Child Haven International



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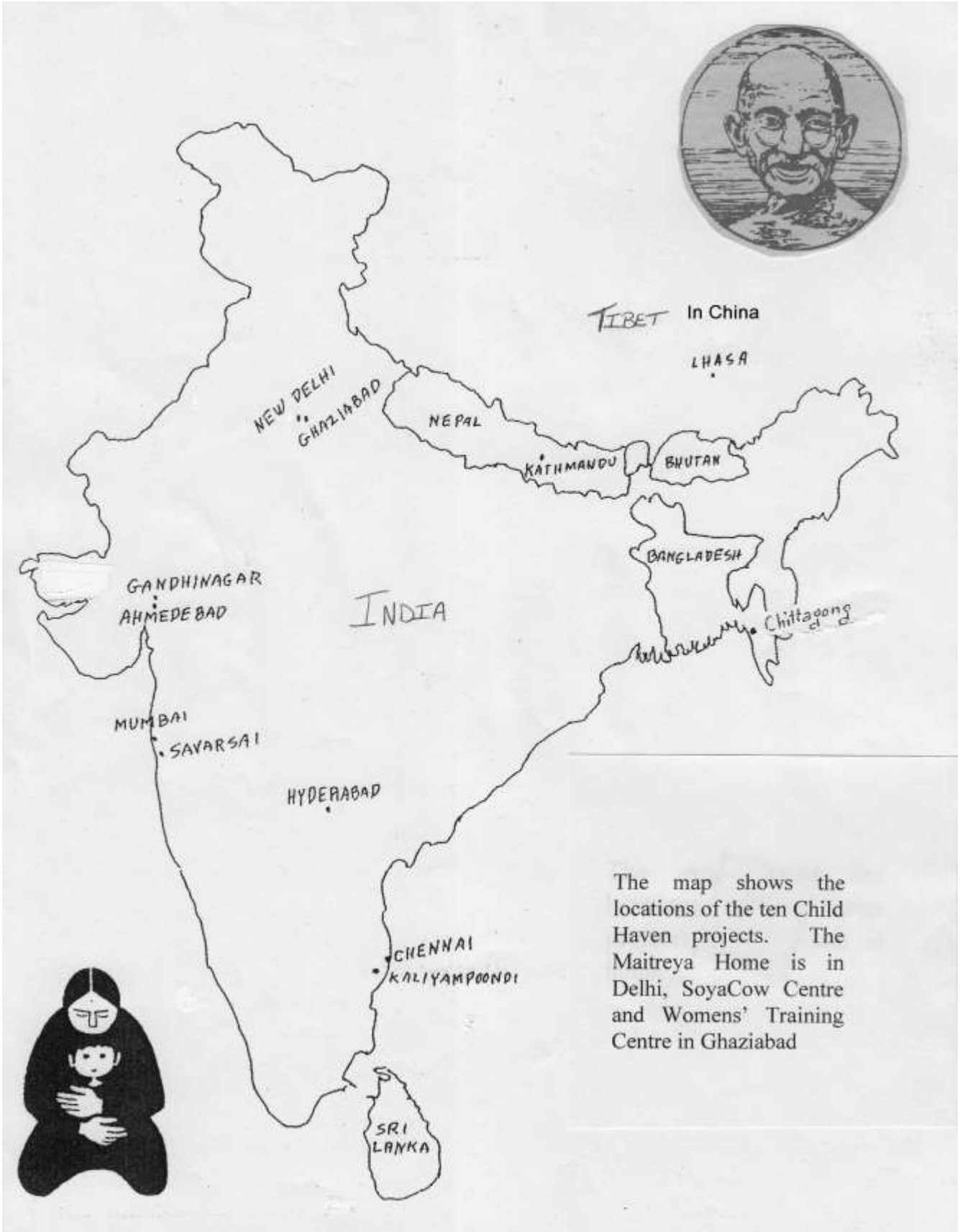


Spring 2015



Kaliyampoondi – "Hey watch out for the camera lady!" Ponnaiya, age 6 in 1st Grade cautioning his brother Sarathi, age 9 and in 4th Grade. Intern Elly Saidi was the camera lady. She took this and many of the photos in this issue.

