

Child Haven International



ACCUEIL INTERNATIONAL POUR l'ENFANCE
19014 Concession 7, Maxville ON K0C 1T0
613-527-2829
fred@childhaven.ca
childhaven.ca

December 2025



Kaliyampoondi – We are not certain what Rishith is explaining to his Grade 5 tutor, Vasugi. It could be that he is describing the size of the mongoose that ran off with his homework, or maybe the size of the huge pile of idlis he had for breakfast, or possibly how quantum physics allows two particles to be in the same place at the same time? We can see though that it is deeply enthralling his classmates!

Kaliyampoondi	1 13-15 22-23 18 24	Hyderabad	20	Master Chefs in Training	11
Fred Lore	19	Interning	16-17	Support Groups	18
Donating	21	Savarsai	4	Maitreya Home	6
Meu	4-5	Homes	3	Chittagong Sisters	22
Chittagong	7-9	Kathmandu	23	Wonder Woman	1
Savarsai Future Lawyers	3				



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.

This issue is 24 pages, with 3800 copies printed. Published in Canada. (publication #40020487)
Revenue Canada Charitable number, 11885 1922 RR0001. USA Charitable number, 22-2637689





Savarsai Future Lawyers – Dipali, 19, above left is in the second year of a 5-year Bachelor in Law Studies degree. She says her classes are going well although she feels a need for an English course as some of her courses are in that challenging language. Home Manager Prakash will arrange this for her. Vihan, above right, is also interested in the law. He says that many poor people need help and there are no lawyers to support them. He learned this from witnessing the difficulties his mother had with a land dispute after his father passed away when he was 4 years old. He is now studying in Grade 12 and as long as he continues to do well with his studies, he will join Dipali in law school next year!

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, Marathi plus Tribal languages
Kathmandu, Nepal, 203 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







Meu – From left to right, future Fashion Designers Aradhana in the 7th Grade, Jivika in 8th Grade and Fulbani in the 9th, practice and develop their skills on Child Haven's human powered treadle sewing and exercise machines. Our tailoring teacher comes twice a week.



Savarsai – Young minds fully engaged in the newly refurbished computer lab. Our staff members, Tejashri, and Harshanda, help out in the lower photograph. Huge thanks to the inspired Child Haven Needs Chart donors who funded our new computers!







Meu – Above, a Gujarati version of hopscotch! With the soil at the Home so sandy, it is easy to scratch out a pattern and use it for games and activities!

To the right and below, we are very grateful to Tanya Pinto and all our friends at Baal Dan for the new and very much utilized playground equipment.







Maitreya Home – Pema Yangchin, above left, has been living at the Maitreya Home since she was a little girl. Last year she earned her Master's Degree in History with Honours. She is now preparing for the civil service exams needed to get a government job. She is spending a lot of time studying for these 7 stage exams which have the reputation of being among the most rigorous in the world. Given how well she has done in university, we know she will do extremely well. She has her sights set on being a District Magistrate, which we also have no doubt she would excel at. If that doesn't pan out however, she plans to go back to university to work on a PhD in order to become a university professor in History. In the little spare time she affords herself, she enjoys reading novels and painting.

Tsering Drema, above right, is just finishing a beautician internship. Her course took one and a half years, and the internship was for 6 months. She says that meeting and talking with so many people and hearing their stories is one of her favorite parts of being a beautician. She enjoys hair-cutting and how she can make people feel and look beautiful. In her free time, she likes to dance. Her favorite dance is "gorshey", a Tibetan circle dance. Group dancing is what she enjoys most. Gorshey is most often danced during Tibetan celebrations and social gatherings.

In the 20 years she has lived in the Home, Tsering has learned Hindi, English, and of course Tibetan which means she will be able to converse with many of her clients.

We wish both Pema and Tsering well as they prepare to enter the working world outside our Home. We know they are well-equipped to take on whatever challenges may come their way.





Chittagong – Our staff arranged for typhoid shots to be given to all our Home children as well as the community children attending our Montessori school. Above left, Dr. Jakia makes the jab as our longtime Montessori teacher, Alpona, helps keep track. Above right, our Assistant Manager Forhad, helps one of our Montessori School children, Ahnaf, stay calm while the medicine is applied.

Below, Home Manager, Jasmin holds a meeting with some of the parents of children in our Montessori Program.







