



SAMHATI

Bangladesh Women's Organization

8602 Aqueduct Road, Potomac, MD 20854, USA

<http://samhati.org/>

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September 8, 2014

Dear Supporter,

Please join us for Samhati's 30th Anniversary Celebration Dinner and Auction on **Saturday, October 11, 2014, 6:30 to 10:00 p.m., at the Embassy of Bangladesh, 3510 International Drive, NW, Washington, DC, 20008.** We are happy to welcome to Washington DC our new Ambassador, His Excellency Mohammad Ziauddin, and Madam Yasmeen Ziauddin.

Founded in 1984, Samhati is the only organization of Bangladeshi women in the United States. We design and support small projects – focused on education, health, and environmental sustainability – to improve the lives of impoverished women and families in Bangladesh. Samhati is tax exempt (IRS ID Number 52-1390261). As an all-volunteer organization with negligible overhead, Samhati directs 97% of your contributions to needy families.

- *If you donate \$75, it will provide a one-year scholarship to ensure that a middle or high school child stays in school and does not have to work.*
- *A donation of \$100 will provide adult literacy or vocational classes for a village woman, who in turn will be able to better care for her family.*
- *A donation of \$500 will fund our health clinic in Katakhal village for one month, providing care and health education for over 500 families.*

We have accomplished a great deal in 30 years — from providing expeditious cyclone relief, to creating the first women's shelter in Bangladesh, to developing eco-empowerment projects in multiple villages in Bangladesh. Hundreds of women and children and their families and indeed entire communities have been transformed due to the work of Samhati. Your support has been critical to our success.

We hope to see you at the celebration on October 11. If you have any questions, please contact us at 703-618-4618 (Jhinuk Hasan-Fulton) or samhati1984@yahoo.com.

With our sincere thanks,

Noorjahan Bose, Secretary
Shaan Noman, Treasurer

UPDATE ON SAMHATI'S CURRENT PROJECTS IN BANGLADESH

Katakhali Project

Since 2000, Samhati has been working to empower women and families in the remote Katakhali community, a village on an island off the southern coast of Bangladesh. Samhati provides adult literacy classes and leadership and skills training to motivated villagers, mostly women. Because of the increasing severity of storms in the area and other adverse impacts of climate change, the villagers are particularly vulnerable and need adaptation assistance. Samhati's Health Center – staffed by a doctor and assistant – provides medical services in Katakhali and nearby villages, serving 500 families which would otherwise get no medical care. The Center served as a shelter during recent cyclones and all villagers survived. In 2013, Cyclone Mahasen damaged several homes and Samhati has completed repairs on those homes.

The women of Katakhali on their own initiative have now started a literacy class for 32 women in a nearby village called Ganga Char, a short boat ride away. It is very exciting that Katakhali's women are sharing their skills with others.

Every year Samhati provides scholarships of approximately \$70 each per year to 28 needy children so that they can attend middle and high school in Katakhali. So far, 182 children have received scholarships and 65 children have finished high school due to this program. These children in turn teach their parents, find jobs, and bring about a tangible change in the community. Last year we inaugurated a new pre-school in Katakhali where local women have been employed to run the program.

We need to raise at least \$17,000 for expenses in Katakhali and Ganga Char in 2014.

Eco-Village Project in Natore

Our project in Natore is now in its seventh year and has brought positive change to the communities in Natore District, in northern Bangladesh. Currently, Samhati is coordinating several initiatives in Hatiandah village and a midday meal program in Narayanpur Primary school, Narayanpur.

Our adult literacy classes are continuing and have taught reading skills to over 500 adults (mostly women). In 2014, we provided scholarships to 20 children (14 girls and 6 boys) to ensure that they stay in school. Our Computer Learning Center now has seven computers and provides a very popular three-month training course. Last year, 120 students received training and some went on to open their own computer shops. With your help, last year we purchased new sewing machines for the tailoring classes and now have eight sewing machines and one embroidery machine. Last year, we provided interest-free loans to ten women to start their own businesses. Six of them have started tailoring work by purchasing their own machines and four of them are raising cows for a dairy business.

We need to raise \$14,000 to fund the Natore Project activities next year.

Project in Laksmichap Union in Rangpur

In 2011, we started supporting a project in Laksmichap Union, Rangpur, in northern Bangladesh. This community is diverse (includes several religious minority groups) and has developed an innovative community-based "Rice Bank" for sharing and stockpiling rice so that no one goes hungry. Samhati has provided primary school supplies in this community, and approximately \$4,000 toward a revolving fund for training women in skills for income generation. We provided sewing, organic vegetable cultivation and poultry rearing training to approximately 100 women this year. In addition, we have increased the number of scholarships — we now give a total of 80 high school scholarships in two different high schools. Our adult literacy programs for women have taught over 400 women to read and write. We also provide free health checkups for school children and women, and a biannual eye-check-up camp which has so far served 650 persons.

We need to raise \$12,000 to fund the Laksmichap Project for 2014.

SAMHATI'S 30th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION and AUCTION



Saturday, October 11, 2014

6:30 to 10:00 pm

**The Embassy of
Bangladesh**

3510 International Drive NW
Washington, DC 20008

**Metro: Van Ness/UDC (Red
Line)**

Street parking is available.

*Featuring dance
performances by
Antara Rahman of
Mayur Dance Academy
and
Shristee Nrittyangon
(choreographed by
Rosemary Mitu Gonsalves)*



Admission per person: \$75 (\$35 students) includes drinks, appetizers, and dinner
If you send in your check, we will reserve a ticket for you and your name will be on the guest list at the door.
Tickets will also be available at the door. Or pay with Paypal by sending funds to samhati1984@yahoo.com
For information call **703-618-4618** or email samhati1984@yahoo.com. Please consider making a special
donation for our 30th anniversary! **DONORS OF \$500 or MORE WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED IN OUR
PROGRAM AND WEBSITE. Learn more at <http://samhati.org/>**

☐ I would like __ tickets to the Benefit Dinner. I enclose a check for \$_____. The price per ticket is \$75, of which \$60 is tax deductible. Additional donations are very much appreciated.

☐ I am unable to attend the Benefit Dinner but would like to support Samhati's projects in Bangladesh. I enclose a check for: ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1000 ☐ \$5000 ☐ _____ Other amount (please fill in)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Your email helps us save postage and paper.

Please make your check payable to "**Samhati**" and mail with this form to:
Samhati, 8602 Aqueduct Rd, Potomac, MD 20854, USA