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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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Kaliyampoondi - Aravinthan, age 7 in 2nd Grade and Prethiviraj, age 6 in 1st Grade waiting for breakfast.

Child Haven Homes

Meu Village, Gujarat, India 52 children 8 women, Language: Gujarati
Hyderabad, Telangana, India 209 children 18 women, Language: Telugu
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: Marathi
Kathmandu, Nepal, 203 children 22 women, Language: Nepali
Tibet in China, sponsoring 14 children 4 women, Language: Tibetan
Chittagong, Bangladesh, 72 children 15 women, Language: Bengali
Ghaziabad, India, informal education in tailoring for 50 women, inexpensive sanitary napkin production and sale, Language: Hindi
Tribal Home, City of Pen, near Savarsai Home, 55 children, Mahrathi plus tribal languages
(Many other children are sponsored for education, but are not living in one of our Homes.)



Meu, Gujarat – care-givers Nitaben and Kanku washing clothes for the little children on a cool Gujarati morning. The children in the Home help out as well. Below, Gita, 16, brushes the hair of one of her "little sisters" while Asha, 18, helps out in the kitchen. We try to teach all our kids some basic cooking skills.







Meu, Gujarat– Home Matron Kusum has lots of hair to braid as the girls get ready for school, except for Hemangani on the left who sports a simpler "do". Below, Volunteer Intern Erin Roberts accompanies some boys and Boy's Care-giver Pankaj to a local temple.





Bangladesh - Volunteer Intern Kathryn Goodwin, above, feeling the love from Nokia and some of the other girls at our Bangladesh Home. While below, Zunaed, in Grade 1, shows Elly she is not the only one that can take a picture. His is stored away in his memory-drive.





Bangladesh – Above, four of our girls sharing a moment in the court-yard. Below left, Staff member Monir sorting soy beans with moral support from Junaet and Robin. Below right, Suman now in Grade 10, with our new Nepali watchman Nikodin.









Kaliyampoondi 7-year-old Rani's can't quite reach the pedals, but that doesn't matter. She's hanging out with staff member Sedhakar, who helps out with electrical wiring and repair and just about everything else at the Home.

After much fund-raising from generous donors and hard work by staff and builders, our new Girl's Dorm has finally been completed (below). The Girl's Dorm is upstairs. A medical room, computer room and offices are on the ground floor. The government required us to build it, as there is a law requiring separate buildings for boys and girls.



Former Kaliyampoondi Intern Kelley Powell has published her debut novel, *The Merit Birds* (Dundurn Press). Set in Laos, it takes readers on a suspenseful journey through a young man's escape from anger into a place of peace. A free teacher's resource guide is available for educators wanting to bring the novel's social justice theme into their classrooms. www.kelleypowell.com



Kaliyampoondi C. Jothika and P. Pavithra, above, both in 8th Grade, help move bricks for the new compound wall behind the Girl's Dorm. These bricks, made at the Home in 2014, are still in good shape (as are the girls with all this exercise!) Seenu Photo.
Below N. Prasanth age 13 in Eighth Grade shows that it helps to be able to buy bananas by the branch when you're feeding 300 kids at snack-time.



Bonnie Lore *An occasional column by her long -suffering husband*



After the fifteen Bangladesh war-babies were brought to Canada in 1972, Bonnie and Sandra Simpson returned to Bangladesh and set up a *Families for Children* Home in Dhaka for orphans and destitute children. They rented a large facility (not large enough), hired caregivers, cooks, watchman, etc.

Many of the children had no family and were free to be adopted if the paperwork could be done. Bonnie and Sandra would visit the Home several times a year to make sure everything was going well. Hundreds of children from this Home went to Canada and other countries to be adopted.

The landlord had set a limit of 200 children: "No more than that," he said. "The building cannot accommodate more children than that." But it soon filled to capacity. Reluctantly, Bonnie and Sandra set a firm policy of "No more children."

