



# 2015 Omprakash Partner Conference

*New Delhi, India*

December 4-6, 2015

## Conference Guidebook



Willy Oppenheim, Executive Director of Omprakash, reconnecting with Omprakash himself in June 2014

Dear Participants,

Welcome to the 2015 Omprakash Partner Conference in New Delhi!

We founded the Omprakash network in 2004 after being inspired by individuals and organizations we met in India. Today, the Omprakash network includes Partner organizations in over 60 countries and thousands of volunteers, donors, and students from around the world, and it is a privilege to return to India for a conference that reflects our core values: human-to-human relationships, mutual learning, critical dialogue, and a commitment to pushing beyond superficial efforts at 'charity' and striving for deeper processes of social change. Thank you for traveling from near and far to join us! We are so glad you are here!

With gratitude,  
The Omprakash Team



## Important conference addresses and phone numbers

### Conference Center Location

Radha Krishna Temple  
Near Phadiwala Grudawara  
Greater Kailash Part I  
New Delhi 110048

### Moustache Hostel Location

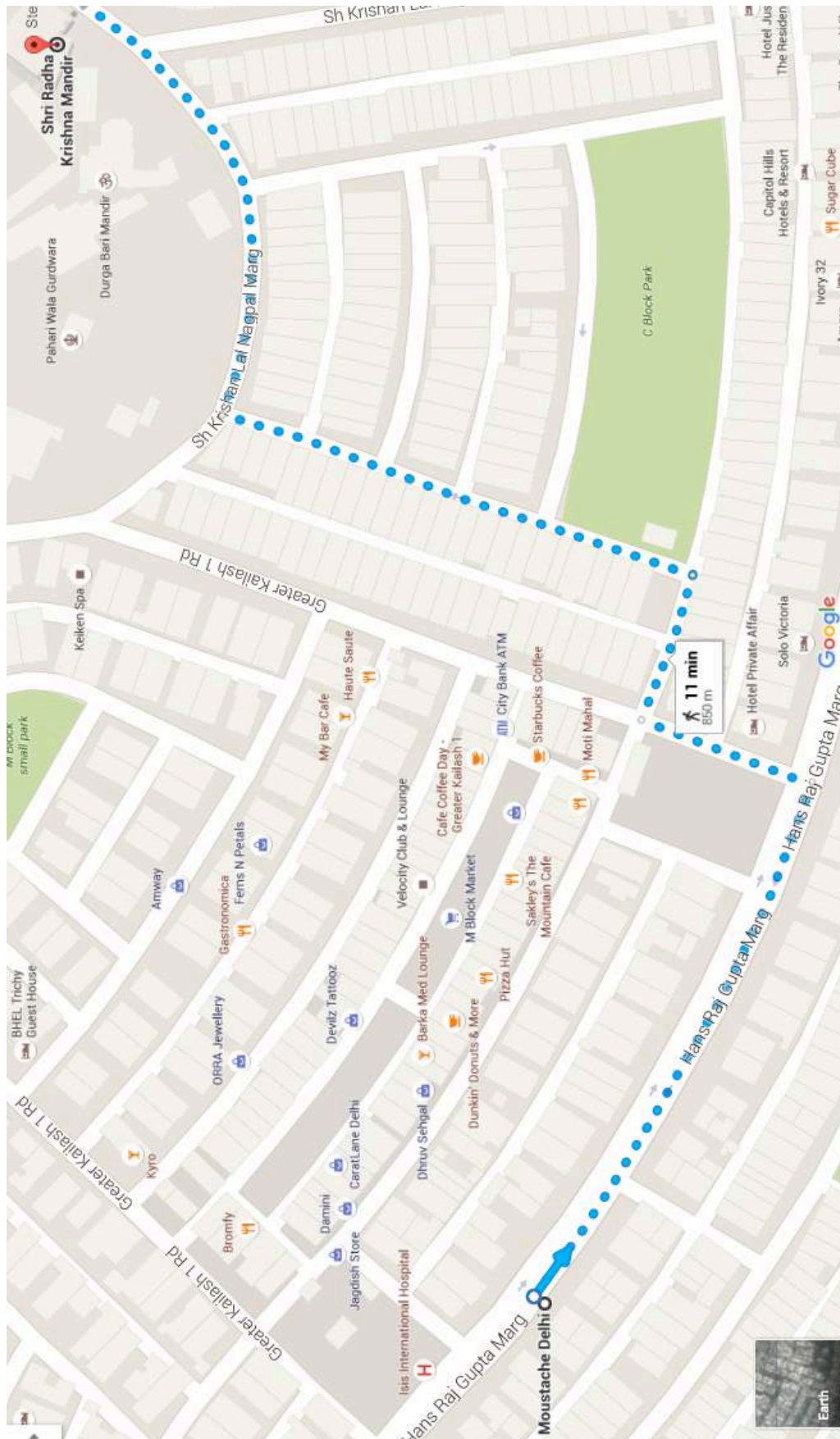
S-25, Greater Kailash 1  
On GK-1 M-block market main road  
Near JHT Hotel  
Phone: 011-40793437

