



## Student Spotlight

*Your donation has the power to truly change a child's destiny. Take a closer look at the lives your support have changed. Get to know the students and learn their life story.*



**Onil Bikash Chakma:**“...grateful that a poor farm boy from a remote mountain village in India has found Mom Dana and the wonderful people from Seeds of Love Worldwide.”

Onil had always found it unbelievable that a person a thousand miles away and from all the way across the other side of the world actually cares—for him and the Chakma community. He is grateful that a poor farm boy from a remote mountain village in India has found Mom Dana and the wonderful people from Seeds of Love Worldwide.

Onil Bikash Chakma is 17 years old and grew up knowing nothing more but the back breaking life of tilling a hard and rocky soil. He readily admits that he

came from a poor and uneducated family. His father is a farmer but with the little amount of money he gets from the harvest, he would immediately spend it on alcohol instead of providing food on the table and education for his children. But Onil's mother who suffers from cancer tries her best to earn some money, so her children would be able to get proper education. He comes from a far flung and undeveloped mountain village with non-existent basic government services. A place where there are no hospitals, no schools— hence, most of the people in the village are uneducated. But his mother wants to break that chain and have her children live a better life through education. Because of this dream, Onil had to leave his ailing mother so he can go to school at Mahabodhi Residential School (MBRS) in Tuichawng.



**Onil Bikash Chakma receiving an award from Sir Sadak**

His simple dream in life is to learn; achieve higher education and get a college degree. After that, Onil plans to go back to his village to help improve the lives of the Chakma community. He is currently in Grade 10 and intensely focused to work and study hard in order to achieve this dream. His unwavering determination reflects on his grades as he is always at the top of his class. Onil also wants his mother's hard work even in her weak physical state to matter. Earlier this year, his family can no longer afford to pay for school fees and he had no other recourse but to quit school. He was devastated and didn't know what to do. Sir Sadak, the Principal of MBRS and the school

committee who knows Onil's full potential, allowed him to stay for free in the hostel as they tried to find ways to help. This is the part where your support to Seeds of Love becomes a catalyst for change. Onil knows that he is fortunate that SOLWW has offered him a scholarship so he can focus and continue his studies. He values this opportunity and promises to do his best to excel in class.

As a recipient of Seeds of Love Worldwide scholarship, Onil is currently working on the Community Service Volunteer requirement by tutoring five class 10 students in Math and Social Studies. This role has added another goal on his list; to help these five students pass the Term 2 exams in December. Knowing that his destiny is within reach, Onil will never forget your help and generosity through SOLWW for the rest of his life, and will always be grateful.



*A quick review of events that Seeds of Love Worldwide has recently hosted for their donors or participated together with friends and supporters.*

### **Sevathon 2018:**

## **A Look Back at Seeds of Love Worldwide's (SOLWW's) First Fundraiser**

Aug. 19, 2018 – San Jose: Seeds of Love Worldwide's first major fundraiser, **Jog, Walk, Run and Asana at Sevathon'18** was a success! SOLWW prepared for the 2000+ participants with a fully staffed booth with volunteers, and a fun eye-catching marathon themed photo booth that prompted people to stop by our table. Once they stopped to visit, Dana Le and Tony Walker dressed in authentic and colorful Chakma traditional outfits, were there to share the organization's story and mission. The booth was also adorned with handmade Chakma handicrafts that were presented to SOLWW from the Chakma community as a gesture of their appreciation.



San Jose's annual Sevathon Half Marathon, 10K & 5K races had over 2,000 Bay Area runners and walkers. The runners were all pumped up with loud energetic music and eager to run as a horn blared to signal the start of the race at 7:00am. Race participants ran under their chosen charity as a way to raise funds and awareness for their cause. SOLWW is proud and grateful to the 21 runners that sponsored our organization and to all the volunteers and friends that showed their support with their presence.

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## An Overflowing Picnic Basket of **THANKS** from SOLWW



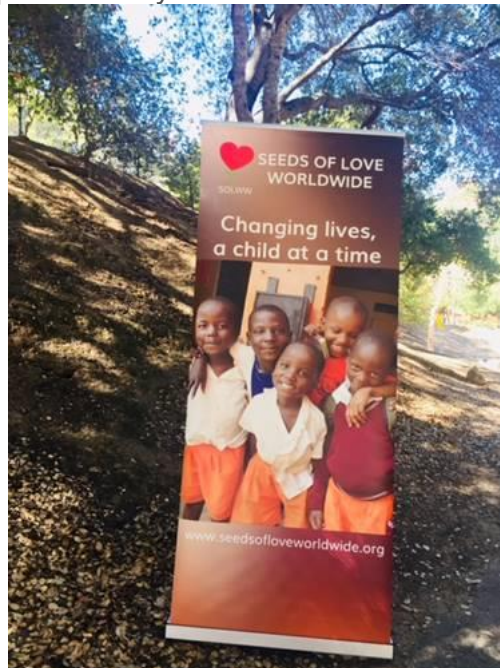
The day started with a frenzy of early morning texts for the SOLWW team on Sun., Sep. 16, 2018 as they prepared to host the Donor Appreciation Picnic at Linda Vista Park in Cupertino. Music was playing, trays of food were arranged on the picnic table, and a fine selection of wines were uncorked as family, friends and donors of Seeds of Love started trickling in at noon.

It was a beautiful day to celebrate and to thank all the donors of SOLWW for their support. Mihir Jobalia, one of SOLWW's board members thanked everyone for coming to the picnic, but especially for their trust and expressed support of SOLWW's mission. He also introduced the founder, Dana Le, who gave a report on the organization's recent visit to India and provided an update on the scholarship recipients. The rest of the SOLWW team also had a chance to introduce themselves and the role they play in the organization and why they decided to get involved.



Everyone had a chance to mingle and learn more about the purpose and goals of SOLWW through brochures, video, scrapbook and by speaking directly to the SOLWW staff. Before the day ended, there was a raffle for everyone who made a pledge to support Seeds of Love. Winners took home a bottle of select fine wines from the personal collection of Dr. Tom Burns and Mihir Jobalia.

Seeds of Love Worldwide won't be able to support and send 18 students to school in India without *your* help. We are grateful for your partnership in *Educating young minds, shaping lives and changing the world*. Thank you and see you at the picnic next year!



**We need YOU!**

Discover one of the many simple ways that you can help SOLWW raise funds for the cause. Join us!



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Your support is making a difference. Lives are changed because of you and we are grateful.

Please continue to join us make an impact to children in need around the world.

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