

Green Tara - Protector of Children, Women and the Environment

Child Haven International



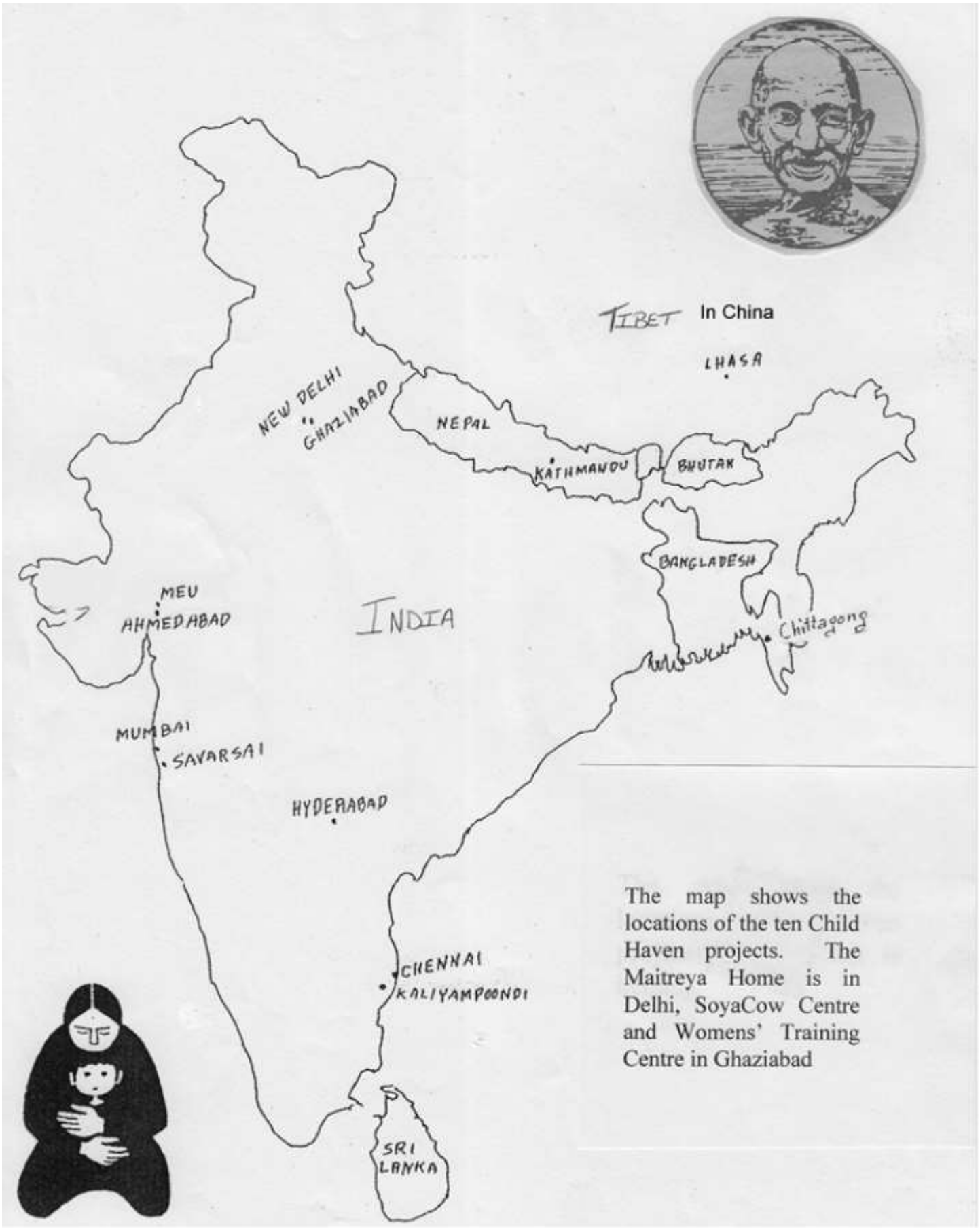
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Fall 2019



Kaliyampoondi Eighth Grade girls helping out by stripping curry leaves for the evening's meal on the verandah in front of the kitchen

Kaliyampoondi	1, 21-23	Hyderabad	6-7-7	Kathmandu	16-17
Bonnie Lore	8	Endowment	6	Support Groups	20
Donating	9	Savarsai	3-5	Wonder Woman	12
Meu	18-20, 24	Maitreya	14	Tribal Home	13
MVP	15	Bangladesh	10-11		



The map shows the locations of the ten Child Haven projects. The Maitreya Home is in Delhi, SoyaCow Centre and Womens' Training Centre in Ghaziabad

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Savarsai Home Manager Prakash shares a laugh with two of the new children at the Home. To the left is Fulbani, 8-years-old, whose father ran away. To the right is Joti, whose mother passed away. Joti was brought to the Home by a nun who knows her father. After checking with authorities, she was admitted to the Home. Joti is in Grade 3 and doing well. Prakash has worked at the Home for the past 16 years, three as the Manager.