### Omprakash Admin Mobile Number

+91-875-755-1898








## Walking directions between hostel and conference center





Friday December 4th

2015 Omprakash Partner Conference  
New Delhi, India





7:30 AM	Breakfast @ Moustache Hotel	
9:00 AM	Welcome Remarks @ Conference Center	
9:15 AM	Warm Up & Introductions	
10:00 AM	<b>Problems &amp; Possibilities for International Volunteering: Introductory Panel</b>  <i>How can we create mutually beneficial relationships and avoid the many pitfalls of 'voluntourism'?</i>  Featuring: HEALTH Inc.   International Disaster Volunteers   Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement   Project Why  Moderator: Omprakash Team Member	
10:45 AM	Tea Break @ Conference Center	
11:15 AM	<b>Problems &amp; Possibilities for International Volunteering: Developing Action Plans</b>  Facilitators: HEALTH Inc.   International Disaster Volunteers   Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement   Project Why	
12:00 PM	<b>Problems &amp; Possibilities for International Volunteering: Large Group Recap and Discussion</b>  Facilitator: Omprakash Team Member	
12:45 PM	Lunch @ Conference Center	
1:30 PM	Unstructured Time: interviews, website help, brainstorm, etc!	
2:30 PM	<b>Workshop: Risk Management</b>  Facilitator: Vinay Sirsi, NOLS India	
4:00 PM	Tea Break @ Conference Center	
4:30 PM	<b>Workshop: Working with Children &amp; Vulnerable Populations</b>  Facilitators: Project Why   Sevalaya   Parijat   MORE	
6:00 PM	Dinner @ Conference Center	





Saturday December 5th

2015 Omprakash Partner Conference  
New Delhi, India




7:30 AM	Breakfast @ Moustache Hotel		
9:00 AM	Opening Remarks @ Conference Center		
9:15 AM	<b>Power, Privilege, and Politics: Small Group Brainstorming</b> <i>How do grassroots social impact efforts intersect with broader social, political, and economic structures and forces?</i> Facilitators: ITSA   Colorss   ASSCOD		
10:00 AM	<b>Power, Privilege, and Politics: Discussion Panel</b> Featuring: HELP   CURA   BFF   Sparsha Trust Moderator: Angie Tran, CSUMB		
10:45 AM	Tea Break @ Conference Center		
11:15 AM	<b>Power, Privilege, and Politics: Developing Action Plans</b> Facilitators: Waste Warriors   Deep Jyoti		
12:00 PM	<b>Power, Privilege, and Politics: Large Group Recap and Discussion</b> Facilitator: Omprakash Team Member		
12:45 PM	Lunch @ Conference Center (w/ sneakpeak of new website!)		
1:30 PM	Unstructured Time: interviews, website help, brainstorm, etc!		
2:30 PM	<b>Parallel Workshops</b> <b>Ethical and Strategic Considerations for Fundraising</b> (Location TBD) Facilitator: Sevalaya	<b>Social Media and Advocacy</b> (Location TBD) Facilitator: Prayasam	
4:00 PM	Tea Break @ Conference Center		
4:30 PM	<b>Matching Needs with Assets</b> Facilitator: Steve Sclar		