We had a young Canadian volunteer there. One day a teen-age mother brought her tiny infant to the gate. Her own mother was with her. She quietly pleaded (in Bengali), "Please, *please.* take my baby. I can't afford to feed him and he will die."

The gatekeeper told them, "We're really so very sorry, but the place is filled. We have absolutely no room."

The mother was desperate, and asked to speak to the manager of the Home. The young Canadian came out. He heard their urgent request through a translator. He said, "I'm aware of your plight, and I really sympathize with you - but our landlord won't allow us to take even one more child." When this message was translated, the young mother took her baby a little bit



The Families for Children Home in Bangladesh in 1974 (before Child Haven). It had a wall in the back which surplus kids could slide over and hide behind.

roughly by the neck and proceeded as if to strangle him.

The Canadian screamed, “OK! OK! - we’ll take him!!” So the Home had one more child, and the two women left for an uncertain future themselves, bereft of their beloved and beautiful offspring; bereft of a major part of their future, for grown children are their only pension plan. Nowadays, with Child Haven, we’ll often ask such a mother if she would like to stay on as a Caregiver. We have acquired some very skilled and dedicated workers that way.

On one of Bonnie’s and Sandra’s visits they heard an amazing tale of how children take emergency action when the need arises: Although the landlord’s limit was 200, the Home soon housed about 300 children. At certain times an emergency procedure kicked in. When anyone spotted the landlord coming on one of his routine visits, they would quietly spread the alarm, and a hundred of the older children would quickly and silently slip over the back wall of the compound, where they skooched down until the landlord left and the All Clear was quietly sounded. Actually the landlord was a good guy. Anyone who would entrust his property to 200 children has to have some sense of citizenship.

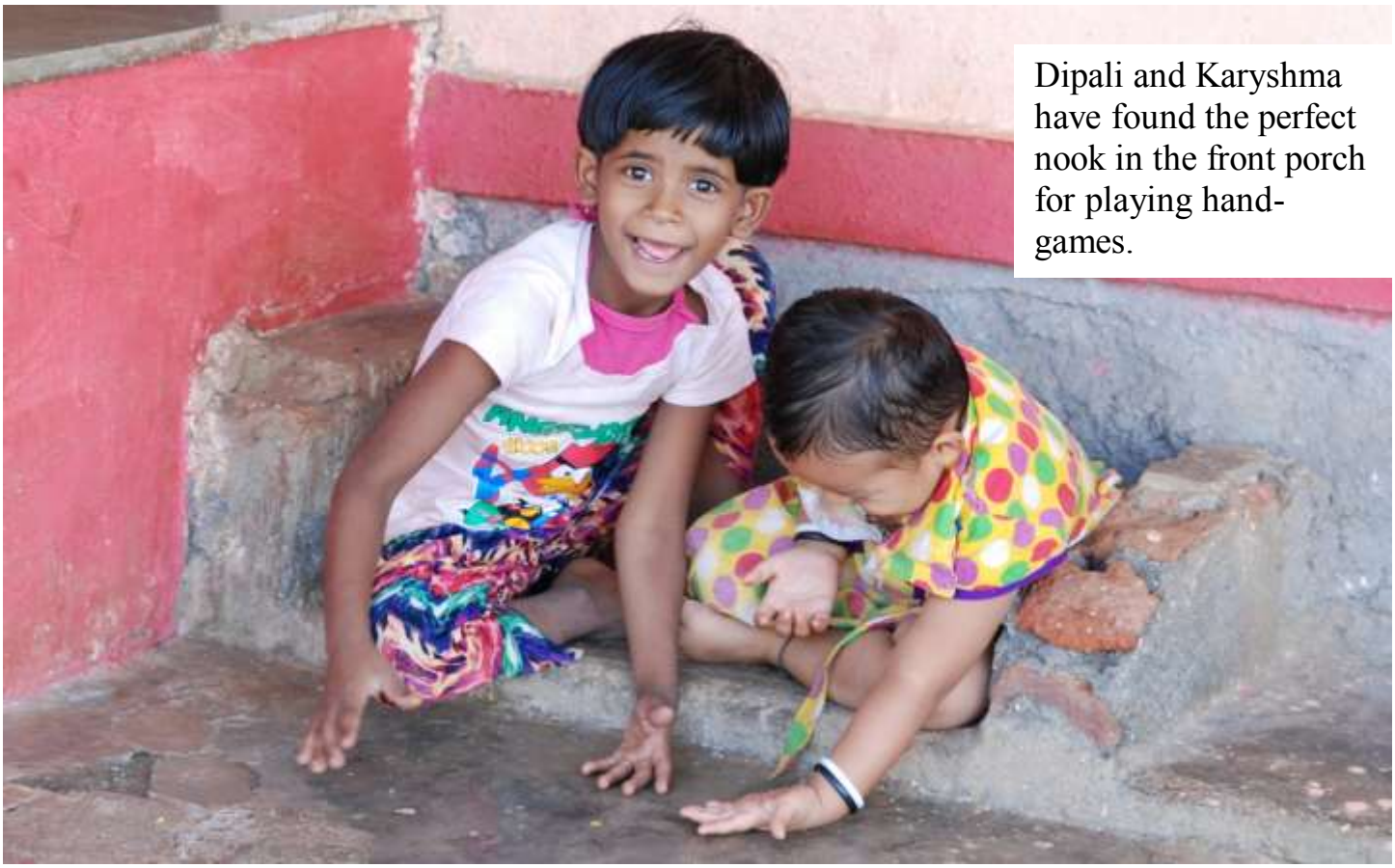
(from chapter 13 of Fred Cappuccino's soon to be published book, *BONNIE CAPPUCCINO AND HER 21 CHILDREN)*



