scalable, financially sustainable and yet socially responsible to clients. The mission of the company is “To identify and motivate Below-Poverty-Line (BPL) women in rural areas and to deliver financial and other vital credit plus services to them in an honest, timely and efficient manner, so that the vision is realized and CASHPOR itself remains a financially sustainable micro finance institution for the poor.”

WPF Partnership:
Whole Planet Foundation began funding CASPOR in 2012 with a 0% interest loan of $1,000,000. In August 2014 WPF extended an additional sub-debt loan equivalent to USD $3.61M to be directed towards the “Income Generating Loan” (IGL) loan pool, establishing 10 new branches, and disbursing a total of 754,816,000 INR to 29,880 new BPL borrowers over the course of three years to help CASHPOR reach their goal of 1,000,000 clients by 2017. Funding is designated as subordinated debt. As subordinated debt, WPF funds will be counted as equity of the company and able to be leveraged 6.7 times in accessing commercial bank loans.

CASHPOR’s Approach:
Effective targeting methods are used to ensure that only BPL women enter into the program. For this, clients are first selected using CASHPOR Housing Index, which has been specifically tailored to suit the economic conditions in India. The clients are further filtered based on Progress out of Poverty scores wherein only those with a score less than 30 are selected for financial assistance. CASHPOR currently operates in states of eastern Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh/Bundelkhand, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Bihar. Joint liability groups form Centers of 15-25 members, and installments of both Interest and Capital are paid weekly/fortnightly/monthly as per choice of the client at center meetings in rural communities. CASHPOR has recently adopted a very innovative mobile technology. The mobile technology is designed to integrate all the microfinance operations into a compact and easy to use interface. Data generated in the field is then immediately sent to the centralized database server at the Varanasi head office.

Besides microfinance activities, the organization also provides clients credit plus services including health and education services. In recognition of his work, Professor David Gibbons has won the Contribution to the Sector by an Individual award at the Access Microfinance Conference 2011. CASHPOR was awarded the Best MFI of the Year in large category in 2012 at the Microfinance India Awards.

www.cashpor.in/
Community

Team Members got to learn about village life by walking through the village to client homes, engaging with client families and community members. They got to learn about day to day operations, the long days of hard work that CASHPOR staff invests in their microcredit clients and the mobile applications that create efficiencies to help them better serve the people whose lives are changing through access to microcredit.

Center Meetings

They attended center meetings to learn about solidarity groups, the procedure of a center meeting and the process of securing and repaying a loan.

Time with CashPOR Staff

Team Member volunteers spent time with CASHPOR staff learning about microfinance methodology and how they recruit new members and administer loans.

Visiting Microentrepreneurs

Team Members visited individual microcredit clients at their businesses where they got to ask questions and learn about the clients’ successes and challenges.

Payment Books

Team Member volunteers learned about payment books that microcredit clients keep and how they are maintained in the process of getting a microloan and repaying it. In person, they witnessed the pride of the women in their businesses.

Learning About Their Businesses

Volunteers met several different clients with various businesses to better understand the diversity of microentrepreneurial activities and learned about mobile banking that helps the clients and staff by making the process simpler and more seamless.
The Miracle Foundation is a nonprofit organization that brings life-changing care to the world’s orphans.

Helping people help themselves is the most sustainable way to affect real change. That’s why we focus on strengthening existing institutions and giving purposeful employment to local people in need of work. Together with our supporters, we transform local orphanages into homes, provide clean water and quality healthcare, and fund scholarships for education. Our goal is to have each orphan become a healthy, happy, income-producing person - and break the cycle of poverty.

Our approach empowers donors, caregivers and children. It’s transforming. It’s measurable. It’s proven.

And it works miracles.

