

Child Haven International



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Meu – Seema, 13 years old, in the center, was peacefully doing her homework, when a passing photographer interrupted her studies. Of course everybody wanted to join the photo! With her are Simran, left, age 11, Dali behind her, age 10, and to the right Komal who is now 8.

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

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Chittagong – Andy Rush, from Kingston, Ontario, far right, receives a welcome bouquet from the children at our Home here upon his arrival to help as a Volunteer/Intern. To his right, in blue, is the Home Manager, Jasmin.

On their first visit, Volunteer/Interns spend 3 months becoming completely immersed in the life of the Home. Andy will give lots of English lessons, teach music skills, help with homework, support our dynamic and energetic staff and learn a lot about Bangladesh! If you are interested in also being a Volunteer/Intern, check out the *Intern* section, under the *How to Help* banner, on our Child Haven website; www.childhaven.ca There will be more on Andy's visit in our next issue!

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.)

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 (temporarily on hold)
Kathmandu, Nepal, education in tailoring for women. Language: Nepali





Chittagong – Cultural Programs at this Home often involve a huge amount of behind the scenes engineering! Very elaborate and multi-faceted stages are created by the self-directed future architects, engineers and set designers amongst our talented children! Built-in strobe lights, sound systems and very sturdy dance floor are all part of the mix. With ample used saris, bamboo poles and imagination, magical spaces are created worthy of the talents they will stage!





Performances almost always involve multiple dance performances by varying age groups, usually climaxed with the bamboo pole dance a favorite at the Home. Songs are performed both with and without accompaniment by the Home's harmonium, skits are performed and poetry read. Speeches are given by the children and visiting dignitaries and inevitably some manner of treat is served at the end.





Chittagong – Sujon, above left, grew up in the Home and got a degree in radiography and imaging. He is now enjoying working as a radiographer and also does quite well at free-lance computer graphics design, which he enjoys as well. Binita, above right, got her degree in graphics design, and is now working in that field as well. She is standing in front of a part of a mural that she designed and painted years ago.

Saidasing Marma, below left, is new to the Home. She is from the village of one of our older students and when they heard the Saidasing's father had abandoned his family and that her mother was struggling to feed her family they recommended her to Child Haven where Saidasing is adjusting well. Fathima, below right, is also new. Her father is unable to work very much and her mother does not make enough working as a maid to support their family. Here she is all dressed up for her first cultural program at the Home!









Hyderabad – New to this Home (left) are brothers Yagnesh, who is10 years old and in the 5th Grade, and Dharmateja, 9 years old, in 4th Grade. Their father ran away and their mother, who works cleaning houses for very little, is unable to support her boys. She will visit often. To the right above, is Varun, 11 years old, and in 5th Grade. After his father died, his mother got a job cleaning in a hospital, but is not paid enough to provide for both herself and her son. Varun is adjusting well to his new family.

Bhagya Sri, below, and her husband Nagarjuna, grew up in our Home and were good friends. Bhagya Sri was forced to marry someone against her will by her family, when she was younger.



It didn't work out and they divorced. Then Bhagya Sri and Nagarjuna began spending time together again. They fell in love and decided to get married. However, being from different castes, their families did not support them. They decided to follow their love and went ahead anyway.

Recently they heard that there were some openings at the Home, applied, and now work as Girl's and Boy's Care-givers. Their son, Asha Varshan, came with them.

We are very happy to have them back!

Child Haven Wonder Woman Sultana



Sultana began working at Child Haven's Hyderabad Home in 2015. She had been very depressed after coming home from visiting her aunt's house to discover that her husband had taken a second wife. She had gotten married at 17, and stopped her studies in biology at that time, so she didn't feel like she had many options. She was told about Child Haven by a friend who was a Child Haven Care-giver at the time. That friend thought it might be a good fit for Sultana and that she might become happy there once again.

In the beginning Sultana worked as a Girl's Supervisor, helping the girls wake up in the morning, and get ready for school, offering them the loving care and emotional support every child needs - basically everything a mother would do.