Savarsai – Most beautiful baby in the world, Karyshma, finishing a snack on the verandah in front of the Girl’s Dorm.

Savarsai – Some of our older girls during the climax of their dance portraying the Goddess Durga and her powerful escorts.





Dipali and Karyshma have found the perfect nook in the front porch for playing hand-games.



Savarsai – It's off to catch the school-bus for Sonali (above right) and the older boys. To the right, Pratik, age 12, helps himself to a drink of water on a warm afternoon from the stainless steel tank on the porch of the Boy's Dorm.

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DONATING BY DIRECT DEPOSIT recommended
Direct Deposit provides an automated process for one-time and recurring contributions. Using our secure online application, you can set up a withdrawal from your Canadian bank account through a simple electronic funds transfer. Lower transaction charges and reduction in handling and processing, Direct Deposit is a very cost effect method of receiving contributions.
The Pre-Authorized Debit(PAD) Agreement form is available through our web site.
A hard copy PAD Agreement is included in this newsletter.

DONATING BY CREDIT CARD
(Visa or Master Card, Canada and U.S.) can also be done by calling Child Haven directly, 613-527-2829 or on our website.

DONATING THROUGH UNITED WAY
To give through United Way, just designate your donation to 'Child Haven International' and include our Registered Charity # 11885 1922 RR0001. Receipts are issued by United Way. IN SOME CASES THE NAME OF THE DONOR IS NOT GIVEN TO US. WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR DONATION. GIVERS THROUGH CANADA HELPS ARE ALSO ANONYMOUS.

Child Haven receives monthly donations in four ways:
Direct bank withdrawal *$11,700*/month from 280 donors.
Donor credit card $5027/month from 92 donors.
Post-dated cheques $150/month from1 donor
Thanks loads!!

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



Education Co-ordinator, Sheila Laursen
Social Worker, Christine Johnston, MSW
Dinner Liaison, Beth Keogan
Web Developer, Kerry Keogan
Refugee Counsellor in Canada, Tara Upreti
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Decal of Gandhi, P V Anthony,
Mother & child logo, Eugene Fern
Sketch of Bonnie and Fred, Andrina Cox
International Director, Bonnie Cappuccino
Erudite and Elegant Newsletter – Editor, Fred Cappuccino
Guest Editor this issue – Robin Cappuccino



Child Haven Logo – Our logo was designed for Child Haven by Eugene Fern, a Vermont writer and illustrator of children's books including *The King Who Was Too Busy, Pepito's Story,* and *The Most Frightened Hero*, who was a friend of the Cappuccino family. Eugene passed away in 1987. He could not possibly have imagined how many ways his logo would be interpreted around the world. Here are but a few examples. Clock-wise from left above, on a welcome sign at our Savarsai Home; wheat-straw art at our Kathmandu Home; outside our Home in Chittagong, Bangladesh; metal sign on our Home in Hyderabad and copper plaque on our Kathmandu Home.







