



Child Haven International

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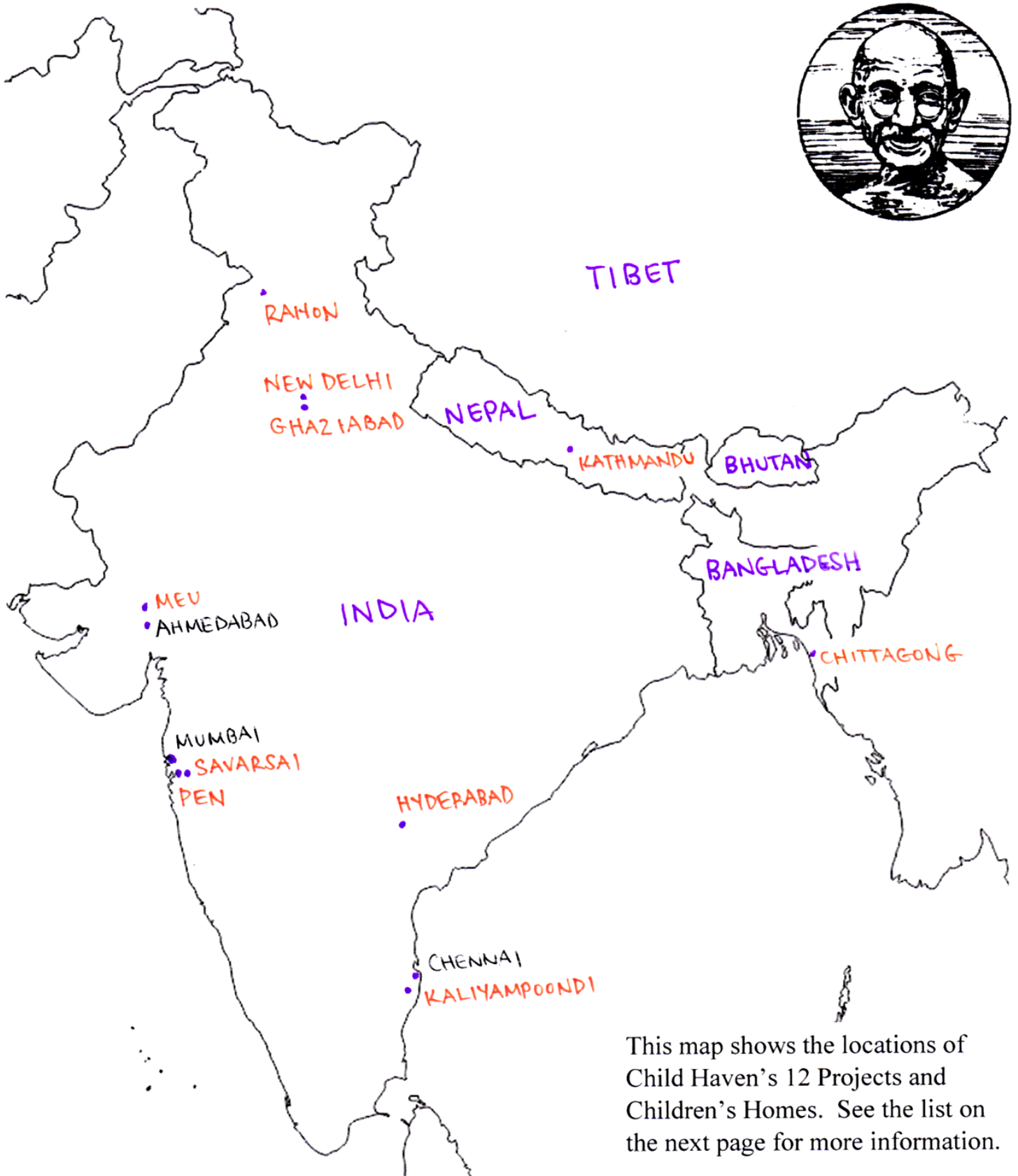


May 2026



Kaliyampoondi – We have some extremely talented artists in our midst! From left to right, Kanagavalli, 12, Kasthuri, also 12, Sathana, 10, Anjali, 12, Sangeetha, age 11, and Niranjana, 6, reveal the ancient beauty that their wrists and palms are adorned with. This form of “mehndi” or henna art is at least 5,000 years old, being used to adorn brides in both Muslim and Hindu wedding ceremonies. It resembles similar traditions of using henna to create temporary body art found in North Africa, East Africa and the Middle East. But of course nowhere more beautifully than at our Homes!

