# Child Haven International



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## Spring 2023



*Kaliyampoondi - The strolling of the scholars!* House Mother Tamil Selvi accompanies our little girls to school. Engineers, agricultural agents, nurses, scientists, teachers, Chief Minister, who knows what the future holds for these little miracles. Jelli, front right, says she would like to be a police woman when she grows up. The school is about a half mile down the road.


| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chittagong | 1, 12-15 | Savarsai | 6, 23 | Meu | 16-18 |
| MVP | 2 | New Members | 7 | Bonnie Lore | 19 |
| Maitreya | 4 | Kathmandu | 8-10 | Kaliyampoondi | 20-21, 24 |
| Hyderabad | 5 | Donate | 11 | Support Groups | 22 |






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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*Ghaziabad Women's Vocational Program* – Our Tailoring and Beautician Training programs are continuing here. Above, the summer brings younger women to the program during their school break. As you can see they are using newspaper for making the patterns for their new creations.

## *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



*Kaliyampoondi* Our students went on two recent field trips. Above, they stopped at the beach in Chennai for a quick wade and cool down while in town for their half-year holidays.

Below, a number of our girls went to perform some dances and songs at an old people's home that Child Haven supports. To the left is Vasantha, who manages the old people's home and to the right is Sarojini, in the red and blue sari, who manages our Kaliyampoondi Home. In the center are some of our magnificently talented troubadours and dancers along with some of the elders they entertained so well.







*Kaliyampoondi* Above left, Santosh, age 13 is practicing his typing skills under the tutelage of teacher Padmavathy, as is Nisha above right. Typing is a valuable skill in India and certainly helps with work on a computer key-board as well!

Below some of our boys having an after school soymilk with Boy's Supervisor, Vishwa, in center in the black shirt. Vishwa was raised in our Home, where his mother Jothi is our long-time cook. He studied Mechanical Engineering in college, but upon graduation, decided he'd like to come back and work at the Home. Having grown up there, he is an insightful and compassionate care-giver for our boys!





*Kaliyampoondi*– It's all hands on deck as some of our male staff report to the kitchen to help make a special meal of panipuri for the children. Panipuri is a street snack that is extremely popular in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Nepal. Small in size, it consists of a hollow puri that is fried until crispy, and then stuffed with a combination of flavored water called *pani*, tamarind chutney, chaat masala, potatoes, onions, hot chilies, and chickpeas.

The meal was a gift to the Home from our former student, Madhan, on the occasion of his 3rd wedding anniversary!



# *Bonnie Lore*

*By Fred Cappuccino, her long-suffering husband*



One of the secrets of Child Haven's success has been Bonnie's penchant for frugality. I was reminded of this by some recent recollections of our good friend Bruce Duckworth. He was recalling how on one occasion, he and his lovely wife Lila were taking a taxi somewhere in India with Bonnie. Upon arrival at their destination, the driver quoted them a price that was considerably more than he had given as his estimate. Bonnie would hear nothing of it. A deal is a deal in her eyes and she wasn't willing to pay any more than the agreed upon price! The driver began shouting and carrying on and Bonnie calmly walked away to attend her meeting. As she did she turned to Bruce and informed him that he was not to pay one rupee more than they had agreed.

Now Bruce is an amiable fellow and he would have been quite willing to pay something more to just try to stop all the yelling, but he, as I have so many times, decided not to mess with Bonnie and her frugal ways. So he just did as he was told.

I remember doing what I was told when Bonnie moved me and her and our 7 youngest children to India quite a few years ago. All my winter clothes, too many of my precious books, tools, all sorts of things went up for auction because Bonnie said we wouldn't need them over there and the money would come in handy as we set up a Children's Home in India.

Incidentally, Bruce shared a term I could resonate deeply with. He says he is often "*voluntold*" by dear Lila to help out with a whole panoply of important tasks. It can be challenging to be partnered with such high minded and inspired partners. But, as I know Bruce can attest, we have both learned to enjoy our fates even when it wasn't exactly what we had in mind. What an adventure our lives have been!



