

## LOVE LOCAL



# ASH'S FUNDRAISING VISION CONTINUES

**A**sh Parmar's fundraising vision to raise £20,000 in six months for two charities supporting children continues. This month Ash is visiting his spiritual home in Vrindavan and the charity Food For Life.

As a Trustee Ash is keen to see how things are progressing for the charity which is changing lives through provision of education, food distribution, clothing, medical services and a better environment for the poorest of the poor.

#### Christine Baker reports.

Over 40% of Indian children are malnourished and this accounts for 50% of child deaths. Children grow up in a one room house with sometimes five family members sleeping on the floor. No electricity, no running water, no toilet, no kitchen – even a charpoy, a string bed, is a luxury.

They are born to ill health and low self-esteem. Their fathers do not earn enough to provide even basic needs so going to school, wearing a uniform and having two meals a day was a distant dream until Food For Life Vrindavan opened its doors. [www.fflvrindavan.org](http://www.fflvrindavan.org)

Maya first came to the notice of FFLV in 2000. Her family were existing only because of free meals provided by the charity. Maya's Mum visited the FFLV food distribution every morning and evening, even while she was pregnant with Maya. Once Sandipani Muni School opened, under the auspices of FFLV, Maya was asked to join.

Maya says "My three brothers have been coming to SMS since they were three years old. If my brothers were not allowed to come with me, I could not come to school. I would have to stay at home and look after my brothers while my mother and father worked. I am glad that the SMS nursery facility allowed me and other students to come to school with younger siblings so that we have a chance at getting an education."

Fifteen years later Maya, and hundreds like her, have been given a future by FFLV. Ash's fund raising vision shines strong and bright as he sees the difference this charity is making to young lives.

Help support Ash's fundraising - visit <https://mydonate.bt.com/events/smiledesignbyash>

Meanwhile, news of local charity Haven House Children's Hospice. Chief Executive Mike Palfreman says "We have launched Vision 2020, our first five-year strategy which aims to increase the number of children that we support across North and North East London, West Essex and East Hertfordshire.



From our beautiful home located in Woodford Green, on the borders of Essex, we provide a range of services to families to support them through the most difficult circumstances imaginable. These include planned respite, short break and end-of-life care, as well as services designed to improve emotional and physical wellbeing.

During 2014/15 we supported 329 children, however research by the University of Leeds estimates that there are more than 2,000 children living with a life-limiting condition in the Haven House catchment area, many of whom would benefit from hospice care.

As part of Vision 2020, we aim to increase the number of children that we support to 500 per year by the end of the decade, but we can only continue to grow and help even more life-limited children and families with your support and generosity." Thank you. ■

[www.havenhouse.org.uk](http://www.havenhouse.org.uk)



#### THE DETAILS

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Visit [www.smiledesignbyash.co.uk](http://www.smiledesignbyash.co.uk) for more information