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This map shows the locations of Child Haven's 12 Projects and Children's Homes. See the list on the next page for more information.

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Hyderabad – Now you see it, now you don't! Here's where our Children's Home once stood! The keen observer will notice our old yellow gatehouse in the upper left where our gatekeepers kept watch for many years. The staff quarters in red and blue in the upper right, is now being used to house construction workers for the 4 tower, 38 floor apartment buildings currently under construction in what once was a mango orchard on two sides of our old Home. The Girl's Dormitory and Dining Hall with Boy's Dorm above, are now just the stuff of memory, myth and dust!

Child Haven Homes

Meu, Gujarat, India, 68 children, 8 women, Language: Gujarati

Hyderabad, Telangana, India, 183 children, 14 women, Language: Telugu

Kaliyampoondi, Tamil Nadu, India, 325 children, 35 women, Language: Tamil

Maitreya Foundation, New Delhi, India, 24 children, 1 woman, Language: Tibetan & Hindi

Savarsai, Maharashtra, India, 48 children, 4 women, Language: Marathi

Tribal Home, City of Pen, near Savarsai Home, 55 children, Language: Marathi and Tribal languages

Kathmandu, Nepal, 99 children 22 women, Language: Nepali

Chittagong, Bangladesh, 70 children, 15 women, Language: Bengali

Dharamsala, Himachal Pradesh, India, Tibetan Children's Village - support for 17 children - Language: Tibetan

(Hundreds of other children are sponsored for education but are not living in one of our Homes.)

Women's Programs Child Haven Sponsors

Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, India, Tailoring, Beauty and Wellness Training for 50 women at a time, Language: Hindi

Rahon, Punjab, India, education in tailoring for 50 women at a time, Language: Punjabi - Currently on hold

Kathmandu, Nepal, education in tailoring for women, Language: Nepali



Hyderabad – There's a lot happening at our newly moved Hyderabad Home! Above Kusum helps hold a water apple tree being planted with help from Vamshi, in Grade 8. Above center, some well strapped-together bamboo poles make a scaffolding for mounting our new logo on the Kitchen and Dining Hall Building. To the right above, Boy's Supervisor Gopal, Girl's Supervisor Umadevi, Manager Theresa, Matron Sultana and your intrepid newsletter editor rest after wrestling a mango into its new home. There with any luck, and some good watering, it will bring much needed shade, joy and nourishment to hundreds of children for many years to come. Below, a game of kho kho in front to the Girl's Dorm and a game of volleyball with the back of the Staff Quarters seen behind.





Hyderabad – Above, Home Matron Sultana checks attendance to be sure no one is still sleeping in their room before everyone streams onto the school bus!

Below are our girls packed tightly into the bus and ready for another day of studies at the Challenger School, about a half-hour away. We send our children to this private English Medium School since the local government school struggles to have enough teachers and is unfortunately very poorly funded.





Kathmandu – We were finally able to replace some water drainage lines that were too small and inadequate to meet the Home’s needs. They had required massive efforts on a regular basis to remove blockages. Thanks to help from the local municipality and all of you, the new wider pipes have been installed, and courtyard and playground put back together!

To the left, our watchperson Mayadidi gives a helping hand to Basanta, age 9, and Badal, age 10, as they help clean up the courtyard!



Kathmandu – **Spaceship Lands at Home!** Luckily Lavanya, age 8, and Shruti, 6, were able to take control of the extra-terrestrial orb and land it safely! It had been disguised as a roll of water pipes and an about to be recycled wheelchair. If it had not been recognized by their keen eyes, it might not have been noticed at all!

After the safe landing, a team of 6 spaceship renovation specialists (right) made the necessary modifications for future flights to realms beyond our wildest imagination!

Child Haven wishes to express our deep gratitude for the formidable bravery, intelligence and creative problem-solving that went into these important missions!





Kathmandu – Biogas to the rescue! The tragic war in the Middle East has caused huge shortages of liquid petroleum gas (LPG) resulting in long lines at filling stations, and a new regulation in Nepal that gas canisters can only be filled halfway! Our Home's cooks, who prepare food for around 180 people every day, use about 25 gas cylinders every month for everything from cooking huge pots of dahl and rice to making soymilk twice daily.



