IDRF mourns the loss of our Board Member

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of our Board Member Mrs. Reena Goyal (based in California, USA). Reena passed away in India after battling a long illness. She had been a valued member of our team since 2016 and will be missed. She was a big supporter of girls’ empowerment through education and skill development. Over the last several years she had been associated with our partner NGO Shiksha Bharati based in Hapur, Uttar Pradesh and managed their support for tribal girls’ education. Before she joined IDRF, we were able to support Shiksha Bharati only through the endowment fund (which is a one-time donation of $10,000 that endows one permanent educational seat in perpetuity for a disadvantaged tribal girl). However, with Reena’s dedication and commitment to provide school education to the tribal girls, she initiated the annual support fund wherein, an annual donation of $550 covers the educational and boarding expenses for one year. It was also with Reena’s efforts that more recently, IDRF has been able to extend financial support for these students for college/higher education as well.

Reena maintained personal contact with the girls at the IDRF-supported tribal girls’ hostel at Shiksha Bharati’s campus and knew each girl by name. She was in constant touch with them through phone calls and emails and visited them each year. She was lovingly known as “Reena didi” by the staff and students and her suitcases were full of dolls whenever she visited them!

Please keep Reena’s family in your thoughts as they go through this difficult time.

Reena with the girls at the IDRF-Tribal girls’ hostel at Shiksha Bharati, Hapur, Uttar Pradesh