

Milli



Milli at 4

Milli is very important to TIG because she was our “first child.” Her father, Baba, met one of our co-founders, Paul Ramsey, and within 15 minutes of their meeting Baba had asked Paul to pay for Milli, his 4-year old daughter, to go to school, explaining that though both he and his wife were illiterate and his wife was innumerate, they wanted an education for their child. Paul told Baba he must be crazy. He wasn't about to pay for some child he didn't know to go to school. He had just met Baba on the street, but Baba eventually prevailed, explaining that he knew Paul would help because the minute he saw Paul, he knew that they had known each other in a previous life and had unfinished business that needed to be worked out in this life. Paul explained he didn't

Milli

believe in previous lives, and Baba explained, “It really doesn’t matter what you believe.” Paul isn’t sure what he believes about previous lives now, because Baba seems to have been so right about “unfinished business” as this encounter was the beginning of the idea to form a charity to help Baba and illiterate parents like him who want a better life for their children. The “unfinished business” we all now realize has because The India Group, TIG.

Milli, her real, Indian name is Resma, but everyone, including her parents, call her Milli, a name her parents liked after watching the movie *Thoroughly Modern Millei*. When Milli was born, Baba couldn’t see her for 3 days. He was told there was something wrong with her, and there was: She had a severe cleft palate. What were they to do with such a child? She couldn’t nurse. Would she be able to speak? What had the family done wrong to be punished by the gods? Baba realized that he had to get help, but he didn’t know what kind of help or really where to get it. He found out that there was an operation that could help Milli, but Baba, who had had a lucrative business selling drugs to backpackers, had stopped selling because he realized that eventually he would be caught and arrested and wouldn’t be able to see his beloved Milli grow up. He made the sacrifice for Milli to stop earning money the only way he knew how to—a noble act that left him literally penniless. He met a young Israeli who had

Milli



Milli, age 7, after one of the surgeries your generosity paid for

just finished his military service and convinced this young man to pay for Milli's first surgery. Baba was told Milli would need more surgeries but there was no way he could afford to pay until TIG came into his life. Your contributions have made it possible for Milli to have the 3 additional surgeries she needed. She now needs orthodonture work, which TIG hopes to fund in 2026, trusting that money will be available to continue our "regular" education- and health care-work with our families **and** find additional funds for Milli's "special" need.

Milli



Milli Today

Milli graduated from high school last year and has begun a 2-year course at a junior college 45 minutes from her home to become a pharmaceutical

Milli

technician. All of us at TIG are moved by Milli's determination or should we call it "stubbornness." She has great art ability, so, rightly or wrongly, we've pressured her to go into a field like advertising where she can use her art gifts, but Milli is determined to pursue something in the medical arena, undoubtedly because so much of her life has been dominated by her medical condition. We were surprised by her parents' willingness to let her leave home and go to a sleep-away school. We were sure that her mother would object, but we were wrong again. Her mother wants for her daughter what she herself was denied: an education, a chance to better herself, an opportunity to make a better life for her grandchildren to be. During this 15-year TIG journey we have all grown and learned a lot—the children, the parents, the TIG members, and, we hope, you, the generous donors.