Then Bonniema along with the Home's Manager, appointed her to be the Matron of the Home, a more senior position overseeing all the other female staff members and caring for the well-being of all the girls. She says she faced many challenges in the beginning, like the girls who wanted to dress like boys, (which didn't go over so well at school), college girls who wanted more freedom than everybody else, fights in the bathroom about taking too long in the showers on school days, and of course children really not wanting to get up in the morning. But she learned to be patient she says and did her best to be close to the children, letting them know she loved them and that helped a lot. Her favorite activities are singing with the children and taking them on trips to see new places. Sultana also teaches tailoring to both the children and other staff members. She learned to use a sewing machine from a neighbor years ago, and now does a lot of stitching for the children.

As the only Muslim staff member, she pays special attention to being certain that the Muslim children have the opportunity to celebrate Ramadan and other religious festivals appropriately and well. She enjoys doing this and says the Home helps out by providing fruits and nuts after fasting days and other needs as required. She appreciates that all religions are respected in the Home.

When she first came to Child Haven she remembers feeling uncomfortable and unsafe, but that changed very quickly and now she feels like it is her home too. She is grateful that Child Haven has supported her son's education and proud that he has just graduated with a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering. He is doing his internship right now.

We are very grateful to Sultana for devoting her talents, skills and awareness to our beautiful and resilient children! Not the least of those awarenesses being how important it is for our young women to complete their education before getting married.

For this and so many other things,

We Thank-you Sultana!



Savarsai – (Above) Tanaya, age 12 and in 6th Grade and her brother, Tanvesh, who is 8 and in the 3rd Grade, are new to the Home. Their father passed away from cancer and their mother works as a labourer in brick kilns and needs to travel following work availability.

Swara, left below, is also new to the Home. Her father passed away due to liver failure. Her mother makes a meager salary as a dish washer. She used to stay with her grandfather but he recently passed away also. All three of these children them are adjusting well.

Yogesh, who came to the Home when he was 5, recently completed a degree in diploma in electrical engineering. He now works as a service engineer for a local company setting up cctv cameras and the like!





Savarsai – Roshan, age 7, right, can't believe that it is raining on the day of the big exhibition soccer game at the Home!

Luckily, it was a very warm rain and a welcome relief from scorching temperatures, so the game went on! It began to feel more like a swimming match towards the end, but a good-spirited game was enjoyed by all.

There was a little grumbling to be heard during laundry time though.















Savarsai – Pragati, 12, in the center above, ferries Pratidhnya, 9, and Garghi, 10, across the courtyard to the boy's dorm where today's cultural program will be. With many more children than umbrellas, she made quite a few trips!

When the new building is completed, programs will be held there. The program featured dances by both girls and boys as well as skits and recitals.





Tribal Children's Home – Snehal, right, reads a welcoming message at the start of a program held for Robin and Ganesh on their last visit to this Home this summer.



Below some of the girls listen in rapt attention to Shehal's fine elocution. She is reading her speech in English for the benefit of Robin who sadly does not speak or understand Marati.

Below right, Snehal Purva and Priya join Snehal to sing a welcome song.

Far below, is this year's batch of young scholars who will stay at the Home so they can go to school while their parents travel to harvest crops in season.







Bonnie Lore

by Fred Cappuccino, her long-suffering husband



Yuvasri, below, has recently completed her nursing degree and is now working as a nurse at the St. Thomas Mount Hospital in Chennai. Robin took this photo of her this summer on his last visit to Chennai. She and her younger brother and sister came to our Kaliyampoondi Child Haven Home as small children after their father passed away.

About 8 years ago, on one of Bonniema's quarterly visits, Yuvasri and her siblings came to Bonniema in tears saying that they needed to leave the our Child Haven Home to go care for their mother. They had learned that she had become homeless after her landlord had turned her out and that she was living on the street without food or shelter. Bonniema consoled the children and said she would look into their mother's situation and get back to the children later that day.

She sent the Home's Assistant Manager Selvam, to find the children's mother. He reported back that not only was she sleeping on the street, but that she had breast cancer as well. With the help of Selvam and our other staff, Bonniema arranged for new housing for the mother, as well as for her fourth child who is mentally challenged and who she wanted to keep with her. Bonniema also made arrangements for a successful surgery and set-up a stipend to pay for the ongoing care of the mother and her son. With this news, the children agreed to stay on at our Kaliyampoondi Home and complete their studies.

