

ANIL KUMAR | DECEMBER 2020

MY PROGRESS IN 2020

anil.kumar.janwaarcastle@gmail.com

I AM ANIL KUMAR. 15 YEARS OLD. SKATEBOARDER. HOMESCHOOLER.



I HAVE A PASSION FOR LEARNING.



ENGLISH HAS BECOME MY SECOND LANGUAGE

I started learning English two years ago because I began to travel outside my village. This was in order to continue my education and to get to know the world around me. I was meeting new people who spoke English, so it was important for me to learn it to be able to communicate with them. At the start, it was very difficult to speak English to people who didn't know Hindi. I wasn't able to explain, and others were not able to understand.

The English sessions were taken by Sushil bhaiya, one of the facilitators at Prakriti school. I wrote about the activities that I did each day and, together with Sushil, I used to correct the mistakes that I made in my writing. Sometimes, I used to write about my day and sometimes on different topics such as - my first day at Prakriti and so on. I kept on writing about different activities.

We also used to read stories and discuss them. Sushil set tests once a week and I gave my best. Even the first draft of a Folk Tale of Janwaar was written in Sushil's session. Folk Tale, a story I wrote about the lake and the temple that we have in Janwaar, was written by me in Sushil's English session. We also worked on pronunciation. We had a good time while learning English. The way he used to tell stories was amazing. He used new words in the stories, and his actions were fun.

I also had online sessions with Rina didi. She lives in Canada. Brajendra and I took sessions with Rina together. We learned basics, such as names of animals, things, etc. and out of names Brajendra and I made sentences. The basics helped me to move forward.

I also had sessions with Nicola, she is from the UK and she has been helping Janwaar kids for many years. The sessions are still going on. I learn a lot of new things and enjoy learning.

I make mistakes and I learn from them, which is really good, I feel. I will keep on learning to reach a good level where anyone in the world can understand me. I am and I will work hard for it. I know that I will make more mistakes, but I will learn from them. I have a long way to go!

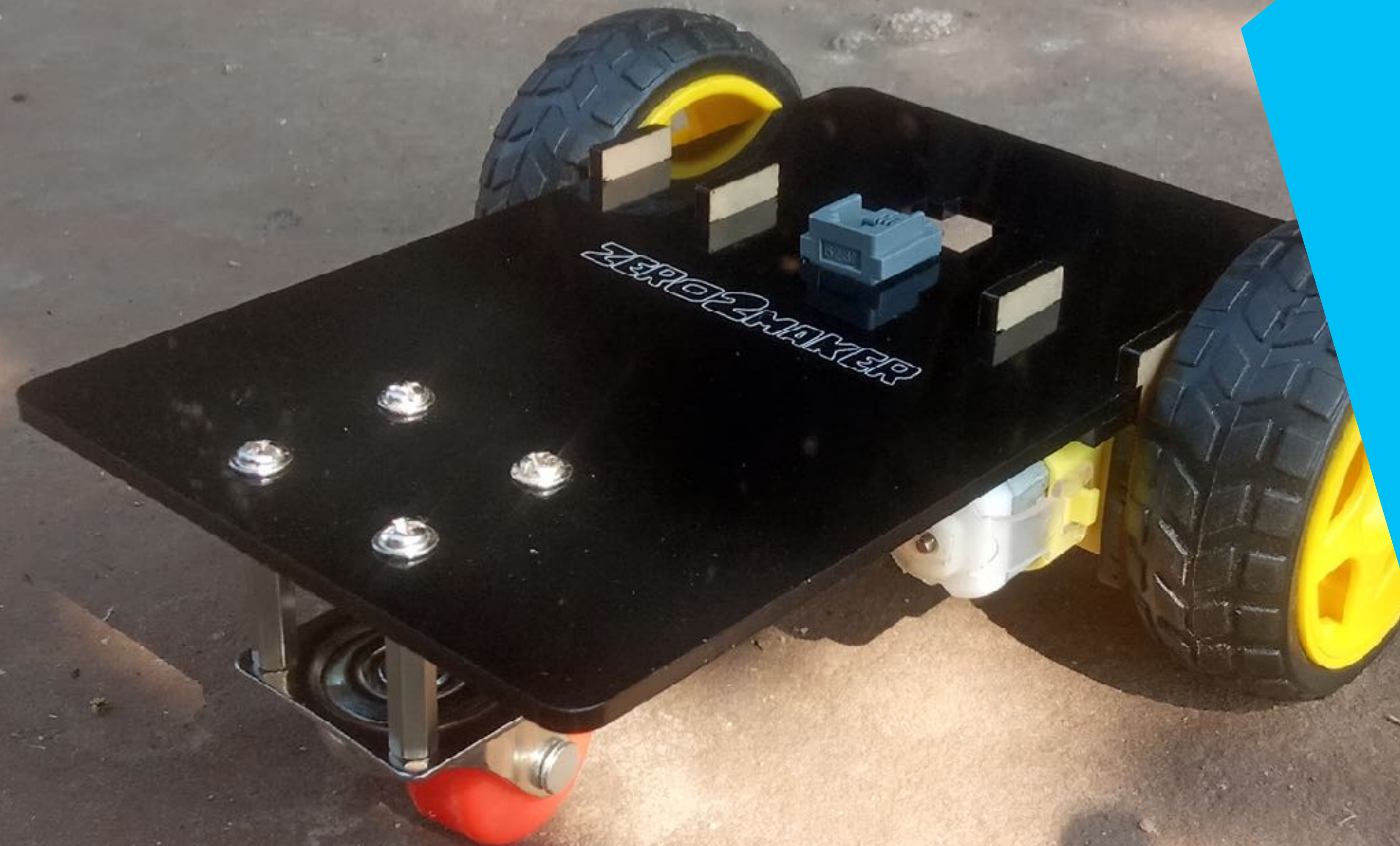
I OVERCAME MY FEAR OF PUBLIC SPEAKING.

