

SILVER JUBILEE · 2001 – 2026

It started with $70.

Twenty-five years, 1,756 families and more than two million dollars later, a circle of friends is still lending a hand to mend a life.

OUR STORY

Lend a hand to mend a life

In November 2001, a few friends pooled what they could spare for a young woman in Kottayam, Kerala, who needed care after a kidney transplant. The total came to seventy dollars. Nobody in the group could have guessed what that small act would grow into.

There was no office, no staff and no fundraising plan. There was a simple idea: when someone is in real trouble, ordinary people can each give a little, and the little adds up. The second request, weeks later, was a mother of three with heart disease. It raised ninety dollars. The third raised a hundred and ten.

REQUEST #1 · NOVEMBER 2001

$70

For a young kidney-transplant patient in Kottayam, Kerala. The first entry in a ledger that now holds 1,756 supported requests.

That is how HelpSaveLife began, and in the ways that matter it has not changed. It is still run entirely by volunteers. Every request is still brought forward by a member who knows the family or has verified their situation in person. Hospital bills, fee receipts and bank confirmations are still collected for each one. And the money still goes where it was meant to go.

What has changed is the scale. The circle of friends is now a community of more than 1,500 registered members across 33 U.S. states and beyond. Together they have raised over **$2.05 million** for families facing illness, for students who could not afford to stay in school, for people who lost their homes to floods and landslides.

Most of the people helped live in Kerala, India, in households that depend on a daily wage. More than a quarter of all requests describe exactly that: a labourer, a driver, a single earner whose income stopped the day the diagnosis came. Nearly one request in four involves cancer. Hundreds more involve kidney failure, heart surgery, strokes and accidents.

> *Our mission is to extend direct, compassionate financial relief to people in genuine need, irrespective of race, religion, gender or nationality.*
>
> HELPSAVELIFE MISSION STATEMENT

Twenty-five years on, this anniversary is a chance to look at what a community can do when it keeps showing up, month after month, ten dollars at a time. The numbers on the following pages come straight from HelpSaveLife's own records.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS IN FIVE NUMBERS

What a quarter century of small gifts adds up to

$70 → $2M

FIRST REQUEST, 2001 → TOTAL RAISED BY 2026

01

From seventy dollars to two million

The first request raised $70. The first eight years together raised about $59,000. Today the total stands at $2.05 million across 1,756 supported requests, and 2024 alone raised more than three times what those first eight years did combined.

$10

THE MOST COMMON GIFT IN HELPSAVELIFE HISTORY

02

The power of ten dollars

Members have made more than 40,000 individual gifts to requests. Four in ten were exactly $10, and half were $10 or less. Gifts of $25 and under have quietly added up to over $350,000. Nobody had to be wealthy for this to work.

24

MEMBERS, ON AVERAGE, BEHIND EVERY REQUEST

03

No family is helped by one person

More than 1,300 people have given through HelpSaveLife, and a typical request is carried by two dozen of them. Eighty-three members have each supported over 100 different families. Five have each supported more than 1,000.

< 1¢

OF EACH DONATED DOLLAR RECORDED AS ADMIN COST

04

Run by volunteers, start to finish

There are no salaries and no office. Since 2009 the books show under $8,000 in net administrative costs (bank and PayPal fees, web hosting, postage) against $2.09 million in donations received. That is less than half a cent per dollar.

3×

GROWTH IN GIVING, 2019 TO 2021

05

When crisis came, the community tripled its giving

Annual giving went from $75,000 in 2019 to $231,000 in 2021 as COVID-19 swept through Kerala. One relief fund alone sent direct support to 54 families. After the 2018 floods, another reached 28 families who had lost homes and livelihoods.

THE JOURNEY

How twenty-five years unfolded

2001 A small group of friends answers its first request in November: $70 for a kidney-transplant patient in Kottayam. Two more requests follow before the year ends.

2004–05 Members begin keeping their own HelpSaveLife accounts, depositing in advance and pledging to requests as they open. The first 39 member accounts are on the books by the end of 2004.

2009 An eight-year-old boy in New Jersey suffers a traumatic brain injury. 275 people give $72,850, still the largest outpouring for one request. Yearly giving passes $100,000 for the first time.