Chittagong – In June of this year, children at the Home celebrated Eid al-Adha with their Child Haven brothers, sisters, siblings, and staff. Eid al-Adha or the "Feast of Sacrifice" is the second largest festival cherished by Muslims after Eid al-Fitr.

Above you can see the older kids participating in a Puchka-making party on the second day of Eid. Puchka is a Bangladeshi appetizer made with a deep-fried, puffed whole-wheat sphere filled with mashed potatoes and a tangy mint and tamarind-based juice. It is a popular street food enjoyed throughout South Asia, made in different ways and called by various names depending on the region.

The hard-working kitchen staff also enhance the fun by making other favorite dishes that are selected by the children. When everyone's bellies are full from popping puchka after puchka in their mouths, children and staff enjoy participating in games as well. Food for the body, food for the soul…





Chittagong – There's always a lot of learning going on at this Home! Playing a key role in this are the older children who often offer their kind assistance to the younger ones. Among these generous tutors are Manik, helping some of our Grade 3 children above, and Shaikat to the upper right helping out our Grade 2 students.

To the right, the computer lab is packed with burgeoning engineers, novelists and graphic artists.

Below left, Shahin is receiving help with her mathematics homework from Subeha.

In the lower right, Suraiya Jahan, left, and Saida Sing to the right, are working on their homework. Saida came this past year after her single mother was facing challenges making ends meet as a farm labourer on other people's farms. Suraiya also has parents who are migrant farmworkers travelling form farm to farm in search of work.









Lomboti Wonder Woman

by Avani Pisapati

I felt rather lucky to sit down with this season's Wonder Woman, Lomboti, the loving and humble caregiver and cook at our Chittagong Home. Like the many other Wonder Women who have inspired readers of this newsletter, she was quite modest about her personal life and achievements, despite their obvious weight. As you can imagine, it was a cherished experience to sit down with her and hear all that she generously shared earlier this year.

Lomboti came to Child Haven 6 years ago when she heard from her neighbor Nikodim, our trusted watchman and in-and-out man, that the Home was looking for a new caregiver. At the time, she had been working as a landless farmworker, practicing jhum cultivation, an indigenous farming method that involves burning land and then farming it before shifting to another region. In the past, this method was sustainable due to the availability of large areas of cultivatable land. But in recent years, increasing population density caused by settler influx, the loss of land due to the construction of a local dam, and many other social and economic pressures have made this practice harsh on both the environment and workers.

Lomboti would wake up at 5 AM, work until sunset, and collect 30 Bangladeshi Taka or $0.25 USD for the whole day of jhum work. She had been repeating this routine all her life since she was around 10 years old. But as she got older, it became physically taxing and she sometimes couldn't find enough work to keep food on her table. So, it was understandable that she was ready for something different.

Lomboti is from the Hativanga Village in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, a hilly and rugged region in eastern Bangladesh where many different tribal communities reside, including the Tripura community that Lomboti is a part of. Because of this, she did not know Bangla when she first came to Child Haven, but like many other staff and children from her native place, she courageously learned the language and is now very appreciative of having this skill.

She is a proud, resilient, single mother of two children and four grandchildren. Her daughter Joyonthi is 12 years old, studying in the 5th grade, and living alongside her at Child Haven (see picture above). Her son Joss is 25 years old, married, living on his own, and raising a wonderful family with two twin girls and two boys!

At Child Haven, Lomboti mostly works in the kitchen, doing the heroic work of feeding over 70 children and our staff delectable Bangladeshi cuisine three times a day. But sometimes when there are crises or if someone is on leave, she will step in to take care of boys and girls as a caregiver. No matter what she does though, Lomboti brings a steady and sustained resilience that is a balm to the stories of hardship contained within the Home walls. We are so lucky to have her as a role model and companion. Thanks Lomboti for sharing your wondrous spirit with all of us.





Child Haven Master Chefs in Training! At our Kaliyampoondi Home, above left, Vishnu Priya in Grade 10, and Sandhiya, also in Grade 10, above right, chop ginger and prepare cauliflower for the night's curry. Below left, at our new Home in Hyderabad, Sravanthi is in the 10th Grade and also learning to make a curry from our cook Swathi. To the right below, Ansh, also at our Hyderabad Home, is in the 6th Grade and helping to wash the beans. Knowing how to cook is an independent living skill that is a must for our talented and soon to be independent children!









