

Green Tara - Protector of Children, Women and the Environment

Child Haven International



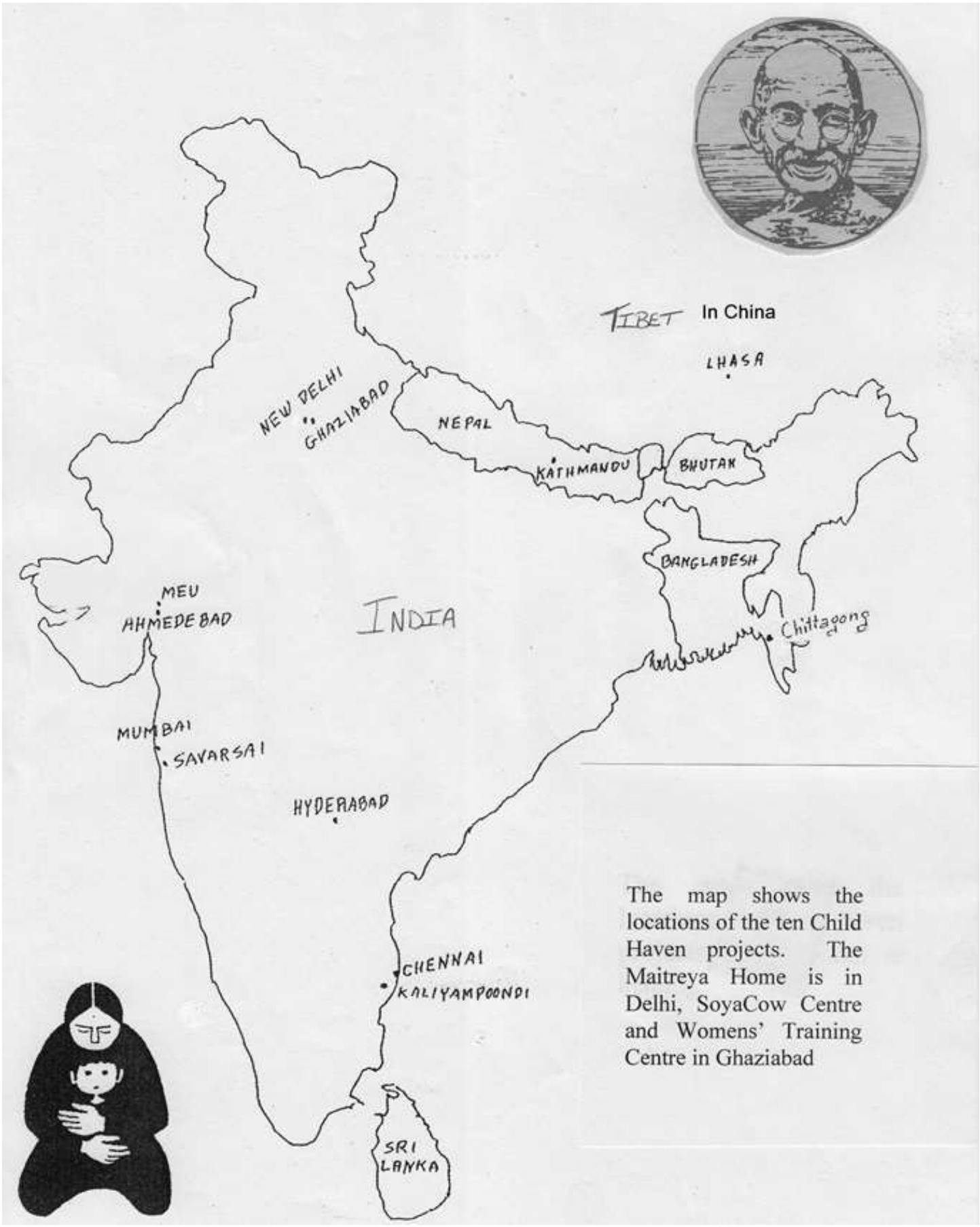
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March 2019



Kaliyampoondi – Bananas for snack! Vijaya Lakshmi in Grade 3, Duga in Grade 4 and Jenma Ragni in Grade 3 munch on today's variety which are small and sweet. Vijaya came to the Home last year and Jenma arrived several months ago. Their families are part of the tribal community that lives near the Home. Their very meagre incomes and migrant life-styles made it difficult for them to support their children and keep them in school. The families visit often.

