

Green Tara - Protector of Children, Women and the Environment

Child Haven International



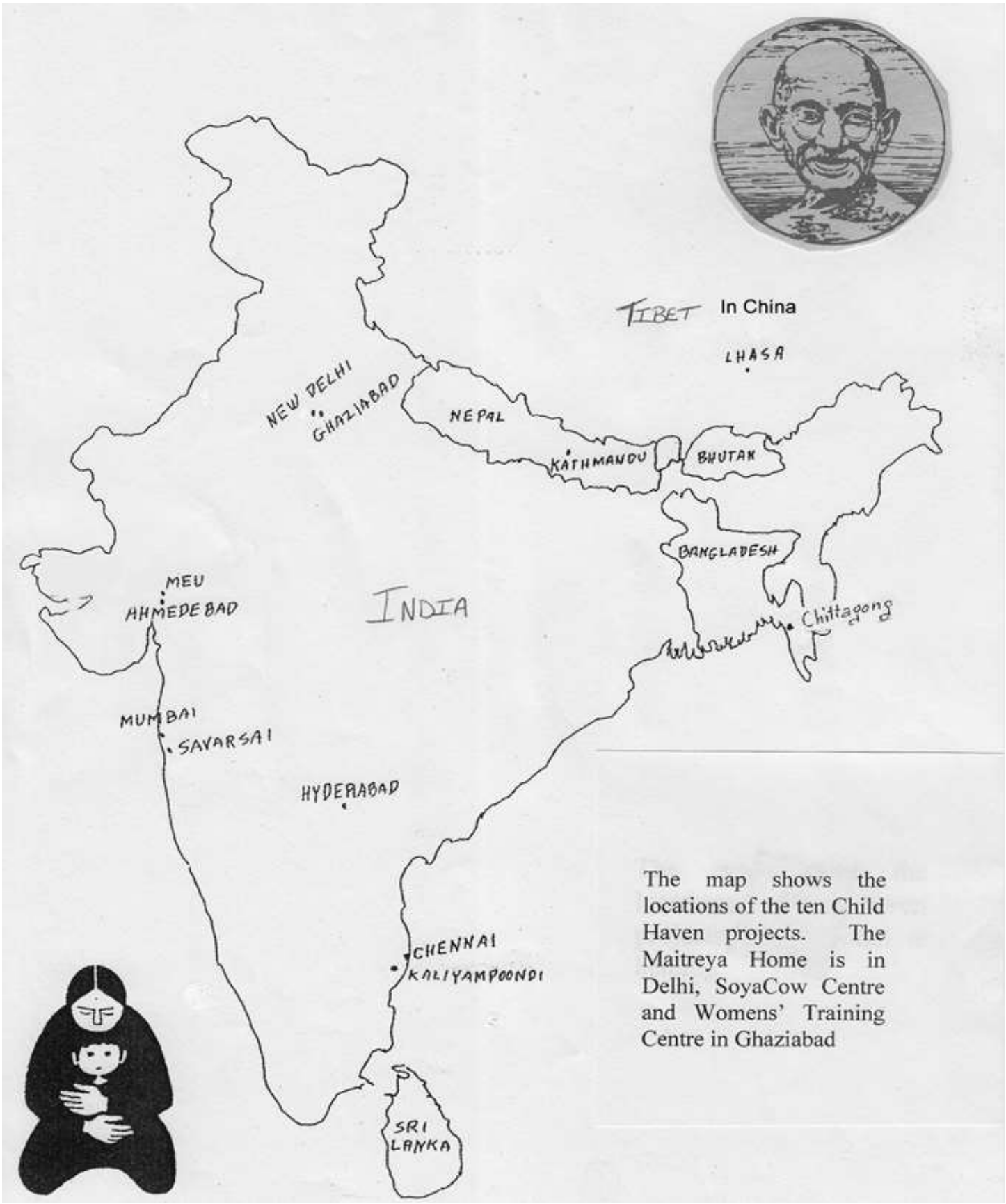
ACCUEIL INTERNATIONAL POUR l'ENFANCE
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June 2019



Kathmandu – Many cooks gather round in the kitchen to make momos as a Shivaratri holiday treat. It takes many hands to roll out the dough, place the filling on top and then squeeze them into little balls for steaming. After squeezing and steaming several hundred momos, the feasting begins.