# Sunday December 6th

2015 Omprakash Partner Conference  
New Delhi, India

7:30 AM	Breakfast @ Moustache Hotel	
9:00 AM	Opening Remarks @ Conference Center	
9:15 AM	<b>Documentation, Communication, and Impact: Introductory Panel</b>  <i>What methods of research and advocacy can inform a transition from the superficial provision of social services towards more holistic efforts to drive social change?</i>  Featuring: Prayasam   Sankalp   Lha   People for Parity  Moderator: Nadya Ladouceur, UNB	
10:00 AM	<b>Documentation, Communication, and Impact: Developing Action Plans</b>  Facilitators: Omprakash Team Member	
10:45 AM	Tea Break @ Conference Center	
11:15 AM	<b>Documentation, Communication, and Impact: Large Group Recap and Discussion</b>  Facilitator: Omprakash Team Member	
12:00 PM	Closing Reflections	
12:45 PM	Lunch @ Conference Center	
Then...	Safe travels home & continual dialogue and partnership for social change!	





# Conference Participants

Conference participants have traveled from all over the world to meet together for the third Omprakash Partner Conference, and the first to be held in India.

Participants are representing 26 Omprakash Partner Organizations based in India (21), Nepal (2), China (1), U.K. (1), and Cameroon (1). University representatives, researchers and journalists are also on hand. Please read through the participant bios below to gain a sense of our esteemed company!



## Nadya Ladouceur

University of New Brunswick, Renaissance College

Nadya is the Experiential Education Coordinator for Renaissance College, University of New Brunswick, where she oversees the international internship program. A native of Montréal, she was actively involved in social justice movements and popular education in Quebec before moving to New Brunswick. Nadya is currently the Chair of the Atlantic Council for International Cooperation and is involved locally with a group of landless gardeners. Nadya loves traveling and learning about new cultures and traditions. She taught for two years at the Royal University of Bhutan and traveled to different parts of the world.



## Anamica Gauchan

HELP Nepal

Having her ancestral roots from Mustang, Anamica strongly believes in the core development of health and education. Being a student of Health Care Management affiliated to Pokhara University, she joined HELP in order to be a catalyst in the education sector of the rural areas of Nepal. Before joining HELP, she worked as an Administrative Assistant in the American Mission Association c/o American Embassy, Kathmandu, Nepal. She has also done freelancing in editing and translation including Documentary movies.







## Chiring Lama

### HELP Nepal

Chiring is a founding member of HELP and has been actively involved since its beginning; also, having volunteered at HELP for a year and a half. Prior to joining HELP, he ran a small IT related business which he sold to devote his time to develop Helambu communities; something which he felt held a much greater value. As the Operations Manager for HELP, he works to recruit teachers, oversee building development, supply school materials and handle volunteers. Chiring is also the Chairman of Nurbling School. He has been instrumental in developing this small school into one of the thriving schools in the region.



## Mr. K. Loganathan

### Association for Sustainable Community Development

Mr. K. Loganathan is the Executive Director of ASSCOD. He has been in the development sector for the last 27 years. He has vast experience in implementing result oriented development projects that include women empowerment, microfinance, entrepreneurship development, livelihood skills promotion etc.,. He attended a number of conferences/workshops both national and International level.



## Mr. E. Elumalai

### Association for Sustainable Community Development

Mr. Elumalai is a senior grassroot level development worker and he has vast experience in organising Community Based Organisations and building their capacities.





## Angie Ngoc Tran

California State University, Monterey Bay

I am interested in crossing boundaries, because it facilitates deeper understanding and actions for justice. As an activist scholar, I strive to give voice to workers by analyzing over 100 years of labor movements and resistance in Vietnam. My 2013 book uses race, class and gender analyses to demonstrate how workers mobilize and resist using their cultural identities, class and law. My ongoing work and publications include Vietnamese workers in South-South migration, focusing on gender, race/ethnicity and religion; and critical analysis of corporate social responsibility. This semester, I'm teaching a service learning class entitled: "Sweat, Service and Solidarity" in which my students have been working with labor unions and organizations in the Monterey Bay Peninsula area to address economic justice issues. We also examine cases of global labor solidarity on shared causes. At CSUMB, I'm active in our faculty union (serving as secretary of the local), in solidarity with other campus unions. I'm developing global service learning opportunities in Vietnam and look forward to collaborating with Omprakash and its global partners to expand these opportunities for our students and colleagues.



## Mr. Raja

Madurai Health and Leprosy Relief Centre

M.Sc, M.Phil- National Programme Coordinator of Madurai Health and Leprosy Relief centre. He is working from 2008 age 32. His work is programme arrangement and management, communication, fundraising, volunteer management, report preparation, social media management, blog management etc.



