



SPEAK
UP FOR THE
POOR

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

2016 Highlights

1125 girls in our
GEP

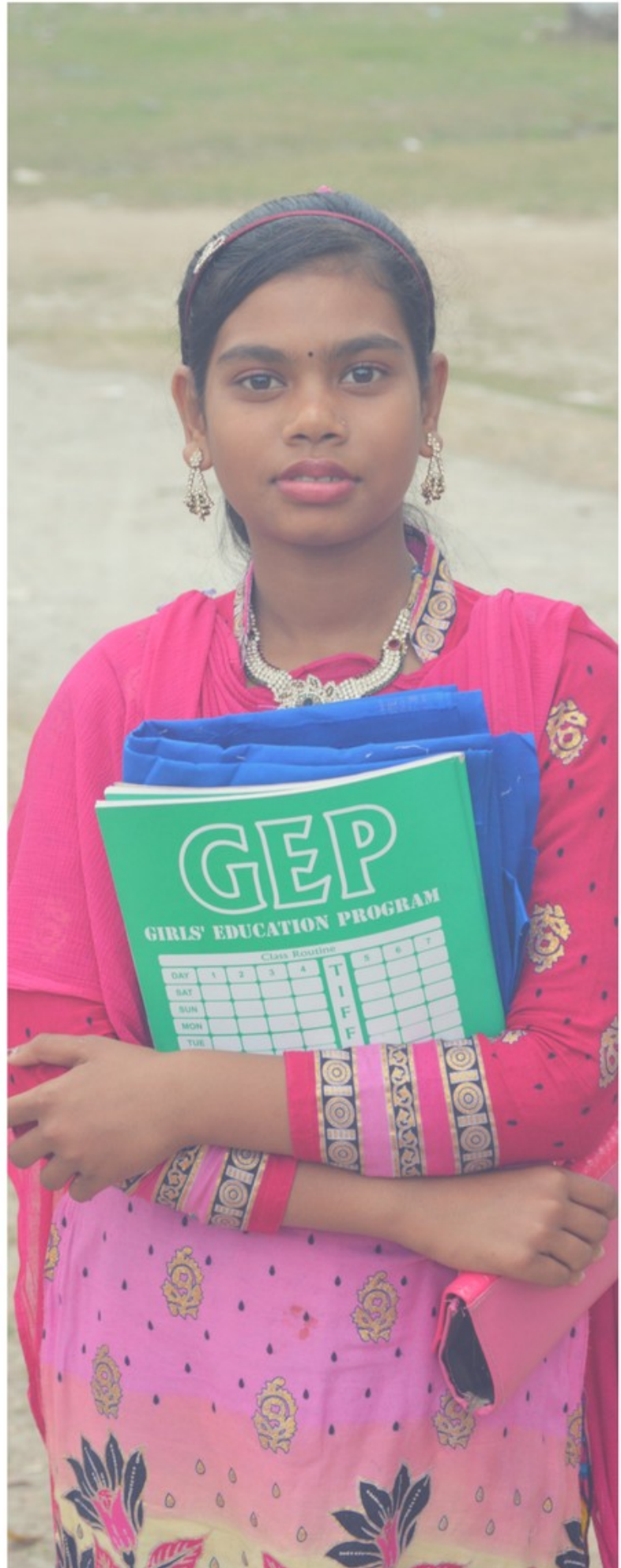
\$385,000 raised
from **625** donors

47 out of **54** girls
passed their 12th
grade exams

5 young women
started nursing
school

22 girls of all ages
lived in our
dormitory

Countless child
marriages
stopped



A Note from Bangladesh

The first time I saw young girls in a brothel, I knew that I would never be the same. Seeing Thai, Burmese and Indian girls for sale, some of them as young as 11, called me to do something different with my life. I knew that there was nothing more important for me to do than to defend girls at risk, helping girls in poverty know their worth and have the education and skills necessary to build strong lives. Today I have the great privilege of working with Speak Up and empowering girls in Bangladesh, helping to create a new reality for girls in poverty. Nothing gives me more joy.

The theme for our 2016 Annual Report is "Making a Difference" for a simple reason: it's not enough to be heart-broken about injustice; we need to take action. An estimated 30,000 girls under the age of 18 are forced into illegal child marriages every day; more than 2 million children are exploited in prostitution every year; more than 70 million girls around the world are not in school because of poverty; and tens of millions more are vulnerable to abuse merely because they are poor and female. The world needs to be changed.

