

Child Haven International

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Green Tara of Nepal,
goddess of compassion and
the environment.



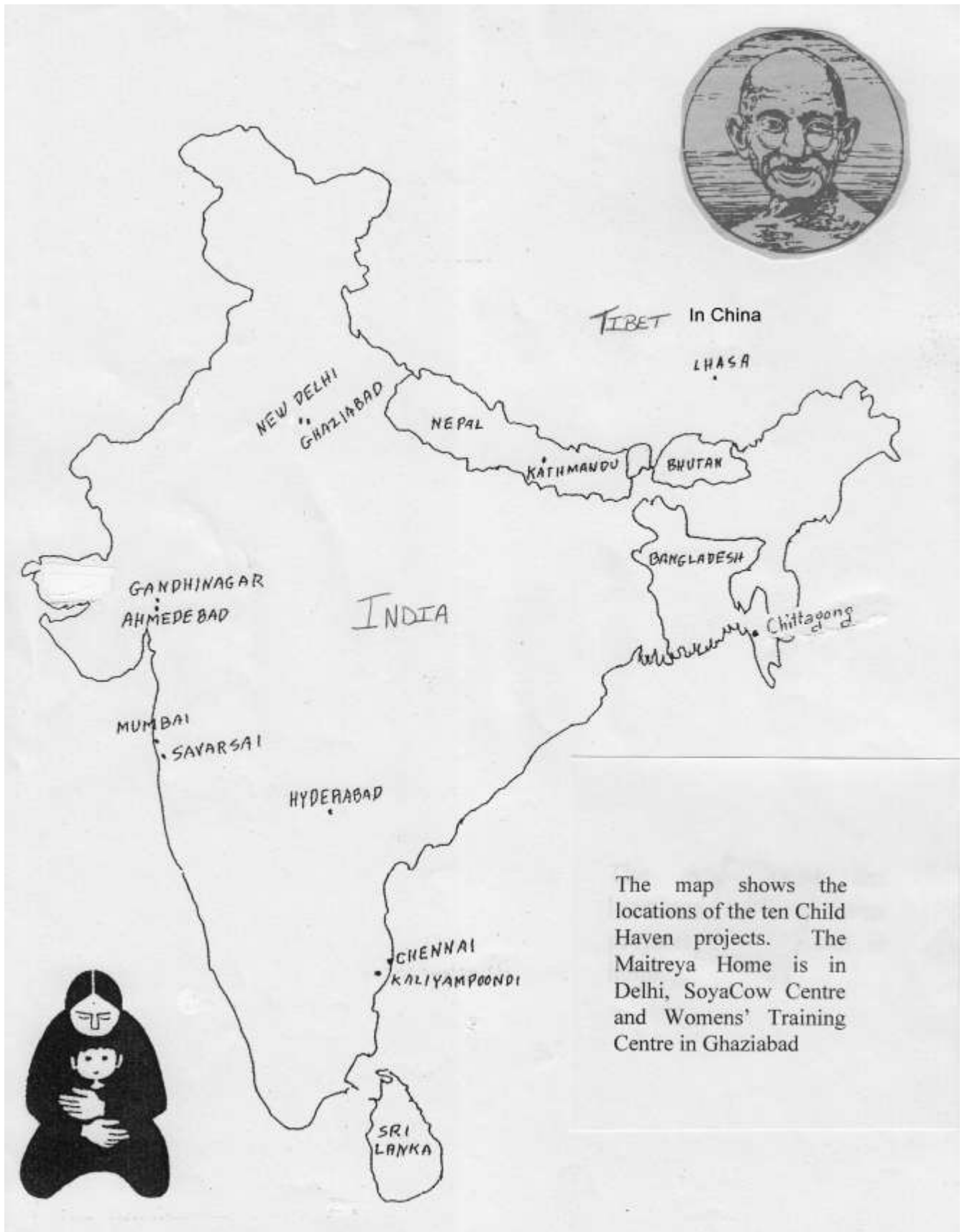
March 2014



Sisters Renuka and Yellama, with matching barrettes, and friend Pravalika (center) enjoying their afternoon soya milk and banana snack at our Hyderabad Home

Contents

Bangladesh	14	Gujarat	16	Nepal	20-22
Bonnie Lore	8	Hyderabad	4-6	Savarsai	17-18
Diamond Jubilee	8	Interning	11	Tibet in China	9
Doctor Mapuskar	16-17	Kaliyampoondi	10-11	Tribal Home	12
Donating	19	Map	2		
Ghaziabad	15	Maitreya	13		