Caroline Boudreaux
Founder
The Miracle Foundation

www.miraclefoundation.org
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS
When Team Member volunteers visit one of The Miracle Foundation children’s homes, they become Ambassadors, able to speak on behalf of not only the children, but also the work of The Miracle Foundation. The children have a chance to host visitors in their own home and the quality time spent together daily gives the children, TMs and housemothers memories they will never forget. The Team Member volunteers leave India with strong bonds to the children and an entirely new perspective on life.

PLAY
It is a child’s right to play, and Team Member volunteers bring hours of fun to the children in the Dreamland and Anwesha children’s homes during their visits. Crafts, dancing, sports, games, painting and reading are all part of a typical day with the kids of a Miracle Foundation-supported children’s home. Play is important for the development of the children and the creativity and variety of play that Team Members bring to that play is invaluable.

LEARN
The volunteers are always eager and ready to learn about local culture and India brings opportunity at every turn. Team 1 was lucky enough to visit India on the auspicious day of the Lord Ganesh, one of over 3 million gods worshipped by Hindus. They joined a procession of worshipers walking the deity to the river for submersion, a very holy offering in this part of India and saw Aarti in the Ganges.

SHARE
Team 2 visited Agartala during one of the biggest festival days of the year, Durga Puja (Festival of Durga). Not only did the team visit with locals while viewing the many pandals, a structure built to hold the deities, but they also helped the children at the children’s home to decorate their own pandal and build a replica of the demon Ravan, which was then burned. This opportunity allowed the children another important right, the right to religious expression of their choice.
WFM funded rebuilding a kitchen, storage, and dining space for 70 children and staff. This new hygienic facility ensures that the kids are getting healthy meals served hot by their housemothers in a dining room that allows them to eat in small family groups. The attached kitchen means that the women cooking for them do not have to walk through monsoon rains to the storage area or to deliver the huge pots of food. The new gas stoves means they also do not have to suffer eye injury due to smoky conditions and they even have bench tops so they do not have to work bending over much of the time.

Volunteers spent time at Miracle Foundation children's homes where they:

- Built a large garden area with plantings, new trees, paved walkways, large sitting benches, and even refurbished an old iron piece to create an arbor.
- Planted over 100 new bougainvillea plants along the boundary wall to add much needed ground cover and color to their property.
- Painted the entire front side of a boys' dorm with fun cartoon characters and bright motifs to bring much needed color to their space.
- Repurposed a large garden shed to become a library and resource center with new lighting, a new roof, new flooring, furniture, colorful murals, bookshelves, books, games, sports equipment and more.
- Directed craft hour daily making personalized bracelets, snowflakes made of popsicle sticks for our donors, and personalized their own polaroid photo.
- Decorated a pandal at Anwesha (already in there)
- Built a 40-ft effigy of Ravan at Anwesha.
- Adorned 16 small girls for the day of Durga Puja.
- Took the 75 kids of Dreamland on a 5 hour bus tour to the famous UNESCO World Heritage site Ajanta Caves and had an overnight stay.
- Cooked an Italian meal for the women at Dreamland to enjoy
- Rolled countless chapatti and roti as well as sliced hundreds of vegetables using a traditional method.
- Took the 49 kids of Anwesha on a tour of the other pandals in their city.
- Built a temporary pizza oven and made hundreds of slices of pizza for a picnic with the kids and staff.

There is no end to the fun the team had with the children.

Meeting the children for the first time.

TMs joined a parade through the village to celebrate Ganesha and respect greatly the housemothers who care for the children.

THE MIRACLE FOUNDATION
DESIGNING AND BUILDING THE WALKWAY TOGETHER

THE MURALS
Satva's Story:

Satva is an organic GOTS certified lifestyle and apparel brand based in New York City with roots deep in the farmlands of India. “Purity extends throughout my company’s values, from the non-GMO cotton used in our active clothing, to the pure commitment of our India Give Back program. I wanted to make organic lifestyle wear stylish and affordable, while helping to change social and economic issues plaguing India’s organic agricultural communities,” Co-founder Puja Barar explains.