Here's a picture of part of our family around the time of our big auction, From left to right in the back row, Jeff Ostertag, a friend of the family in blue jeans, Lakshmi Bic Nellie McClung in a blue sweater with baby Shikha Deepa Margaret on our pony Grey Lady, Pierre Ceresole with red hair, myself with a trusty scythe that was undoubtedly sold in the auction and Bonnie. In the front row are, Michael Scott, Tran Thai Tong hugging Grey Lady, Kahlil Berrigan in the striped shirt, and next to him, Tibiki Nimki Jane Eyre in red pants. Mohanlal Ananda is on the far right.



*Kaprichaur* Geeta Thakuri, above left, grew up in our Kathmandu Home and was supported in earning a degree in Nurse Midwifery. Some years ago, she and her husband Dil, were posted to a remote region of Nepal where they are involved in numerous health and social work projects. As a midwife, Geeta noticed that she was being called to the birth of some very young mothers and realized that child marriage was a big problem in her area. Geeta knew that a focus of Child Haven is to enable families to provide an education for their daughters often fore-stalling their desire to marry off their daughters at a young age. So she came up with a proposal to help keep the girls in her village of Kaprichaur in school. Child Haven agreed to supply school bags, uniforms, books, and other school supplies making it possible for their families to afford keeping them in school. We greatly appreciate the work Geeta and her husband Dil are doing! Here are a few of the girls in their program.

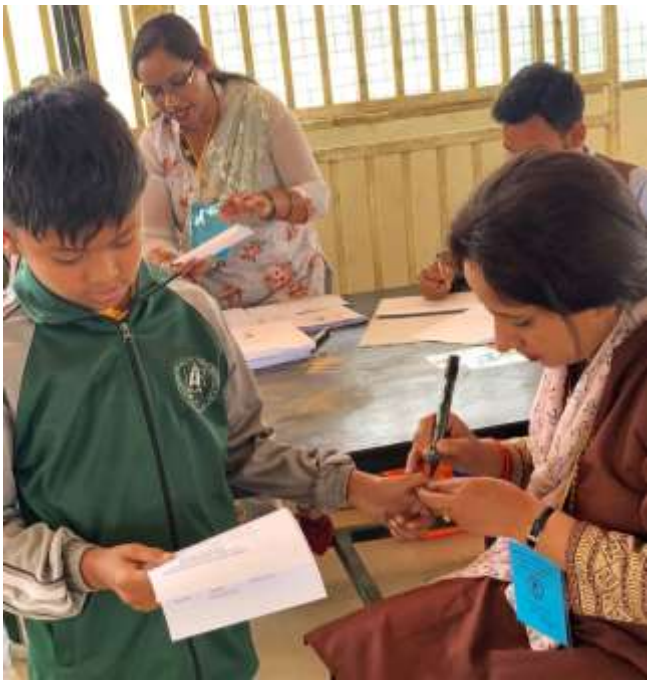
Sarita, below left, is 11 and in Grade 5. Her single mother grows some vegetables and raises a few domestic animals to support them. Arunima, in the center below is 12 and in Grade 5. Her parents are agricultural workers and have a challenging time keeping up with home and school expenses for their family.

Meena, right, is 14 and in Grade 8. She is a hard-working student. Her father is in India and her mother is struggling to make ends meet helping on local farms. We wish them all good luck with their studies!











*Kathmandu* It's Election Day at our Green Tara Child Haven School! Nepal's leaders of tomorrow are learning the ropes as they elect their school leaders.

Above left the electors register to vote and receive their ballots. Above right a mark is made on their fingernail to show they have registered.

To the left, the voting takes place and below, the votes are counted with monitors carefully over-seeing the count.



*Meu* – During the summer months, out tailoring teacher, Kanchanba Chavda, also teaches handicrafts as she is doing with Prerna and Durgha to the right. They are making bags out of rope, which is often a surplus item on local farms.

Below, Tejas and Akshay to the left and Manish and Abhay to her right try their hands at bag making as well.

When there is no school, special efforts are made at our Homes to go on field trips, hold workshops on multiple skill areas, (including cooking) have more play time and also just relax.