In January 2020 I attended a 5-days workshop hosted by the MIT and Harvard University. I travelled all alone from Delhi to Mumbai. I was working with these highly educated students on the topic of Open Spaces. In the workshop discussions I realised that I was actually the one, they (= the other attendees) were designing their solutions for. I was the kid from the rural area they wanted to help. This made me overcome my fear and I told them about our real problems in the village. It was a great interaction.

MIT
India
Initiative

chool
Higher Education

I MOVED FROM ANALOG TO DIGITAL...



In 2020 I learned a lot about computers/software and the Internet. I was introduced to iMacs and Arduino. All my school sessions are online. I work with people from US, China. UK and Germany. That is fun! I've started to interact with our donors and helped to manage a crowdfunding campaign. And only recently I learned a lot from the Chinese frontrunners on maker and hacker space. I am now working on robotics and I coded a remote control. And soon we will set up our maker space at the Villa Janwaar.

... BUT MY SKATEBOARDING SHOES, I STILL HANDLE ANALOG :-)



I PASS ON MY LEARNING TO THE OTHER KIDS IN THE VILLAGE.



Whatever I learn about computers and software I will pass on to the kids in Janwaar. I can't wait to have the computers and the robotic stuff in Janwaar. I know when I introduce the kids to all these things I will learn more about it as well. It is a win-win-situation.

REVERSE MENTORING – PARENTS ARE LEARNING FROM THE KIDS



Together with Asha and Arun I created a theatre performance. We wrote dialogues and practiced with our younger kids the play. The goal of the play was to spread awareness about COVID19 among our parents and other villagers and to convince them to take precautions. We've never seen the kids teaching parents – it was awesome to watch!

MY FIRST SHORT STORY - A FOLK TALE OF JANWAAR

When you turn off the main Panna-Satna road and drive down to Janwaar you will see a lake at the left hand side. My father and grandfather have told me the story about this lake which I always wanted to write down. So I did.

