



Love Valentine's Day Stories? Here are 3 of them 💕

1 message

Sun, Feb 13, 2022 at 11:29 AM

Dear Friends,

To celebrate the upcoming **Valentine's Day** with you, we are sharing three stories that make our hearts flutter. We hope that you will enjoy these.



A Moringa magic story: Moringa (drumsticks, also available in Whole Foods) is a superfood that is 10x more effective than most fruit and vegetables in providing **micro-nutrients and iron**, which are often lacking in the diets of our project populations. We are encouraging its growing and use in all our programs. Some of the self-help groups also make powder from its leaves for sale. We have just launched a **Moringa recipe competition**. Aarti, a member of our self-help group, says that she loves how Moringa tastes in her daal, and will soon be submitting her recipe video. Please let us know if you would like to be on the judging panel!



The story of overcoming water scarcity with SoCCs: We help construct rainwater harvesting structures to rejuvenate ponds in the areas our projects are located. This includes our work with our partner **SJSM in Maharashtra** and with **Parmarth in Bundelkhand**. Our new project is in partnership with **Savera Foundation in Jharkhand**, where 482 families from nine villages are loving the idea of 18 rejuvenated ponds that will ensure water for their fields. Participants are earning SoCCs by providing labor for construction, for starting aquaculture projects with fingerlings acquired from a government program, planting trees and by preparing and dispersing seed balls to support reforestation. They redeem SoCCs for exposure visits to sites with model examples of water conservation. Sita, a member of this initiative, said that she would love to see water in the rivulet near her village which otherwise dries up in summer.



The story of distance learning going viral, alongside Covid-19: As we helped our local projects build up their equipment and tech capabilities, distance learning has become a game changer. Children are loving this connectivity in our **Cascades of Learning** programs

for adolescents in Lucknow, Odisha and Yavatmal, as well as our **Zoom Buddies** program. Formerly incarcerated and first generation immigrant women in our **Hour Working Women project in New York**, funded by the **PricewaterhouseCoopers Foundation**, have also been able to continue learning computer and financial skills from our volunteers so they can rebuild their lives and careers. Please let us know if you would like to **volunteer** to become a mentor in any of these programs. The picture on the left is of a **SoCCs Training Session** conducted by our Program Manager, Annesha Chowdhury, for our new partners. Ramesh, one of the SoCCs managers, said that it was as if Annesha was right next to him, answering all his questions.

All our work is made possible through our partnerships with local NGOs, the hard work and resilience of the people we serve, and your generosity. For more information about Asia Initiatives projects, please see our website [HERE](#)

With best wishes for a very happy Valentine's Day,
Geeta Mehta and the Asia Initiatives Team

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