Luckily, our biogas plant, which creates cooking gas from all the human waste deposited in the bathrooms at the Home, provides perhaps 25% of all the gas the Home requires. This is a huge help as LPG becomes more scarce and hard to come by. To assist with our bio-gas production, the Home has established a mutually beneficial relationship with a neighboring farmer who brings cow dung to add to the biogas plant every day. In exchange she takes the food scraps from the kitchen and Dining Hall to feed her helpful bovines. This simple exchange has created an effective community-based circular system, where waste from one side becomes a valuable resource for the other.

Above are photos of the burner in the kitchen which is run on the gas from the biogas plant

To the left is Care-giver Sushila in pink serving rice and dahl created by the talented chefs in our kitchen.



Kathmandu – Anisha, (above left) in Grade 10, has wisely found a piece of plastic to use as a clean surface while she washes her shoes and other laundry. The yard was completely dug up to replace some drainage pipes that were becoming perennially blocked! We hope the larger pipes will prove to be more trouble free! Keeping Anisha company is Purnima in Grade 8 who thanks to our Accountant Sangita has learned to magically grow roses from her fingertips!

Below is the weekly dance class. In the upper right, in blue, is volunteer/intern Maris Wolff, who came to intern from her home in Vermont. Maris is a retired college dance teacher and shared her love of dance with everyone.



Bonnie Lore by Fred Cappuccino, her long-suffering husband

A recent message from Arjun Mani Guragain, the Coordinator of our Nepal Home from 1994 to 2012, recalled some of Bonnie and his exploits in Tibet.

Arjun often accompanied Bonnie on trips to our Children's Home in Nanang Village, outside of Lhasa, Tibet. That was before it was closed by the Chinese government along with most other privately run Homes. The children were sent to huge government-run facilities instead. Our Home, while it lasted was in the ancestral village of Wangdala, our good friend now living in Ottawa. His brother Norbula managed the Home along with his wife, Dolma.



Arjun and Bonnie, along with occasional travelling companions would visit several times a year to see how the Home was doing and what kind of support Child Haven might be able to provide. Solar water heaters to heat the water for the always filling and emptying thermoses of butter and green tea, a greenhouse for extending the very short Tibetan growing season, hoola-hoops, and skipping ropes were among the many things they provided with your support. Arjun wrote about how challenging Tibet's high altitude could be and how Bonnie would counsel everyone to walk slowly, drink plenty of water and take Diamox if headaches, nausea and vomiting began. Arjun knew that Bonnie occasionally experienced these symptoms but would never complain. I could relate to his mentioning that, as it is often the case, that the only way I will know she is in pain is if I notice a quick grimace or faltering step. Hiding pain is a skill I have never wished to practice, enjoying as I do, the pity-garnering effectiveness of the occasional whine or small moan.

But back to Tibet. Arjun shared a story about a Tibetan journey during which Bonnie and he were joined by Shyam Dhaubadel, the President of the Nepal Child Haven Board. Unfortunately, part way through their trip, an emergency came up that required Shyam to return urgently to Kathmandu. When they went to arrange an earlier ticket home for Shyam, they were told in angry tones that there was absolutely no way that their pre-purchased return tickets could be changed! It was completely out of the question. (I should mention that the flight from Kathmandu to Lhasa is one of the most expensive per mile of any flight world-wide). While anyone



Arjun and Bonnie with a Tibetan Official in 1998

with any sense might have just let it go at that and tried to arrange other transport back, Bonnie was gently insistent that the ticket could and should be changed. She was so certain that this was something that they could do, that she stayed in the office with them smiling and patiently insisting until 3 hours later, the new ticket was issued, and Shyam was able to return to attend to the crisis at home. Arjun reflected on this as Bonnie's super peaceful power at work, an example of how "aggressions create revenge and peaceful acts solves issues."

Having had the good fortune to have borne the brunt of the love of my life's super peaceful powers for 73 years now I confess to possibly having a more jaded view of those superpowers from time to time. I do have to admit that yes, she is a peaceful force to be reckoned with. I have nothing but sympathy for the poor ticket masters who were overcome by her gentle common sense.