Eight years later, Yuvasri's younger sister is now enrolled in the second year of a Bachelor of Commerce Degree and her younger brother has been accepted into one of the best universities in Tamil Nadu where he is working on a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering Degree. Yuvasri herself did not pass her nursing exam on the first try, but Bonniema insisted that she study some more and be allowed to take a second crack at it. The second time she passed with flying colours. When Yuvasri received her first paycheck, she offered it to the Home. Ganesh, who was the Manager at the time, offered deep thanks to her, but asked her to give the money instead to her mother.



Since then Yuvasri has taken over paying her mother and younger brother's stipend which Child Haven had been providing.

Of course Bonniema and all of us are very proud of Yuvasri and her siblings for their desire to take care of their mother, and for working so hard on their studies.

While I was writing out this recollection, I asked Bonnie why she never gives me a second chance like she did for Yuvasri and all our other children?

She replied, "Oh Fred, you're on your one million three hundred forty two thousand, six hundred and seventy second chance and you don't even realize it!"

I guess I am lucky to be in love with someone with such a forgiving nature! I am 97 years old; Bonnie is 89. I asked her if I could retire, and she said "Not yet."

Announcing Bonnie and Fred's 70th Anniversary Endowment Fund Drive



What better way to celebrate the love and commitment Bonnie and Fred have shown for each other and thousands of children around the world, than to contribute to this legacy for their love and dedication.

To kick off our 70th Anniversary Drive, a generous donor has just made a contribution of $100,000! It will serve the needs of the destitute children in Child Haven's care in perpetuity. Your gift can also make a lasting contribution to uplifting the young lives in need of our care. We are asking that contributions to the Fund be "above and beyond" your usual donations as our regular funding needs for food, clothing, schooling and the like need to be maintained while we raise this long-term support

Our Child Haven Endowment Fund, which is overseen by the non-profit Ottawa Community Foundation, currently has a value of $1,642,151.61. Interest and investment income from the fund has generated $587,960 over the past ten years which has supported our children and women's programs.

Contributions can be made by cash, credit card, cheque, bank draft or money order. We are also able to accept and transfer stocks and appreciated securities to our Endowment Fund Account. Numerous contributions to the Fund have come by way of bequests from supporters who want their contribution to our Child Haven children to continue indefinitely. Contact our Maxville office for more information as needed.

Any contribution you are in a position to offer would be most deeply appreciated. Thank-you!



Chittagong – You just might be able to tell how Ismat, above, felt about mango season this year. They were sweet, juicy and plentiful!

Child Haven Support Groups and Fundraising Dinners/Zoom 2023-2024

Date*	Location	Contact
Oct 28 '23	**Waterloo, ON**	Sydney Cook 226-929-4275
Nov 4 '23	**Hardwick, VT, USA**	Robin Cappuccino & Sharon Fialco 802-533-2296, Deborah Hart 802-472-5284
Nov 18 '23	**Montreal/ Lennoxville**	Sheila Laursen 514-697-4195
Apr 5 2024	**Hamilton, ON**	Ginny Megin 905-332-6474, Valerie Doughtery 905-465-1911
Spring 2024	**Kingston, ON**	Jackie Morgan Rush & Andrew Rush 613-542-6992 or 343-333-1974
Spring 2024	**Victoria, BC**	Robin Colyer 819-432-5997 & Peter Hamilton 819-432-5997
Spring 2024	**Calgary, AB**	Salimah Jina 403-991-4696
Spring 2024	**Ottawa, ON**	Lynda Inkster 613-824-1720, Parin Bhimani 613-422-1573
	Canmore, AB	Simon Bryant 403-609-8125
	Carleton Place, ON	Jane Hamilton-Eaton 613-853-7959
	Comox/Courtenay, BC	Heather Holm 250-338-2181
	Cornwall, ON	Elaine MacDonald 613-938-7763
	Edmonton, AB	Sylvia Krogh 780-454-6216
	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
	Mississauga, ON	Shyam Sheth & Leena Motwani 647-876-8488, Tushar Mehta 416-839-1938
	Qualicum/Parksville, BC	Cilla Lewenhaupt 250-752-0968
	Winnipeg, MB	Zobida Ambtman 204-489-7630
	Vancouver, BC	Yamini Gandesha 604-999-2549, Katherine Doyle & Ian Cameron 604-255-4077