A Folk Tale



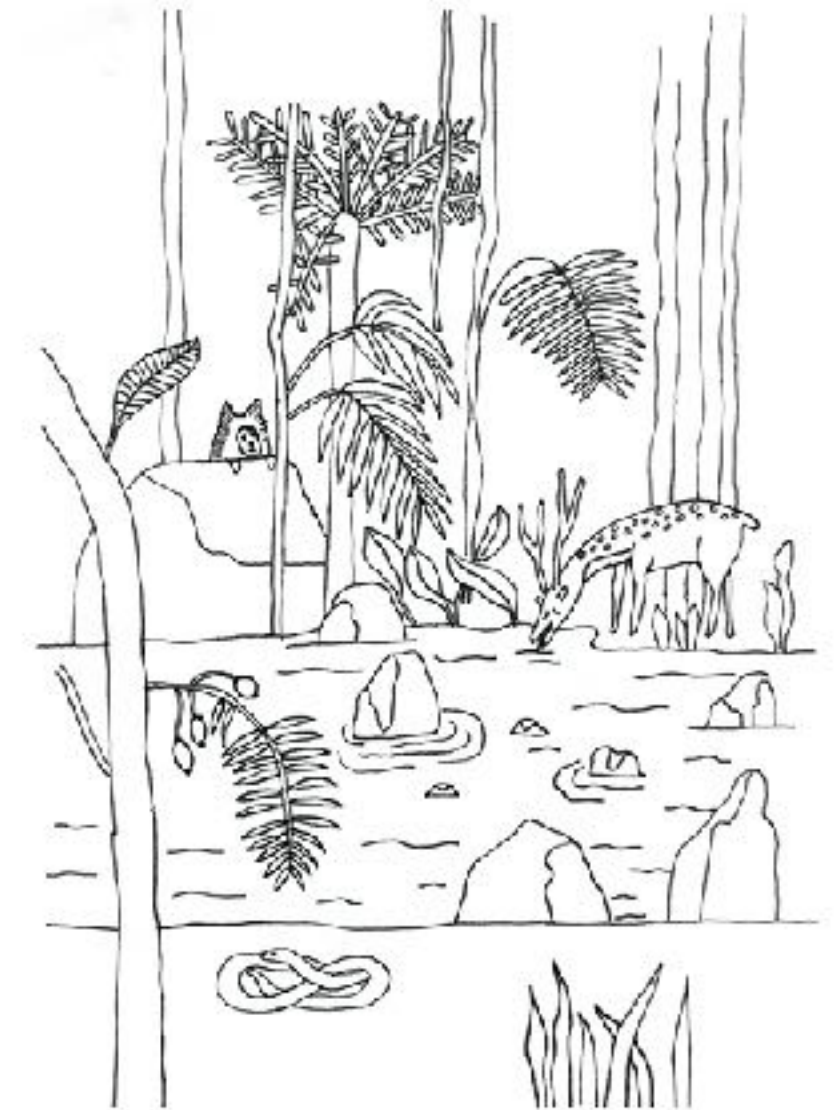
*Text by Anil Kumar
Illustrations by Karen Boyhen*

The structure of these lakes is made out of large and very heavy stones. It's truly massive. It must have taken more than three or four years to build it. The villagers keep saying that thousands of years ago these large stones were less heavy than they are today. I do not know why, but this is what they say.

Back then the lake in Janwaar looked different than today. It was surrounded by a huge jungle and there was a garden of guava trees. Janwaar was famous for its very big and sweet guavas. In the jungle there were all kinds of animals – bears, deers, snakes, etc. and once in a while they came into the village. The animals came to the lake at night to drink water.

One day there was a Bundela royal marriage. A princess, the bride, came with her prince, the groom to Janwaar. The prince was wearing a shining Sarewani, a traditional Indian dress that a groom wears for his wedding. He was wearing a crown and shoes – both in golden colour.

The princess was wearing a long red Lehenga, a typical wedding dress for an Indian. It had a beautiful floral design. She was also wearing some gold jewelry. The



TALKING IS NOT ENOUGH – I NEED TO ACT!

In my online session I became aware of the migrant workers and their desperate situation during this pandemic. I was shocked. I had a flash of inspiration and I decided to write a letter to PM Modi. Maybe he will read my letter, the letter of a young villager whose uncle was part of this migration disaster.



Mr. Narendra Modi
The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India
Prime Minister Office,
New Delhi - 110001

Migrant Workers

December 13, 2020

Dear Hon'ble Prime Minister of India,

I am Anil Kumar from Janwaar. I am a homeschooler and I am preparing for my 10th grade exam under the NIOS curriculum. I am from a small village called Janwaar. It's in the heart of India, in MP.

I have online sessions with my mentors from around the world. In my "India and The World sessions" I learned about the migrant workers during this pandemic. So many people had to walk thousands of kilometres to reach their homes. There were many people with their kids and so many of them were barefoot. I know that the government helped but still they were facing so many problems: scarcity of food, not enough trains and buses, the heat, medicine, passing borders. My uncle was one of the migrants, he faced the same difficulties.