Chittagong New Children – Nuraid Hosen, above left, is 4 and a half. He came to the Home after his father died from a stroke and his mother was unable to support him. He generously picked the canna lily for the photographer who made the mistake of commenting on how beautiful it was in the Home’s flower garden moments earlier. Abdul Rohin, in the center above also lost his father, who fell from the building he was working on as a mason. He and his mother went to live with her parents, but they cannot provide for all of them. He is explaining a real head-scratcher of a number recognition problem to Antu, age 4, who also recently joined the Home after her mother died of cancer. Her father is unable to provide a safe home for her.



To the left are a few of the community women that have come to one of the free medical clinics held weekly at the Home.

There’s a homeopathic clinic which sees 50 to 65 patients per week and an allopathic clinic which sees around 25 patients per week.

Indirama, Child Haven Wonder Woman

This interview with Indirama was done with the help of Yadagiri, the Assistant Manager at our Hyderabad Home who was one of the little boys Indirama cared for when she first came to work at the Home 20 years ago.

Indirama says she loves spending time with the children. She came after hearing about an opening at the Home from a former staff member who lived near her. She began by helping out in the kitchen cutting vegetables and the like and doing some sweeping. Later she began her current work as a caregiver for the girls, helping with bathing, braiding hair, getting them ready for school, and putting them to bed at night. She says she plans to work with them as long as her health allows and that she is in very good health right now.

Indirama was married at 11-years-old. She and her husband lived in their village with his parents until they passed away. Then they moved to Hyderabad where they had 2 girls and 2 boys. She tells us that since her husband struggles with alcohol, her income has been vital to supporting her family. Her youngest daughter moved to the Home shortly after Indirama started working at Child Haven. After graduating from high school and going on to receive training in tailoring, she is now working as a tailor. Child Haven sponsors the education of Indirama's grandchildren as well. Indirama says one of the things she enjoys about working in the Home is that it keeps her mind off of any challenges her family might be experiencing.

Over the past 20 years Indirama has nurtured and helped to raise hundreds of children. She has enjoyed watching them grow and mature. Knowing Indirama and speaking with her, it is clear that her accumulated child mentoring skills rival that of many others whose lives afforded them the opportunity to collect formal degrees in child psychology and child development. She says that when children are naughty, she stays calm, spends more time with them, talks with them and sometimes sleeps with them as well. Yadagiri interjects that he remembers and is very grateful that when he was a little boy, Indirama would give special attention to him and the other full orphans in her care, especially when the family members of other children who had perhaps a single mother or other relatives came to visit their children. At those times, Indirama would hold Yadagiri and the other children in her lap helping them feel loved and appreciated too. No doubt the example of Indirama and all the other Wonder Women working at this Home help to inspire and inform Yadagiri's work now as Assistant Manager.

We, and so many children, are all most fortunate that Indirama has been such a knowledgeable and compassionate member of our Child Haven family for so many years.



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To give through United Way, just designate your donation to 'Child Haven International' and include our Registered Charity # Canada 11885 1922 RR0001. USA 22-2637689. Receipts are issued by United Way.

We are also able to receive **gifts of stocks and securities**.
(providing donors better tax advantages than donating cash).

Another way to offer your support is by **leaving Child Haven a bequest in your will**. There is a brochure on several ways to do this on our web site under "Donating"

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Decal of Gandhi: P V Anthony,
Mother & Child logo: Eugene Fern
Sketch of Bonnie and Fred: Andrina Cox
Co-International Directors: Bonnie Cappuccino, Robin Cappuccino
Erudite, Elegant and Educational Newsletter Editor: Robin Cappuccino
Editor Emeritus: Fred Cappuccino





Kaliyampoondi – Happy 100th Birthday Fredpa! All the Homes celebrated this momentous day with great fanfare in January. Here, the art class took on making a huge portrait of said Fred utilizing squares on a graph laid out over a smaller photo and then transferred large to create their masterpiece under the direction of Art Teacher S. Vikram. They were so inspired, that now they are planning to make a huge environmental protection poster the size of their basketball court. Watch for updates on that!