Kaliyampoondi	3, 20	Hyderabad	18-19	Kathmandu	1, 10-11, 23-24
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Meu	12-13, 14-15	Chittagong	4-5		



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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Kaliyampoondi School's over for the day, so that means it's time for afternoon soy milk and a banana on a balmy afternoon. Fitting right in, in the lower right are Nivetha and Gaytri Devi, both brand new to the Home.

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
Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh and **Rahon,** Punjab, **Pen**, Maharashtra **Women's Centers**, India; education in tailoring for 50 women at a time; inexpensive sanitary napkin production and sale; Beauty and Wellness Course. Languages: Hindi, Punjabi and Marathi
(Many other children are sponsored for education, but are not living in one of our Homes.)



Chittagong Mahin is five years old. He is one of the new children at our Home. His father abandoned his family. He used to live with his mother in the low-income area, Halishahar. It was difficult for his mother to make ends meet as well as care for Mahin so she brought him to the Home. After visiting their dwelling, and confirming with local authorities, Mahin came to the Home. His mother is very excited that there is a school connected to the Home. No one in her family has gone beyond Grade 5. She is hoping Mahin will be the first family graduate. We hope so too!

Lomboti, serving Mahin below, is a new caregiver at the Home. She is from Bandarban Hill Tracks. She is a widow with two children. Her daughter Joyanti, age six, came with her to our Home. Her elder son lives separately. She previously worked as a housemaid in Dhaka. She heard of Child Haven from one of our staff members and was excited to live somewhere that her daughter could also live. As she is from the Tribal community, she is someone with whom our Tribal children can practice their languages. Welcome All!





Chittagong Maria Akter, pictured with her mother above, is 14 years old and in our Educational Support Program. Her father is a rickshaw driver and does not make enough to support Maria's education. Maria is a very capable student and aspires to be a teacher or a doctor.

Among the new children at the Home is Joyanti, (left below) the daughter of our new care-giver Lomboti. She is six years old. Also new to the Home is Arafat, (below right). His father is mentally challenged and spends most of his time wandering from place to place. Sometimes he remains away from his home for 6 months or more. His mother works as a day labourer on other people's farmland. She brought Arafat to the Home because she was having a hard time providing for him and sending him to school given the transient nature of her work. Arafat is doing well in our Home and Montessori School.











Savarsai Sudhir, above left, is our Home Night Watchman. He also helps with the gardens at the Home. He grew up in our nearby Tribal Home and is knowledgeable and helpful with everything at the Home.

Jay, above is new to the Home. His father abandoned their family and his mother has serious health issues, so Jay is now part of the Savarsai Child Haven family. He loves to play outside. Focusing on his studies can be a challenge for him.



Yashvi, Disha and Komal (middle left) and all the other children have soymilk twice a day.

There are many engineers and builders at this Home. To the left below, Indrika, Aryan and Karthik build a new house in the garden. Actually Aryan and Karthik are building the house and Indrika likes to be in photos.





Savarsai A highlight of Bonniema's visits is a cultural program. Here above (two photos) some of the girls show off their best dance moves.