## Mr. Sankar

Madurai Health and Leprosy Relief Centre

M.Sc, Photography, Programme report preparation, public relations





## Vivek

### Waste Warriors

Vivek first came to volunteer with Jodie in May 2010 and kept volunteering whenever he could spare the time. He became the first Himachali to join our team full time in June 2014. His immense respect and love for the mountains and his enthusiasm for hiking is appreciated by the whole team. Vivek's infectious personality makes him a big hit with the volunteers.



## Shraddha

### Waste Warriors

Shraddha has graduated with a bachelors degree in Agriculture and a MBA in marketing and finance. She has 3 years experience of working with a non-profit in the sectors of green architecture, urban development and environmental planning. She joined Waste Warriors in August 2014 and helps in organising and administering all the projects and activities for Waste Warriors in Dehradun.



## Vinay Sirsi

### NOLS India

Vinay has been a NOLS Instructor since 1998 and has taught leadership & expeditioning in various parts of the world. With a MS in outdoor education and business, he has worked with young adults, top executives, corporations, disadvantaged youth & NASA astronauts. He resides in Bangalore, India and currently helps with program development for NOLS India.





## Eldred Tellis

### Sankalp Rehabilitation Trust

Mr. Eldred Tellis is Founder Trustee of Sankalp Rehabilitation Trust, which has been working among drug users since 1995. The main activities of Sankalp Rehabilitation Trust relate to Harm Reduction among Injecting Drug Users. Mr. Tellis has been working in the field of Drug Abuse treatment and HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support since 1984. He has been a freelance consultant with agencies like WHO, UNAIDS and EC regionally and internationally.



## Jamshir Bagwadia

### Sankalp Rehabilitation Trust

Jamshir is presently working as Counsellor cum Administrator at Sankalp Rehabilitation Trust. He has a degree in Public Relations and has had a career in the related field before joining the Social sector.



## Ms. Anupriya Suresh

### Sevalaya

Anupriya is in charge of the homes run by Sevalaya - freehomes for destitute children and senior citizens, Kitchen and medical centre. Having done Masters in Social Work, she has a rich experience in working in the NGO sector and has been with Sevalaya since 2013.





## Ms. Bhuvaneswari Muralidharan

### Sevalaya

Bhuvaneswari Muralidharan is the Hony. correspondent of Sevalaya. A commerce graduate, she has been associated with Sevalaya since its inception. She coordinates the administration of the organisation.



## Mr. Prabin Kumar

### Deep Jyoti

Mr Prabin Kumar Ghimire is graduated and 15 years working experience in NGO sector in Nepal and India. He is from Nepal and has been working in India for 8 years. He is specialist of child education. He is co director of Deep Jyoti working in Bihar India.



## Mr. Chandan Kumar

### Deep Jyoti

Mr Chandan Kumar Choudhary is graduated, 12 years working experience in NGO in India. He is specialist of child education. He is co director of Deep Jyoti working in Bihar India.



## Ms. Sindhu Suresh

### Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement

Ms. Sindhu Suresh is a post graduate in Economics and also a Law graduate. She has been associated with SVYM since 2005. Working with the youth and women has been a passion for her. She is serving in various committees with regard to women issues. Presently the Director of Vivekananda Institute of Indian Studies of SVYM. She has worked with more than 15 universities, mostly USA and Canada for Study Abroad Programs since 2008.





## Prasad Aluganti

### Movement for Rural Emancipation (MORE)

Prasad is director of Movement for Rural Emancipation (MORE) since 1999. He has over 3 decades experience in social development. Has worked with SOS Children's Villages and ActionAid. His professional interests are developing life skills among children and promoting Human Rights along with marginalised people. His personal interests are trekking and meeting people.



## Piyali Mazumdar

### Salt Lake City Prayasam

Brought up in Bombay, Piyali devoted her time guiding mainstream children so that they could overcome their apathy for school education. A favourite teacher Piyali decided to join Prayasam in the year 2001 and made her presence felt in the organization by convincing specially the bureaucrats and corporate big shots to become more sincere and patient while they are dealing with children's issues. Piyali holds the post of Director in Prayasam. Piyali presents the work of Prayasam at different regional, national or international level workshops, consultations, summits, to different financial institutions, business houses, libraries, consulates, etc. In the year 2009 she presented her paper on problems of Migrant Child Labor and the way to tackle their problems in Mahatma Gandhi Labour Institute, Gujarat, India. In October 2007, Piyali was invited by the Women Deliver to attend the Global Conference on Innovations for an Urban World in London. She also attended the Knowledge Exchange workshops organized by Global Fund for Children held in Delhi and Kathmandu in 2012 and in 2015.



