Child Haven International



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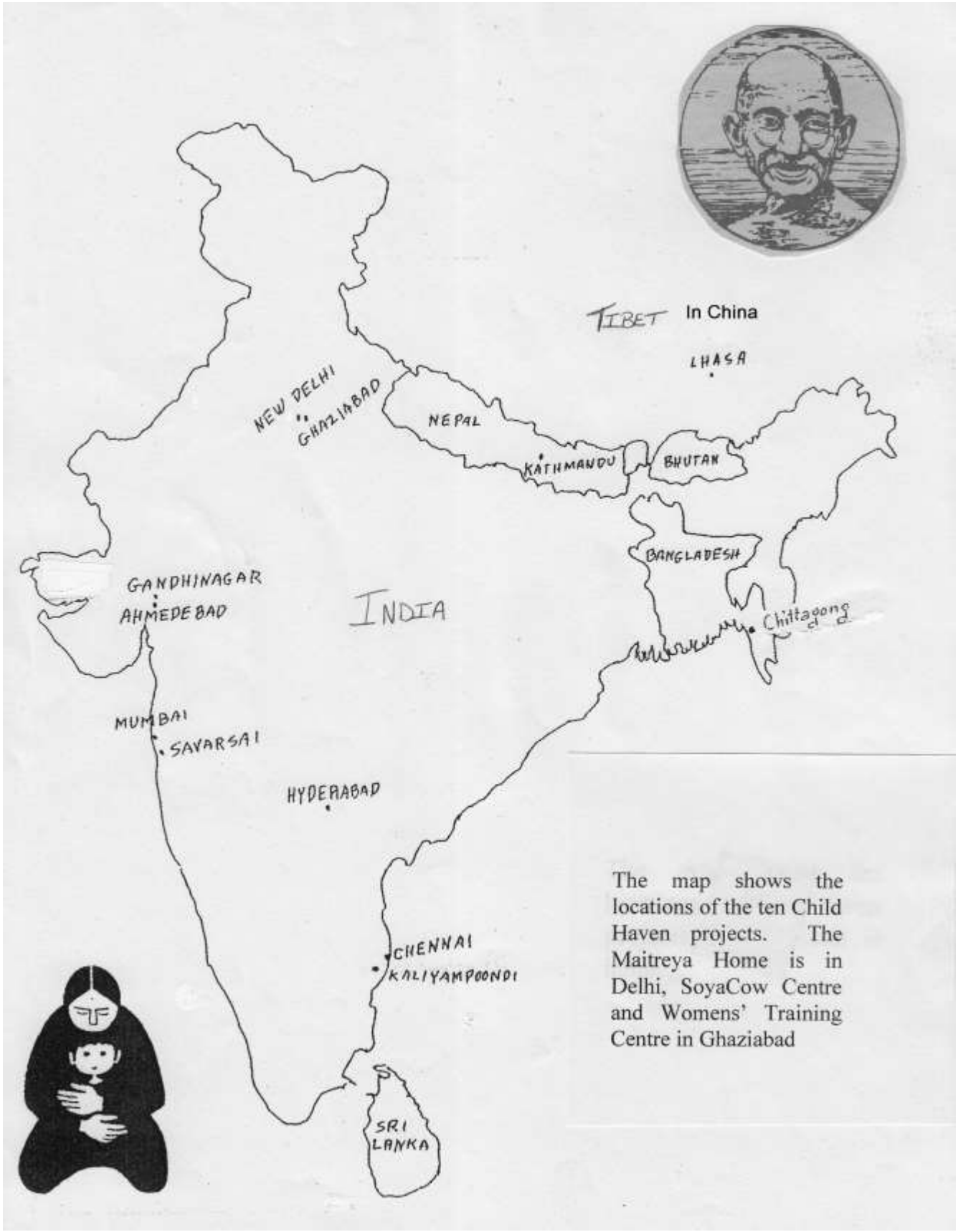
Spring 2014



Kaliyampoondi – Some of our 6th, 7th and 9th graders flashing their early morning smiles while getting ready for the walk to school.

