

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

Together

and our next chapter







Our Story

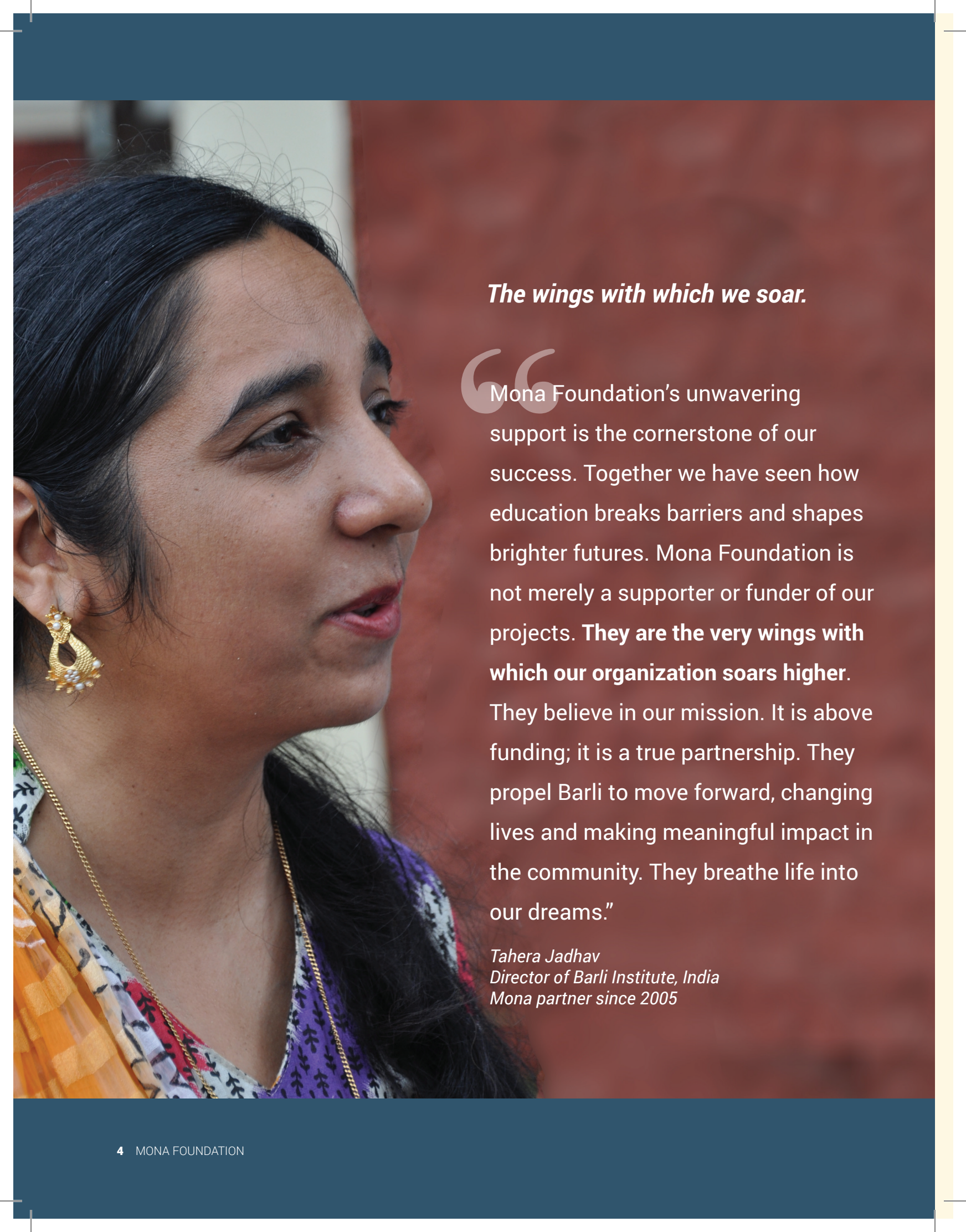
Mona Foundation envisions a world where **every child on the planet has access to education** because education changes everything.

It enables. It empowers. It gives voice. It gives choice. It protects the environment. It promotes peace.

For the past 25 years, with love and compassion in our hearts for every child, we have worked to make this vision a reality. Galvanized by the urgent challenges and opportunities existing in global education, the Mona Foundation has pursued its mission by partnering with grassroots organizations that educate children, empower women and girls, and foster ethics and service to develop change agents who uplift themselves, their families and their communities.

Our work is rooted in our **core belief in the oneness of humanity** and our conviction that every person, irrespective of geography or economic standing, has the right to self-determination and the responsibility to build their capacity and fully participate in the social and economic development of their communities.