2011 The 10th anniversary is covered by Malayala Manorama and Mathrubhumi, two of Kerala's leading newspapers.

2012 Sponsor A Student begins, pairing members with students for the length of their studies.

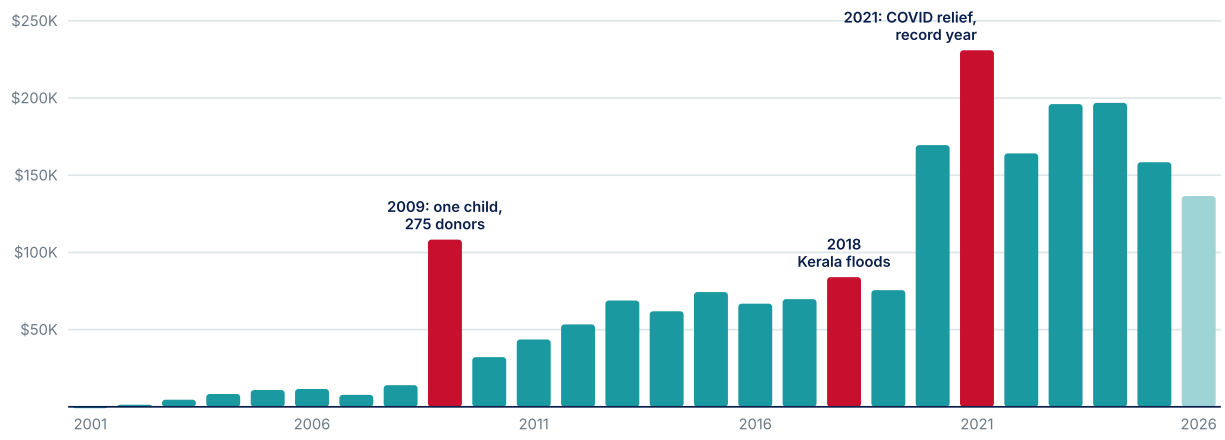
2014 Monthly default contributions launch: members choose an amount that goes automatically to every regular request. The first house-construction request is funded.

2018 Kerala's worst floods in a century. Members raise a dedicated relief fund and send help directly to 28 affected families.

2020–21 COVID-19. Giving more than doubles in 2020 and sets a record in 2021, with 189 requests supported in a single year.

2026 Total giving crosses $2 million. A new website launches in November, the month HelpSaveLife turns 25.

Raised for requests, by year



Amount raised for requests opened in each year. 2026 is the year to date, through early November.

PATTERNS IN THE RECORDS

Things the data shows that we never set out to measure

Read through 25 years of requests, pledges and payment records and some habits of this community come into view. A few of them surprised us.

2×

DECEMBER GIVING

Members give more than twice as much in December as in an average month. Close to a fifth of everything ever deposited arrived in the last month of a year.

Sunday

FAVOURITE DAY TO GIVE

More pledges are made on Sunday than on any other day of the week: about one in every six.

12

THERE FROM THE START

Twelve members who were giving in 2005 or earlier gave again in 2026. Fifty-six members have given in ten or more separate years.

~80

KINDNESS PASSED ON

About eighty requests reached us through a former beneficiary: someone who had been helped, pointing to the next family in need.

117

MEMBERS WHO VOUCHED

Every request is brought forward by a member. 117 different members have done so, and one has stood behind 238 families.

$329K

EMPLOYER MATCHING

322 gifts arrived through workplace matching programs. Members' employers have quietly become some of our largest supporters.

134

STUDENT SPONSORSHIPS

Since 2012, 74 members have sponsored students, giving $161,000. Sixty-eight sponsorships are active today, and nursing is the course named most often.

30 days

TYPICAL TIME TO FUND

Since 2023 the median request stays open for 30 days before it is funded and closed. Forty-two requests went live within a day of being submitted.

644

THANK-YOU LETTERS

Letters of thanks from 472 families sit in our files, alongside more than 14,000 bills, receipts and confirmations kept for accountability.

> *For much of my education, you have supported me financially, helping me progress well in my studies. With all my heart, I wish you the very best.*
>
> A SPONSORED STUDENT, IN HER SILVER JUBILEE MESSAGE TO MEMBERS

Seven in ten requests have been medical, two in ten educational, and most of the rest have helped families build or repair a home. Members have also sent more than ₹3.7 crore to beneficiaries through HelpSaveLife's India channel since 2022.

THE NEXT TWENTY-FIVE

The work is not finished, and neither are we

On any given day there are families waiting. As this is written, 80 requests are open on helpsavelife.org: patients between treatments, students between terms, families hoping to rebuild a home. Each one was brought to us by a member, checked against its documents, and published so that anyone can see where the money goes.

Nothing about how this works is complicated. A member hears of a family in trouble. Volunteers verify the need. The community gives what it can. The payment goes out, and a receipt and often a letter of thanks come back. That cycle has now turned more than 1,700 times.



The reaching figure stands for the members and volunteers who go looking for families in real need and speak up for them.

The cradling hand stands for trust: donations held with care and passed on to the person they were given for.

The red heart stands for the life at the centre of it all, restored to health, to school, to home.

> *If seventy dollars could start this, imagine what the next gift can do.*

GIVE

Support an open request or set a monthly contribution of any size. Ten dollars is how most of this was built.

SPONSOR A STUDENT

Stay with one student through their course and watch them finish.

BRING A FRIEND

Every member joined because someone they trusted asked. Be that person.

Come and be part of us

Whoever you are, wherever you are reading this, there is a place for you here. Join HelpSaveLife as a member and help us mend the next life.

Join us at helpsavelife.org →

To every donor, volunteer and supporter: thank you for twenty-five years.

HelpSaveLife Inc. is a 501(c)(3) public charity, EIN 20-1768050 · 21 Budapest St, Monroe, NJ 08831 · support@helpsavelife.org · **helpsavelife.org**

Figures are drawn from HelpSaveLife's records as of November 6, 2026. Totals include requests since November 2001; bank-ledger figures (donations received, administrative expenses) begin in 2009. Counts based on request descriptions are approximate.