Nepal – As this newsletter goes to press, we are happy to report that all our children and staff survived the terrifying and horrific earthquake that struck this beautiful country. Everyone slept outside in the court-yard for 5 days and nights following the quake until the aftershocks ebbed, and the buildings could be thoroughly checked for safety. Luckily the building seems to have survived with comparatively minor damage. We are deeply saddened at the immense loss of life, livelihood and of so many cultural and religious treasures. We are deeply moved by the love and concern expressed by all who so generously contributed to our Earthquake Relief Fund which has raised well over $193,000. In addition to raising enough funds to repair the damage to Child Haven's facilities, we are also providing water from our well, food, and temporary shelter to people in our community effected by the quake. Staff members Kanya, Dil and Badri have purchased blankets, tents and food and are distributing them to out-lying villages as well. We have also contributed to the relief efforts of two of the organizations we have partnered with for many years, the Women's Foundation of Nepal and the Siddhi Memorial Hospital. Above left, the children camped out in the yard. One child is laughing and showing the victory sign. Above right is Kanya Gurung (Shrestha), the Co-ordinator of Child Haven Nepal who provided leadership for the Home.

As an organization that barely covers our expenses each month, we express our gratitude to our supporters who are generously sending funds for Earthquake Relief while still maintaining their contributions to our on-going work providing food, clothing, shelter and loving care to the over 1,300 formerly destitute children whose needs we must also attend to. We also continue to encourage and accept contributions to the Earthquake Relief Fund as the task of re-building thousands of broken lives and recovering from the massive devastation of so much infrastructure will be on-going for many years.

Nepal – In addition to helping out at the Home after the earthquake, many of our young graduates have been helping with earthquake relief. Below left, Geeta Thakuri, who graduated as a nurse, is helping at a mobile clinic set up by our partner organization the Siddhi Memorial Hospital which she works for. Below left, Suman Bhushal, recently graduated with an engineering degree, helps deliver tents, blankets, and food with the Women's Foundation of Nepal which we also have worked with for many years.





It's always a treat to receive letters from our friends and supporters. Here are two we especially enjoyed and appreciated.

"Fred, December 2014,
I was recently faced with a choice. Whether to pay for a prettifying bridge for a gap in my teeth, or was there another choice. I have chosen your endowment for Child Haven. Enclosed is a cheque for $2000.
Sincerely Farmer Doug

Please give our regards to Fred and Bonnie.
We remember them with great affection. Please also note our new change of address. This is a "care" home – we had to leave our house because of our aging problems I'm afraid (I am now 100 and Stella is 98)
Our best wishes to you.
- Ted and Stella Hocking



Tribal Children's Home – Some of the children watching other children perform for Bonniema and guests while waiting for their turn. The Kathkari Tribe with whom the Home has worked for the last 20 years are indigenous people with limited resources, often living in conditions of semi-bondedness. Only 4% of this community own land and the rest are essentially wage labourers who carry out variety of activities from gathering fire wood, fruits from the forests, hunting small animals and working as contract workers on various sites. Most of them cultivate vegetables during the monsoons on government land and migrate from November to April in search of jobs. Usually, they migrate with their whole family and livestock. The children of this community are affected the most. They have to discontinue their education during the period of migration and accompany their parents to various places. The Tribal Home makes it possible for the tribal children to continue their studies by offering a residential place and helping them with various support systems to cope with their academic needs. Approximately 200 students have utilized the Tribal Home until today. Since most of them have been first generation students, a good number of them studied till 8th grade, 10th grade, and then left schooling. Three of our tribal girls have completed their Auxiliary Nursing and Midwife course. These three girls have been trend setters in their community. One of our students has completed his MA studies. A good number of them have undergone IT training and hence are employed as welders, masons,



$\mathcal{MVP}$ – Above, new walls and a roof are being added to the third floor of our project in this low-income neighborhood in Ghaziabad making more tailoring classes for women a possibility. Below, some of the women in our training program learn to sew on hand treadle sewing machines. These are more affordable to purchase, but require great skill as the women have to use one hand to turn the crank and the other to guide their fabric through the machine. So far no reports of fingers sewn into the patterns.