Kaliyampoondi – On the weekend, the older boys do their laundry and take an extra lengthy shower. Cleaning their bodies and their clothes are, clockwise from the left above, Kishor getting squeaky clean, Santosh taking advantage of our very effective solar clothes dryer, Siva uses a traditional scrubbing stone to clean his towel while Karthik is utilizing a scrub brush in his quest for the whitest white.









Kaliyampoondi – Our Homes call upon staff, older students and when needed hire tutors, to lead daily study sessions for our young scholars. Above Belkesfathima leads a homework class with the 4th Grade students on the basketball court as does Vasugi with the Grade 3 children in the upper right.



To the right, Maheshwari, Grade 11, Sandhiya in Grade 12 and Sabari Priya in her first year of a Bachelor's degree in Tamil, are studying in the Dining Hall.

Below, the Grade 8 students are put through their paces by tutor, Jayanthi. No wonder our children are always the toppers in their schools!





Kaliyampoondi's Siva Ranjani – by Avani Pisapati

Siva Ranjani is a 22-year-old woman of many talents. She is a folk artist, a student of social work, and loving sister. But perhaps most profound is that she has confronted ancient shackles of suffering with courage. Beaming through the telling of the tale is her on the left. Seeing her, you might have no idea that she had escaped one child marriage and another child engagement and then set sail on her own at the age of 16 with 150 Indian rupees to her name.

Siva Ranjani did not grow up in Child Haven but approached us when she needed some support to complete her Master of Social Work. She had been living in a sister's convent at the time, which provided her shelter after running away from her in-law's residence as a young girl. She had no one to lean on for financial or social support after her mother had passed away, her father had married into a second family, and society had ostracized her for being a divorcee. So of course, Child Haven agreed to cover the expenses for her MSW, which she is slated to complete in April of 2026.

The journey from child bride to social worker was one of epic proportions. After a family offered to support Siva Ranjani's education if she got married to their son, the paternal side of Siva Ranjani's family arranged for her to get married and move in with the groom. He was 28 years old, and she was 16. But it wasn't long before Siva Ranjani realized these promises were empty. Instead of supporting her education, the in-laws forced her to do agricultural labor that she had no interest in doing. Once she realized this sad truth, she ran away to her father's house.

Months later, Siva Ranjani's aunt arranged for her to be with another partner. This time, she was pushed to the edge. She ran away for a second time, and then made the decision to call Childline India, a 24-hour crisis line that supports children in situations of distress. She spent one night in the Childline office and then was brought to the Child Welfare Committee, a government body in India that provides protection to orphaned or otherwise vulnerable children. It was there that she met Glorie Annie Madam, a loving and committed advocate who brought her to the convent and connected her with Child Haven.

Marriage under the age of 18 remains illegal in India and has decreased in recent years; however, the practice still affects millions of children. When economic and educational opportunities are denied to girls in a patriarchal world order, girls are sometimes considered a burden to the families' resources. Families already struggling from poverty may then feel compelled to "marry their daughters off" to grooms who can afford to look after them. In the process, young girls can be forced into sexual and family life against their will, which can result in life-threatening pregnancies, domestic violence, and many other adverse life and health outcomes.

What is most remarkable is that instead of Siva Ranjani falling prey to the hopelessness endured through child marriage, she chose transformation. She also made it her responsibility to educate others and raise awareness about the issue, as she did earlier this year in a very creative and effective way.

Siva Ranjani made the two-hour journey from Chennai to the Child Haven Home every week to organize her first “street play”, a type of folk theatre performed in public spaces throughout India’s history, including during the freedom struggle against colonial rule as a tool to mobilize people’s consciousness around social and political issues. She and several Kaliyampoondi staff members worked with a cast of our Home’s high school children to devise a street play about the dangers of child marriage and traveled to numerous villages around the Home to perform it and spread the message.

In one of the villages, a crowd of mothers, young and old, gathered on the dusty earthen ground to watch the play. You could see them become gripped with the heavy emotions evoked by the play. When the performance was over, several of them ran up to Siva Ranjani and embraced her. One of the women confessed how the play reminded her of her own childhood as tears ran down her face, which Siva Ranjani wiped away tenderly.