## Gopinath R.

### Sparsha Trust

Mr. Gopinath, Managing Trustee of Sparsha Trust is basically from a village, agricultural family background near Kolar, Karnataka. Done his Master of Social Work in 2004 and involved himself in social activities from his school days, undergone various social threats from his childhood which made him to build a strong organisation to get every child back to school. From 2009, more than 2500 children are rescued and rehabilitated. State Government has recognised and awarded as Best NGO for the year 2014. Sri Sri Award has been honoured in the year 2013 as a Best social worker by Art of Living Team. Mr. Gopinath also attended National and International Seminars and Conferences. Sparsha Trust is now constructing 'Nisarga Grama' a Small Children University for Street Children.





## Saptarshi Ray

### Salt Lake City Prayasam

Saptrashi has been selected as one of the Lead Educators by the Adobe Youth Voices (AYV). There are 75 Lead Educators in this whole world. AYV Educators enhance their teaching strategies, gain new skills, and collaborate with like-minded educators and youth media experts to enable young people to express themselves using digital tools and to create media with a personally meaningful purpose. In the year 2013 he participated in the AYV summit in Santa Clara University, California with two of his mentees. In 2015, Prayasam's Social Media Sector, which Saptarshi heads, bagged Creative Catalyst Award from Adobe. Saptarshi's Scetor now boasts of a well equipped Film and Sound studio. A regular trainer for Meena Communication and Research Initiative Trainings in Shishu Shiksha Kendras and Madrasahs in Purulia, Malda, Murshidabad and Bankura, An initiative taken by Panchayat and Rural Development Deptt. GOWB and UNICEF. A regular trainer of the Cluster Coordinators of the Upper Primary Schools in 8 districts of West Bengal by UNICEF and PBRSSM, Govt. Of West Bengal. A Master Trainer in Comics. Saptarshi has under gone Theatre of the Oppressed Trainings by the Abhivyakti Media for Development, Maharashtra. His Behavioral Approach Trainings (Life Skill + Soft Skill) are being taken under the guidance of his mentor Amlan Kusum Ganguly. He is the Chief Facilitator for Life Skill to the Students of Nabadisha Schools run by Kolkata Police.



## Pawan Thapa

### Himalayan Media Welfare Society

Founder and President of HMWS



## Tufan Subba

### Himalayan Media Welfare Society

Volunteer & Program Coordinator of HMWS







## Aditya Gupta

### People for Parity Foundation

Aditya Gupta is the Co-Founder of People For Parity (PFP). Aditya is a young social entrepreneur working to challenge gender-based violence (GBV). Prior to starting this initiative, Aditya has had rich and diverse learning experiences working as a management consultant in the private education sector with The Parthenon Group and as a consultant of mobile technology for farmers in East Africa with TechnoServe. Bringing these together with his passion for the cause and his education as a Computer Engineer (IIT Delhi), Aditya has been a keymember of both the Pratiti (gender program) and Pukar (technology) initiatives at PFP.



## Arushi Mittal

### People for Parity Foundation

Arushi Mittal is also the Co-Founder of PFP. Arushi is a graduate from IIT Delhi and has valuable experience of working with young entrepreneurs at Be! Fund. She has experience of working on scale development projects with CFBI in the area of vocational training and Sir Ratan Tata Trust in Maharashtra. She is also highly skilled in and passionate about street theatre. Arushi has played a pivotal role in PFP's growth and successfully led partnership development for Pukar, PFP's very own GBV reporting mobile App, with the police of 2 different states. She has also developed into a powerful gender facilitator and is passionate about working with school children on gender.



## Somesh Menon

### People for Parity Foundation

Somesh S. Menon works as Program Do-er Officer at PFP. He combines diverse educational experiences with an inherent passion for social change. Having graduated in Journalism before pursuing a Masters in Development from Azim Premji University, he has worked with grassroots organizations as well as research bodies in finding solutions to various developmental problems. Somesh worked with the Government of Gujarat's Department of Higher Education prior to joining PFP.