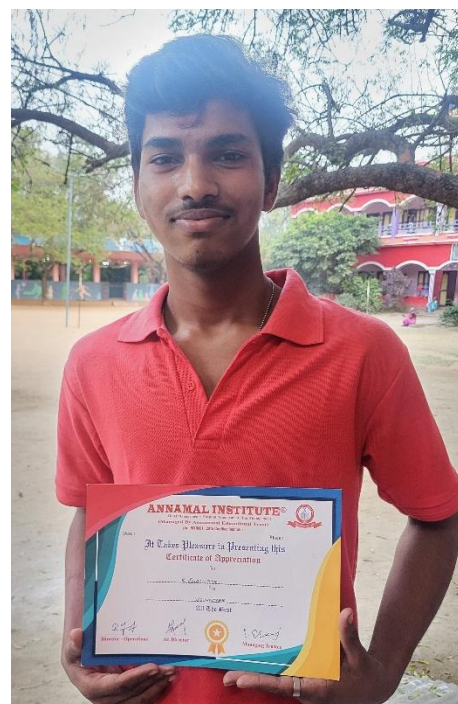




Kaliyampoondi – The garden bathed in early morning light above left, is a big provider for this Home. Above right, Muttial our gardener takes a bucket of eggplants to the kitchen from the patch in the lower right of the garden photo.

In the kitchen Indra, (to the left) and our other amazing chefs turn them into a tantalizing curry or other such treats. That in turn is served to our hungry children on occasions such as this – a special meal served on banana leaves!





Kaliyampoondi – Above left, Thilaga in Grade 6, shows off her award for the artwork she created for a drawing competition! Anjali in Grade 7, center above, and her classmate, Kasthuri, left below, received their awards for a science project that featured a simple water purification model using recycled plastic bottles. Their project demonstrated how dirty water can be filtered and purified using layers of sand and natural mineral particles. It was a practical and effective way to show basic water filtration and the importance of clean water. For her science project, Divya, below right, developed an eco-friendly house model using cardboard and graph paper. Her model included a rainwater harvesting system, highlighting the importance of sustainable living and water conservation.



Surender, above right, received his Certificate of Appreciation for helping to prepare a meal for guests to his college where he is studying catering.

Congratulations and thanks to all of our esteemed volunteers and scholars.



Kaliyampoondi – Ever since Gukesh Dommaraju, from Chennai, became the youngest-ever undisputed World Chess Champion in December 2024 at age 18, there has been even more chess played at the Home. Above left, Manikandan waits to play the winner of the game between Robin and Kathirvel.

Above right, Gowsalya, pretty in pink and in Grade 2 is making a magical powder by smashing seeds from one of the trees in the compound with her future pharmacist friend Ratchiga in Grade 3. To the left, the Goddess of Learning Saraswati radiates support to the young news maven's gathered beneath her in front of our library. To the left below, so many heads of hair to brush, braid, and keep free of unwelcome guests! Below right, Chandrika, Rosy, Kalchana and Aravathy play a spirited leaping-over-your-back game.





Kaliyampoondi – Pictured above is our Home's full-time nurse, Radha. Her husband, Prashanth, next to her, works as office staff at a local company. He is holding the most beautiful baby in the world, their son, Rishwith, who is 1 year and 8 months old. We are very grateful to have Radha's help with the bruises, scrapes and sometimes more serious health issues that she treats so ably and well!

To the left, among Radha's many skills is knowing how to ride a scooter! Here she is giving our cook of many years, Bharti a few pointers. Bharti has always wanted to know how to ride a scooter and is excited to finally be able to do so! When the decision was made to purchase a new motorcycle for the Home, the women staff requested that this time we purchase a scooter which is much easier to drive wearing a sari. They said they would like to be able to use it, along with the male staff, for errands, taking children with minor ailments to the health clinic and the like. As you can imagine, Bonniema readily agreed, and so here it is. Of course a helmet is required at all times off the compound!



Kaliyampoondi – Our long-time caregiver Balamal, above left, poses with her granddaughter Shalini. Shalini has received her Bachelor's in Business Administration Degree with Child Haven support and has recently gotten married. To the right, is. Rithika, aged 9 and her mother, Poovarasi, who visited and brushed her hair during a recent visit. Poovarasi is the sole ricewinner of the family and is unable to both work and take care of her daughter.