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
Tibet in China, sponsoring 14 children 4 women, Language: Tibetan
Chittagong, Bangladesh, 70 children 15 women, Language: Bengali
(Many other children are sponsored for education, but are not living in one of our Homes.)

Child Haven Sponsored Women's Programs

Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, education in tailoring for 50 women at a time; inexpensive sanitary napkin production and sale; Beauty and Wellness Course. Language: Hindi
Rahon, Punjab, education in tailoring for 50 women at a time. Language: Punjabi
Pen Village, Maharashtra, inexpensive sanitary napkin production and sale. Language: Marati
Kathmandu, Nepal, education in tailoring for women. Language: Nepali







Savarsai Restauranteurs, merchants and salesmen offering their wares abound on the grounds of this Home. It's astounding what delicacies can be prepared with exotic mixtures of clay, mud, water and sticks!

Below Sohan left, and Aditya, right, offer their wares.









Savarsai Chitra and our cook Reema (above left) are among those excited to be taking part in a new series of tailoring classes for the children and staff at the Home. Above right, teacher Archana Jathar) is coming once a week to teach classes. In this photo they are learning how to trace a pattern onto cloth for the blouses they are making.

Below, Vihan and Varad, in the foreground, with the popular snack, hot boiled chana, or garbanzo beans, served with a little salt and spice. It is being served by girl's care-giver, Sonali.



ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

Child Haven will celebrate its 35th anniversary in April, 2020. By that time we'd like to increase our Diamond Jubilee Endowment Fund to **$3,500,000** from its present level of $1,330,667.

We have recently received a stock donation of $138,759 towards this goal, making the total **$1,469,426**

Our Operating Fund still needs all the donations now generously being made. We are asking for donations **'above and beyond'** your present giving.

Hyderabad There's always something to clean or tidy up. Above Durga and Shirisha are busy doing their laundry on the weekend. They are both in Grade 8.







Hyderabad Scholars at this Home include Yasmeen, above left, who is in the second year of a multi-purpose health worker nursing course.

Suman, above right, is in the 12th Grade. His final mark last year was 96% making him the topper in his department of the university. He has a younger brother here at the Home. Their father died 10 years ago. His family still has 5 acres his father used to farm. Suman wants to study for a Bachelor in Agriculture so that he can make use of that land. He is very interested in organic agriculture.

Sisters Swarnaveni and Maheshwari (left) are also both studying in a multi purpose health worker course where they are doing extremely well.



Bonnie Lore by Fred Cappuccino, her long-suffering husband.



On their most recent trip, Bonniema and Robin had the opportunity to visit Kalyanan, Gandhi's sole surviving personal secretary who was staying in Chennai with his daughter Nalini and grand-daughterAditi . Kaliyampoondi Home Manager, Ganesh, also came along. Kalyanan has visited our Kaliyampoondi Home on numerous occasions to share his reflections on his time with Gandhi and observations on life. Some of his reflections are shared below. Interesting to me reading them was that he cuts his own hair! I'll have to speak about that with Bonnie. She shares his frugality and has conscripted me to be her gratis barber ever since our marriage 66 years ago… She might do a better job herself if she followed his example!



Kalyanan, now 97years old writes - "I am an unusual person. I do not believe in the caste system. I am not ritualistic. I am secular by nature. I begin and end my day with a thought on God. I do not do any Pooja nor do I visit temples since I believe God is omnipresent. I write my prayer of different faiths regularly first thing in the morning in a diary – *Sriramajayam, Allah ho Akbar, Jesus never fails.* I use old diaries for the purpose. I do not waste money to purchase a note book for the purpose. I learned economy in Gandhi's Ashram."

"Money comes last in my list of priorities. I keep my money in my shoes. Money does not rule my life. I never allowed money to revolve around me. How much money does one need anyway? Beyond a certain point money has no value and is meaningless.