This work is driving progress on gender equality, breaking the cycle of poverty, and contributing to sustainable change in the overall well-being of communities in dozens of countries across four continents.



The wings with which we soar.

“Mona Foundation’s unwavering support is the cornerstone of our success. Together we have seen how education breaks barriers and shapes brighter futures. Mona Foundation is not merely a supporter or funder of our projects. **They are the very wings with which our organization soars higher.** They believe in our mission. It is above funding; it is a true partnership. They propel Barli to move forward, changing lives and making meaningful impact in the community. They breathe life into our dreams.”

*Tahera Jadhav
Director of Barli Institute, India
Mona partner since 2005*

The Mona Way

Our trailblazing approach is effective, efficient and transformative.



Grassroots organizations.

We select and partner with proven grassroots educational organizations that empower women and girls and address the root causes of poverty and inequality.



Long-term support.

We provide long-term support to our grassroots partners as they build their capacities through experience, grow organically, and scale their programs to create and sustain change.



Whole-child education.

We invest in developing the full range of students' academic, artistic, social, and moral capabilities to raise change agents who uplift themselves, their families and their communities.



Trust and collaboration.

We sustain relationships of trust and respect, collaborating with all of our partners as equal members of one human family.



Ethical leadership.

We lead with and champion integrity, trustworthiness and genuine concern for others as critical imperatives for sustainable development.



Service.

We emphasize indiscriminate service to others as a way of life and as an expression of our twofold purpose: to develop our individual capacities, and to contribute to the betterment of our communities.

Our Growth Over 25 Years

Since 1999, Mona Foundation has supported **4,263,012 students** (over 50% girls) with access to quality education through **41 partner organizations** in **23 countries**.

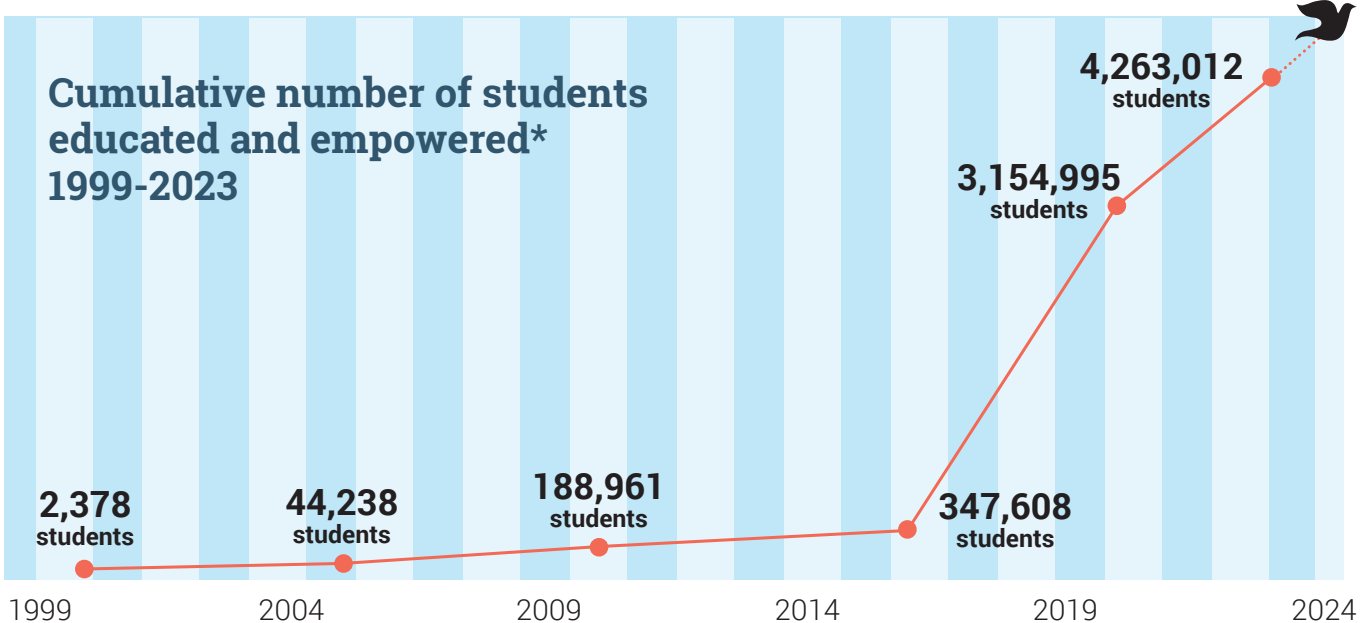
Within our first decade, we grew the number of students we were serving more than **eightyfold**. A decade later, we were serving **17 times** as many students as we served in our first 10 years.