Kaliyampoondi	1, 13-15	Hyderabad	20-24	Nepal	17-19
Fred Lore	16	Interning	19	Support Groups	15
Donating	6	Savarsai	3	Wonder Woman	12
Meu	4-5	Chittagong	9-11	Tribal Home	7-8



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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Child Haven Homes and Projects

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



Savarsai – The children pause for a photo on a recent field trip to the Shrevardan Beach. The outing included a picnic and visit to an Ayurvedic medicine farm and small factory on the way home.



Meu – Lunch is served on the verandah of the Girl's Dorm on a hot afternoon. Above center, our children's counselor, Kajal serves. Below left Rekha, age 14 flashes a bright smile. Below right, Kajal Vaghri also 14 and Mangu, 13-years-old, do so as well.





Meu – Budding agronomists Kamal and Hitesh, both age 4, discover that a recently planted mango tree is in need of some watering. So they decide to open an irrigation trench to the tree from a pool of water nearby. Problem solved.

This Home has extensive vegetable and flower gardens along with numerous fruit trees which the children enjoy caring for and watering. Perhaps these two will be eating mangoes from this fledgling tree someday.





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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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Tribal Home – The children do community service by cleaning the Pen Village bus stand and the grounds of the Mahatma Gandhi Library in Pen as their way of commemorating the 149th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. (October 2nd 2018) *Raj Anthony photos*





Tribal Home – The Home took part in a March for Gender Equality in Pen on January 12th. More than 400 students from local schools and colleges took part. The women and girls declared that "We are second to none and wish to live a free and unfettered life."

Below, what is a march without a marching band? So, the boys from the Home brought along their drums and cymbals much to the delight and enjoyment of both marchers and watchers. *Raj Anthony photos*









Chittagong – The newly renovated kitchen is always a hub-bub of aromatic activity. Above left, Nahsima sorts beans. Cook Yasmin , above, with some cooked potatoes and to the left, cook Halima stir-fries cauliflower in a huge wok.

The kitchen renovations were part of a massive overhaul of the whole building paid for by a generous donation from the Bhura family of Calgary. It included all-new plumbing, wiring, many new windows, fans, painting and more! Needless to say the children and staff are thrilled.

The kitchen got new tiles on the floor and walls, a new sink, windows, stove, shelves and fans, making it a bright pleasant place to prepare food. *Thank-you Bhuras!*





Chittagaong – Ah, the joys of red balloons! Mostafa, age 10, and friends find a perfect pastime in a playground ringed with windows! The girls below also seem to be having a good time with their choice of a before-school activity: polishing their shoes. Facing the camera are Anonna, age 11, second from the left, and Rini, also 11, to the right.







Chittagong – Our educational support program focuses on enabling low income young women, living with their families, to pursue their educational goals. Otherwise, they might be forced into an early marriage. 18-year-old Tasiva, (above left), was accepted into the program after her mother died. Her father works pumping gas at a petrol station near our Home. Tasiva has two younger sisters and she helps support her family by tutoring neighborhood children. She would like to be a teacher someday. Faozia, above right, is working on a Master's Degree in Business Administration. Both young women got straight A's in their last term. Currently there are 32 young people enrolled in this Child Haven program.

The girls in our Home are also scholars who spend hours every day studying, especially during exam time (below). Right side of the table are Pakim, age 18 and Lalimpar, Jindinpar, and Pinki all 16-years-old.



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

Two things are immediately apparent when meeting Sasikala - her radiant smile, and the severe burn scars covering most of her face and neck. Sasikala's skin bears the imprint of her ex-husband's rage. Her genuine smile shows the stronger imprint of her inner resilience.

