Child Haven International

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

Fall 2022



Kaliyampoondi – It sure is convenient to have so many older sisters at the Home when it comes time to get your hair in order! Kavitha, age 12 and in the 7th Grade to the left, helps Valarmathi, 11 years old and in Grade 6, with the assistance of Vijayalakshmi, age 12, in grade 7, (in purple to the right). Lavanya, age 10, and in Grade 5 waits for her turn with these two of our many talented beauticians.

Kaliyampoondi	1, 14-15	Hyderabad	8-9, 19	Homes	3
Bonnie Lore	12	Tribal Home	10-11	Support Groups	19
Donating	13	Savarsai	16-18, 24	Maitreya Home	20
Meu	4-5	Chittagong	6-7, 23	MVP	3
Kathmandu	21	Wonder Woman	22		



This map shows the locations of Child Haven's 11 Projects and Children's Homes in orange. See the list on the next page for more information.

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MVP **(Manav Vikas Parishad)** It was with great sadness that we learned that the long-time Administrator of the MVP, Mr. S B Srivastava, (standing, above right) passed away unexpectedly from a heart attack. He had been a huge support to our Educator and Director of Programming, Rajni, shown in white to the far left.

His dedication to women's literacy, vocational training and empowerment resulted in thousands of women gaining the skills and the self-confidence to support themselves and their families. We are very pleased that his daughters Preeti and Nidhi, have agreed to work with Rajni, to ensure that Srivastava's legacy lives on.

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

Women's Programs Child Haven Sponsored

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





Meu – Above, Farhana and Anju pick beans from the garden. Below left, Dharmesh, age 14, Dhruv, 13, and Tushar, 12, are honing their sewing skills with help from tailoring teacher, Kanchanben. Meanwhile, in the computer room, Aarti, 11, Roshni, 15, and Deepika, 14, are practicing their computer skills on the Home's computers. Thanks to all who contributed to computers and sewing machines on our "Needs Chart"!









Meu – Our nurse Kailashben, left, and two of her helpers, Sunil, 13, and Tushar, 12, are planting a new rose bush at the Home. The Home is located on a large piece of land with ample room for a garden and lots of flowers. The flowers find their way into the children's hair, and many fine works of art.

Below left, earlier this summer, the Home celebrated "Janmashtami", the birthday of Lord Krishna. Part of the celebration is the making of a human pyramid, upon which a child representing the young Krishna, here played by Fenil, age 7, in the yellow Krishna costume to the left, climbs to break a ceremonial pot full of curd hung in the air.

As the story goes, in his childhood, young Krishna was very fond of curd and butter. He became notorious for stealing it. When Krishna and his friends started looking in neighborhood homes for milk products, the entire neighborhood started hanging them from the ceiling. The idea was to keep the curd out of reach of small hands.

To overcome this idea, Krishna devised the idea of forming a human pyramid which was used as a ladder to climb up and reach the curd.

In this tradition, the pot of curd hung high represents all the good things this world has to offer and getting to it shows the struggles one must endure to get to it, a struggle where you may fail time and again; but with the support of friends, great things are possible!

Fenil came to the Home after his mother passed away, and father abandoned him. Thanks to all of you for helping form the pyramid for Fenil and our other children to climb!





Chittagong New Children – Arafat, age 4 above left, used to live with his grandmother as his mother died from heart disease last year. He is an only child. His father abandoned him after his wife passed away. Hilary, also age 4, right above, lost her father when her mother was only a month and a half pregnant with her. Her mother struggles to survive financially and is relieved to have a safe home for her daughter. She comes and visits when she is able to.

Aysha, age 9, below left, came to our home after her father died in an accident. She has one elder brother who is working as a mason in her village, but is unable to support their family. To the right below, is Meetu, who grew up in our Home and brought the most beautiful baby in the world, her son Mohammad Jakariya, to visit her friends at the Home!







Chittagong – From children at play, to serious students, there is a lot going on at this Home. Above, a raucous circle game during free-time at the Home.

Below are some of the older young people from the community whose education we sponsor. This educational opportunity would not be possible without your support! To the left below is Home Manager, Jasmin, and to the right our Assistant Manager, Forhad. Our staff stay in close contact with the young people to help with any challenges they may come to face during their studies. The lanky fellow in the middle with the all too often sore head from banging the tops of doors, is your dutiful editor on his visit to our Homes this spring.