In our corner of the world, change is happening. As reflected in the numbers sprinkled through this Report, you will see evidence of hundreds of lives being changed. Young women who are the first in their village to finish 12th grade and go to college; entire villages where scores of girls are working together to defy child marriage and stay in school; and a growing team of teachers and GEP staff, faithfully serving over 1500 girls. I would like to thank our more than 450 Girls Education Program sponsors, 625 overall donors, and partners and well-wishers around the world for supporting and investing in our work. There is no better way to fight injustice than to empower girls in poverty, and there is no better investment of your time and resources. Your investment in Speak Up is changing the world.

On behalf of more than 1500 grateful girls and their families in Bangladesh, thank you for choosing to work with us. Your support helped make a great difference for girls in poverty in Bangladesh in 2016, but this is only the beginning. In coming years we plan to grow our GEP in Bangladesh and beyond, building a global network of empowered girls and young women who humbly serve and boldly lead, transforming the way the world thinks about and treats vulnerable girls. I hope that you will continue to invest in Speak Up and support our work for years to come as we build something beautiful alongside the poor.

Troy Anderson
International Director



Girls Education Program Team - Bangladesh



Our Girls Education Program team in Bangladesh is entirely made up of Bangladeshi nationals, a growing group of men and women who are dedicating their lives to serving the poor.

Among the staff pictured here Left to Right are:

5 of our 6 Village Program Managers, responsible for our village level operations.

Our GEP staff lawyer, in charge of working with the police and the judicial system to stop child marriages.

Our office assistant and data-entry worker.

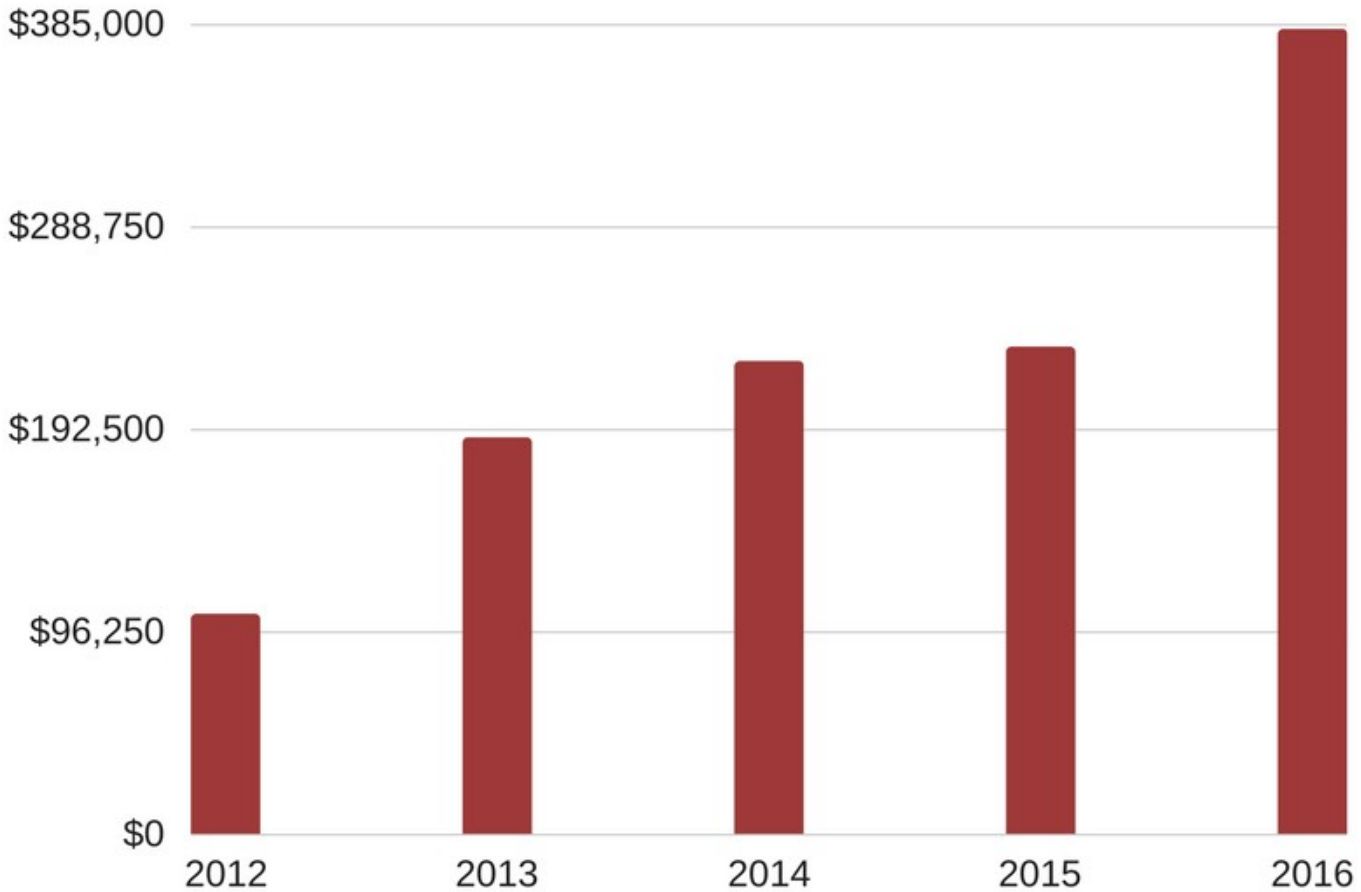
Our Bangladesh GEP Director.