## Mr. Lobsang Rabsel

Lha Charitable Trust

Mr. Lobsang Rabsel is the Deputy Director of the organisation and he has been serving the organisation since 1998.



## Mr. Demey Tsering

Lha Charitable Trust

Mr. Demey Tsering is the Environment and Health project officer. He joined the organisation in 2014.



## Lobsang Thupten

Educational Support Tibet

My name is Lobsang Thupten and I am Tibetan. I came to India in 1998. After that I joined T.C.V (Tibetan Children's Village) Suja School. After completing class X from Suja School, I studied Social Relations and Computer at Mother's International School in Delhi. I have been working as a Director of Kunpan Cultural School of E.S. Tibet for last couples years.



## Pema Tashi

Educational Support Tibet

My name is Pema Tashi and I was born in Tibet. I came to India as a refugee in the year of 2007. After that I joined T.T.S (Tibetan Transit School) .T.T.S is where I started to learn English. I joined Kunpan Cultural School in 2013 and did my further English study for last two years. Now I am working as project manager at Kunpan Cultural School of E.S. Tibet. Tashi Delek.





## R. Ramaswamy

### Indian Social Service Institute (ISSI)

Executive Director of ISSI. Professionally qualified in communication and management of welfare agencies. 20 years of experience in development projects. Master trainer and IEC expert in water and sanitation.



## R. Mariagracy

### Indian Social Service Institute (ISSI)

Program Director of ISSI. Master degree in Sociology and master degree in Philosophy. 12 years of experience in women and child development and health programs.



## Mark L. Takefman

### Chengdu Urban Rivers Association

Mark has worked in business development and administration for over 30 years and has been an organizational development consultant in the non-profit sector in Canada, the USA, India and China for over two decades. He has sat on community service committees in Canada and the US as well as being a volunteer for many other organizations. During his career he has been involved with various business modalities such as being the Chief Financial Officer for Zogby International, in Utica, N.Y., and as consultant researcher to The New World Foundation, New York, N.Y., Executive Director of The Milkweed Foundation, Cooperstown, N.Y. You can view his full resume at <http://takefmanresume.blogspot.com/> As an Organizational Advisor in the citizen sector (non-profits) Mark conducted workshops and training courses, mentored staff and lead expeditions. He presently is working with the Chengdu Urban Rivers Association in Chengdu, China as organizational adviser and project leader.





## Uttam Teron

### Parijat Academy

Uttam Teron, Founder Parijat Academy, is running a school for the underprivileged children. The school started in 2003 with four children with his Rupees 800 (US \$12) with a desk and bench, bamboo wall and a blackboard. The school provides free education. Now there are 540 children studying from Nursery to class 10. There are now 23 teachers. Besides education, older girls learn sewing work as vocational training and has loom for older girls that they can weave clothes.



## Lama Pasang Gurung

### Himalayan Children Care Home & Environment Conservation

Founder and Chairman of Himalayan Children Care Home & Environment Conservation Program in Pokhara, Nepal.



## Chime Rinzin

### Himalayan Children Care Home & Environment Conservation

Assistant Secretary of Himalayan Children Care Home & Environment Conservation Program in Pokhara, Nepal.



## Franziska Weissoertel

### Better Family Foundation Cameroon

Franziska has been working with BFF since 2013, mostly on environmental projects. She did her Bachelor in Geography and is now doing her Masters program in Environmental Planning and Engineer Ecology at TU München. She is also the BFF representative in Germany.





## LaShabriel Keys

### International Disaster Volunteers

LaShabriel Keys is currently Joint Operations Manager and Volunteer Coordinator in Nepal with International Disaster Volunteers. She is a retired Personal Chef and Grant Writer.



## Chris Phillips

### International Disaster Volunteers

Mr. Phillips is currently Joint Operations Manager in Nepal with International Disaster Volunteers. Previously, he was a communications project manager and video producer with ICF International in Washington D.C. Before that, he taught English in Brazil, China, and Slovakia. He holds an M.S. In International Development and Certificate in Disaster Resilience Leadership from Tulane University.