An idea came into my mind after reading articles and watching videos about migrants: if you and the local governments could provide work to villagers that would be amazing. They don't have to leave their homes to earn money. My uncle could stay with his family. I am writing this letter to you because we, the Barefoot Skateboarders of Janwaar (we've founded our own NGO, a section 8 company), are finding people with all kind of passions in our village and we try to turn their passion into jobs. Asharam is the first man we found, he plays flute and now he has started teaching kids in our Community Center called Villa Janwaar. He takes a session once a week and receive payments for this. We will look for more.

My hope is that this idea might help many villages and finds your support. We, the villagers and the village kids need to take – with your help – our lives in our own hands. I and all the other kids of Janwaar are looking forward to your reply. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Anil Kumar
Member of the Barefoot Skateboarders Organization
anil.kumar.janwaarcasillo@gmail.com | +91 70675 21180

BAREFOOT SKATEBOARDERS ORGANIZATION
18, OLD CLAIM COURT BUILDING, OLD QUARTERS JAWAHAR CHOWK, BHOPAL, Madhya Pradesh, India, 462003
Corporate Identity Number: U85300MP2019NPL019629 | PAN: AAICD6559N | TAN: DPLD06081T

I AM ACTIVELY CREATING JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR VILLAGERS

A photograph of a man with a shaved head, wearing a white tank top and a beaded necklace, playing a yellow flute. He is outdoors, with a building and a paved area in the background. The image is partially covered by a pink diagonal overlay on the right side.

The more people find work in the village, the less have to migrate. So I, as a member of the Barefoot Skateboarders started to find people in the village who have a deep passion. Asharam is one of them. He plays The flute very well. I always listened to him. So I thought he could teach the little children how to play the flute as part of Asha's school initiative. He agreed and only recently he had his first session at the Villa Janwaar. He will continue to give session and we will pay him . This makes all of us happy!

SOLUTIONS TO MAKE OUR VILLAGE A BETTER PLACE.

J. P. Dhruwe,
Collector Office Panna (MP)
P.W.D COLONY, Panna, Madhya Pradesh 488001, India

December 13, 2020

Street Lights for Janwaar

Dear respected Collector of Panna, Honorable Sir J P Dhruve,
I am Anil Kumar from Janwaar. I am a homeschooler and I am preparing for my 10th grade exam under the NIOS curriculum.

I have a vision which I want to share with you. My vision is to have solar street lights in Janwaar. So that we become independent from the electricity wires, which very often do not work. Once we have solar lights in Janwaar, then the kids can play after the sundown. They can learn and the villagers can continue to work. Our mothers are more safe when they get out in the dark. Life would not stop with sun down. I can imagine how pretty Janwaar will be when there will be lights in the street. The animals will not come into the village when they see the street light.

Solar street lights provide green energy so there are no resources wasted. And they are easy to maintain. We've had them at our skatepark. It's a one-time investment and maintenance costs are cheaper than fixing wires.

I'd like to ask you for support and make my vision become reality. I've attached an estimate of the costs for a single unit. If we could start with 25 lights, then we could light the main roads.

I am looking forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Anil Kumar
Member of the Barefoot Skateboarders Organization
anil.kumar.janwaarcastle@gmail.com | +91 70675 21180

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I STRUCTURE MY DAILY LEARNING ACTIVITIES.

Wednesday 09/12/2020	6:45 am to 7 am	Schedule making
	7 am to 8 am	Evaluation writing
	8 am 9:30 am	Breakfast and going to the tree house
	9:30 am to 10:30 am	Reading Data Entry chapter 2
	10:30 am to 11 am	Reading Data Entry chapter 2
	11 am to 12 m	Hindi session
	12 pm 1 pm	English book reading
	1 pm to 2:30 pm	Bath and lunch
	2:30 pm to 4 pm	Presentation
	4 pm to 5 pm	Hindi Grammar

A person with dark hair, wearing a blue t-shirt, is sitting on a light-colored floor. Their hands are clasped together in front of them. To their right is a small, red diary with a decorative cover. The diary has the name 'Anil Kumage' written on it in blue ink. The person is looking down at the diary. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

AND I REFLECT ON MY ACTIONS. I LEARN FROM MY MISTAKES.

At the end of my sessions I have feedback loops with my mentors. And in the evening I reflect on my entire day and write an evaluation of all things I've done during the day. This helps me to stay focussed and see where things go wrong. I discuss my evaluations with my mentors. It took me a while to fully understand the importance of such reflections.

THIS WAY I GET THINGS DONE. AND HAVE MORE FREE TIME.



**2020 WAS A GREAT YEAR FOR ME.
THANK YOU!**