This issue is 24 pages, with 9500 copies printed. Published in Canada. (publication #40020487) Revenue Canada Charitable number, 11885 1922 RR0001.
USA Charitable number, 00013293

Child Haven Homes

Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India 49 children 8 women, Language: Gujarati

Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India 225 children 21 women, Language: Telugu

Kaliyampoondi, Tamil Nadu, India 316 children 22 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, 41 children 4 women, Language: Tibetan

Chittagong, Bangladesh, 69 children 15 women, Language: Bengali

Ghaziabad, India (informal education) 30 children 50 women, Language: Hindi

Tribal Home, City of Pen, near Savarsai Home, 50 children, Marathi plus tribal languages

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



Kaliyampoondi- K. Samivel practicing his best “koli” shots with some new marbles.

Hyderabad

Among the new children at our Hyderabad Home are Madulatha and Madu, (right). They came to Child Haven after their mother died from illness, and their distraught father, overcome with grief, wandered away leaving the children, ages 6 and 4 to wander around the village begging for food, and staying alone in their small house. Villagers knew about Child Haven, and after obtaining the necessary permission from village elders and relatives the children came here.



Sravanphi and Pooja, (right), ages 5 and 7, had been visiting their Grandmother when a neighboring family killed their parents and older brother over a wall built between their houses. They lived in a village with a number of people who had also heard about Child Haven, and after receiving the needed paper-work from the village head and other family members both children came to our Home.

All four children have a new Child Haven family.





Hyderabad Assistant Manager William, and Cooks Venkatamma, Kamala, and Satyavathi harvesting greens from our new vegetable garden, well protected from diving cricket-ball catchers. The kids enjoy helping with planting, weeding, harvesting almost as much as eating!

Shiva and Anil help Cook Mariama feed vegetable scraps from the kitchen to the hungry worms in our new vermiculture compost pit. The worms eat the vegetable scraps, and leave behind very rich nutrients to fertilize more vegetables! The tomato plant in the bucket in the back-ground was planted by eminent film-maker James Douglas on his recent visit.

Looks like Shiva's pants have some extra ventilation built in. Luckily several Volunteer Interns at the Home are skilled seamstresses.





Hyderabad

One of our older girls giving new-comer Srivani, a lesson in how to clean her plate in the long sink behind the cafeteria. Srivani is in nursery school and just barely able to reach the faucet. At times like this, it's great to have so many older sisters to help out! Each child washes their own plate after every meal.

Naveen Reddy and Shankar at the head of the line of boys waiting for their turn to wash their plates. The water then goes through our Water Stabilization Tank, and is used on the vegetable garden and to water the mango, coconut and banana trees in the compound. We are looking forward to the day when the mango trees are big enough that they will produce surplus beyond those required by the many helpers *“just checking to see if they are ripe yet.”*



Child Haven Support Groups and our Fundraising Dinners

(updated website version, Mar 25, 2014)

March 21	Cornwall, ON Elaine MacDonald 613-938-7763
March 22	Lincoln, Mass. Christine Damon 781-259-8902
April 5	Kingston, ON Andrew Rush 613-542-6992 or 343-333-1974
April 15	Lennoxville, Quebec Keith Baxter 819-346-8273
April 26	Mississauga, ON Shyam Sheth & Leena Motwani 416-357-3478, Tushar Mehta 416-839-1938
April 27	Waterloo, ON Ida Fisher 519-884-3466
May 3	Calgary, AB Dave Greene 403-816-1705
May 4	Edmonton, AB Sylvia Krogh 780-454-6216
May 10	Glebe Charity Soiree Salim Gias Uddin 613-863-5103, Shawn O'Reilly 613-709-4237
May 11	Victoria, BC Christine Johnston 250-385-5444 or Sandra Jordan 250-654-0672
June 20	Ottawa, ON Valerie Dougherty 613-727-5756, Dave Basu & Parin Bhimani 613-422-157
July 19	Newmarket, 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,
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
Nov 1	Toronto Beaches, ON Michelle Lalonde 416-699-5199



Hyderabad – Good buddies Sandip and Varun in their school uniforms waiting for the bus.

BONNIE LORE

(an occasional column by her long- suffering husband)

On their most recent visit to our Hyderabad Home, one of our conscientious and skilled young nurses told Bonniema and Robin that she was very sorry to report that on hearing that one of our kids had gotten seriously hurt, she fainted on the spot. Luckily there was another nurse and other skilled staff members to take care of both the hurt child and her.