Sasikala came to Child Haven's Kaliyampoondi Home after her husband had abandoned her with their infant and toddler sons. She faced the impossible task of caring for her children as a single mother, and the more impossible fate of taking her beloved sons to a children's home. Luckily Sasikala found her way to Child Haven. The boys were welcomed, and she was offered a job as a live-in caregiver. The family could stay together!

Settled into their Child Haven home, Sasikala and her boys healed from physical and emotional scars of violence. Manoj, age 10, delights in spinning his top with the other boys in the court-yard. Bharat, now age 6, has graciously relinquished his long reign as most- beloved-and-impish-youngest-brother to other babies and toddlers in the Home. Sasikala enjoys increased movement after surgeries to mitigate scar tissue.



Sasikala with her sons Manoj and Bharat

She is a hugely welcoming, quietly cheerful, and immensely patient presence at the Home. She rises at 4:00 each morning to decorate the Home's thresholds with rangoli, a South Indian tradition of rice flour designs that wear away with each day's foot traffic. As caregiver to the six and seven year old boys, she graciously manages the difficult balance of tending to her own two sons while also being a loving mother to many others. Her Wonder Woman qualities of gentle attention, cheerful strength, and redoubtable resilience will no doubt ensure that these many boys will grow into caring, peaceful men of the future.





Sasikala making a rangoli design in front of the door to the boy's dorm and her final creation





Kaliyampoondi – All our Homes love to put on cultural presentations. Here are some photos from a recent one at our largest Home. Above left, Vignesh and the other 1st Graders rock a tune, as does Kavitha, front, and her Grade 11 sisters above right.

To the right, Debela, (center) is one of the boys studying drumming with our drumming teacher, Dilipkumar. They also perform below left.

Below right, Agash, in the 6th Grade flashes a smile while singing along with the chorus under the direction of our beloved long-time staff member, William.











Kaliyampoondi – Pongal, a multi-day harvest festival was well-celebrated at the Home. In the two photos above, Grade 12 girls Manisha & Thamizhenthi and nursing student Pushpa, took part in a water carrying game, one of many games held for all ages. To the right Lakshmi and the other Home cows, were bathed and had their horns painted for their featured role in the festivities. Moorti, our Cow Care-giver, to the left, and Selvam, on the right, our Assistant Manager, accompany Lakshmi on her ceremonial walk around the Home.



Below, part of the ceremony in front of the Home's office. Volunteer-Intern Robin Colyer, (third from right) was fitted with a sari for the occasion. Volunteer-Intern Peter Hamilton, (second from right) wore his best shirt. *Photos by Seenu and Peter Hamilton*





Kaliyampoondi – Our Home Manager Ganesh signs report cards for Ratchitha, Mumthaj and Monisha (left to right) all in Grade 6. Ganesh takes time to go over all the report cards for the children in the Home. Having grown up in the Home himself, he understands the importance of checking-in with all our 325 children and young people on a regular basis.

Ganesh is also playing an increasing role as a support person and communications link for our other Indian Home Managers.

Child Haven Support Groups and our Fundraising Dinners

Please check our web site for updated information

Fri April 05	**Cornwall, ON**	Elaine MacDonald 613-939-7763
Sat April 13	**Calgary, AB**	Dave Green 403-816-1705, Lata Patel 403-462-5474
Tues Apr 23	**Lennoxville, QC**	Keith Baxter 819-346-8273
Sat April 27	**Mississauga, ON**	Shyam Sheth & Leena Motwani 647-876-8488, Tushar Mehta 416-839-1938
Sat April 28	**Waterloo, ON**	Sydney Cook 519-578-7837
Fri May 03	**Ottawa, ON**	Lynda Inkster 613-837-3532, Dave Basu & Parin Bhimani 613-422-1573
Sat May 04	**Kingston, ON**	Andrew Rush 613-542-6992 or 343-333-1974
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, Jameel Ali 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
Fall	**Carleton Place, ON**	Jane Hamilton 613-853-7959
	Hamilton, ON	Ginny Megin 905-332-6474, Valerie Doughtery 905-465-1911
	Perth, ON	Lori Taylor 613-803-1184, Tracey Parker 613-267-4305
	Edmonton, AB	Sylvia Krogh 780-454-6216
	Canmore, AB	Paula Duncan & Simon Bryant 403-609-8125
	Lincoln MA USA	Christine Damon 781-879-5870