Ganesh and Family Move to Canada to Help Child Haven From Here

Ganesh Kumar grew up in our Kaliyampoondi Home where both his mother and grandmother were much loved care-givers. With Child Haven's support, he graduated with a BE in Computer Science and an MA in Social Work. He has served Child Haven's children as the Manager of our Children's Home in Hyderabad and for many years as the Manager of our largest Home in Kaliyampoondi. For the past 10 years he has also accompanied Bonniema and Robin on their visits to assess and provide support to all of our India projects, and occasionally to our Homes in Nepal and Bangladesh as well. He has acted as the point person for our India Homes in particular when dealing with Indian governmental issues, financial management and general problem-solving.



Ganesh, along with Robin, his daughter Pooja and Sowmiya his wife

Recently, Ganesh mentioned that he and his wife Sowmiya were planning to move to Canada so that she could pursue her education as an electrical engineer. After much discussion Child Haven decided to offer him a position in Canada so that he could continue his work with our Homes from here. He accepted.

We are looking to him as a key part of the next generation of leadership for Child Haven. His intimate knowledge of the nature and needs of our Homes makes him an invaluable asset in helping our Canadian Support Groups and donors understand what those needs really are. Having grown up in one of our Homes and then working in several, he can explain what that has meant for him and for the others that Child Haven has served. His ability to understand and monitor the finances of our Children's Homes and Women's Programs, will help ensure transparency in our financial management. He will also be in a vital position to be able to manage our overseas programs according to a deepened understanding of the Canadian and US Government's non-profit and auditing requirements.

He will continue to accompany Bonniema and Robin, on their visits to the Homes and projects and may make trips on his own as issues arise. We expect that he will continue to be on the phone constantly as the Homes call for his advice and support. He will also be part of our Volunteer/Intern Orientations, helping to provide training to Canadians applying to be Volunteer/Interns at Child Haven's projects in India, focusing on culturally appropriate behavior and sensitivities and providing insight into the challenges to be faced and joys to be found.

We are very excited about his continuing role with Child Haven. One of the most impressive things about Ganesh has been how tirelessly he has advocated on behalf of the children and staff in his care. He has paid special attention to advocating for the education of girls and the empowerment of and respect for women. We look forward to his applying that same passion to our entire Child Haven program for many years to come. Those of you who have not met him as volunteer/interns in Hyderabad or Kaliyampoondi, can look forward to doing so at one of our up-coming Dinners and fund-raisers. He can be reached through our Maxville Office.





Meu – Thanks to many thoughtful plantings over the years, this Home has a plethora of beautiful flowering trees and bushes which are enjoyed in all manner of ways.

Above left, Mangu and Durgha pick flowers which they will use to decorate the Home for visitors.

Above right, Anju utilizes some in her elegant hairdo.

Below left, Komal and Shakshi (standing) create a fairy space while Zeel (so many beautiful names!) watches and offers advice.

To the right below Shital also creates a magical space with the help of the abundant petals.





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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 BY INTERACT E-Transfer allows one time donation of funds between two bank accounts using email and online banking services.
Child Haven accepts e-Transfer which basically eliminates add-on fees.
Send an e-Transfer to fred@childhaven.ca
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DONATING BY CREDIT CARD can be made through our website or by calling Child Haven directly, 613-527-2829.

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.** (which provides 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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Kathmandu – Kabitha Khatri (above in blue and to the right), came to our Home when she was 6 years old after her mother passed away. Now with your help, she has graduated from Kathmandu University with a BA in environmental engineering. Here are some reflections she shared about her college experience.