Robin reassured her by recounting that Bonniema herself was prone to fainting when her own children were hurt. For instance: Years ago, Robin's sister Tibiki and her friend Joanna Owen were riding the tire swing. As they went higher and higher, the rope snapped, being one of these yellow nylon ropes that deteriorate in the sun. Tibiki landed on the dirt, and Joanna landed on Tibiki, breaking Tibiki's right arm. Tibiki landed in the hospital with a pin in her elbow hooked up in traction with a rope and pulley and heavy weight.



Some weeks later, when it was time to take the pin out, Bonnie went in to be there to comfort Tibiki, and stood at the opposite side of the bed watching the process. Tibiki was talking to Bonnie, and then looked away for an instant at what the doctor was doing. When she looked back, Bonnie wasn't there. Bonnie was stretched out on the floor, fainted dead away. Bonnie always tries to be there for the children when they need her.

Diamond Jubilee Endowment Fund

As of Feb 1, 2014, the total is \$1,365, 813, including \$32,000 in donations from the U.S. The funds are invested with the Ottawa Community Foundation, a non-profit agency that guarantees us a return 4.25% per year for our program. Their management fee is an additional 1.5%. If the investment earns more than the sum of these two, the excess is added to our principal. We are invested in this program for a minimum of five years, after which Bonnie and Fred will review how it is doing. Fred opined "If one of us dies before then – I will have to review it myself."

We are relieved to be leaving the investment management of the Child Haven Diamond Jubilee Endowment Fund in the hands of the Ottawa Community Foundation, currently chaired by Gordon Thiessen, former Governor of the Bank of Canada. A public, non-profit organization, it manages assets worth over \$100 million.

We are thrilled at the wonderful response to our Endowment Fund Campaign, and look forward to it continuing to grow. At the same time, it is important to remember that it is only the interest on these funds that will benefit our Child Haven children in perpetuity, which **so far only covers some 4% of our annual operating expenses**. We are still very much the frugal, hand-to-mouth organization, still most dependent upon your on-going and generous support.

This elegant and erudite newsletter is now on our website. You can also go to www.childhaven.ca and join our growing list of subscribers who receive email notification when our latest full coloured newsletter is posted online.



Lhasa - On their last visit Bonnniema and Robin got to take some of our Tibetan kids out for lunch in Lhasa where a number of our older kids are going to high school. Home manager Norbula brought along a huge thermos of tea from the village, so our cups were never empty. In fact they were rarely less than half full. One of Robin's few Tibetan phrases is "mei mei mei" which means if I have any more tea I'll float away. He has discovered it is only effective when accompanied simultaneously with a hand placed gently over the top of the tea cup.



Kaliyampoondi

Construction on our new Girl's Dorm is finally underway. The first step was a puja blessing. At right, Manager Ganesh and a local Hindu priest watch as bricks which have just been blessed are covered with water by women staff members, (women get all the fun jobs).

When construction begins, boys care-giver Shanmugam, and Assistant Manger Selvam mix cement below left, which Selvam then carefully places around the base of the first pillar under the guidance of our architect, Nangre Patil, (in white shirt below right) who came all the way from Pune to oversee the placement of the first pillars.

The new dorm is being built to keep us in the good graces of the Tamil Nadu government, which now require that boys and girls be housed in separate buildings. The construction will cost around \$175,000 half of which we now have.

Special contributions to complete this new building would be most appreciated, especially by Manager Ganesh, (squatting below right) as there have been veiled threats to throw him in jail if it wasn't built!





Kaliyampoondi Above, volunteer Interns Deepti and Tara Celetti, from Elora, Ontario, putting their “left foot in” with some of the kindergarten class in our Kaliyampoondi library. At least one kid, using his right foot, dances to a different drummer. Below, Deepti admires Seenu’s art-work.



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

A quartet of the older girls performing a dance for Bonniema and guests.

Two of the girls also gave talks about things important to them. Sarita on the lower left spoke about her favorite flowers and Lata on the lower right spoke about the status of women. Public speaking is encouraged in all of our Homes, seen as very important for these future leaders of their nations.

As the performance was in the courtyard, lots of neighbors and passer-bys stopped to watch the festivities. Both talks and dances were roundly applauded by the assembled multitude.



Maitreya Home

The Maitreya Children's Home for 24 Tibetan refugee children is in New Delhi. On a recent visit, Bonniema and Robin Cappuccino arrived at the Children's Home with some things they picked up on their recent visit to Tibet; some books in Tibetan, yak cheese, and powdered yak milk (actually it was "dri" cheese and milk they were politely told, dri being the word for female yak.)