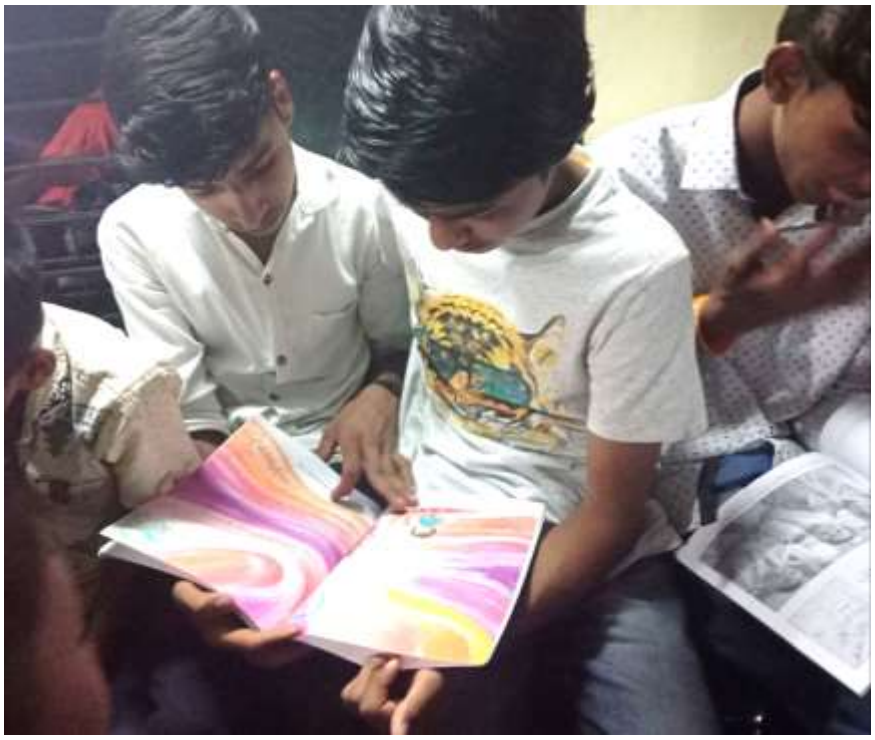
To the right is Vihan, age 9, who is new to the Home. Both of his parents passed away. He was staying with his aunt, but she makes a low wage and could not support him.



Below left, Sidhesh, in the 9th Grade shows a drawing he has made. Sidhesh loves to draw and paint. He would like to work in one of the plaster statue workshops that the Savarsai area is famous for, painting the faces and clothes on the statues.

Below right, Vaibhav and Memant read Shelley Adam's new book *Bonniema and Fredpa's Big Family* available from shelley@wanderfull.ca





Fred Lore, **GANDHIAN EXPERIMENTS**, by *Robin Cappuccino*



When our father went to seminary in 1951 (Garrett Theological School in Evanston Illinois) he re-read Gandhi's autobiography, MY EXPERIMENTS WITH TRUTH. He was impressed by the idea that "*whatever possessions you have that you do not really need for living – to that extent you are stealing from the poor."*

So he began his own experiment with truth: He got rid of stuff. He gave away a lot of his "extra" clothing, and a lot of little do-dads, and some books (books were the hardest thing to part with.) He kept his manual portable typewriter, some clothes, some bedding, one pencil, one pen, and 75 books. He could lift the pile – he couldn't GO anywhere with it, but he could lift it. All his possessions weighed 150 pounds, which happened to be the same as his own weight. (He still weighs 150 pounds.)

In 1976, when our mother Bonniema, as founding president of Families for Children, wanted to take our family off to India, she decided to get rid of stuff. She called John Archie MacLennon, our farmer-neighbour, who was also an auctioneer. Since she planned for us to be gone for several years, she decided to sell everything we weren't taking with us: the washer, the dryer, the dishes, and Daddy's overcoat ("you won't be needing that in India," said Bonniema). The proceeds from the auction helped to fund their 18-month stay in Sri Lanka and India.



The family in India circa 1976 after the Big Auction.
From left to right, Bonniema, Vodinh, Mohan, Shikha, Tran, Lakshmi, Tibiki, Fredpa and Kahlil.

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DONATING BY CREDIT CARD can be made through our web site or by calling Child Haven directly, 613-527-2829.

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

IN SOME CASES THE NAMES OF UNITED WAY DONORS ARE NOT GIVEN TO US. WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR DONATION. DONATIONS THROUGH CANADA HELPS MAY ALSO BE ANONYMOUS.

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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Kathmandu Two of our Home artists presented an art show this Spring in the computer room with help from Volunteer/Intern Colleen McShea, from Calgary. Karnajung Nepali is just finishing his board exams for Grade 11 at New Summit College. He plans to complete grade 12 at the College when he gets the results. He is pictured above with a painting of a rhinoceros he created. To the left is his portrait of a hawk.

Aashish Rai just completed his final Board Exams for Grade 12 at the same college. He plans to continue his studies by taking some short courses in animation. Some of you may recognize the subject of his portrait below.





