Reena Goyal, a member of the IDRF Board, had been associated with our partner NGO Shiksha Bharati based in Hapur, Uttar Pradesh, and managed their support for tribal girls’ education at the IDRF-supported hostel. 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 her dedication and commitment to providing 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.

In 2017 the hostel facilities were extended to 30 more girls. New initiatives by Reena included computer basics and English speaking class, establishing communication of the donors with the girls benefitting from the endowment, and hiring a career counselor to help senior secondary students with career and college options. It was also with her efforts that more recently, IDRF has been able to extend financial support for these students for college/higher education as well.

Reena visited the IDRF-supported Tribal Girls’ Hostel almost every year. She was always delighted to see the motivation of all the girls to do better for themselves and help others. During her visits, she would participate in shows and activities put together by the girls and felt she has made a strong bond of love with the girls. When back in the US, Reena maintained contact with the girls through emails and phone calls and knew each girl by name. She was lovingly known as “Reena didi” by the staff and students and her suitcases were full of dolls whenever she visited them.

Reena Goyal (based in California, USA) passed away in India after battling a long illness in 2021.