*Meu* Above left, House Father Bhaveshbhai, standing, helps Akshay to his right and Sahil to his left with their sewing projects. In the foreground is Abhay in the pink shirt. Above right, Sonal, in the green sweater puts her machine through its paces with guidance from Girl's Caregiver Reenaben.

Below it's a game of cricket in the playground for some of the boys and Bhaveshbhai.



*Hyderabad* Its mango season at our Home! To the right, (from left to right) children Mahender, and Pavan, our watchman Nagaiah, Mahesh and kitchen coordinator, Yadagiri, are sorting the mangoes they harvested from the Home's trees.



To the right below, is this year's batch of mango pickles our diligent cooks are preparing. The pickles will be a real treat for everyone once they are ready! The recipe includes mangoes of course, seasoned with chili, mustard, salt, cumin, fenugreek, mustard seeds, brown chana dal, garlic cloves, and oil. They are stirred occasionally for 5 days, and then enjoyed for the next 6 months or more.



Below, our cooks have an incredible task ahead of them each and every day! They accomplish it with grace and skill! Here is Mariamma left and Suba Lakshmi preparing the vegetables for this day's curry.











*Big Changes in Hyderabad!* We recently learned that the mango orchard beside our Home had been sold to be replaced by a 40 story apartment building that is now under construction (artist's rendition to the left). You can see the status of the construction above left with our boy's dorm on the right and the first 4 floors of the new building on the left.

Fortunately, the builder, Seenaiah Bollineni, in white above, has also agreed to buy our property. With the price of the sale, we will be able to purchase 3 acres of land (we have less than 1 acre now) plus, with help from Seenaiah's construction company, build new girl's and boy's dormitories, a library, kitchen/dining hall, as well as staff quarters.

Above right, our All-India Founding Board Member, Ramchandra Sangle, to the right of Seenaiah above, has been leading the negotiations and planning. Another of our All-India Board Members, Manohar Nangrepatil, an architect and builder, has agreed to design the new buildings. Our Board Chairman Ilangovan has also helped with overseeing the process.

To the left below is a picture of our new land and Home site!





*Hyderabad* Two of our new children at this Home are Dhoni age 8, left above and Rajeshwari, age 7, to the right. Dhoni's father passed away and his mother was unable to provide for him. His mother heard about the Home from one of our staff members who is from her village. She will keep in touch. Rajeshwari had been abandoned at a temple where she had been crying the whole night until she was brought to Child Haven. She is now doing wonderfully with her new Child Haven family.

Below Dhoni, in the center, helps transplant tomatoes with Boy's Supervisors Angenelou, and Gopal, far left and far right, and the always helpful, Rajarao.





*Hyderabad* We are very pleased to announce that Theresa, center left, has agreed to be our new Hyderabad Home Manager. She had been serving as the Matron of our Kaliyampoondi Home. When the previous Manager had to resign for personal reasons, we were delighted when Theresa agreed to bring her many talents to Hyderabad. She is fluent in Tamil, Telugu and English! Welcoming her are from left to right, Girl's Supervisor Umadevi, Rajeshwari, 17, Pravalika, 18, and Sultana the Matron of this Home. Rajeshwari and Pavalika are the creators of her beautiful bouquet.

Below are just a few of Theresa's new charges!









*Hyderabad - All in A Day's Work!* Our Assistant Manager Shiva and Matron Sultana became concerned recently when one of our 15 year old girls didn't return from a visit to her parent's village. Her parents make a living begging at temples and have no formal education. Their worry was that perhaps they had married her to someone from the village, an all too common a practice in some communities. So Sultana, who has worked at the Home for many years, and Shiva, who grew up in the Home, went to her village to see if they could find her. When they arrived they discovered that she was not staying with her parents, but was staying at her uncle's house and caring for her grandmother who was quite ill. She was most concerned about her grandmother's health and wanted to take care of her as her grandmother had taken care of her as a small child. This was why she hadn't come back. Shiva and Sultana reported that nearly the entire village came to see what was going on. Among them were two men who said they were each very interested in marrying our child. Our staff very strictly reminded everyone that she was only 15 and that the legal age for marriage is 18 for females in India. Furthermore, if she did get married they would be forced to report the marriage to the authorities and the husband would surely go to jail. They also stressed that Child Haven is committed to providing an education for girls and for this teenager in particular. If she didn't want to come back to the Home and to go back to school, Child Haven would pay for tailoring or other vocational courses for her so that she could support herself and her family if need be. They are following up regularly.