Fred Lore by Robin Cappuccino



Our Dad, Fredpa loves to sing. Growing up, we were treated to a treasure trove of songs as we drove across the country in our van to visit relatives and friends. We were encouraged to sing along in harmony if we could. What else could you do with so many children cooped up for hours in a Volkswagen van? We learned Sweet Adeline in harmony:

Sweet A-do-line. My Ad-o-line,
At night, dear heart, For you I pine,
In all my dreams, your fair face beams
You're the flower of - my – heart;
Sweet Ad-o-line.

He would also use songs to tell stories. In 1965, when he returned from the Civil Rights March in Selma Alabama, he brought with him many of the songs that were sung by people there who were marching for equal rights for all people regardless of the colour of their skin.

Oh Freedom, Oh, Freedom, Oh Freedom over me,
And before I'll be a slave, I'll be buried in my grave,
And go home to my Lord, and be Free"

These songs brought the spirited struggle home to people who had not been there. As children we learned them all.

More recently, Fredpa went to a local store to buy some groceries. When he arrived, he saw a picket line of workers on strike for higher pay marching outside the store. As a strong supporter of rights for workers, Fredpa would never cross a picket line. He asked if anyone knew any union songs. They didn't. He launched into several union songs, including:

Long-haired preachers come out every night,
Try to tell you what's wrong and what's right,
But when asked about something to eat,
They will answer in voices so sweet:
"You will eat, bye and bye,
In that glorious land above the sky,
Work and pray – live on hay,
You'll get pie in the sky when you die."

Just like driving across the country, there is not a lot to do on a picket line, so some rousing songs can uplift everyone's spirits.

Another time, Fredpa was checking-out at the cash register (in a different store) and noticed that the cashier's name, printed on her name-tag was Genevieve. He immediately launched into the lilting song "*Oh Genevieve, Sweet Genevieve*". He remembered only one stanza (much to the relief of the person in line behind him) but even so, Genevieve thanked him and didn't even charge him for the bag to hold his groceries!

On yet another occasion, Fredpa met someone named Kathleen at a gathering in Ottawa. He immediately launched into the lovely air "*I'll take you Home Again Kathleen*" much to Kathleen's delight. She joked with him "Well Fred, Thank-you! I took the bus here and didn't know how I would get home."



Kathmandu – Gita, above center, grew up in the Home. She brought her 2-year-old daughter, the most beautiful baby in the world, (Amelia) and husband, Dil Bahadur to visit Bonniema on a recent visit to the Home. Child Haven supported Gita in earning a nurse/midwifery degree, and she was able to find a government job in that field.

Below center she is conducting a leprosy survey as a community health nurse and midwife in the Terai Region of Nepal. She has recently been transferred to the Humla Region of Western Nepal to do similar work. This is great news for Gita as her husband is a social worker in the same region.







Kathmandu – Thanks to the generosity of the Jestin family, we were pleased to hold an Opening Ceremony for the third floor of our Child Haven Green Tara School on a recent trip. This, of course, was cause for a spectacular Cultural Program at the school. Among the many talented performers were Chiring Sherpa, in Grade 8 and Kanchan Bhandari, Grade 9, foreground (above left) and Shyam Sundar Yadav, and Sujana, (above right) both in Grade 7.

While the older children demonstrated extraordinary skill in their performance of traditional Nepali dances, it was definitely the little girls in the Montessori program, below, who received top points on the cute meter.







Kathmandu – Above left, Pasang Syanden and Keshlal Buddha, both 14-years-old and in Grade 8, carry a cauliflower delivery to the kitchen located in the rear of the Home's compound. Above right, doing their laundry, far left and far right are, Chetana Rai, 13 years old and Sadik Rana also 13 who is pumping water from the underground tank.