In Siva Ranjani’s own words “We should not encourage child marriage because we must respect every individual’s feelings, and we must trust them. Otherwise, each generation will not improve. Young girls need the freedom to choose their own life and path.”

Thank you Siva Ranjani for speaking truth to power and for working to point out and heal generational wounds with your active love. It is a gift to witness your courage and talent, and imagine all the communities they will touch and transform.







Volunteer Interning at our Kathmandu Home - by Katherine Walsh

Walking by the office one afternoon, I saw a small boy named Jiben, being admitted to Child Haven by his uncle. Jiben's father had died of cancer and his mother was disabled and unable to look after him. Admission is a very long process. The young children were in school, so I offered to colour and then play a board game with him. Soon an older college student came along joining our game, giving a warm welcome to Jiben who was soon laughing and enjoying himself. This college student who spontaneously helped Jiben feel at home is the spirit of Child Haven for me. The never-ending acts of kindness and empathy that I witnessed make for a loving and caring Child Haven family

I knew about Child Haven Kathmandu because our son Andrew volunteered there 20 years ago. Attending the annual fundraisers I have come to know Child Haven and together with my personal experience, I marvel at the number of children who have been given a home and education. My dream of volunteering at Child Haven was realized after attending my childhood friend Dorcas, daughter's wedding in India and Dorcas agreeing to volunteer with me.

On our arrival on January 27th, 2025, waking to a bright blue sunny sky, we learned that according to the official Nepali calendar it was now 2081, the month of Magh. However, at Child Haven which practices and celebrates every child's religious cultural traditions, soon we were celebrating Losar, the New Year of the Buddhist, Tamang people. We made Khapse, the Tamang holiday food, a pretzel shaped delicious donut for all to enjoy. Later in the day with the older children, we visited the Buddhist Boudha Stupa and walked around it in the traditional clockwise direction an odd number of times.

Life at Child Haven is filled with cultural celebrations. On the holiday of "Holi" we celebrated the return of spring and colour by having our faces painted and then splashing each other in the courtyard with coloured water. The mid-April 2082 National New Year's Eve, was celebrated at Child Haven with a huge courtyard evening dance party for all of us. New Years Day was filled with blessings, eating special foods and chocolate. Birthdays are celebrated together every four months with delicious cakes and candy for all.

At Kathmandu, Child Haven, the "Mamu's" or mothers care for the children's needs helped by the older teenage boys and girls there. For everyone it is a home for life with many of the mothers and fathers having been there for over 25 years. They have raised their own and many more children there. The two Child Haven Managers, Dhruba & Suraj and the Education Coordinator Bibek, who now have university degrees, were less than 5 years old when they arrived at Child Haven. Men sleep in their own homes or in the nearby college accommodations while in each age group's dorm a Mamu sleeps with the children. However, everyone has meals together, including the grown-up children who return to tutor the children, teach music, art, and dance and come back for celebrations.

Many of the children who grew up there are now teachers at Child Haven's nearby Green Tara School. Otherwise, they are helped to find other jobs after they have completed a post high school training. Green Tara School offers education from Montessori day care to the end of high school for 445 children. In addition to the 72 from Child Haven, there are 106 local community children who have their fees paid. Many children have fathers who work in Middle Eastern countries to support their family.

Volunteers are given suggestions as to how to be helpful. While we were there volunteers led art classes, assisted the teachers at school, tutored the students and refurbished the library. On our arrival, we were delighted to learn that we would travel with the students on their pre-exam end of year school trips. We accompanied Grade 1and 2 to the Zoo; Grade 3 and 4 to a Farming and Technology History Centre; Grade 5 and 6 to Shivapuri Nagarjun Park on the Tibetan border; Grade 7and 8 overnight to Kalinchowk, a mountain resort honouring the Goddess Kali; and grades 9 and 10 to prosperous Chitlang village. Enroute, on one trip, we counted 13 Hindu wedding parties dressed in brilliant red with marching bands.



Katherine with Sushil, who grew up in the Home and is now a teacher at the Green Tara School for the lower secondary students.

We were told that according to Hindu astrologers it was an auspicious day for marriages. These trips gave us a wonderful opportunity to get to know the children, teachers and Nepal.