"One of my most significant experiences was living at the Kathmandu University girls' hostel, which quickly became my home away from home. Hostel life provided me with an incredible opportunity to forge strong bonds with my fellow hostel mates, creating lasting memories and forming friendships that will stay with me forever. And, I had the best roommate one could ask for because she was a senior and helped me out to overcome difficult situations. She was an elder sister to me, very caring, loving and guided me throughout the process which made my fresher year easy and smooth.

In addition to my academic pursuits, I participated in various sports. During my first year, I had the privilege of being the captain of the Kathmandu University girls' football team. Leading the team was an exhilarating experience that taught me the value of teamwork and leadership. In my fourth year, I became the captain of the Kathmandu University girls' basketball team. It was another opportunity to showcase my leadership abilities and further enhance my skills both on and off the court. Moreover, I excelled in marathon running and managed to win several marathons organized by different university clubs. Participating in these events not only kept me physically fit but also boosted my confidence and determination.

During my final semester, I had a significant learning experience as it was research-focused. I conducted research in the field of wastewater, which allowed me to gain valuable knowledge in this area. I participated in experiments in the laboratory, where I became proficient in handling various laboratory instruments. This hands-on experience enhanced my technical skills and deepened my understanding of environmental engineering concepts related to wastewater treatment.

Overall, my four years at Kathmandu University were marked by a perfect blend of academic excellence, sportsmanship, and research-oriented learning. I am grateful for the opportunities I had, the challenges I overcame, and the experiences that shaped me into a confident and well-rounded individual, ready to contribute to the field of environmental engineering."





Kathmandu – Lakapa is 8 years old. She is from the remote district of Okhaldhunga in Mid-Eastern Nepal. She came to the Home recently after her mother abandoned her family. Her father is differently-abled and unable to walk. Her mother was the only one supporting her family. After people in her village tried to find her mother for several months, Lakapa was brought to Child Haven where her artistic talents are flourishing!

Anushka, above right, is 5. Her father passed away after a heart attack and her distraught mother ran away. Her aunt brought her to the Home. As with all our children, a staff member always visits the child's home to confirm that their story is correct and permission from the local child welfare authorities is received.



Soon both girls will be dancing with the other children at performances such as the recent one to the left.



Kathmandu – Chhring helps Rashmita with her mathematics homework. Chhring has an astounding aptitude for math. He was not as interested in his other subjects, but excels in math making him an excellent tutor for our children.

Below, care-giver Sushila, upper right in the white shirt, oversees a homework class in one of the Girl's Dormitory rooms. Sushila has worked at our Home for 8 years.





Kaliyampoondi – A few of our high school girls above, in their beige school uniforms are reflected in the mural painted many years ago by volunteer interns Ramune Luminaire and Lino Hilsdon. The mural has been lovingly repainted several times!

Below, elementary students in their green and white uniforms do the same.

At this Home we have 24 girls in elementary school and 80 girls in high school. They walk to and from their respective schools which are down the road from the Home. Staff members, and Volunteer/Interns when they are present, accompany them.





Kaliyampoondi – Here above are some of the esteemed scholars who are currently studying in Grade 11 from our Home. We can tell they will each do extremely well!

Below is our music teacher Sathya Satchi, and our very first student, Divya, age 18, who has chosen to pursue music as a career choice. She was accepted at the Tamil Nadu Government Music College, for a Bachelor of Violin (BA) 3-year course. She would like to become a music teacher just like her mentor Sathya. With the gentle inspiration of Sathya, we are certain that other students will follow Divya's lead.





Chittagong – Hlameu Marma is new to our Home. She came after her father passed away. She and many other children wear special strings or necklaces given to them by family members or relatives as remembrances before leaving for the Home. Hlameu is Buddhist and it is likely that the necklaces she is wearing contain special blessings to keep her safe and well.

Let me light my lamp, says the star,

And never debate if it will dispel the dark.

Rabindranath Tagore



Chittagong – Imtiaz is six and a half. He is very attentive to the needs of these two pet rabbits which the children care for at this Home. Our Manager Jasmin brought them in much to the delight of everyone, especially the younger children who keep them very well fed!

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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