Kathmandu The front porch is always a hub-bub of activity on a sunny afternoon. Above, Volunteer Intern Kathleen Mitchel from Calgary, reads a book with some young learners while others play with puzzles and read on their own. Kathleen and her husband Paul Trotter recently completed 3 months helping at the Home.





Meu, Gujarat Nilesh, (left) in Grade 10, uses his mechanical skills to fix a busted chain on the Home's venerable and much-used bicycle. In spite of numerous bits of wire of different sizes and configurations, it kept breaking. On top of that, the shop in the village where it is sometimes repaired was closed for a few days.

Fortunately, there were plenty of boys ready to take turns pushing the bike around the courtyard, so all was not lost and a group activity was enjoyed (below). The chain did eventually make it to the shop, and was repaired.



Meu Our esteemed Senior Advisor, Mr Ruparel, (second from right) shows off his Volleyball skills during a late afternoon game.

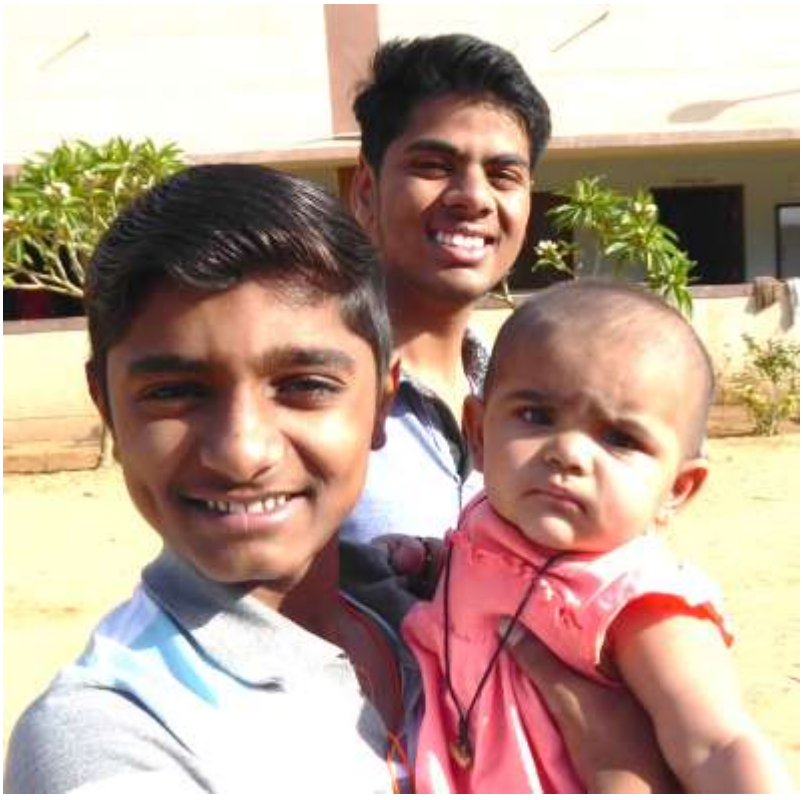


Below, Kajal shows Bonniema a poster she has made which says *Save the Girl Child* in Gujarati. She made it by sewing sequins onto a board. In Gujarat the child sex ratio for children ages 0 to 6 is 890 girls to 1000 boys. The main cause of female foeticide is the difficulty parents have in offering a dowry for their daughters. This is one of the reasons Child Haven does not believe in or practice the dowry system.









Meu Boys Our former Volunteer Interns often ask for lots of pictures of the children they came to know so they can see how they have grown and matured since their last visits. So, clockwise from below are Vigay and Kamlesh, both age 12. Below left are Shani, 8, Arjun, 9, Manoj, 14, Harshil, 7 and Maynk age 9.

To the center left are – Devaraj age 15 holding a former staff member's most beautiful baby in the world, Harkh and Jayesh age 14, Above left are; Abhey and Manoj, both 14, and directly above is Karan, aged 13.









Meu Girls Sonal, (above) is age 9. Above right are Zalak, age 8 and Pal, age 7. Komal, (right) is age 4. Below right are Dharmistha, age 11, Prerna, age 13 and Santoshi age 11 as well. Nirmala, (below) is 9.