Our growth rate continues to accelerate as our grassroots partners undertake more complex initiatives, expand their collaboration with civil society and governments, and scale their proven programs through existing institutions.

Partner Organizations Since 1999



★ Active partners



*Defined by GuideStar as "Individuals educated and empowered, both in class and online, through educational materials, tools/resources provided."





Scaling Social Impact

Currently, **seven of our twenty-three partner organizations have reached a tipping point where their impact is exponentially multiplied.** They are rising in collaboration with their government, other nonprofits, and businesses to catalyze systems change, mobilizing to rewrite and reshape the narratives, policies, and social norms which to date have inhibited millions of students, especially girls, from fully participating in the life of society. Following are two examples.

Badi School, Panama

Badi School started in 1993 as a kindergarten in the carport of a trailer home and has since grown into one of the finest K-12 schools in Panama, serving over 400 students. Badi integrates high quality academics, arts, and technology programs with an inclusive moral leadership program and service. Most Badi School graduates receive full scholarships to the best universities in Panama and elsewhere.

Impressed over the years by the exceptional quality of Badi school's graduates and their contributions to the betterment of their communities, the Ministry of Education in Panama adopted their moral education curriculum, the key lever of Badi's outstanding results, as their standard course on religion, implementing it in 3,400 schools reaching about 950,000 K-12 students.



Study Hall Educational Foundation, India

The Aarohini girls' empowerment program is designed to prevent child marriage and domestic violence in a country where girls are unsafe, unwanted, unequal and unfree.

The program trains girls to see themselves as equal persons deserving of respect, having the right to agency and to voice their protest. The initiative is primarily a teacher training program which equips teachers to enable change in schools and in their communities.

The program has been so successful that in 2022 SHEF signed a 5-year Memorandum of Understanding with the Uttar Pradesh (UP) Ministry of Education to train over 2,000 teachers in 746 public residential schools for disadvantaged girls to educate and empower more than 100,000 girls.



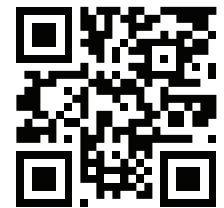
Join us in our next chapter

As Mona celebrates 25 years of educating, empowering, and transforming lives in partnership with grassroots organizations and thousands of supporters, our goals for the near future aim to exponentially expand our worldwide impact:

- **Partner with grassroots organizations** to educate and empower **10 million students** in need by 2030.
- **Expand and deepen our collaborative network** to increase contributions by **10% annually to \$5 million**, and the principal of our endowment by **10% each year to \$8 million**, by 2030.
- **Advance institutional and organizational capacity** and commitment to learning to realize our vision, mission, and goals.
- **Contribute to social discourse** by broadly sharing Mona's unique approach to development to evolve the practice of philanthropy and accelerate lasting positive change.

Champion our vision by making a three-year pledge

Together, we can build a world where every child on the planet has access to education, the opportunity to uplift themselves and their families, and contributes to creating more just, vibrant, and equitable communities for all.



Every act of generosity creates a ripple of change.
Let's start a tidal wave.

Who is Mona?



Mona Mahmudnizhad was a young Iranian woman who loved children and began volunteering in an orphanage at the age of 12. She was also an outspoken defender of human rights and wrote a high school essay on "Freedom." Because of her beliefs as a Baha'i, her service to children, and her outspoken nature, she was arrested in 1983, at the age of 17, and executed after nine months of imprisonment. Her youth, courage, and commitment to education, service, and social justice inspired us to name the foundation after her.

Recognition

2023 Charity Navigator 4 stars
2023 GuideStar, Platinum Status
2023 BBB Accredited Charity
2023 Great Non-Profits
2021 Award Finalist, Catalyst 2030
Integral Fellow, Microsoft Alumni Foundation
Jefferson Award for Public Service
UN DGC Associate NGO
Peter F. Drucker Award for Nonprofit Innovation
Brooking Institution CUE member



Education is light and air.

“To be without education and skills is to be a bird without wings. You can see the sky and the endless opportunities, but you are not able to reach them. It makes you feel helpless. Education gives you the power and the strength to transform your life and that of others. It makes you confident and self-reliant. It is like opening windows in a closed room and flooding it with light and fresh air.”

Jhamku, 17-year-old Barli graduate

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS *together*



Educate.
Empower.
Transform.

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