## Neil E. Guidry

### Louisiana Himalaya Association

President / Founding Member - Louisiana Himalaya Association  
Professor - Tulane School of Social Work, New Orleans Louisiana



## Cynthia Hunt

### HELP Fund - HEALTH Inc

Cynthia Hunt is the partnership coordinator for the HELP Fund, HEALTH Inc and CHAI and lives and works in Leh, Ladakh. She facilitates remote village projects supporting health, environment and literacy serving over 125,000 Ladakhis.





## Chetan Angchok

HELP Fund - HEALTH Inc

Chetan Angchok is a primary school teacher and senior resource person for the Department of Education in Leh District, Ladakh and an Executive Board Member for HEALTH Inc.



## Phuntsog Dolma

HELP Fund - HEALTH Inc

Phuntsog Dolma is a volunteer coordinator and member of HEALTH Inc. She is particularly interested in creating more meaningful exchanges for both young volunteers and their host placements, especially with the growing demand for young people to have volunteer opportunities listed on college applications. She is also a businesswoman and the manager of a guest house in Leh.



## Anand Koti

Colorss Foundation

A man of many mantles, Anand Koti likes to identify himself as a social entrepreneur. His vision of combining his 17 years of practice and 9 years of providing professional training in martial arts with his dream of building a better world for women and children to live in was what gave rise to his own personal dream. He strongly believes: 'every problem has a solution'. He provides unique workshops to corporates and individuals which has a combination of martial arts and spirituality through his company 'Anand Koti' [www.anandkoti.com](http://www.anandkoti.com). A graduate in Industrial Psychology from MSU, he also holds twin Masters in Industrial Relations and Personnel Management from Bhavan's College of Communication and Management & Health and Hospital Management from Symbiosis Centre of Health Care. Trained by Senzi Pervez Mistri, he is a martial-arts professional, having a second degree Black-belt in Karate and a green belt in Kobudo (weapon systems). Through his various social and humanitarian causes, workshops and a project extremely close to his heart, the Colorss Foundation, Anand Koti has had a positive impact on more than 1000 lives in the past six years. He has trained 850 women and children, out of which 45 children have been differently-abled.





## Salim Shekh (Conference Videographer)

### Prayasam

One day, 9-year-old Salim Shekh was walking home from school when he was asked to join his friend's crusade to increase polio vaccinations in their community of Rishi Aurobindo Colony, one of 6,500 communities in Kolkata, India. This fateful day led Salim to join Prayasam, a non-profit organization that teaches children in communities to become peer leaders and educators in order to serve their communities. Seven years later, Salim has helped increase polio vaccinations in his neighborhood from 25% to 85%. He has also elevated awareness about his community's dire need for local access to clean drinking water, improved sanitation, and preventative health education. Now 17-years-old, Salim has called upon his public speaking skills to highlight his social causes in forums ranging from the Indian Parliament, to Columbia University, to a TEDx Talk with Melinda Gates. At the Parliament, Salim talked about the Community Map project and how they were now using smartphones to conduct surveys. He also accompanied Prayasam to South Africa and other foreign shores to tell his dreams to be unique – different from everyone around him. He also realized that it is necessary for an individual to acquire various skills throughout the course of one's life. These thoughts provided an incentive for him to learn something new. Salim is now a full-fledged film maker his 6th film Aste Ladies has been chosen by the Cine Central to be screened in the forthcoming International Children's Film Festival at Nandan starting from 17th of July. Salim bagged first division in his Higher Secondary this year and aspires to be a lawyer.



## Mili Roy (Conference Videographer)

### Prayasam

Mili Roy, Project Associate, had joined Prayasam in 2013. For two years, she has worked in the communities located in fringe areas of Salt Lake City to facilitate the activities of the child leaders and area health minders who live there. She has been trained in facilitation skill and alternative communication media like comics, theater of the oppressed, role play and poster making. She has facilitated in numerous lifeskill education trainings organized by organizations like World Vision India, Loreto India, Lutheran World Service (L). She is working in the documentation sector and her job responsibilities include survey, data collection and compilation, field reporting, process documentation, blogging, monitoring and evaluation and visual and non-visual documentation.