Child Haven Support Groups for Fundraising Events 2026

Fundraiser	Location	Contact
May 1	Vancouver, BC	Yamini Gandesha 604-999-2549, Katherine Doyle 604-220-9324
May 3	Victoria, BC	Robin Colyer 819-432-5997 & Peter Hamilton 819-432-5997
May 23	Calgary, AB	Salimah Jina 403-991-4696
May 31	Kingston, ON	Jackie RushMorgan & Andrew Rush 613-542-6992 or 343-333-1974
	Montreal, QC	Sheila Laursen 514-697-4195
	Edmonton, AB	Sylvia Krogh 780-454-6216
	Hardwick, VT, USA	Robin Cappuccino 802-533-2296, Deborah Hartt 802-472-5284
	Mississauga, ON	Shyam Sheth & Leena Motwani 647-876-8488, Tushar Mehta 416-839-1938
	Hamilton, ON	Ginny Megin 905-332-6474, Valerie Dougherty 905-465-1911
	Comox/Courtenay, BC	Heather Holm 250-338-2181
	Qualicum/Parksville, BC	Cilla Lewenhaupt 250-752-0968
	Perth, ON	Lori Taylor 613-803-1184, Tracey Parker 613-267-4305
	Glengarry, ON	Alyson Graham 613-525-0796, Julie Slater 613-525-1104
	Burlington, VT, USA	Elango Dev 615-440-7913
	Lennoxville, QC	Phyllis Baxter 819-364-8273
	Lincoln, MA, USA	Christine Damon 781-879-5870
	Canmore, AB	Simon Bryant 403-609-8125
	Carleton Place, ON	Jane Hamilton-Eaton 613-853-7959
	Winnipeg, MB	Zobida Ambtman 204-489-7630
	Cornwall, ON	Elaine MacDonald 613-330-3117, elainemacdonald11@gmail.com
	Kitchener/Waterloo, ON	Sydney Cook 226-929-4275
	Ottawa, ON	Lynda Inkster 613-824-1720, Parin Bhimani 613-422-1573



Meu – Thanks to your support, we have hired a dance teacher, Pradeepbhai Prajapati, below in blue, and an art teacher, Jyotiben Bala, to the right, who come every Sunday to share their skills. Above, Sania, age 8, stretches before dance class. Above right are, Komal, Vansari, and Neha with some of the paper flowers they have created in the art class.





Savarsai - On special occasions in the Maharashtra “winter”, the children and staff make a huge fire around metal vessels containing paneer, pineapple and beans which are all cooked until tender and served hot to everyone’s delight. The dish is called vegetarian “popti”. It serves as an inspiring way to clean-up brush and leaves in the yard which abounds with leaves from mango, jackfruit, water apple and other fruit trees.





Gandhinagar Women's Vocational Program

– A young mother (above) is learning a new trade under the watchful eye of her child at our Ghaziabad project site.

To the left, our long-time instructor and Project Manager Ragni, stands at the entrance to our facility. In the doorway are the slippers of this session's participants. This photo shows some of the renovations we are still looking for help with on the Needs Chart on our web-site. There had been several steps down from the threshold to the floor of the room. That was because as the road in front of the building rose, the need to raise the threshold became necessary so that all the sewage running down the ditch beside the street would not end up in the building. Eventually, it seeped in through the foundation, so raising up the floor finally helped solve that problem! Sewage and tailoring don't go very well together!





Chittagong – This is home to a multitude of accomplished engineer/architects who specialize in utilizing recycled materials in their environmentally sound construction projects! Shown here are Rana in the middle, who is 10 years old, and Mohammad Hamim, wearing the tupi cap, who is 8 years old. As you will notice upon careful examination, the brick fragment in the upper left has been ingeniously scraped with a stone to create the red fishpond below. The pond and construction site were wisely located under the jungle gym, since it is an area safe from foot traffic. Any feet that come close are climbing up and over it making it a perfect location for such important structures!

*“Let me light my lamp, says the star,
And never debate if it will dispel the dark.”*

Rabindranath Tagore



Kaliyampoondi – Future priest and priestesses Sivalingam, age 8, Miruthula, age 8, and Niranjana, who is 6, offer their blessings to the one-time idli grinder pestle, now sacred temple stone, resembling the “Sivalingam” that is actually the namesake of our boy Sivalingam in blue above. In temples all over the world, devotees perform *abhishekam* (pouring water, milk, honey, or ghee) over the Sivalingam to connect with divine consciousness. We are certain that our children are very well connected!

For donations please make cheques out to CHILD HAVEN, and mail this information slip to CHILD HAVEN, 19014 Conc. 7, Maxville, ON K0C 1T0 (or to Box 5099, Massena, NY 13662-5099, USA.) Donations to Child Haven are tax receiptable in Canada, India and the USA. General Full sponsorship is \$30/month or \$360/year.

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