I do not engage in home help. I attend to all my correspondence and domestic chores by myself. I crop my own hair. I have not visited a barber since the age of 20.

I prefer listening to talking. Action speaks louder than words. I am a sweeper par excellance while others are speakers par excellance. (*Until recently Kalyanan swept the street in front of his Chennai home every day*)

My accidental visit to Sevagram Ashram as an ordinary worker, in return for mere boarding and lodging, turned to be a windfall. I am indeed fortunate that the hidden hand of destiny gave me the opportunity to be associated with the greatest man of the century. I shall cherish this memory. By a strange quirk,* I happened to assist Gandhi in his secretarial work. A chance meeting with the Mahatma changed the course of my life. I am deeply moved by Gandhian thought particularly of cleanliness, orderliness, economy and punctuality.

Economy practiced by Gandhi in his daily life attracted me most and is responsible for my being able to live within my means and not complain\grumble about the rising prices\inflation. I have learnt the art of living in splendor with the least expense."

**Gandhi's other secretaries were in prison when he recruited Kalyanan from gardener to secretary*

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We are also able to receive **gifts of stocks and securities.** (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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Editor, Robin Cappuccino



Bangladesh Our Assistant Manager, Forhad (far left) has been working as a volunteer with the Unknown Patient's Project at the local government hospital. Hospitals here rely on family members to do much of the care for patients. When an unknown patient with no ID comes in after an accident, there is no one to provide the immediate care; cleaning the patient, purchasing medicines, dressing wounds and the like. Forhad and Iqbal, left, are part of a team that is notified when such a patient comes in and they do the work that a family member would do if they were present. Forhad sometimes takes along a few of our older children to help out. Child Haven provides a small stipend to Iqbal who does the bulk of this work. Hopefully the hospital will work out a way to care for these patients themselves, but till that time, Forhad, Iqbal and team are there



Mihika (left) is from the Bandarban District, part of the Chittagong Hill Tracts north of the city which has a large tribal population. She is 6 years old. Her father died from a stroke and her mother was struggling to provide for her and her 1 year old sister. One of our older children, Lalimpar, is from Mihika's village and told her mother about Child Haven. At first Mihika did not understand Bangla as she spoke only the tribal Bawm language. Luckily other children also speak Bawm and we have several staff members from the tribal community. Mihika is adjusting to her new Home and and doing well in our Montessori Kindergarten class.



Nikodeen, right, is our watch-man and soy milk maker. Here he is sorting out small stones and spoiled beans from the soy beans he will grind and make into milk. He is receiving sorting help and company from Joing (left) and Nim.




Bangladesh Sukanto, standing above left, and Shetu, standing above right, take their turns in a debate between their two teams on the relative merits of public versus private universities in Bangladesh. It was a spirited and passionate debate, conducted entirely in English as an exercise of the Home's English class. Of course the winner was the future of Bangladesh with such articulate and knowledgeable young people sharpening their skills!

Below are some of the new participants in our educational support project for children living with their families who otherwise might be forced into work or marriage. Maruf Hasan, below left, is in grade 6. His father married someone else, and his mother works in garments factory. His father left them with a huge loan that his mother is forced to re-pay. She began begging when she had time to make ends meet. Maruf scored 5 out of 5 on last year's finals. Ayasha Akter, center, is 15 years old. She scored 4.89 out of 5 and is studying science in Grade 11. Her father is unable to work. Tajmin Akter is 18 and studying physio-therapy, a 4 year course. She is in her second year. Her father is also unable to work.





Child Haven Wonder Women a newsletter column by *Sharon Fialco*



This Wonder Woman flies through her community in a burka! Sometimes when she is out in with tribal children from our Home, people ask her what she is doing with non-Muslim children. She answers simply, "This is my child." If further challenged, she shows her superpowers by quietly explaining that she has 70 Buddhist, Hindu, Tribal, Christian, and Muslim children. People are overcome and then respond with kindness.

Sokena serves as the Matron of our Chittagong Home. Being with the children reminds her of when she raised her own. She likes the feeling of unity and equality in the Home. She feels honored and respected when the children introduce her to others as the person who makes it possible for them to study and do their schoolwork.