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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

Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India 49 children 8 women, Language: Gujarati
Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India 192 children 15 women, Language: Telegu
Kaliyampoondi, Tamil Nadu, India 297 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: Mahrathi
Kathmandu, Nepal, 203 children 22 women, Language: Nepali
Tibet in China, 41 children 4 women, Language: Tibetan
Chittagong, Bangladesh, 67 children 15 women, Language: Bengali
Ghaziabad, India (informal education) 60 women, Language: Hindi
Tribal Home, City of Pen, near Savarsai Home, 50 children, Mahrathi plus tribal languages
(Many other children are sponsored for education, but are not living in one of our Homes.)



Kaliyampoondi – Spontaneous dance poses from some of our Kaliyampoondi dancers on the roof-top of what will soon be their former dormitory. In the background you can see the smokestacks from the nearby steel plant that is thought to be lowering the water level in surrounding wells (including ours) because of their huge water consumption.

Deborah Hartt photo

BONNIE LORE

(an occasional column by her long- suffering husband)



A Gandhian Brings us South

In the early days of Child Haven Bonnie heard about Shri Ramakrishna Reddiar, a young farmer in Tamil Nadu who had gone to a rally and heard the famous Vinoba Bhave, a disciple of Mahatma Gandhi, who was telling rich farmers to consider him as their younger son, and give him some acres to distribute to the landless peasants. Bhave and village leaders would re-arrange them into parcels for distribution. This was known as the Bhoodan Movement. Thousands of acres were donated across India.

Many years later Bonnie went down to meet Reddiar. He told her the story as his wife sat on the floor near him:

I was totally enchanted with Bhave, and I pledged some 300 acres. When I returned home, I informed my wife about this. Her reaction was, "No! You cannot give away your childrens' birthright!" Since the land was in her name, that was that.

I tried every argument to convince her, but she was adamant. Finally I said, 'Well, I will fast from eating until you sign the paper."

She said, "Go ahead and fast. See if I care." After three days, she became anxious, and said, "Oh, alright, you stubborn man, I will sign. Now eat your supper."



I said, "No. First sign - then I will eat."

As he told Bonnie this story he laughed. His wife sitting near him just smiled. Upon hearing that Child Haven aspired to be a Gandhian organization, Reddiar (left) invited Child Haven to start a Home in Kaliyampoondi. Bonnie rented some houses in the village and started Kaliyampoondi's Child Haven Home. One rented house became 9 houses, until we built our current Home.



Kaliyampoondi – A recent visitor to the Home was the 92-year-old Gandhian activist Krishnammal, (right) who worked with Vinoba Bhave, and helped negotiate the gift of land to the Bhoodan Movement by Ramakrishna Reddiar mentioned on the previous page. In addition to having walked miles and miles across India asking for land for the landless, she and her now deceased husband, Jaganathan, have applied Gandhian means of struggle to oppose the environmental destruction of India's fragile eco-system. A strong focus has been on the destructive nature of industrial shrimp farming on large areas of coastal farmland in Southern India. She and her husband are the subjects of the book *The Color of Freedom* by Laura Coppo which mentions their work in Kaliyampoondi.





Tamil Selvi and Evanjalin (center) are in 6th grade. Both of them also have brothers living in our home. Tamil Selvi's father died and her mother was unable to provide for her. Both of Evanjalin's parents died. Behind them are Tamilarasi (left) and Sandhiya (right) also in Grade 6. Below left is Chandirasekar, who lost his parents at an early age and below right is Maya, who is one of 20 gypsy children living at our Home







Kaliyampoondi – Work is coming along well on the new girl's dormitory, with offices and classrooms below. Above the boys are helping move bricks made at the Home to the construction site. Below the new building takes shape between the kitchen to the left and the current dorm to the right. Taken from the roof of what will become just the boy's dorm.



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Child Haven *receives monthly donations in four ways:*
Direct bank withdrawal *$9817/month from 250 donors.*
Canadahelps *$1653/month from 30 donors.*
Donor credit card *$2588/month from 46 donors.*
Post-dated cheques *$300/month from 2 donors*

Thanks loads!!