The kids were fascinated with Robin's photos just taken in Tibet. It is not clear if they will ever be able to go to Tibet on their own.



Manager Lama Tenzing helping Dhonyoun Gyalpo read a new Tibetan book from Lhasa

All the children speak Tibetan very well, and receive instruction in reading and writing Tibetan at the Home. The older kids had an easy time reading the new Tibetan novels and short stories: the younger ones were more taken with the English picture books also brought along, but looked forward to being read the Tibetan stories.



9th Grader, Sonam Dhundup rocking a Tibetan guitar.

One of the older boys, Sonam Dhundup, gave a serenade on the Tibetan guitar, which some college students from Tibet are teaching to the interested kids at the Home.

The children come from a variety of backgrounds. One little girl's father is a rickshaw driver, and her mother collects recycling from garbage. They just couldn't afford to take care of her. The mother of a little boy now in grade 2 died and his father, who cleans houses for a living couldn't manage to care for him or send him to school.



Bangladesh – Care-giver Zainam with some of her many admirers. In Bangladesh as in all our Homes, we are truly fortunate to have dedicated loving care-givers.

Two of her new charges are Shorov, below left, whose father has been missing for the past four years and Mustafa, whose parents are disabled and cannot take care of him. They are both doing well.

Is there anything - anything in this world – more beautiful or more precious than a child?



Ghaziabad

The MVP Program for Women, located in a low-income area in Ghaziabad, is fully funded by Child Haven. It has trained some 8,000 women in tailoring over the last 10 years. These women then make and repair clothes for their families, or find employment doing tailoring for others. They come for 6 months and learn on the center's 22 machines, some hand-cranked and some foot-treadle powered.

A year ago or so, Child Haven purchased equipment to make low-cost sanitary napkins, which the center is also now producing. Six women are trained to produce the pads, and 5 are doing the marketing.



The pads are much less costly than those found in the market making them accessible to more women. The project has also offered family planning training to some 50,000 women including a focus on the value of girl children, as the poster from their wall above shows.



MVP Director Rajni with Bonniema

We asked Rajni, the founding coordinator of the project what drew her to this work. Her answer was “Bonniema crosses seven seas to visit and support us four times a year, how could I not do this work? Do you ask her why she does what she does?” A few more questions revealed that when she first moved to the area, it had very poor services, schools, water and other basic needs. So she started a women’s group to work on solving these problems. They went to government officials together, helped women get ID cards and the like and she discovered the joy of working with and helping others.

“I can make money anywhere, but this work gives tremendous satisfaction,” Rajni says.

The saying “*when women hold hands, all things are possible*” comes to mind.

Dr. Mapuskar on the Gandhian Origins of the Bio-gas Plant.

Once again Dr Suhas V. Mapuskar came along with Bonniema and Robin to oversee the layout of the new bio-gas plant and water stabilization tanks at our new Children's Home in Meu, Gujarat State. These will not only sanitize human wastes, but also provide about a third of the cooking gas for the Home and enough water to grow the large garden being planned to offset food costs.

The doctor, one of India's national treasures, as well as a member of Child Haven's All-India Board, told us how as a young doctor in the 1960's he was assigned to a small village. He was mortified to learn there were no latrines at the health center, or anywhere else in the village. He was given a small pot of water and pointed out to the fields to answer nature's calls. He also quickly found that much of the sickness he was treating resulted from open defecation and poor sanitation. This began for him a life-long passion for community sanitation and waste management.

Much of his early work was based on the pioneering work of one of Gandhi's co-workers, Appasahebe Patwardhan, who designed the first bio-gas system based on the use of human manure. Gandhi was interested in waste management as part of his focus on raising the status of India's "untouchables" who were often made to empty latrines for those in "upper" castes. Bio-gas systems turn human and other types of manure into cooking gas and garden fertilizer, doing away with the need to empty latrines. Over many years, Dr. Mapuskar has further evolved this system, and last year started the first Sanitation and Environment Training Institute at a university in Maharashtra, India.

Asked if it was Gandhi's influence that helped draw him to sanitation issues, Dr Mapuskar replied that "at that time we were all mad after Gandhiji" and that his ideas are more relevant today than ever. "At present, oppression and unemployment are rising fast", and these problems are increasing due to unsustainable "development" and the abandonment of the village and rural economy so important to Gandhi. "Villages need to be revitalized" he states emphatically.