Hyderabad – Don't forget the driver! Srikant, our In and Out Man, pleads for his lunch from the cooking crew hard at work packing the school lunches he will deliver to our children. Below, our Watchman, Ramakrishna, a man of many talents, helps prepare Shakar, who is studying for his diploma in Mechanical Engineering, prepare for a special occasion.





Hyderabad – Sandhya Rani, center above, and her most beautiful baby in the world, her husband and Volunteer Intern, Pam Hellstrom. Sandhya Rani grew up at the Home, got a nursing degree, and worked for a year as the Home's nurse, before having her baby. Below left Bharath and Suresh lucked out and got the job of cleaning out the Drinking Water Tank. Below right, Prudvi shows you don't need parallel bars to get your feet off the ground. (Hellstrom photos)





Child Haven Support Groups and our Fundraising Dinners

Please check the web site for updates

Mar 20	**Cornwall, ON**	Elaine MacDonald 613-938-7763
Mar 27	**Kingston, ON**	Andy Rush 613-542-6992 or 343-333-1974
Apr 03	**Victoria, BC**	Jenny Farkas 250-721-1579
Apr 11	**Calgary, AB**	Dave Greene 403-816-1705
Apr 17	**Ottawa, ON**	Valarie Dougherty 613-727-5756 Dave Basu & Parin Bhimani 613-422-1573
Apr 18	**Victoria, BC**	Christine Johnston 250-385-5444
Apr 25	**Mississauga, ON**	Shyam Sheth & Leena Motwani 647-876-8488, Tushar Mehta 416-839-1938
Apr 26	**Waterloo, ON**	Deepti Celetti 519-846-0505, Carol Burrows 519-744-8449
Spring	**Lincoln, Mass , USA**	Christine Damon 781-879-5670
Spring	**Lennoxville, QC**	Keith Baxter 819-346-8273
May 01	**Beaches, Toronto, ON**	Michelle Lalonde 416-699-5199
Sept 19	**Vancouver, BC**	Venilal & Lilaben Sisodraker 604-985-5540, Katherine Doyle & Ian Cameron 604-255-4077, Ron & Ann Perrick 604-929-6674, Yamini and Sam Gandesha 604-476-0264, Neelam & Narendra Amin 604-294-6759
Sept 25	**Montreal, QC**	Sheila Laursen 514-697-4195 and Conny Belanger 514-542-3381
Sept	**Winnipeg, MB**	Zobida Ambtman 204-489-7630
Oct 03	**Edmonton, AB**	Sylvia Krogh 780-454-6216
Oct 15	**Comox/Courtenay, BC**	Heather Holm 250-338-2181
Oct 16	**Qualicum/Parksville, BC**	Leona Matte 250-752-7404
Oct 18	**Canmore, AB**	Paula Duncan & Simon Bryant 403-609-8125
Oct 24	**Glengarry, ON**	Alyson Graham 613-525-0796, Susan Joiner 613-525-5177
Fall	**Hardwick, VT, USA**	Robin Cappuccino 802-533-2296, Rachel Davey 413-250-6204
Fall	**Nanaimo, BC**	Robert & Wendy Stewart 250-758-7532, Dale Lawlor 778-433-9876
	Hudson, QC	Adrienne Rayner 450-458-0580
Ongoing	**Shafali**	Salim Gias Uddin 613-863-5103

Maitreya Home – The children singing traditional Tibetan songs at the opening of their new Home.





Hyderabad How many little boys does it take to fill a jungle gym?

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



Bangladesh - Subaha and Aisha play hopscotch in the court-yard of our Home. They are both in Grade 1 at our Child Haven Montessori School which now goes up to Grade 3.

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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