We are also set up to receive ***gifts of stocks and securities.*** *(better tax advantages than donating cash.)*



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Erudite and Elegant Newsletter-Editor, Fred Cappuccino
Guest Editor this issue – Robin Cappuccino



Bangladesh – Hapoti (center) telling Tonussri (left) and Sweety (right) not to get too excited, but it's almost time for soya milk! Sweety and Tonussri were referred to Child Haven by our good friend Mrs. Chowdhury, the Director of the Gandhi Ashram in Noakali. The Ashram was begun after Gandhi's walk through the area seeking communal harmony between Hindus and Muslims.
Below, Pathan and Lalkhunai play a game of catch in the court-yard.







Bangladesh – Our Chittagong Home is in the old family homestead of Child Haven Bangladesh Board Member, and Ottawa restauranteur, Gias Salim Uddin. When Salim was a boy it was surrounded by rice-paddies. As construction has boomed in Chittagong, it is now surrounded with apartment buildings. While it was once the highest spot around, it's now lower than much of the surrounding property, creating a shallow puddle all around the Home during the rainy season. So, here our older boys are helping to place bricks on newly raised ground in front of the Home. We are hoping this will help reclaim our play area from the drainage pool next time the rains come.

We will always be grateful to Salim and his family for the use of their wonderful home. However, as our children get bigger, and our Child Haven Montessori School grows, we need more space for kid's activities and classrooms. When we secure the funding, we will buy land and build a new Home farther outside of Chittagong with room for a garden, lots of playground space and additional classrooms for our school. In the meantime, everyone is pitching in to help maintain our beautiful Home.

left, Anis helps unload a rickshaw load of vegetables. It's amazing what one rickshaw driver can manage.

There's always a lot to do at our Homes, and the help of our kids is much appreciated.



Maitreya Home

Here it is, our very own new home! After many years of renting and having to move from place to place, we now have our own facility. Thanks largely to the generosity of Sally Patrick and Chris LaTour, (shown in photo with children and staff below), the land was purchased along with a smaller building that is rapidly being expanded and renovated to house our children. Very exciting for everyone!





Hyderabad - Some of our older girls eating in the Dining Hall. Meals most often include rice, a vegetable curry and some additional chutney or treat. As in the rest of India, only the right hand is used to eat. Below, a huge *rangoli* made from colored rice flour welcomes guests to our Home's Republic Day Festivities.





Hyderabad – Volunteer Interns Pam Hellstrom and Kayla Winslow walking the kids to the Telegu Medium School with help from Prasanth, Grade 10 and Sravani, Grade 8 (right) Below are brothers Satish in the Grade 2 and Abishek in Kindergarten.

Kayla Winslow photos





Hyderabad

A stick, some sand to scratch squares in, feet for hopping, play-mates, what more do you need for a good game of hop-scotch?







Volunteer interns Walker and Deborah Hartt about to fly off in their new saris at our Kaliyampoondi Home. Now back in Vermont, they both wear saris quite often much to the surprise of fellow Vermonters accustomed to more sedate garb.

Overseas Interns Needed:

We have space for more volunteers who will pay their own travel and commit three to six months interning in India, Nepal, or Bangladesh. Please contact our office in Maxville: fred@childhaven.ca or 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 first-time Interns. You can also check out our new Intern Brochure on our web-site, www.childhaven.ca

Tribal Children's Home

Shubanji (right) recites a story for Bonniema and guests during a recent visit. Shubanji's parents are migrant farm-workers, travelling where plantings and harvesting takes them. Living at our home during the school year makes it possible for Shubanji to attend school on a regular basis. During school vacations, she stays with her family.





Usha, (left) is the Matron of the Home and one of the reasons Shubanji and the other children are doing so well. Having grown-up in the Home, Usha is a role-model and inspiration to the kids. As a member of the tribal community, she is well aware of the unique knowledge, traditions and values of her community and able to reinforce them with our children.



Savarsaí – Above, a lively game of volley-ball on one side of our Children's Home compound, while below, children play in another corner of the compound, with young banana and coconut trees in the background. Decorative tree-trunk art-work completes the bucolic scene.