If you too would like to get to know these vibrant and resilient children, we have space for more Volunteer-Interns. You would pay your own travel and commit three to six months interning in India, Nepal, or Bangladesh. A $50 fee covers processing costs and your attendance at a two-day Orientation in Maxville. An additional $200 donation to partially cover overseas room and board is also asked of Interns. Please contact our office in Maxville at 613-527-2829 for more info. You can find our Intern Brochure at *childhaven.ca*.







Kaliyampoondi Tutor Vasugi with her Grade 4 class.

Child Haven Support Groups and our Fundraising Dinners

Please check our web site for updated information

Sat Sept 21	**Burlington, VT, USA**	Elango Dev 802-598-2630
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 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, Conny Belanger 514-542-3381
Sat Oct 19	**Glengarry, ON**	Alyson Graham 613-525-0796, Julie Slater 613-525-1104
Thur Oct 24	**Comox/Courtenay, BC**	Heather Holm 250-338-2181
Oct (TBA)	**Qualicum/Parksville, BC**	Cilla Lewenhaupt 250-752-0968
Sat Nov 23	**Carleton Place, ON**	Jane Hamilton 613-853-7959
TBA	**Hamilton, ON**	Ginny Megin 905-332-6474, Valerie Dougherty 905-465-1911
TBA	**Perth, ON**	Lori Taylor 613-803-1184, Tracey Parker 613-267-4305
TBA	**Canmore, AB**	Paula Duncan & Simon Bryant 403-609-8125
TBA	**Lincoln, MA USA**	Christine Damon 781-879-5870
TBA	**Lennoxville, QC**	Keith Baxter 819-346-8273
Sat Apr 18, 2020	**Calgary, AB**	Salimah Jina 403-284-4696, Cindy Skrukwa 402-686-3595
Sat Apr 25, 2020	**Mississauga, ON**	Shyam Sheth & Leena Motwani 647-876-8488, Tushar Mehta 416-839-1938
Sun Apr 26, 2020	**Waterloo, ON**	Sydney Cook 519-578-7837
TBA	**Ottawa, ON**	Lynda Inkster 613-837-3532, Parin Bhimani 613-422-1573
Sat May 09, 2020	**Kingston, ON**	Andrew Rush 613-542-6992 or 343-333-1974
TBA	**Cornwall, ON**	Elaine MacDonald 613-939-7763
TBA	**Edmonton, AB**	Sylvia Krogh 780-454-6216
Sat Nov 30,2020	**Meadow Ridge HS, BC**	Tejas Gendesha 604-476-0264

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

Before coming to Child Haven in 2009, men and their actions defined Sharada's life. When her father died, nine-year-old Sharada began laboring at construction sites. At fifteen she was married to an abusive husband. Within the first year of marriage, her son Vikas was born. Two years later she birthed her daughter, Ramya. When Sharada's husband died in a drunken fight, her life became even more difficult. "Men would come and knock on my door, follow me around and ask for indecent things – abusing me at gatherings." What's more, her brother-in-law tried to blackmail her, attempting to take away what had been her husband's house.

As a new widow, Sharada's menial wages did not sustain her small family. She wanted her son, then five, to have an education like the children at the school where she worked. She came to Child Haven's Hyderabad Home hoping Vikas could be admitted. Considering all of the strains in her life, the Home's manager accepted both children, and also offered Sharada a live-in job.



Proud Mama Sharada with Ramya (Grade 8) and Vikas (Grade 9).

Sharada's transition to life at the Home was not easy. She explains, "I was crying a lot -- why is this happening to me? I felt like I was a failure as a mother because I had brought my children to an orphanage. I felt like dying." Sharada says that at this low point, the Home's older children and college students consoled her. They told her, "We will help you. Don't cry, Auntie. We will help you with your children."

Today that rough transition lies far behind. Sharada works hard on the team of staff that rotates childcare, cleaning, and kitchen tasks. She likes the care duties best. "I forget all my worries being among the children." And, indeed, her worries are fewer these days. She explains, "Being in this Home helps me get a good name – then my children will not suffer because of any bad name people might call me."