Satva is a Sanskrit word that means purity, and represents a state of mind in which the mind is steady, calm and peaceful. A portion of every sale is given back to Satva’s partner farmers of India where the cotton is produced. These farmers are trained to farm organically, using non-GMO seeds, practice all natural growing methods, and earn more revenue in comparison to most Indian cotton farmers – a significant impact for an industry plagued by extreme poverty. Proceeds are also used to create educational scholarships for deserving girls in the farming communities to combat the growing dropout rate due to high transportation costs.

https://youtu.be/tzHkyvcl77c
https://www.satvaliving.com
WHOLE FOODS MARKET TM VOLUNTEERS COME TO THE SATVA PARTNER FARMS
Co-founders Puja Barar and Sameer Mehra launched Satva three years ago with a vision of making a deeper impact on our global community – and the impact starts in India with Satva’s partner farmers who grow their organic cotton, and their families as well. Team Members traveled to Gujrat, India to get a deeper look into the organic farming practices and the scholarship program that Satva is supporting in their partner farmers’ communities and got a peek into what Satva is all about, from seed to shirt.

CULTURAL INTEGRATION IN RAJKOT
The team also headed to Rajkot, where they were taken for a tour around the area to get an understanding of the local Gujarati traditions – from food to textile to local dress, and a turban welcome ceremony!

ORGANIC COTTON FARM VISIT IN LAKHACHOKIYA
The team traveled to the farm village of Lakhachokiya where they met and interacted with the organic cotton farmers. The farmers wholeheartedly welcomed their guests by sharing tea as well as their traditional customs and day to day farming practices. The farmers gave the Team Members a deeper understanding into their organic farming practices, from the usage of on-farm resources and how organic agriculture promotes ecological balance biodiversity, to visiting the actual fields to see the natural growing tools and materials that the farmers are using in their organic farming systems.

CULTURAL INTEGRATION IN RAJKOT
The volunteers met the girls of the Satva Blossoms for Change program, the recipients of Satva’s latest scholarship program to support the education of the daughter of the farmers. The reality in the farming area is that 60% of farmers’ daughters are forced to drop out of school by 8th grade due to costs that are too great for their families to cover. Satva launched the Blossoms for Change program to keep the farmers daughters in school. The team members heard about they girls’ school experience and their professional dreams.
For nearly forty years, we've been passionate about connecting people with the power of plants. What makes us different? The quality of our herbs, our trained herbalists, and our values. We're committed to using high quality pharmacopoeial grade herbs and embracing ingredient purity, sustainability, and social and environmental activism. We were and are pioneers in the wellness tea categories and will continue to lead the way.

We don't just make formulas because they sound good. We're passionate about passing along the centuries-old wisdom of how to use plants for wellness. Every tea and herbal product that we make must have sufficient evidence of safety, quality and efficacy in support of our claim statements and formulation rationale.

We're serious about sustainability. From our certified organic and non-GMO ingredients to our commitment to renewable energy, we represent the vanguard of environmental and social responsibility. In all we do, we strive to uphold the three pillars of sustainability: environmental protection, social equity, and economic viability.

We are committed to annual sustainability reporting, which allows assessment and rating by independent sustainability organizations. Our sustainability performance is being measured using metrics and standards developed by B Lab, the California Green Business Program, the Green America Green Business Network, and the Sustainable Food Trade Association. While sourcing more than 100 botanicals from more than 25 countries around the globe, our company works to support social justice and environmental health – from collection to cultivation to consumption. Our ultimate goal is to help transform the commerce of herbs by supporting ethical and sustainable trade at every point of the value chain. Progress to date moves us toward a long-term goal of achieving full ingredient sustainability by our 50th anniversary in 2024, if not sooner. That includes the goal of 100 percent certified organic, fair trade, FairWild® and Non-GMO Project verified ingredients, as well as biodegradable, compostable and recyclable packaging.

http://www.traditionalmedicinals.com
Volunteers spent time with Traditional Medicinals in the Thar Desert where they:

