

# Her Eyes Were Opened

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**EDGE  
PROJECT**

## Project Summary

I went to India this last summer to work with leprosy patients and their children. We were working to change the stigma of leprosy in India and help the children to become more educated. Helping the patients on the colonies learn how to take care of their own ulcers before they get too bad will help them to become more able to work and make a living rather than begging. We also were able to help build a second level on a house which will be used for more volunteers to stay in and continue to help them beat the stigma of leprosy.

## Project Highlights

Teaching the children to speak and read English was so fun because they were so enthusiastic about learning and it reminded me that we all can have that enthusiasm and be excited to learn about new things in life and always strive to do better.

## From My Journal

“To say it was crazy, amazing or remarkable experience just wouldn't be right. It was something more. Not to be a narcissist, but it showed me so much about myself. Going there, I didn't know if I would be able to clean wounds, if doing that would be gross or scary to me. It wasn't either of those things. It was beautiful. I just wanted to thank them for letting me have the experience. I was able to sit with a woman getting her ulcers cut out and put my arm around her and look her into her eyes and tell her that she was beautiful. I was able to talk to her about her family while she winced in pain and just show her love without asking her for anything.”



Working on the leprosy colonies, the patients were so welcoming, loving and thankful for everything that we were doing for them. They opened my eyes to the kindness that we can show to everyone we come across in our daily lives.



The children of the lepers are at a school that helps them to become computer literate and fluent in English so that they can get jobs and move past the stigma of having to beg like they have been taught their whole lives.