Hyderabad – Above, the boys take part in early morning yoga with the guidance of Boy's Supervisor, Anganelu, in the upper left.

To the left, some of our Grade 10 scholars head off to school - mostly happy that school is open again after the long covid lock-downs.

To the left below is Anganelu, his wife Shivaleela, who also works at the Home, and the most beautiful baby in the world, Navyasri.

To the right below are Pravalika, 17, and Madhulatha, 16, doing their laundry on a hot Saturday afternoon.







Hyderabad – Mounika, center above, grew up in our Home and is now studying in the 2nd year of a Multi-Purpose Health Worker degree. Here she is taking part in the Bonalu Festival with an offering for the Goddess Yellamma which she and the other women will take to the local temple as a form of Thanksgiving. With her from left to right are staff members; Sharadha, Satyama, Asha Devi, (Mounika), Padmamma and Uma Devi.

As Mounika is in her final years at the Home, new children are joining to follow in her footsteps. Among them are sisters Janu, age 7 (left below) and Pinky age 8. Their single mother was unable to care for them. She comes to visit when she is able to.

Below right, our Boy's Supervisor Shiva and his bride Iahari got married last year but due to the corona virus, many of the Home staff and children were not able to attend their ceremony. So the couple were feted at this party recently held at the Home. Shiva and Iahari met while she was working as the nurse at the Home. She is now working in a local hospital.





Tribal Children's Home

The girls in the Home are very good drummers! Although these instruments are more typically played by boys, our girls are skillfully and joyfully breaking this barrier!

To the far right, Deepali, 14 years old, enjoys breaking stereotypes. Helping hold her drum is Aarohi, 8 years old and in Grade 3.



Below right, Sushma demonstrates her skills. She is in the 9th Grade. In the middle is Archana and on the left of the picture is Priya. Priya is in the seventh grade, and is 12 years old.

Below left, Snehal is an accomplished drum player. Her mother is an accomplished organizer in her community working to form Self Help Groups for women.







Here are some of the children in traditional dress to help celebrate World Indigenous Peoples Day. As part of the celebration they performed dances and gave speeches on the theme of respect for all Indigenous People.

To the left is Aryan, 12 years old and in 5th Grade, his sister, Aarohi, (again) 8 years old and in Grade 3, Samitha, 9 and in Grade 4, Payal, (again) 12 and in 7th Grade and Manisha 10 in Grade 5. They are all part of the Kathkari tribe which tends to be extremely poor, and landless. Their parents are wage labourers, who do a variety of jobs during different seasons. For six to eight months of the year, they migrate to different places in search of agricultural work. The Home makes it possible for their children to remain in school while their parents move around. Amit, below left, is 12 years old and in Grade 7. He is a very jovial boy who often volunteers for unsavory tasks that no one else is willing to do. His family is part of the Shepherd community.

The hair-do below right belongs to Archana who is 12 years old and in Grade 7. She also belongs to the Shepherd community which is categorized as a nomadic tribe. Members of this community are a little better off economically than the Kathkari tribe but nevertheless are still struggling.