This heightened concern about child marriage, was in part because of what had happened several years ago to one of our girl's during the covid period. As the pandemic began to intensify, the state government insisted that all of our children who had someone with whom they could stay must leave the Home so that large numbers of children wouldn't be congregated in one place. The staff tried to convince them that the reason the children were with us was that their family situations were unstable or unsafe, but to no avail. Among the children who were sent home was a teenager who went to live with her single mother in a village some distance from our Home. While she was there, a man approached her mother with an offer to marry her daughter without requiring a dowry. The mother has a very low income and after meeting the man, who seemed very nice and sincere, agreed to his offer. She thought that at least her daughter would be well cared for and she was relieved to find a husband who did not require a dowry. So, unbeknownst to our Home, the marriage quickly took place.

Some weeks after, the daughter returned to her mother saying she had been beaten many times by the man and his family with whom they had been staying. He seems to have wanted more of a servant to wait on his family than a wife. Her mother was devastated and realized she had made a big mistake. She told the family that her daughter was divorcing him and that if he wanted to complain she would press charges for marrying an underage girl. On Robin's last visit, she came to Child Haven with her daughter and they shared the terrible experience they had had. The mother cried as she retold what had happened. Everyone offered condolences.



Child Marriage is a real issue for a great many of the families we serve and even more so for families with daughters whom they cannot afford to send to school of afford to feed. The scholarship program at several of our Homes is a small and effective answer to this problem.

Huge thanks to Shiva, left, Sultana right, and all the staff at our Homes for going to great lengths to keep our children and young people safe and well.







*Savarsai* Above, Yashwai and Divya help with the mango harvest. Staff members Sudhir, Prakash and Chetan then place the mangoes in boxes with grass to ripen for a few days. Jiya, age 5, above left, some of our boys, below, and Dyanvi, age 12, below right enjoy the ripe fruit.

The mangos are also used to make Aamras, a sweet dish made from mango pulp, mango juice and chutney. The trees were planted at the Home over the past 10 years.





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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.

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"



Sponsorship Co-coordinator, Sheila Laursen
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Book-Keeper, Cheryl Ladouceur
Web Developer, Kerry Keogan
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Sketch of Bonnie and Fred, Andrina Cox
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*Chittagong* Hurricane Mocha caused gas supplies to in Chittagong and region to be cut off. Hence our valiant cooks had to cook over improvised wood stoves for 3 days!

Above Intiaz, age 5, ponders the rain in the courtyard as the storm passes over. Above and to the right, Mamun age 11 is watching as Manik age 17 in the red shirt and Mostafa age 14 in the green shirt help our Cook Yesmin keep the fire going. Cooking for nearly 100 children and staff over an improvised wood stove is no small task!

Our Assistant Manager, Forhad, travelled to offer support to the Rohingya refugees staying south of the Home in Cox's Bazaar. Their camps were quite hard hit with reports of 400 casualties there and in other hard hit areas. These climate change related weather events are on the increase. They are having the greatest impact on already marginalized communities without the resources to create protective shelter. These communities are also among the least responsible for the creation of greenhouse gases driving climactic changes. We will have to redouble our efforts to create a livable future for our children.



*Chittagong* Above, Our Montessori teachers with Volunteer Intern Dyane Lynch who shared some of her Montessori experiences with our staff. From left to right, Nasrin, Khodeza, Mariam, Zahed, Dyane, Farhana and Alpana. Our Montessori School serves 141 children including 36 of the children in our own Home along with neighboring children from the low-income community near our Home.