Once the school trips were over, schooldays, except for Sundays our day off, became a routine of helping at Green Tara school by taking small groups of grades 4, 5, 6 and 7 from their English class to the library to do their day's classwork. The children had the opportunity to converse in English which was limited in their classes of 38 to 42 students. When possible, I also helped older students prepare their speech for the following day's morning assembly which was led by the students.

Helping in the school, I could see that Child Haven children are stronger academically. Along with proficiency in English because of speaking with the volunteers, children have 1.5 hours of supervised homework time before school in the morning and then again after playtime and snacks in the afternoon. Before the grade 10s began their final high school leaving exams in early March, many nurturing and blessing rituals were performed to encourage them to do well.

Each school day, I supervised the grade 6 homework group of 7 boys and 2 girls. It was challenging as they completed homework quickly or didn't have any. They could get a book from the library or the students suggested playing their favourite music or another volunteer suggested playing Wordscapes if they studied quietly. Their Math and Social Science books were in English. The schoolbook readings encouraged both boys and girls to get an education, to marry in their 20's rather than at age 13 as previous generations had done and to avoid the problems of drinking and domestic violence.

Before the afternoon grade 6 homework supervision, I taught the college students to prepare them for their upcoming exams. My journal was filled with planning for role playing speaking activities so the students could learn the vocabulary and follow up writing forms pertinent to their fields of study. These included Dental Hygiene, Tourism Hospitality and Video Game Developer. In their resumes, one wrote "looking after Grandparents" for her volunteer activities which I realized meant me and the other volunteers.

Saturdays and holidays, we began with a wonderful visiting dance teacher who taught us traditional dances for 2 hours. Afterwards we often walked with the children to beautiful Gokarna Park on a pine forested ridge above Child Haven where there were paths to Buddhist monasteries and a Hindu temple. Older kids were always ready to carry the younger kids on their backs. The park was home to wild monkeys and was filled with playgrounds, exercise parks, picnickers, a huge outdoor amphitheater for music, dancing parties and concerts. Ping pong, badminton, artwork, board games, rollerblading, films and relaxing and chatting were other Saturday activities.

I feel a part of the Child Haven Kathmandu family, and I hope many of you reading this account have the same privilege to volunteer there some day. In the meantime, every donation that we give is making a huge difference in a child's life and truly appreciated.





Kaliyampoondi – Ishwarya, above left and Keritisha to the right are among the 25 new children at this Home. Ishwara was brought by the local Child Welfare Committee after her father died. Keritisha, is 5 years old and in the 1st Grade. She came after her mother passed away, and her father was unable to provide care for her. He and Ishwarya's mother visit when they can. We are delighted to welcome these two girls into our Child Haven family!

Child Haven Support Groups for Fundraising Events 2025

Fundraiser	Location	Contact
	Montreal/ Lennoxville	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
	Kingston, ON	Jackie Morgan Rush & Andrew Rush 613-542-6992 or 343-333-1974
	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
	Calgary, AB	Salimah Jina 403-991-4696
	Vancouver, BC	Yamini Gandesha 604-999-2549, Katherine Doyle 604-220-9324
	Victoria, BC	Robin Colyer 819-432-5997 & Peter Hamilton 819-432-5997
	Ottawa, ON	Lynda Inkster 613-824-1720, Parin Bhimani 613-422-1573

Fred Lore by Robin, his long-admiring son



Daddy receiving some "helpful suggestions" from the love of his life
Photo by Celine Garneau

As Daddy completes his 100th spin around the sun this January 28th, it's a good time to reflect on the remarkable and storied journey it has been. Those of us fortunate to have grown up in our parents' collected family, didn't necessarily realize how extraordinary our parents and family were; it was all we knew. I also don't think I realized how extraordinary it was to be listening to Martin Luther King deliver his "I Have a Dream" speech during the March on Washington in 1963. A typical family outing when we were young would be going to a Civil Rights or Peace March, a few of us riding in a baby buggy. So there we were.

I wish I could say I remembered the speech, but what I do remember from the top of the cherry tree I had climbed was being enthralled by that joyful, singing, chanting, soaring mass of humanity of every hue. It was a reflection of our family. It was an early opportunity to feel the excitement and power of people coming together to celebrate love and to demand freedom. This was one of the important lessons Daddy shared with us. How our family was intimately connected to and part of a glorious human family. Also, that with that knowledge came responsibility. Responsibility to protect and uplift our entire human family as best we could. He showed us how, time and time again.

