

In 1991 Lucy Kurien was working in Bombay as a social worker. One evening she rejected a pregnant woman asking for help. That very night, the husband of the woman, in a drunken rage, set her on fire. She died and with her the seven month old fetus. It was then, that she decided she had to create a home for abused and traumatized women and their children.

Today **MAHER** (meaning "Mother's Home" in Marathi) is an NGO that has gone on to help more than 1,700 women and 1,600 children, while developing a model of compassion and empowerment to help uplift impoverished villages and slums.

In October 2016 students from **Vienna International School** visited MAHER for the first time. On the following pages they will share some of their experiences of this life-lesson with you ...



At the age of 12 a deaf and dumb girl was raped and subsequently kicked out of home. She gave birth to her daughter under a tree, was found and brought to **MAHER** a few days later.

The daughter was not expected to survive, weighing barely more than one kilogram at birth and fitting in the palm of a hand. However, she now is nearly four and due to her energy and charisma, has an international school sponsored education.

MAHER has also been able to give the mother education and with the help of **Vienna International School** fund an operation to improve her hearing ...



About 10 years ago Lucy, on her way to a meeting, lost the way and ended up in a dead end - the entrance to an abandoned piece of land covered with trash. A group of about 50 people were living there under most shocking circumstances, without fresh water and proper clothing using ruins for shelter. Lucy started bringing food and clean water to the beggars community on a regular basis. In the beginning, they were refusing the help and even threw stones at her. Lucy kept insisting. Over the course of time, **MAHER** managed to install a water pipe and rented a house nearby functioning as a center to educate people. Today social workers provide support in the community on a daily basis.

The conditions in the community are still miserable. But things change for the better every day ...



One day an 8 year girl was found by one of **MAHER's** social workers on the street. She spent her days begging all by herself, usually on trains. Her parents had died from illnesses and there were no family members or friends looking after her. She was living in the train station or on the street. The girl was brought to the childrens home in Vadhu-Budruk where she says, she was given "love, care and hope".

After finishing her education she got married at the age of 20. Today she has two children and lives together with her husband's family. Almost every weekend she returns to Vadhu to help with the preparation of meals and to take care of children, visiting "her MAHER family".







Thank you for  
**15 years**  
 of support



*Please continue supporting ...*

**1 Child 1 Euro 1 Day**

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