Bonnie Lore

by Fred Cappuccino, her long-suffering husband

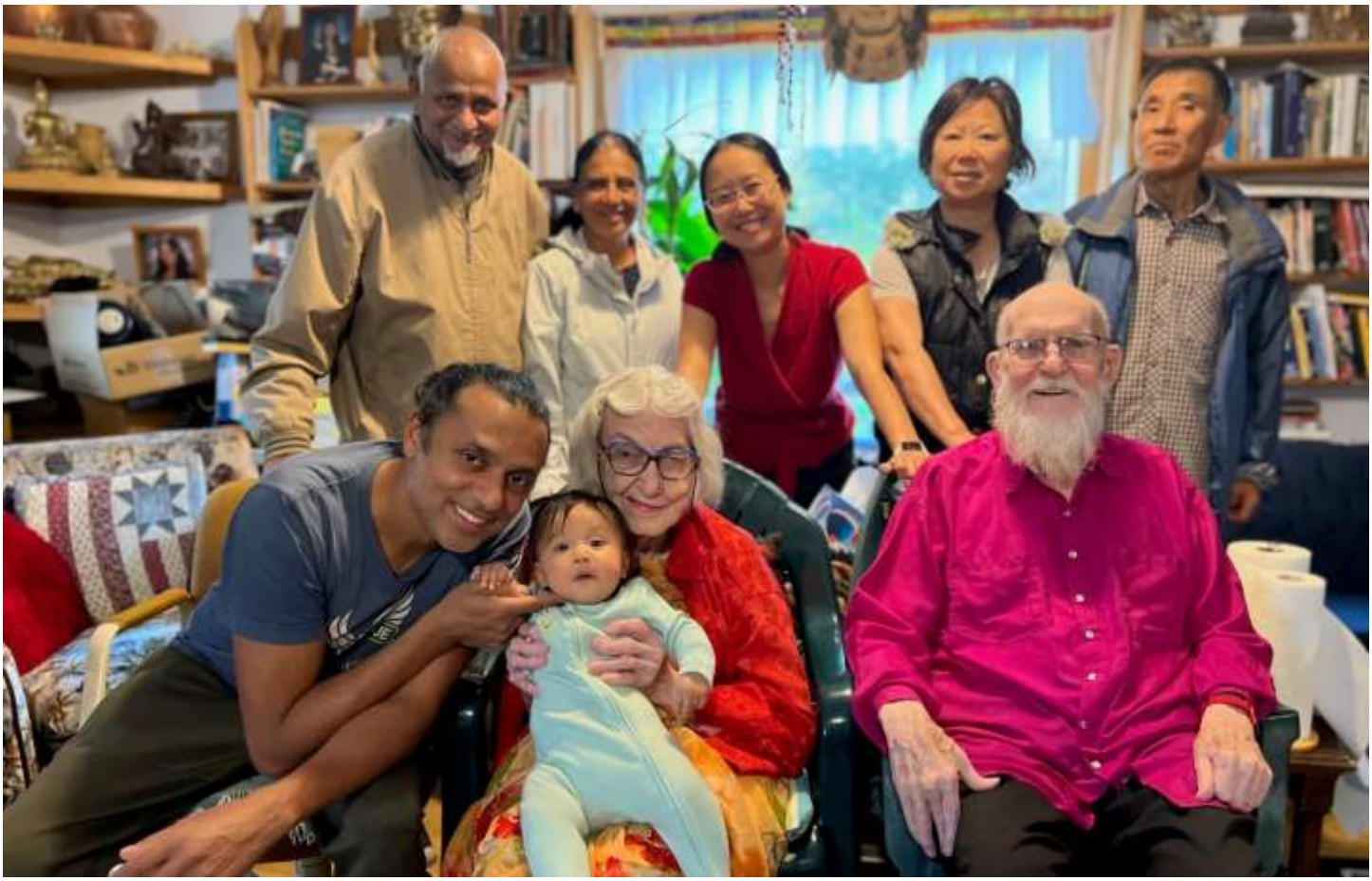


As readers of this erudite epistle are well aware, Bonniema has long been afflicted with *babies on the brain*. I'm not quite sure if I actually agreed to it, but somehow Bonnie managed to have preschool children in our family for 26 years straight.

So it was not surprising that when our friends and long-time Child Haven supporters Dr. Tushar Mehta and his wife Yin brought their family over for a visit, it was a real thrill for Bonnie to hold their most beautiful baby in the world, Kiva. Bonnie has gotten to visit with quite a few babies on zoom calls with our Children's Homes, but having one to cuddle remains a great pleasure for her.

Such a great pleasure that for the duration of their visit I detected a noticeable decline in the usual steady stream of helpful suggestions flowing my way along the lines of "*Fred, did you remember to take your vitamins? Have you finished your juice, and don't forget to take your dishes to the sink".* Somehow I managed to persevere during this deficit of careful monitoring. I have to confess though that it was somewhat comforting to once again be the much deserving focus of her attention when Kiva departed with her lovely family.

Pictured below are, front and center, Bonnie with Kiva the most beautiful baby in the world, in the back row, left to right are grand-parents Prabhulal and Bhanu Mehta, mother Yin, grandparents, Weiying Lu and Han Xiao and in the front row father Tushar and to Bonnie's left her long-suffering attendant, yours truly.