Gujarat The bio-gas system at the new Gujarat Home will save Child Haven 50,000 rupees (roughly \$833 Canadian) a year in cooking gas, along with supplying pathogen-free garden water and compost. Under Dr. Mapuskar's guidance, all our Homes in India are equipped with these systems.

Right, Dr. Mapuskar (center) showing Building Supervisor Mukesh, and building site watchman the lay-out for the new bio-gas system.





Savarsai – One aspect of Diwali, that children celebrate in Marathi-speaking parts of India, is to make mud forts in remembrance of Shivaraj and his adventures. Our kids get into this tradition with a passion. What began as forts, became whole farm-scapes and houses. Battery operated toys are notably absent.

During a recent Diwali visit, Dr. S. V. Mapuskar went over to discuss their engineering with some of the young architects.

The boys at right built a lake equipped with a drain pipe that ran to an underground storage tank. The finer points of plumbing were discussed.





Savarsai A library blooms inside the water tower! After examining the water tower pillars and finding them strong, we decided to use them to build a two-story library with an outside circular staircase, (covered), and a reading balcony all round it. The balcony will have a metal railing to keep kids from falling down onto unsuspecting readers below. We're still looking for the \$5,500 needed for library completion. Special contributions are welcome.

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Child Haven receives monthly donations in four ways:

Direct bank withdrawal \$10,177/month from 250 donors.

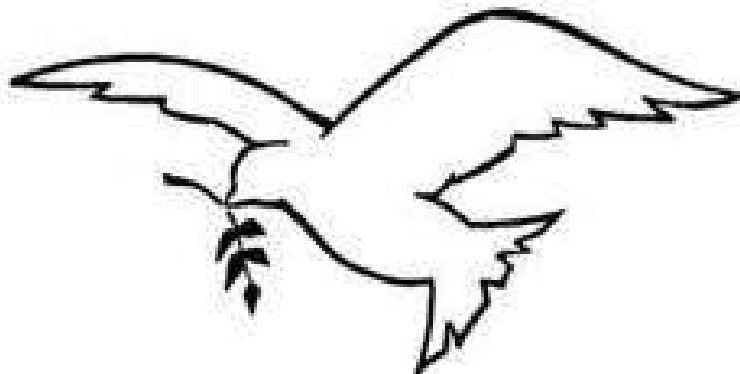
Canadahelps \$1653/month from 30 donors.

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Thanks loads!!

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



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Guest Editor this issue – Robin Cappuccino



Nepal - Child Haven's Green Tara School was built to serve the kids from our Children's Home as well children in the community. Local children from low-income families attend for free, while others pay a small fee. The school begins with a Montessori pre-school, and goes up thru Grade 8. Plans are afoot to build a third floor on the school to expand through Grade 10, and also to house a **Technical/Vocational Training Program** for our older kids and others in the community, when we find funding. We are discovering that our kids who graduate with training as plumbers, electricians, or mechanics, often have better luck finding employment than those who study computer engineering or more academic subjects. We're still sponsoring kids for higher education when their aptitude and marks are deserving, but for many a more technical or vocational path is more rewarding. The estimate for constructing the third floor of our school is \$125,000.



Exam time at Child Haven's Green Tara School. Ninety-five of the 203 kids in our Home attend the school along with 153 children from the surrounding community.



Nepal – Our Green Tara School’s Montessori Program has benefited from years of training and support from Canadian Montessori trainers and the hard work and study of our dedicated teachers. One of them, Shoba, grew up in our Home and went to study Montessori methods in Chennai. Shoba, (top left) and her class are excited by a visit from Bonniema and Robin. Volunteer Intern, Jenna, from New Jersey, (above right) has been helping with the class during her three month stay at the Home.



Some of Shoba’s students clapping in time with a rousing song for Bonniema.



Nepal – Above some primary school kids find a sunny landing in which to spend their study time. Below some older girls studying on the roof in front of the solar hot water array. Even with so many panels, the kids are on a hot shower schedule by Grade. A cold shower can be had anytime.





Kalyan enjoying a glass of soya milk outside the garden fence in *Hyderabad*.
It will take a few more cups till those sandals fit.

*LET ME LIGHT MY LAMP, SAYS THE STAR,
AND NEVER DEBATE IF IT WILL DISPEL THE DARK*
Rabindranath Tagore

Kaliyampoondi

Some of our enthusiastic cricket-players pose for a photo taken by one of their many fans.



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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