In 1964, our family friend and Daddy's fellow Unitarian Minister, James Reeb, went to join the Civil Rights March in Selma, Alabama, and was attacked and seriously wounded by angry white men wielding 2 by 4s, who were blinded to his humanity by their fear of change. Hearing this, Daddy went to Selma to join the March. Family friends took my older siblings Machiko and William and me to join a picket line in solidarity with the March in front of the White House. We were living near Washington D.C. at the time. A formative moment for me came when word came over someone's transistor radio that James had died. Our small group gathered together. Some people prayed, some people cried. People said loving things about James and then someone said, "James would want us to keep marching," and so we did, round and round chanting "What do you want?" "Freedom", "How're you gonna get it?", "Love." I learned a lot that evening that still moves me today and remember feeling both grateful and concerned that Daddy had gone to join the March. His chapter on Selma, in his magnificent magnum opus, *Bonnie and her 21 Children* is a great read as is the rest of the book.

Not in the book, is the story of how our brother William wasn't allowed into a Maryland bowling alley with our church's youth group because he wasn't Caucasian. Daddy went with other parents from the church and spoke to the owner, who promised to never again deny entry to people based on their race. Later, during the height of the Vietnam War, Daddy and others spent much of a Xmas holiday in a vigil at our church because they felt unable to celebrate when children were being napalmed with our government's complicity on the other side of the planet. We had children from Vietnam in our family and knew about the destruction of families the war was causing and why the vigil was important.

These are just a few of Daddy's *experiments with truth,* always anchored in love, compassion and as much good humor as he could possibly squeeze in. May there be many more.





Hyderabad – In the upper left, Indiramma, applies the 18 years of gentle hair-dressing skills she has gained as a caregiver at our Home on the lovely locks of Jessi, age 10. To the right above, Vani, who has cared for our children for the past 8 years, helps Hemasri, age 10 get ready for school.

Below left, Prana Sri, 11, helps Divya age 12. To the right below, Maheshwari, 9, does up the do for Manisha, who is 7.





PATRONS OF CHILD HAVEN:

PATRONS IN CANADA:
Margaret Atwood, author
Dr Brien Benoit, Neurosurgeon
Peter Downie, educator
Dr Gary Geddes, poet
Jan Jeffers, former publisher
Donna Morrison-Reed, Unitarian minister
Mark Morrison-Reed, Unitarian minister
The late Ramma Kamra, Ottawa writer
The late Kunjar Sharma, PhD, Honourary Consul General of Nepal
Jurme Wangda, Founding President, Ottawa Friends of Tibet

PATRONS lN BANGLADESH:
The late Ms Jharna Dhara Chowdhury, secretary, Gandhian Ashram Trust, Noakhali
Dr Kazi Nurul lslam, prof of World Religions, University of Dhaka
Nahida Rahman Shumona, High Commissioner to the Hellenic Republic

PATRONS IN lNDlA:
Dr and the late Mrs K.M. Chitania, Gopi Nursing Home
The late Mukunda Kolhatkar, Gandhian
The late Dr S. V. Mapuskar, MD, Engineer, Padma Shri Award Recipient
A. Muruganantham, social activist, inventor, Padma Shri Award Recipient
The late V. Kalyanam, personal secretary to Mahatma Gandhi,
The late Swami Agnivesh,
Perumal Murugan, author
Recipient of Shitya Academy Award

PATRONS IN NEPAL:
The late Dr Yanta Mani Pradhan
Ms Renu Sharma, President, Nepal Womens Foundation, Kathmandu

PATRONS IN GERMANY:
Rev Dr Eckhart Pilick & Pia Oberacker-Pilick, Frei Religioese Landesgemainde

PATRONS IN USA:
Shilpi Somaya Gowda, author
Deepak & Christina Kamra
Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, author
Erica Stone, President, American Himalayan Foundation

DONATING BY INTERACT E-TRANSFER allows one time donation of funds using email with online banking services. Child Haven accepts e-transfer, reducing add-on fees.
Send an e-Transfer to fred@childhaven.ca
(security question and answer are not required)

DONATING THROUGH CANADAHELPS provides Canadian residents a choice of onetime, monthly or security donations https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/91193

DONATING BY DIRECT DEPOSIT provides Canadian and US donors an automated process for one-time and recurring contributions.
Using our secure online application, you can set up a withdrawal from your bank account through a simple electronic funds transfer. The Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD) Agreement form is available through our web site under "direct deposit." Call us at 613-527-2829 if you need help.