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Kaliyampoondi – How the years fly by! Above, twins Varsha and Varshani were 4 years old when their grandparents brought them to our Home. Now they are 12, and in Grade 8. One of the first things we discovered after they arrived was that they needed cataract surgery and glasses. Now they can see clearly! We look forward to watching them continue to flourish and grow.

The neem trees below have also grown! When we built the Home in 2004, they were tiny whips protected from the children's footsteps by brick enclosures. They have long outgrown their fences, and now offer protection to the children from the scorching mid-day sun. Below they provide shelter to some cricket practice.







Kaliyampoondi – Our girls are always on the move! Not sure where all that energy comes from! Maybe it's the soymilk twice a day? Maybe it's the chance to stretch after all the studying they do?

Maybe it's just the exuberance of youth? Whatever keeps them going, we're very impressed with all of them!



Two of our girls on the move, who both came at a young age are below. Gauri, (below left with her mother) is from a local tribal community. She is the first girl in her community to pass Grade 12.





Ramya, (above with her mother) was the first girl from her community to pass Grade 10. Both of these girls came to Child Haven as young girls. Gauri is going on to study Business Accounting and Ramya is now in Grade 11.





Savarsai – *Rahkshi Badan*, or Brother and Sister Day, traditionally involves sisters tying a string around their brother's wrist "investing the brothers with a share of the responsibility for their potential care". Of course at Child Haven Homes, both sisters and brothers tie strings, since both look out for each other. Also, since everyone is treated like siblings in the Home, there is plenty of wrist tying to be done!

Above left are Hariom and Abhavya, above right are Varad and Pragati, below left are Gargi and Sheraj and below right are Dnynavi and Soham.





To the right is Roshan, age 8, taking part in a ritual involving incense, for the commemoration of Lord Ganesh's Birthday. Roshan is new to the Home. He came after his father abandoned him and his mother, who struggles now to support herself by doing cleaning for people when she can find the work. They had been sleeping by the side of the road but the mother has now found housing with a relative.

There is a huge array of ceremonies and rituals such as this one, which are celebrated at our Homes in keeping with the rich and varied religious and cultural traditions represented there.









Savarsai–There are places to go and things to do these days at the Home! Above left, the boys' soccer team rallies their energy for the next game in their tournament. Top right, the girl's team goes over strategy for their game.

Manager Prakash, far left, takes the kids to a local plaster Ganesh statue manufacturer to select a statue for the Home.

Below, a soccer game at the Home to go over moves learned in the matches with other teams.









Savarsaí – Heading out to visit bodies of water near the Home can be an important mission, especially on a hot day!

Immediately above, Jayesh, age 15, in black, and Piyush, age 12, in yellow, join the other boys in meditating on the beauty of nature at a near-by stream.

To the right, cooling off and exploring the small river adjacent to our Home under the watchful eyes of our Boy's Supervisors.





Hyderabad – Shivani, age 16 and Nandhini, age 15, both in Grade 10, made this rangoli decoration from coloured rice flour in front of the Home for Diwali. Rangolis are made to welcome Lakshmi, the Hindu Goddess of Abundance. They are thought to bring good luck and welcome guests and originated in India many years ago. Our staff in Kaliyampoondi make them every morning at several places in the Home. Some say that the rice flour or other cereal powders attract insects and keep them from entering the household.