Below, Volunteer-Intern Don Fraser takes his best ping-pong shot while taking on Yubraj Sunar, in Grade 8 at the Green Tara Child Haven School. This is Don's 4th trip to our Kathmandu Home. This time his wife Jan, daughter and two grand-daughters came along for a brief visit.

We have space for more volunteer-interns who pay their own travel and commit three to six months to interning in India, Nepal, or Bangladesh. Please contact our office in Maxville at 613-527-2829. 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. You can find out our Intern Brochure at *childhaven.ca*.



Hyderabad – Volunteer Intern Gaye Gibson has a heart-to-heart with Niharika, studying in 6th grade and Swarnaveni, in the second year of a Multi-Purpose Health Worker degree.

Among Gaye's many activities during her three-month stay at the Home have been: giving English lessons to the staff, learning a dance to perform with the older girls for the Republic Day festivities, and taking groups of children for walks in the neighborhood.

She has also been leading Surya Namaskar yoga for all the girls in the dining hall after prayers in the morning.



Below left, Vangana, is studying math, physics and chemistry in Grade 12. She gives much-appreciated help with homework to Rajeshwari in Grade 7. Both girls have been part of the Home for about 8 years.

Below right, Care-giver Mariyamma admires the burgeoning hair-combing skills of Madhav in Grade 3, and Pavan in Grade 2. Raja Rao, in Grade 5 offers encouragement and support. Mariyamma is very patient, which is a good thing with so many little boys getting ready for the school-bus each morning.









Hyderabad – Here are two of the new children at the Home.
Gopal, above left, was born in The Indian state, Andhra Pradesh. After his parents passed away, he was sent to the state of Tamil Nadu to stay with his grandmother. There he was placed in a Home for physically challenged children as he had had polio. Gopal only knew Telugu, and not Tamil, the language spoken in Tamil Nadu, so he had a hard time in school. The Manager of that Home knew Ganesh, the manager of our Child Haven Kaliyampoondi Home, and spoke with him about transferring Gopal to our Hyderabad Home where Telugu is spoken. After receiving permission from government officials he was transferred to our Hyderabad Home where he is now studying in Grade 7. Between the death of his parents and language issues, Gopal lost 2 years of schooling but he is very bright and is rapidly catching up.

Durga Rani, above right, is 9 years old and also new to the Hyderabad Home. Her parents, originally from Orissa, migrated to a village near Hyderabad. There, her mother died from suicide and her father remarried. Unfortunately Durga's step-mother abandoned her while the family was on a religious pilgrimage. The local authorities found Durga and brought her to our Home where she is thriving in her new very large family.

As is most often the case, these children have very quickly found friendship and joy at the Home. Certainly the loving staff play a role in this. Also, that they find themselves amongst children who each have their own story of hardship or loss that they are in the process of overcoming. A testament to the power of active love and the resiliency of children when placed in a safe and healthy environment.



Hyderabad – Above, Home Nurse Kasturi holds the most beautiful baby in the world, Carmina, as she leads a study time in the late afternoon for the 5th Grade boys. Below left, with Bonniema, sisters Samreen (left) and Yasmeen (right) are pursuing degrees in Multi- Purpose Health Working. They are in their 2nd and 1st year respectively. Below right, one of our Child Haven International (India) Board Members, Dr K.M. Chitania, from Gandhinagar, taking a break from an All India Board Meeting at the Home. He talks over some of the important philosophical conundrums of the day with Abhi Kethan, in Grade 3, Sandeep, in Grade 4 and Madhav also in the 3rd Grade.







Hyderabad – Young scholars and future leaders of India, Mahesh in Grade 7 and Ravi Teja in Grade 8, look out the window of their school-bus as they ride off from our Home.

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



Hyderabad – (Left - Right) Shrisha, Srivani, and Akshaya in their school uniforms are about to have breakfast before heading off to another day of discovery in the 4th Grade.

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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