I LIVE IN a Hut
I live in a hut

Written and Illustrated
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I LIVE IN a Hut
In a little hut in the forest on the other side of the world, in a place called Sadhana Forest, lives a little girl named Shanti.
When the morning comes, Shanti can hear the birds singing.
She can also hear the sound of a flute... between the trees, calling all the volunteers to the morning circle.
Shanti jumps up from her bed and gets ready for a day in the forest.
She is running fast through the forest path, passing the solar panels which give electricity to all the people who live with her in the forest...
She loves to start the morning with everybody singing, stretching and smiling at each other in the morning circle.
It's a good day to plant trees.

She finds a little shovel and goes to work in the forest.
After working hard in the forest...

Today is a very hot day!

After working hard in the forest...
After working hard in the forest . . . Shanti jumps into the mud pool to cool down before breakfast.
The mud pool is full of water because it rained so much last week. The trees, the birds and the cows are all so happy to drink the water from the pool.
Breakfast time...
the bell is ringing,
the dogs are howling.
Everyone
is going
to the
main
hut.
Shanti is washing her hands before the meal...
...and the trees are happily drinking the water dripping from her hands.
All the volunteers are sitting in a big circle in the main hut, waiting for the fruit salad to come.
After Shanti finishes her yummy breakfast she goes with everyone to wash her plate. She uses ash from the firewood stove, it is just like soap.
Now it is time for second seva!

What should I do today?

* seva means service (work) that we do as volunteers
“Should I water the garden?”
“Should I help with the food compost?”
"Should I... help chop some firewood for the kitchen stove?"
“Or should I help Papa in the office?”
“Or should I help feed the rescued animals?”
“Maybe I will play in the main hut on the swinging sari?”
Shanti is very helpful in making the fire for the food to be cooked on the wood stove. Shanti decides to help in the kitchen, she loves cooking!
At 12:30 the bell rings for lunch. Shanti helps to serve the vegan food which she helped to prepare for all the people in Sadhana Forest.

*Vegan food means food only made from plants.
The food I was cooking today is so tasty.
Shanti loves sitting in the hammock and reading.
Oops, the bell is ringing again...
Shanti is running to find out why the bell was ringing...
Breakfast and lunch are over...it is not time for dinner yet...She finds out that...
There is Yoga in the Forest Yurt.

Yoga is fun!
Sometimes in the afternoon Shanti likes to practice playing her guitar...
Sometimes she likes to play basketball with a friend...
And sometimes to play with her mother in the swimming pool.
Other afternoons Shanti travels with her Mother on the motorcycle to do some shopping...
Shanti is a very curious girl. She often spends time looking at her globe wondering...

..hmm...how far is America from my little forest in India?
Today after dinner we have the “Open Stage”. Many people take part in the show. They sing, tell some stories, dance... Shanti also loves to perform...
The moon is up in the sky, calling Shanti to go to sleep.
Every evening
Shanti is having her
bath inside a bucket.
Sometimes she is
not alone...
Shanti enters the mosquito net in her hut and jumps into her bed.
“Good night
my little forest,
I had a wonderful day”
A Few words about Shanti

Shanti is 19 years old today. She was three years old when she came to live in Sadhana Forest with her family. Sadhana Forest land was completely barren in those days. Today after 16 years of giving so much love and energy to the land it has transformed into a beautiful forest. Throughout the years many people and families from all over the world have visited Sadhana Forest and stayed with us as volunteers. There are always amazing people and kids in our living room, eating, talking, singing, having fun...

Many trees were planted by beautiful children.

You! Yes, you are most welcome to join us in Sadhana Forest. You can help us to plant trees and experience life in the forest.

Staying in the forest made us realize that the trees are not the only ones who grow... we are growing with them, too!
This is Shanti, 7 y old
Hello everybody
we are happy to be here
A magical story
You are about to hear
Hello everyone
open your eyes and heart
We are going to tell you
a story:

"I live in a hut"

I live in a hut
Life here is so fun
I also have a cat
Who likes sleeping
in the sun...

I live in a magic palace
With many birds and lizards
Dogs, cows, snakes, spiders
Some say even wizards

I live in a forest
Full of growing trees
Swinging in my hammock
Flowing with the breeze

Do you want to come?
I invite you to watch our **Videobook** and to **Sing along** with us on YouTube:
Not The End...
- I can plant a tree once or twice a year
- I can take shorter showers and save water
- I can help my parents with their work
- I can have fun in nature with my friends
- I can eat vegan food once a week or more
- I can volunteer sometimes in an animal sanctuary
- I can use less plastic
- I can collect the food waste and bring it to a community compost project.