Our GEP accountant.

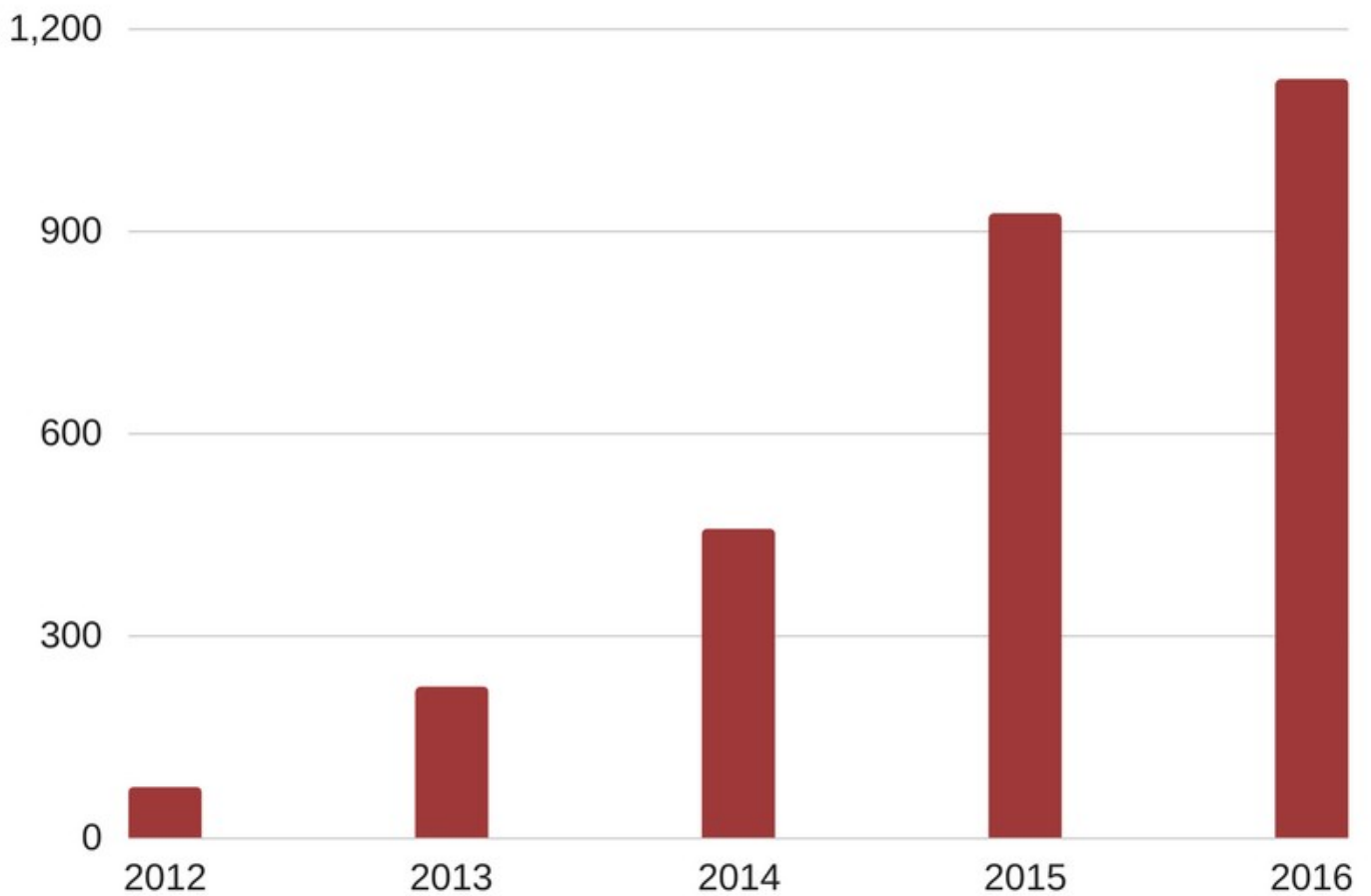
Not pictured are our Dorm Manager and our dorm cook and security guards.