This Wonder Woman flies through her community in a burka! Sometimes when she is out in with tribal children from our Home, people ask her what she is doing with non-Muslim children. She answers simply, "This is my child." If further challenged, she shows her superpowers by quietly explaining that she has 70 Buddhist, Hindu, Tribal, Christian, and Muslim children. People are overcome and then respond with kindness.

She began her career when a neighbor told her about health worker interviews. In this first job, she was able to get 85% of the people in her community immunized against diphtheria and polio. Social work suited her well, and she held this job for 10 years. She then worked for 5 years in a shelter for women and children who had been trafficked. Here she developed training for children. She also worked briefly with an organization that trained sex workers wishing to find other ways to support themselves.

Pursuing such important work didn't come easily. Sokena married at age 18, bore twins, and then a third child. She was also battered by her husband. She says the abuse made her mentally sick – eventually so depressed that she did little more than eat and sleep for two months. Then she got up one day and said to herself, "I am a strong woman and I can make a difference." Since that time she has devoted herself to helping others. Of Child Haven, she says "I am here to serve the children. I thank the Almighty Allah for this opportunity."



Once when Sokena was out with a girl from the Home, someone asked about the child. As a Wonder Woman with family-building superpowers, she said it was her daughter. The stranger remarked that the two looked very different. The girl – having learned the family-building superpowers piped up, "I look like my father!"

To the left, Sokena and Shahin (right) help Aysha with her hair-do.







Tribal Home Twelve-year-old Preeti above left and Megha, 16, both enjoy dressing up and performing dances for special guests. Preeti wants to be a ticket taker on a public bus and Megha is not sure of her future plans except that she'd like to help her parents.

Sarita, left, is in the 11th Grade and takes a lot of responsibility in the Home. She enjoys helping in the kitchen and is good at finding ways for the other children to help out

The boys below, are doing a slow motion dance to music which pantomimes a cricket game. Not generally inclined to dance performances, the cricket angle seemed to strike their fancy giving them a chance to demonstrate their collective grace and good humor.





Maitreya Home

To the left is Dhakpa Rinpoche, center, and Konchok, lower right who are the Director and Treasurer of the Maitreya Project with some of the children Child Haven supports with their assistance at one of the Children's Villages for Tibetan refugee children near Dharmsala.

Below is a recent photo taken at the Maitreya Home in Delhi which is becoming more of a hostel for Tibetan refugee young people attending high school and university in Delhi.







MVP Renu, above left, is studying for her Bachelor's in Economics. With the additional skills she is learning in the MVP tailoring course, she plans to open up a tailoring shop. Savita above right is holding up a blue dress she has made for one of her five sister in the tailoring class. Program Director Rajni looks on. Savita's father is a bone-setter, who sets broken or displaced bones for people who either can't afford, or don't wish to go to a hospital. She says her parents are getting older so she also wants to open a tailoring shop to be able to support them.

Below a few of the other students practice on the machines.







Kathmandu Child Haven partners with and supports the good works of numerous other organizations in Nepal. Leaders of some of them came to meet with our Child Haven team on Bonniema's last visit. From left to right are, Tej Prasad from the Youth Activities Upliftment Center, Sonam Lama from Palden Pawo Buddhist Foundation, Renu Sharma from the Woman Foundation of Nepal, Robin, Kamala Upreti also from the Women's Foundation, Bishnu Tamang Manager of our Children's Home. Seated, Bonniema and Dhundiraj, Treasurer from Technical & Skill Development Center for the Blind & Disabled, Kanya Gurung, our Nepal Co-ordinator, Prakash Nagarkoti the Principal of our Green Tara Child Haven School and Bharat Gulmi from Gaurav Youth Unity Upliftment Center. It is our great pleasure to work with them all.



Suraj, our Boy's Supervisor, left, oversees tuition class in the library for Mina, Sudeep, and Sabin. Suraj grew up in our Home, and has great insights and skills to share with our children.







Kathmandu Above left, Bhumika age 6, holds the most beautiful baby in the world, her 7 month old baby brother Bhabishya. They are the children of Bhimsen , our cook. Above right Anisha, age 12 and in Grade 4, helps Ganga age 7, in Grade 2, with her homework.

Left, Manish, 8 years old, shows off his clean plate as other children brush their teeth and get ready for school in the sink outside the Dining Hall.

Below, Rashmita, age 8 and Ankita, age 13 catch a game at the concret ping-pong table in the court-yard.