In addition to their regular studies, activities like the three legged race below are enjoyed on special activity days that happen throughout the school year.



## *Child Haven Thoughts*

What I am learning, as an Intern volunteer ~
An ESL teacher, in Kathmandu,
And Bangladesh *Is:*

**The power of kindness**
Of sharing, Of unselfish generosity,
Of unconditionally giving, *And ...*

Of being welcomed as a family member,
Enveloped in love, and friendship …

Gandhi's philosophy rocks!
Indeed, *equality for all* rocks!
ahh! I'll go on …

**The power of understanding**
Of genuine smiles
And, frankly, of no strings attached ~
To the unnecessary …

**The power of holding, and of being held**
And of homecoming hugs,
Of human generosity,
Of accepting and of being accepted …
Of paying attention to details
(Which otherwise can go unnoticed).

**The power of being**
Seamlessly present,
Of accepting and of being accepted,
And of gently turning away
From the unnecessary …

**The power of pausing,**
Reflecting, Being open, and
Also, willing to step out of one's box
(which is of thin and transparent cardboard
Anyway!) …

Unreal, it seems, but Child Haven homes
Help us to recognize what matters most.

**The power of being amazed**
And of being deeply moved by how, in my experience, two Child Haven homes,
Have cherished *A way of life* ~
This, I sense, was, and is, unspoiled
By greed and unnecessary social media,
And greed.

**In summary …**
The power, the principles, and values of
These particular homes
Are grounded and solid …

And for me, I am learning that
The Child Haven homes, in
Kathmandu and Bangladesh,
Are providing a safe and loving home
To hundreds of children, young adults and caregivers …

I stand for many to say "thank you" to Child Haven,
For providing me with the opportunity
To stay awhile with a safe and progressive community …

Dyane Lynch, May 28, 2023



Above, Dyane and some of the children at our Chittagong Home flash their best peace signs. She is currently serving as an intern at our Kathmandu Home. If you too would like to get to know our 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.



*Tribal Home* A three day workshop was conducted for our young people by Dr. Rupesh Patkar, above left. On the final day, children presented the skits they had learned in one of the nearby Tribal villages. The topics they were assigned for the skits were: Alcoholism, Blind Faith, Tension and Suicide.

## *Child Haven Support Groups and Fundraising Dinners/Zoom*

| Date | Location | Contact |
|---|---|---|
| **April 21 '23** | **Kingston, ON** | Andrew Rush 613-542-6992 or 343-333-1974 |
| **April 28 '23** | **Victoria, BC** | Peter Hamilton 819-432-5997 |
| **April 29 '23** | **Calgary, AB** | Salimah Jina 403-991-4696 |
| **May 27 '23** | **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 |
| | **Hamilton, ON** | Ginny Megin 905-332-6474, Valerie Doughtery 905-465-1911 |
| | **Hardwick, VT, USA** | Robin Cappuccino & Sharon Fialco 802-533-2296, Deborah Hart 802-472-5284 |
| | **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 |
| | **Montreal/ Lennoxville** | Sheila Laursen 514-697-4195 |
| | **Qualicum/Parksville, BC** | Cilla Lewenhaupt 250-752-0968 |
| | **Vancouver, BC** | Katherine Doyle & Ian Cameron 604-255-4077, Yamini Gandesha 604-999-2549 |
| | **Waterloo, ON** | Sydney Cook 226-929-4275 |
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With your help these glorious women have been lighting their lamps three times a day, cooking for over 300 children and staff each time at our Kaliyampoondi Home. From left to right they are, Leema, Nancy, Indhra and Jothi, and Bharathy.

*Let me light my lamp, says the star,*

*And never debate if it will dispel the dark.*

*Rabindranath Tagore*





*New children in Chittagong* Arafat, above left, came to the Home after his mother died from a heart attack. After his father left, he had been living with his maternal grandmother who supported them by breaking bricks with a hammer on the road. One of our other children's grandmother also breaks bricks, and told her about the Home. Bibi Aeyesha, right above, came after her father was killed by someone trying to rob from him. She is 10 years old.

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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