Nepal – A fly on the ceiling view of one of the Montessori classes at our Green Tara School. (How did you take that photo James Douglas?) Below, our long-time care giver, Phoolmaya with some of her many fans.





Tibet in China – Child Haven often works to support children who are orphaned and staying with caring relatives, such as Setan Dolkar above left, who is living with her aunt (right). Child Haven pays for Setan and her sister Shaila's schooling, which her aunt is unable to afford. Below is Bonniema with the Tibetan elder, Su Yang Ani, a "senior orphan" with no family to care for her, also supported by Child Haven.







Ghaziabad – Above Co-ordinator Rajni kneels next to Bonniema and Robin Cappuccino with a recent group of tailoring students who are modeling their somber picture-taking expressions.

To the left two students show off their creations and more typical demeanor for this lively class. Sulechana (left) is holding up a party dress that she made for her sister for special occasions and Mabish holding up a nightgown she made for someone far less petite than she is. They both finished the six-month tailoring course with flying colors.

Renee Cappuccino photo



Gujarat – Bonniema on a tour of the new buildings with Mr Ruparell, senior advisor (right), and Home Manager, Kalaben, (center) looking at her watch and wondering when Bonniema will slow down for some tea. Below are some of the strong and skillful women and men who have been helping with the construction, along with some of their children.



Child Haven Support Groups and our Fundraising Dinners

June 20 '14 **Ottawa, ON** Valerie Dougherty 613-727-5756, Dave Basu & Parin Bhimani 613-422-1573
July 19 **Newmarket, ON** Erika & Gopal Shresta 905-967-1099
Sept 21 **Winnipeg, MB** Zobida Ambtman 204-489-7630
Sept 27 **Montreal, QC** Sheila Laursen 514-697-4195 & Conny Belanger 514-542-3260
Oct 03 **Canmore, AB** Paula Duncan & Simon Bryant 403-609-8125
Oct 4 **Vancouver, BC** Venilal & Lilaben Sisodraker 604-985-5540, Katherine Doyle & Ian Cameron 604-255-4077, Ron & Ann Perrick 604-929-6674, Sam & Yammi Gandesha 604-937-0270
Oct 16 **Comox / Courtenay, BC** Heather Holm 250-338-2181
Oct 17 **Qualicum / Parksville, BC** Leona Matte 250-752-7404
Oct 18 **Nanaimo, BC** Robert & Wendy Stewart 250-758-7532, Dale Lawlor 778-433-9876
Oct 24 **Glengarry, ON** Alyson Graham 613-525-0796, Susan Joiner 613-525-5177
Oct 25 **Hardwick, VT,** Robin Cappuccino & Sharon Fialco 802-533-2296, Rachel Davey 413-250-6204
Safali Charity Soiree, Ottawa, ON Salim Gias Uddin 613-863-5103
2015 **Victoria, BC** Christine Johnston 250-385-5444
Cornwall, ON Elaine MacDonald 613-938-7763
Kingston, ON Andy Rush 613-542-6992 or 343-333-1974
Lincoln, MA,USA Christine Damon 781-879-5670
Lennoxville, QC Keith Baxter 819-346-8273
April 11 '15 **Calgary, AB** Dave Greene 403-816-1705
April 25 '15 **Mississauga, ON** Shyam Sheth & Leena Motwani 416-357-3478, Tushar Mehta 416-839-1938
April 26 '15 **Waterloo, ON** Ida Fisher 519-884-3466
Beaches, Toronto, ON Michelle Lalonde 416-699-5199



Hyderabad – Some of our kindergarten and first grade girls after a finger-nail painting session with Volunteer Intern Kayla Winslow. Back row, left to right: Sruthi, Uma and Mamatha, and Front row, left to right: Sravanthi, Siri Vineela and Tejashwini.



Nepal – As Nishan's beaming smile illustrates:

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

Rabindranath Tagore



Bangladesh – Onnona and Rozina in their matching sun dresses. A sun dress can come in handy in Chittagong, where the temperature often reaches 40 degrees Celsius!
Samantha Cappuccino photo

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. Half-sponsorship is $15/month or $180/year.

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