Meu Two of the new children who have found loving care at the Home. Aarav (above left) is six, and Priyanka (above right) is nine. They are both doing well.

Below Nitaben with the most beautiful baby in the world, Shakhshi.







Meu Zalak age 10, and Pinki, age 9, are awesome friends (above left). Pal (above right) has found an interesting red bug which she deftly displays for the camera.

Below Hermangi (standing) and Smita help serve breakfast and then it's off to school in the school van.







Meu
Dharmishtra and Kajal take their turns in a late afternoon game of hop-scotch.

Child Haven Support Groups and Fundraising Dinners

Please check our web site for updated information

Sat Sept 28	**Vancouver, BC**	Katherine Doyle & Ian Cameron 604-255-4077, Yamini 604-476-0264
Sun Sept 29	**Winnipeg, MB**	Zobida Ambtman 204-489-7630
Sat Oct 05	**Burlington, VT, USA**	Elango 802-598-2630, Tres 802-660-0095
Sat Oct 12	**Hardwick, VT, USA**	Robin Cappuccino & Sharon Fialco 802-533-2296, Deborah Hart 802-472-5284
Fri Oct 18	**Montreal, QC**	Sheila Laursen 514-697-4195
Thur Oct 24	**Comox/Courtenay, BC**	Heather Holm 250-338-2181
Fri Oct 25	**Qualicum/Parksville, BC**	Cilla Lewenhaupt 250-752-0968
Fri Oct 25	**Friends of Tibet Ottawa, ON**	Jurme Wangda 613-724-1780
Fri Nov 01	**Glengarry, ON**	Alyson Graham 613-525-0796, Julie Slater 613-525-1104
Sat Nov 23	**Carleton Place, ON**	Jane Hamilton 613-853-7959
Sat Nov30	**Vancouver, Meadow Ridge HS, BC**	Tejas Gendesha 604-476-0264
2020		
Sat Apr 18	**Calgary, AB**	Lata Patel 403-462-5474, Mehmud Jina 403-275-5966
Sat Apr 25	**Mississauga, ON**	Shyam Seth & Leena Motwani 647-876-8488
Sun Apr 26	**Waterloo, ON**	Sydney Cook 226-929-4275
Fri May 01	**Ottawa, ON**	Lynda Inkster 613-837-3532, Parin Bhimani 613-422-1573
Sat May 09	**Kingston, ON**	Andy Rush 613-542-6992 or 343-333-1974
Tue May 12	**Lennoxville, QC**	Keith Baxter 819-346-8273
Sat May 23	**Cornwall, ON**	Elaine MacDonald 613-939-7763
Tue May 26	**Great Falls MA, USA**	



Kaliyampoondi A big boost for our students is the assistance of some of our college kids who help out regularly with tuition classes. Above, Dhamothran, now working on a Bachelor of Chemistry degree helps with the 7th Grade boy's tuition.

Below, Secilya, seated facing left to the right of the photo and her sister, Roselin, also facing left, help with the Grade 5th and 9th Grade tuition. They are the daughters of Mary, who has worked at the Home for the past 16 years. Secilya is working on a Bachelor's degree in Physics, and Roselin is studying for a Bachelor's in Computer Applications.







Kaliyampoondi With close to 300 children living at this our largest Home, there's always a lot happening. Above, some of the boys pose for the camera while washing up after breakfast. Robin, above right, is 6 and loves to read. His mother, our Matron Pappi, grew up in the Home.



These girls are performing in an English skit with some felt puppets they made for that purpose in a workshop led by Volunteer/Intern Robin Colyer.

Below right, boy's care-giver Johnson helps some of the children with a school project on a Home lap-top while the children and care-giver Satish, help.

Below twins Varsha and Varshani take a break for afternoon soy-milk.







Kaliyampoondi Looks like Sinhya, age 15, just might be enjoying this dance performance.

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



Meu Our new Boy's Care-giver Rajendra, center above, in a rollicking game of tag with some of the children. Rajendra is from the Tahkur tribal community. He has a Bachelor of Arts Degree and has training in agriculture as well. For 17 years, from the age of 6, he lived in a government children's home where he stood first in academics and sports. His parents are farmers and work on someone else's farm. He and his wife have a several month old baby. He speaks Marathi, Tahkur, Hindi and English. We are certain that with his many skills and experiences Rajendra will be a great support for our children.

For donations please make cheque out to CHILD HAVEN, and mail this portion 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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