DONATING THROUGH UNITED WAY
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"



Sponsorship Co-coordinator, Sheila Laursen
Social Worker, Christine Johnston, MSW
Office Manager, Steven Bayne
Book-Keeper, Cheryl Ladouceur
Coordinator of Overseas Children and Women's support, Ganesh Kumar
Technical Support, Kerry Keogan
Videographer, Social Media Coordinator, Avani Pisapati
Administrative Assistant, Chris Cappuccino
Refugee Counsellor in Canada, Tara Upreti
Canadian Directors of Child Haven: Peter Freud, Bonnie and Fred Cappuccino, Sheila Laursen
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



Chittagong Sisters – by Avani Pisapati - When a band of sisters unites, tending to each other's joys and pains, and weaving their dreams together into a shared tapestry, something radical happens. Sarju, Nadia, Sadia, and Arju, from left to right, are four sisters who have sent quivers into the earth with their collective dreams and power. They are pictured here in front of their home about 1 hour from Chittagong.

After Sadia and Nadia, both twins and the youngest of the pack, were born, many people in their village expressed pity on these four daughters. They worried how they would all survive because they believed that girls were weak and incapable of making a living or getting educated. Some suggested that they get married quickly otherwise they wouldn't have good chances in life. As the girls grew older, things also became rather grim. Their father could no longer do farm labor to support the family because of a serious ear disease. And their mother, who used to make and sell traditional handcrafted mats known as *shital pati*, was also unable to support the family with her work.

The eldest sister, Arju, far right, was committed to doing anything to prove the nay sayers wrong. She completed her high school education and then began working in the forest department to support the entire family. She refused to get married until all her younger sisters were educated and able to stand on their own feet. Motivated by these sacrifices, the three younger sisters, Sarju, Sadia, and Nadia, studied relentlessly in school. By the time they completed high school, the shelves at home were overflowing with awards for their academic performance. To top it all off, the three of them received admission into a nursing program and the highly competitive government medical college, Chandpur Medical College. Soon, the loud voices in the neighborhood began to fade into the background.

Arju was able to provide some of the expenses for her sisters' higher education, but she could not find a way to pay the hostel fees. When Mr. Morshed, dedicated board member of Child Haven Bangladesh and President of CTG Maa O Sishu Hospital in Chittagong, heard about this need, he connected them with the sponsorship program at Child Haven. It was an easy decision for staff to support all of them and with that, we were all graced with them joining the Child Haven family.

Exciting news is that this entire story will be featured in a Child Haven film, set to be released in 2026. Stay tuned and attend your next local fundraiser to learn more about these inspiring sisters!



Kathmandu – It's a birthday sparkler and party for Home children with a birthday this month. Celebrating their birthday today are Anuska, now 9, Riyans, now 13, Lavanya, now 8, Aaditya, now 13, Manjit, 4 and John who turned 15. Happy Everything Everyone!

"Let me light my lamp, says the star,
And never debate if it will dispel the dark."
Rabindranath Tagore



Kaliyampoondi – A wonderful tradition at this Home is that every Saturday is Joke Night where whoever would like to, can stand up and tell a joke to the assembled diners. Girls line up on one side of the Dining Hall and boys on the other. They then take turns coming up to the front to share their funniest stories to a very appreciative audience of 250 people or so! Not only is this very entertaining, but it is also a great learning opportunity for public speaking, timing, articulation and mirth sharing. Jokes are on Saturday Night, Friday is News Night, when children tell interesting stories from the news, and Wednesday night is Song night. There can sometimes be as many as 50 children lined up to tickle the assembled funny bones, regale the multitude with music or raise important issues from the news. Above, Sandhiya, in Grade 12, share her tale.

Our Editor Emeritus adds a joke of his own! "What did the fireman name his two sons? Jose and Jose B"

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.

Name_____ Phone_____

Address _____

City_____ Province/State _____ Code_____

E-mail _____