## Binti Shah

### Independent Thought and Social Action International

Binti Shah is the Executive Director of Independent Thought and Social Action International, an education reform nonprofit focused on implementing inquiry-based education in schools. Binti is a social and educational entrepreneur with over twenty years of experience in diverse and innovative educational environments. Over her career, she has served as the founder of an elementary school, curriculum developer and consultant, teacher, staff trainer, elementary school principal, and executive administrator. In each of these roles she has maintained a strong commitment to progressive educational pedagogy, attention to individual student development, and community inclusion. Binti believes in the inculcation of critical thinking skills and a passion for social innovation from a young age. She has worked with families and other organizations with Indian and American NGOs which strive to improve social equity and encourage critical thinking in formal and informal settings. She also advises a start-up which serves as an incubator to students who wish to start their own social action projects to better their communities.



## Nina Hall

### Hertie School of Governance

Nina Hall is a post-doctoral fellow at the Hertie School of Governance. Her research explores how international organizations, many of which were created in the post WWII era, are evolving in the 21st century to deal with climate change. Nina completed a doctorate in International Relations at the University of Oxford. She previously worked for the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with UNICEF Nepal and the UN Department of Political Affairs in New York. Nina completed a Masters in Political Studies at the University of Auckland, New Zealand, looking at the pursuit of gender equality in East Timor. She has an ongoing research interest in transnational activism on the environment and social-justice.





## Sarah Afraz

### Centre for Social Impact and Philanthropy, Ashoka University

Sarah is the Manager of Strategy and Programs at Centre for Social Impact and Philanthropy at Ashoka University. Sarah was a Teach For India fellow, having taught for two years in two low-income schools in India. She has done a post-graduate program in Liberal Arts at the Young India Fellowship, Ashoka University. She was previously part of the founding team at Gray Matters Capital, India and EA to the President at Villgro Innovations Foundation. Sarah has done her graduation in Engineering and loves to learn, write and wield a badminton racquet occasionally.



## Willy Oppenheim

### Omprakash

Willy came up with the initial idea for Omprakash after serving as a volunteer English teacher at the Louisiana-Himalaya Association (LHA) in northern India in the autumn of 2004. He then attended Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, where he completed a self-designed major in religion, education, and anthropology. As an educator and educational researcher, Willy has worked in classrooms in the United States, India, Pakistan, and China, and in the wilderness as an instructor for the National Outdoor Leadership School. In 2009, he received a Rhodes Scholarship and is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Education from Oxford University. Willy sits as President of the Omprakash Board of Directors and is involved with all operations of Omprakash. He lives in Seattle, Washington, and enjoys rock climbing, telemark skiing, playing guitar, and baking bread.



## Sonu Mahan

### Omprakash

Sonu has 5 years of experience in web development. He received his masters degree in Computer Application from Indira Gandhi National Open University. Before joining the Omprakash team, Sonu worked for a US-based multinational IT company. Originally from rural Bihar, Sonu now lives and works in Bihar's capital city, Patna. In his spare time, Sonu enjoys learning new technologies, playing cricket, playing music and hanging out with his friends.





## Lacey Worel

### Omprakash

Before joining the Omprakash team, Lacey volunteered with Omprakash Partner Helping Hands, where she spent 8 months developing an ecological kindergarten and curriculum. Originally from Washington, Lacey now lives and works near Joshua Tree, California. A graduate of Cal State San Bernardino, she has experience teaching middle school students with special needs and is particularly talented at community organizing. She is an avid runner, cyclist, hiker, gardener, and chef. When not devoting her time to Omprakash Partners and volunteers, Lacey is often found watering her many plants and taking care of her dog, Allie.



## Steve Sclar

### Omprakash

Steve likes to be surrounded by mountains, as in the Amnye Machen range where he researched indoor air quality, the Akwapim-Togo range where he assisted a mobile clinic, the Heklugjá fissure where he farmed, the Piemonte Alps where he couchsurfed, the Seven Devils where he honeymooned, and the Appalachians where he continues to take refuge from the U.S. eastern seaboard. He graduated from Emory University with an MPH in Global Environmental Health and the College of William & Mary with a BBA in Marketing and Environmental Science. Steve co-founded Omprakash EdGE and currently serves as EdGE Program Director. In his spare time, he'll probably be playing guitar or crafting a woodworking piece.



## Adarsh Kumar

### Omprakash

Adarsh received a Bachelor of Computer Application from Sikkim Manipal University. He worked for more than 3.5 years in the field of web development for a U.S.-based multinational company before joining Omprakash. Adarsh grew up on a mango farm in Bihar and currently lives in Bihar's capital city, Patna. He enjoys adventure sports, traveling, driving his motorbike and eating mangoes.



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