**John Elstrott School:**
- Visited the John Elstrott School, now with over 450 children in attendance
- Visited classroom at the school where they taught students a variety of subjects (ranging from the hokey pokey to math!)
- Donated sports equipment to the Elstrott school

**Hygiene Camp:**
- Assisted in the organization and implementation of a hygiene camp at a primary school
- Taught 75 students how to practice good hygiene.
- Gave demonstrations and helped students learn to: brush their teeth, wash hands and wash faces
- Painted classrooms
- Played cricket with the children

**Taanka Digging:**
- Split into 4 groups and visited households that would be receiving taankas (water storage tanks) through the Revive project
- Began the construction process by digging (as deep as 3 feet and as wide as 10!) and removing sand, using traditional tools
- Helped the families significantly as it saves them precious time they do not have to spend on the construction process

**School fair:**
- Helped to organize a school wide fair for children from two schools located in Khara village
- Helped paint signs, organized games, judged a henna competition
- Played cricket with the students

**Self Help Group Market Readiness Training:**
- Learned from a Delhi based designer focused on ethical trade, about artisan training and linking women in the Thar Desert to the international market place for selling handicrafts
- Attended a mini training where female community members came together to learn about bracelet making
- Worked with female community members to collaboratively make a bracelet(s)
HARVESTING
Traditional Medicinals sources senna for their Smooth Move tea that is sold in WFM stores from the Thar Desert and the team got to help with harvesting the senna to experience firsthand what it is like to participate in the senna production process.

TAANKA DIGGING
Team Members learned about the direct impact that a new water system called a taanka makes in the lives of women in the desert and learned about rainwater collection ponds. They also got to experience the difficulty of digging a taanka by helping to start digging one. Families are selected based on the greatest need. Some female members in these households currently walk up to 6 hours per day to collect water. This burden will be completely removed with the construction of a taanka.
**VISITING A WOMAN’S KITCHEN**

The volunteers were invited into homes by women who have been recipients of a taanka, to learn about their lives and the challenges and joys of living in the Thar Desert and the difference in their lives from before and after receiving a taanka.

**SCHOOL FAIR**

Team Members participated in judging a henna contest, handing out eyeglasses to students and playing games including cricket.

**SELF HELP GROUP MARKET READINESS TRAINING**

The volunteers learned from a designer focused on ethical trade about artisan training and linking women in the Thar Desert to the international market place for selling handicrafts. They met with community members who came together to learn about bracelet making and worked with female community members to collaboratively make a bracelet(s).
JENN
“One of the woman who is a micro loan recipient had her first working bathroom! It was great seeing it, and how proud they were sowing us the loans that they had paid off. The strengths these women have are beyond words!”

NANCY
“There was such a reverence in the room of women sitting with their papers and pencils to discuss their loans. And the pride of their accomplishments could be seen on their faces as they spoke about paying off their loans and applying for another to build their businesses. I also was struck by the fact that this forum is one of the only places where women can come together in a sense of community outside their homes.”

MELANIE
“What an amazing trip! It is hard to describe in words the wonderful and amazing people we met, places we saw, and, most of all, the feelings of a full heart from the children we got to learn and grow with. I am still looking for the words to describe this experience. It will forever change me in ways that I don’t even know yet. It already has by allowing me to see the depths of gratitude and overcoming a underprivileged community can have. It has restored a faith in me that humans can overcome a lot and we are an innovative people when we can get passed the things that in reality don’t mean much.”

JACKLYN
“I will never forget the CASHPOR center meeting with the loan recipients. We were in a two room hut shared with fourteen women, five water buffalo and fourteen WFM TM Volunteers. The buffalo were going to the bathroom right next to us and the ladies held their meeting, which was followed by health education lead by one of the ladies about how to wash your hands and boil water - basic health education that these ladies weren’t familiar with. The WFM TM VP showed me that as suppliers and retailers, we are in a symbiotic relationship, and even the smallest donation and littlest amount of effort can deeply affect many other peoples lives for generations to come.”