Sharada has earned her reputation as a very brave person in the Home. She is the one to confront 10 foot snakes and jump between teenage boys edging towards a fight. Sharada says that her actions come spontaneously because she doesn't want to see anyone hurt. The one thing she can't stand, is to see suffering. When one of the children was bleeding and the nurse was gone, Sharada carried the boy to the hospital, soaking her sari with blood. When people from her old neighborhood have come around to harass her, Sharada can hold her own. "No one else comes to defend me. . . I stand alone," says this Wonder Woman, "and I fight for everyone."





Hyderabad Poojitha, above left has completed Grade 12 and is now studying in the first year of a bachelor in science degree. Vanaja, also completed Grade 12 and is now working on a diploma in physical education. Supervising their studies is Varnika, our assistant manager Shanti's most beautiful baby in the world.

Not only is Poojitha a great scholar, but she is also accomplished in extra-curricular activities as shown by her First Place prizes in chess, Carrom and Tennikoit (a game similar to tennis played with a thrown rubber ring).

Hyderabad Srivani is an amazing chef. Here she makes delectable clay pies in meticulously crafted leaf pans for Karthik, the son of our assistant manager, Shanti. Srivani has just completed Grade 4 and is looking forward to Grade 5. Srivani and her older sister Sreeja have been living in the Home since 2013.



Prashanth (below right) joined the Home in 2011. He has been interested in studying photography for quite some time. While looking for a photography training program, we called Surya Kirin (below left) who also grew up in the Home and who now has is own photography studio. Kirin's advice was to send Prashanth to work with him as an intern in his studio and he would train him. Prashanth was thrilled at this possibility and they are working well together.





Kaliyampoondi

Looks like a traffic jam in the works! There's more than one way to climb a slide according to blessed Raj going up the down side.

Valaramadhi (below left) is relieved to have found a safe and healthy place for her two sons to live. Their father drinks and is unemployed. He can often be seen sleeping in the road. Valaramadhi was at a loss as to how to provide for her sons, Ezliarson, in nursery school and Gokul in second grade. She will come visit when she can.

As new children come, young adults leave. Satish, below right, was brought to the Home when he was a child having been rescued from being a child labourer. He has no parents. He just graduated with a diploma in Mechanical Engineering and has taken a job working in a local factory. Congratulations Satish!









Tribal Home Vijay (above left) is 16 years old and has just completed Grade 10. He belongs to the shepherd/cowherd community that is classified as a nomadic tribe. Vijay has strong qualities of leadership and is very resourceful. When the staff is either busy or attending to some other important work he engages with visitors or donors with ease and effectiveness. He has recently been appointed as the President of the youth wing of the shepherd community and is involved in arranging social activities. At the Tribal Home he is the one responsible for organizing the children for community activities like physical exercise, singing, dancing, preparing placards for rallies and playing the drums.

Sarita, (above right) is sixteen and belongs to the Kathkari tribe, one of the ancient tribes in Maharashtra State. Her mother is a widow and we are supporting the family with food grains so that Sarita and Ganesh, her brother, are able to complete their studies. Sarita has taken her 10th standard exams and is awaiting her results. Sarita has a good voice and is interested in singing and dancing. She is also a very responsible girl and takes on any duties assigned to her.



This is a photo of the choir of the Tribal Home. The leader of this group is Baby Waghmare, second from left. She is the one who teaches the children to sing and dance. Baby is their music teacher and choreographer. This group can be ready with a performance on very short notice. They are passionate about singing and dancing.







Tribal Women's Sanitary Pad Production Project

We have been able to initiate another low-cost sanitary pad production project. This one is in Pen not far from our Tribal Children's and Savarsai Homes. Currently, 5 women are employed making and marketing the pads.

The equipment was purchased thanks to a generous donor who chose the project as a birthday gift for his wife from the options listed on the Needs Board at one of our Dinners.





Kathmandu Assistant Manager Dhruba offers support to Hardika Bogati, age 9. Dhruba grew up in the Home and is very skillful at connecting with and counselling our children.

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



Kathmandu Anisha (right) pumps water as her care-giver Sushma helps her charges do their laundry. Anisha is 11 and in Grade 4. She and her brother Manish came to the Home from Sindhupalchowk after their mother died from a brain tumor and their father disappeared. With them are sisters Mahim, age 6 (left) and Tilgana age 8 (right).

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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