

SMILE FOUNDATION USA

NEWSLETTER

Power of Partnerships

Portraits that Reimagine Future

Pictures often tell stories that words fail to capture. They create space for imagination and remind us that beauty and goodness can exist in countless subtle forms. Bringing this feeling alive through colours and strokes, the Memory Project founded by Mr. Ben Schumaker, Founder and Director has been transforming empathy into art and connection into colour. For over two decades, the Memory Project has been connecting art students in the US with children from humble or challenging backgrounds across the globe. Through hand-drawn portraits these students reimagine each child with creativity and care, offering not only their artistic vision, but also a silent message of hope and respect. Recently the Memory project partnered with Smile Foundation to bring this creative exchange to our education centres. Our students received their portraits, where each portrait carried their face rendered with care and imagination along with a quiet signature of care marked at the back of the portrait— a handpaint of the artist who created the portrait. This gesture and initiative is a testament to the power of art that can transcend borders and deliver smiles to strangers through colours, and emotions.



Amara and Smile Foundation Unit for Menstrual Health Awareness

Even today, many young girls in India experience their first period in silence—without sanitary pads, proper guidance, or even a comforting word. In numerous villages, social taboos and inadequate infrastructure force girls to rely on cloth or, in some cases, drop out of school altogether. To change this reality, Amara has partnered with Smile Foundation's Swabhiman program to widen the circle of sisterhood and bring awareness, dignity, and support to the girls who need it most. Together, these efforts aim to build safe spaces where girls can speak openly about their bodies, understand menstrual hygiene, and replace shame with confidence and pride in their journey toward becoming healthy, empowered young women.

Health and Well Being

Taking Cancer Education and Screening Across India

On National Cancer Awareness Day, Smile Foundation stood in solidarity with millions of families battling with cancer and reaffirmed its mission to take awareness and care to the heart of communities. Across its project locations in India, medical teams organized awareness drives and counselling sessions to educate people about the early symptoms, preventive care and the importance of timely diagnosis. Schools, villages and urban-underserved communities turned into small circles of learning and care. Through its Smile on Wheels mobile hospitals and telemedicine platforms, Smile Foundation ensures that even the remotest communities in India receive regular screenings for oral, breast and cervical cancer. At the same time, these efforts help dispel myths and fears surrounding the disease. Every mile covered is a step to save lives— one village, one door at a time.



Advancing Skills for Grassroots Healthcare in Punjab

A capacity-building workshop was recently organized for Community Health Officers (CHOs) from Moga district, Punjab, to strengthen their technical and operational skills in managing Health and Wellness Centres and delivering quality primary healthcare at the grassroots level.

Led by officials from the District Health Department and experts from Smile Foundation, the sessions focused on Maternal and Child Health, Non-Communicable Diseases, Oral Cancer, Tuberculosis Management, Data Handling, and Telemedicine. More than a hundred Community Health Officers, (CHOs) from five blocks participated, sharing on-ground experiences and exploring practical ways to enhance healthcare delivery.

With the shared vision of strengthening primary care, SBI Card and Smile Foundation are equipping health workers in Punjab to build communities that are both healthier and stronger, proving the power of collaborations in bringing quality healthcare to the last mile.

Education and Empowerment

Strengthening Pathways for Children With Special Needs in Uttarakhand

Every child is special, but a child with special needs holds a more fragile, unshaped potential—one that must be guided with patience, understanding, and unwavering respect. At Smile Foundation’s residential campus in Ramnagar, Uttarakhand, teachers and wardens engage daily with special children from marginalized communities. In these interactions, they witness a quiet truth: curiosity, resilience, and joy emerge naturally in them, just as they do in any other child. The Mission Education centres work with the goal of creating spaces where children are encouraged to rise above their challenges. Supporting them with an environment where they sense a space of hope and strength, becomes pivotal and thus, such key transformation interventions spark feelings of excitement of the unique challenges, but also reflects the urgency of bridging gaps in inclusive education, as a collective commitment.



Women Leading Change

Handcrafted Empowerment For Women from Rural India



India’s artistic heritage is woven so deeply into its identity that progress and tradition cannot exist apart from one another. The same is true for women’s presence in the nation’s creative and entrepreneurial landscape, especially in sustaining intricate crafts like Aari embroidery. Their contribution is not supplementary, it is indispensable. Through Smile Foundation’s Women Entrepreneurship Development Training, women from remote villages, who once lacked access to such opportunities, are now learning the delicate craft of Aari work entirely free of cost. Under the guidance of dedicated trainers like Yashodha, they learn tailoring, business planning, and digital marketing gaining confidence, financial independence, and the joy of supporting their families. With every order they fulfil, they strengthen their future and carry forward India’s rich artisanal legacy

Special Moments

Smile Foundation Wins Big at CSR Summit 2025

Smile Foundation's flagship healthcare initiative has been honored with the 'CSR Health Project of the Year Award' at the 5th edition of the *Bharat CSR & Sustainability Summit 2025*. For countless families in India, basic healthcare still remains out of reach. Smile Foundation's Healthcare Programme, confronts system-wide challenges to deliver care that is – available, accessible, and affordable for the most vulnerable. Through a vast network of Mobile Medical Units, Telemedicine and Dental Vans, Static Clinics, Health Camps, along with a Smile on Boat serving island communities in Assam, the program reaches people in some of the country's most remote regions. Today, it touches lives in 70 districts across 17 states, serving over 1.7 million children and families every year – powered by compassion of doctors, health workers, and partners who share the same mission. This recognition reaffirms our belief that healthcare is not a privilege, it's a right that every individual deserves, and it simply cannot wait.