HELEN
“As a gardener, I was deeply touched to meet a microcredit client who was making money on her flower plantation. It’s amazing to meet a woman halfway around the world that shares your interests and is makes money doing the same kind of work.”

MATT
“There are not enough words to describe this experience. It has meant everything to me and more. I cannot speak highly enough about this program and how absolutely imperative it is for us all to experience something like this sometime in our lives.”

FRANCESCA
“Profound, once in a lifetime opportunity and experience. So much more than just “travel”. People and places that will live in my heart indefinitely.”

STEVE
“The tour is coming to an end. I am in Agra with six other members of our original group. Losing the others was like losing a part of me. I will be forever grateful to WFM for giving me this opportunity. In my application I wrote that I was ready for the adventure of a lifetime! Whole Foods Market delivered.”
ANONYMOUS

“My trip to India was an amazing, once in a lifetime experience. This trip gave me an in-depth experience that no tourist could create on their own. From visiting microcredit recipients in small villages outside of Varanasi, to playing with the children of Anwesha, to sitting in a woman’s kitchen drinking chai in Baap, these experiences will be with me for the rest of my life.”

NANCY

“Traditional Medicinals is a marvel. To have the access that we did to the women in the Thar Desert seems almost unheard of and that experience definitely made the biggest impact on me during this trip.”

JULIE

“My time at the orphanage exceeded my expectations. We painted a mural, worked on a garden space. The boys worked harder than we did! For everything we gave, they gave us tenfold. It was amazing to take the boys’ vision of what they want at their home and make it a reality. My heart has never been so full. I am so blessed to work for a company that sees the world as a whole and strives to improve it through Whole Planet Foundation. I have met people I would never have had the opportunity to meet without this opportunity through Whole Foods Market.”

ANONYMOUS

“The highlight of the microcredit meeting that we attended was that one of the clients made the final payment on her loan. I felt an amazing sense of pride for her. She also requested to start the process of taking another loan to further expand her business.”

HEATHER

“There will never be enough words of gratitude to express what this experience has meant to me. From the lessons of humanity I will carry for the rest of my life, to the kids, the Indian people and WFM TMs I fell in love with and with whom I made deep connections. It was truly a unique opportunity that would have never happened in my lifetime, if it weren’t for Whole Foods Market.”

MELINA

"Participation with The Miracle Foundation children in Agartala was hands down the best experience of my life."

ANONYMOUS

“Participation with The Miracle Foundation children in Agartala was hands down the best experience of my life.”

JEN

“The experience from start to finish was fantastic. I am thrilled to have had the opportunity to participate in this incredible program. Each element, the other Team Members, the time at the orphanage, the visit with the microcredit clients, the time with the kids and families in the Thar Desert through our partnership with Traditional Medicinals, and all of the cultural experiences, added up to an incredible way to be immersed in a country and culture that I’d never experienced before. Having the chance to really connect with the people in these communities as more than just a tourist helped me to learn more about the country, the culture and myself than I ever imagined a 3 week trip could teach me. I’ve loved working for Whole Foods Market for the past 4 years but the program has truly elevated my dedication and loyalty to an entirely new level. Thank you so much for this incredible opportunity.”

ELAINE

“It was great to witness and attend a micro credit client meeting - the host of the meeting was so proud of her animals (cows) and it was interesting to witness the power of these loans. Also how the management of the repayment occurred, using cell phone technology. The best thing was seeing all these women meeting together, sharing the space and getting business done so efficiently!”
2015 INDIA WFM TMVP IMPACT

- 28 team members traveled to India
- 32 microcredit clients met
- 1 large garden constructed
- 75 students taught good hygiene practices
- Countless hours of play enjoyed
- 1 library and resource center built and decorated

Beautiful murals to bring smiles to children’s faces.