In 2017 we will be adding 4 new staff to this team as our GEP expands to add more than 200 new girls.

2016 Finances - Income by Year



Girls Education Program - Enrollment by Year



The Alingon Home



Since 2012, Speak Up has been funding the Alingon Home, a home in Khulna, Bangladesh, for girls at risk for exploitation. We are glad to work with Light Bangladesh, a local Bangladeshi non-profit organization, to fund the amazing young women at the Alingon Home to help ensure that girls in poverty are free to thrive and reach their greatest potential. Speak Up raises about \$25,000 each year for the Alingon Home, enabling the 21 girls who currently live at the Home to go to school and build strong, healthy lives away from threat of harm.

Your generosity in 2016 helped empower some of the most at-risk girls in Bangladesh - thanks!

To Consider....

Speak Up is a registered 501(c)(3) organization, so your financial contributions are tax-deductible to the maximum extent permissible by U.S. law. You can review our detailed annual 990 forms on our website to learn more about how we faithfully use your donations to reach the greatest number of girls possible.

Speak Up is not a religious organization. Our team comes from various faiths and backgrounds, and we are committed to serving girls and their families regardless of their faith. We love partnering with supporters from across the religious and political spectrum to do what's right and important.

For more information, please contact us at (626) 396-6913 or at contact@speakupforthe poor.org

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Our Mission - 2016 and Beyond



Speak Up's mission remains clear: to create a new reality for girls in poverty, to enable millions of girls to rise above poverty and exploitation and live joyful, fulfilled lives. We believe that the best way to transform the world on behalf of the poor, the best way to end poverty and exploitation, is to educate and empower girls in poverty.

The evidence is clear: when girls in poverty are empowered, everything changes for the better. Family incomes are increased, as girls provide income for their family and marry men who do the same; domestic violence and sexual abuse are decreased as women are able to stand up for themselves; children born to educated young women are healthier and are themselves better educated; and entire communities reap the exponential benefits of having everyone working together for social progress. There is no cure-all for violence and exploitation of the poor, but the closest we can get is educating girls. As we often say, girls in poverty are not the problem; when educated and empowered, they themselves are the solution to many social ills. Empowered girls will transform the world.

For the past 6 years we have worked in Bangladesh, building our Girls Education Program from 21 girls to 1125, with 200 new 5th grade girls eager to join in 2017. We now have 53 girls in college or nursing school, most of them the first young woman from their village to attend higher education, and massive change is on the way as entire villages see the benefits of their daughters empowered and on track for career success. But the benefits of empowering girls go far beyond economic; there is nothing more beautiful than seeing young girls, previously destined for child marriage and under the awful pressure of being unwanted burdens, knowing that they are loved and significant, that they have the chance to live their dreams. True freedom is beautiful to see.

And Bangladesh is only the beginning. In 2017 we plan to expand our Girls Education Program operations to the Middle East, planting seeds for future transformation of thousands of girls at risk in the region. Wherever there is poverty, girls get the worst end of the deal, suffering exploitation merely because they are poor and female. Speak Up is committed to working wherever girls are in need, building an international network of countless young women who are freed from exploitation and free to thrive. We welcome your support on this journey as we build our work in Bangladesh, expand to the Middle East, and one day around the world.