Child Haven Support Groups and Fundraising Dinners

Dinner Date	Location	Contact
	Burlington, VT, USA	Elango Dev 615-440-7913
	Calgary, AB	Salimah Jina 403-284-4696, Cindy Skrukwa 403-686-3595
	Canmore, AB	Simon Bryant 403-609-8125
October 2 '22	**Carleton Place, ON**	Jane Hamilton-Eaton 613-853-7959
November 15 '22	**Comox/Courtenay, BC**	Heather Holm 250-338-2181
	Cornwall, ON	Elaine MacDonald 613-939-7763
	Edmonton, AB	Sylvia Krogh 780-454-6216
	Glengarry, ON	Alyson Graham 613-525-0796, Julie Slater 613-525-1104
	Hamilton, ON	Ginny Megin 905-332-6474, Valerie Doughtery 905-465-1911
October 22 '22	**Hardwick, VT, USA**	Robin Cappuccino & Sharon Fialco 802-533-2296, Deborah Hart 802-472-5284
June 25 '22	**Kingston, ON**	Andrew Rush 613-542-6992 or 343-333-1974
	Lennoxville, QC	Keith Baxter 819-346-8273
	Lincoln MA USA	Christine Damon 781-879-5870
April 2023 TBA	**Mississauga, ON**	Shyam Sheth & Leena Motwani 647-876-8488, Tushar Mehta 416-839-1938
November 12 '22	**Montreal/ Lennoxville**	Sheila Laursen 514-697-4195
February 13 '22	**Ottawa, ON**	Lynda Inkster 613-824-1720, Parin Bhimani 613-422-1573
	Perth, ON	Lori Taylor 613-803-1184, Tracey Parker 613-267-4305
April 24 '22	**Qualicum/Parksville, BC**	Cilla Lewenhaupt 250-752-0968
	Vancouver, BC	Katherine Doyle & Ian Cameron 604-255-4077, Yamini Gandesha 604-999-2549
April 24 '22	**Victoria, BC**	Peter Hamilton 819-432-5997
September 25 '22	**Waterloo, ON**	Sydney Cook 226-929-4275
	Winnipeg, MB	Zobida Ambtman 204-489-7630





Maitreya Home – Karma Tsewang above, just passed Grade 12 and is now enrolled in a 2 year Master Chef course, which involves not just learning to use a wok (above) but also cleaning way too many pots (above right). We wish him well.

Below left, Tenzin Sangpo is helping prepare a meal at the Home. Below right, Tenzin Dasel age 8 is very pleased with all the good food being prepared at the Home! She is the daughter of our staff member Karma.









Kathmandu

Congratulations to two of our Home's older boys, Rinjin Lama, above left Sudip Tamang, above right, who were elected as Head Boy and House Captain at our Green Tara Child Haven School! Our school currently has 485 students, including 65 from our Children's Home. The others are from the surrounding community. Child Haven pays the fees of a number of the low-income community students and the others pay a low tuition fee. We know that Rinjin and Sudip and all the other elected officers will provide superb leadership for the school!



Child Haven Wonder Woman – Gangadidi



Gangadidi has been a huge part of our Kathmandu Home for the past 25 years. She and her husband and three children were living across from our Home when it was located in Bhaktapur. She went to see if there were any job openings, and was told that the only position open was for a laundry person. So, she took that job and did laundry for the younger children for 8 years. Then, she was asked if she'd like to switch to being a children's care-giver, which she gladly did, working in that capacity for 12 to 13 years. She then switched to being the Day Guard at the Home, responsible for the comings and goings through the gate, which she did for 5 years. For the past 4 years she has been working in the kitchen, much to everyone's delight. She says she has enjoyed all of her various duties although they each required some adjustment on her part.

An enjoyable aspect of the job for her has been the volunteer/interns who spend periods of 3 months at the Home. When she was in charge of the laundry, quite a few would help her out. In the kitchen, the interns are a huge help chopping vegetables. They ask lots of questions she says, and she has been happy to answer them - answers that often involve a lot of laughter. Indeed Gangadidi's deep voice and ready laugh are a mainstay of the Home.

She says the interns are generally amazed at so many new things. She teaches them things like how to roll cotton wicks for oil lamps. Sometimes they don't understand things like why she fasts so often for various religious ceremonies, but they always seem interested.

She is grateful that Child Haven supported the education of her children. Her daughter studied through Grade 12 and her 2 sons graduated with degrees in science. Her husband had heart by-pass surgery several years ago and is not able to work making her job even more important to her family. We are truly fortunate that she is a part of our Child Haven family as well!

Below right, Gangadidi works in the kitchen with others to prepare special treats for the Home.





Chittagong – Never doubt that having a good friend can make the ups and downs in life so much more enjoyable. Akash left, age 7 and Polinus, age 8, collaborate on the slide.

Let me light my lamp, says the star,

And never debate if it will dispel the dark.

Rabindranath Tagore



Morning comes early in Savarsai – It's not unusual for a few yawns to work their way into morning songs and prayers as the sun streams sideways onto the verandah in front of the boy's dorm (above). Vihan, age 14 and Ansh, age 10 are in the front row.

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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