

Child Haven International

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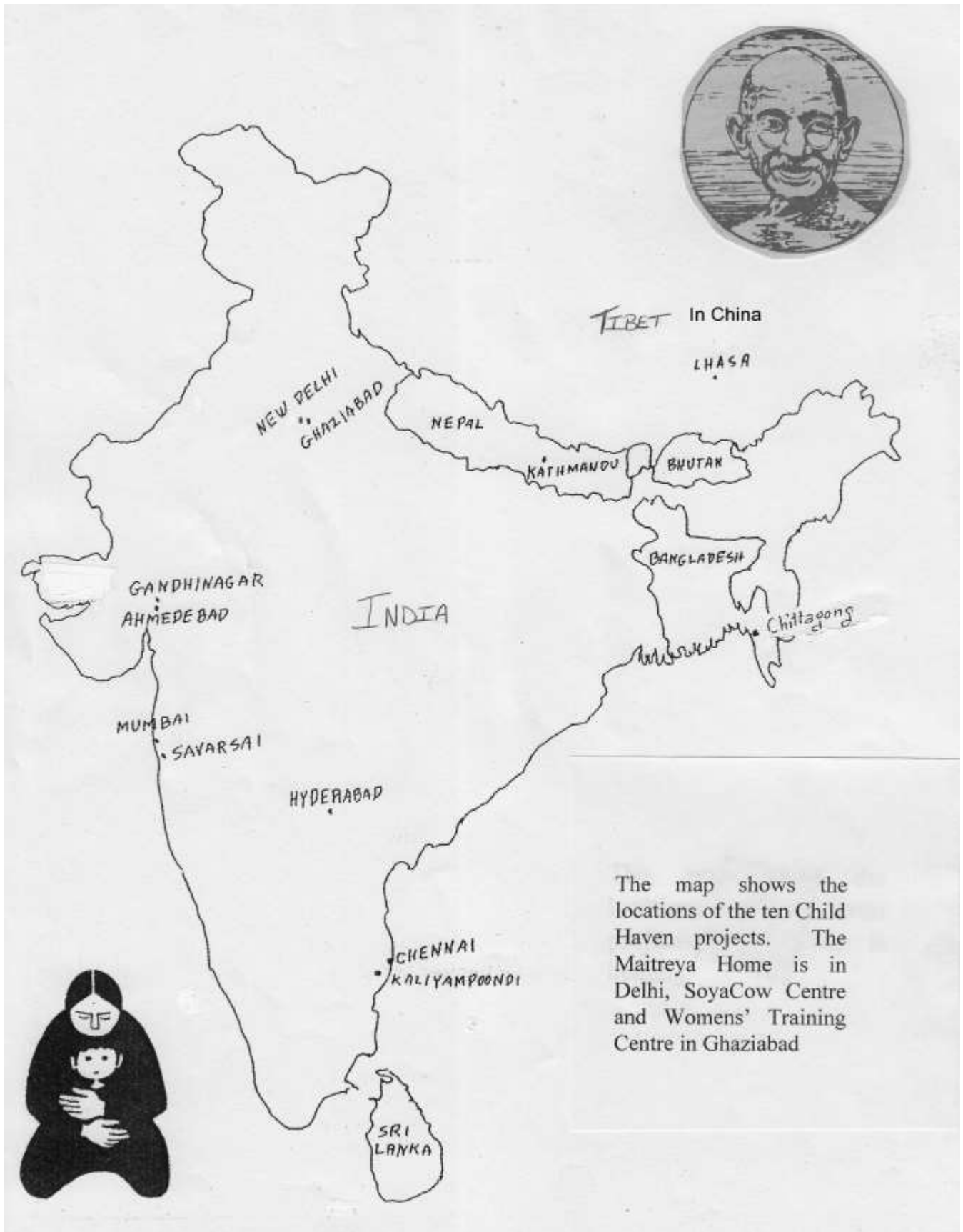
www.childhaven.ca

Summer 2014



Kaliyampoondi, Good friends, A. Divya, V.Ramitha , and N.Swetha (left to right) are all in the Fourth Grade at our Kaliyampoondi Home.

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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: 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: Mahrathi

Kathmandu, Nepal, 203 children 22 women, Language: Nepali

Tibet in China, sponsor 14 children 4 women, Language: Tibetan

Chittagong, Bangladesh, 67 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, Mahrathi plus tribal languages
(Many other children are sponsored for education, but are not living in one of our Homes.)



Ghaziabad - Co-ordinator Rajni overseeing some of her students cutting fabric for a new piece of clothing at our tailoring program in this low-income neighborhood.



Bangladesh – On Friday the boys and girls take turns making breakfast for everyone. Bonniema was lucky to be there for the girls' turn. Here they knead, shape into balls, roll and cook chapattis which were served with a delicious vegetable curry.



Bangladesh

The very first Grade 10 graduates at this Home, Saiful, (left) Sakib, (far right) and Farzana (next to Bonniema) all received a score of A+ on their final exam. Bonniema took them out for a celebratory dinner along with their tutor, Belal, tutor at the Home for grades 8, 9 and 10 (top center) to a restaurant in downtown Chittagong.

Farzana (below) is one of the older children who often help the younger kids with their studies.





Maitreya Home – Karma Tsewang (above) helps with some plumbing in the nearly completed new Maitreya Home largely made possible by a generous donation from Sally Patrick and Chris LaTour. The new Home (above right) will feature a rooftop open to the breezes on the sides, with a curved roof over the top for shade and rain-proofing. This will be a place for homework, play and watching the world go by.

Meanwhile back at our current rented Home, Norbu Tsering, (right) reads a new book brought by Bonniema on her last visit.





Savarsai – The ever-creative Savarsai children utilize an abandoned garden hose, which gets cut up and fashioned into four swings for the jungle-gym (above left).

In the meantime Hirakani, a care-giver for the girls, ramps up her status with everyone, by slamming a cricket ball out of the yard when she steps up to bat. (above right)

Right, Karyshma, the soya-milk maker, Icha's, two-year-old daughter, the most beautiful baby in the world, is utilizing pen and paper to begin her writing career.

Bonnie Lore, Excerpt from the upcoming book,
Bonnie and her 21 Children, by her long-suffering husband, Fred

If you want to adopt lots of children – what do you do? You start your own adoption agency. In the late 1960s, *Families for Children (FFC)* was organized at Lakeshore Unitarian Church in Pointe Claire, Quebec, where I was minister. Bonnie was founding president. That role was later rotated among Bonnie, Sandra Simpson, and Naomi Bronstein. Bonnie and I left that organization in 1985 to start Child Haven. But in the meantime FFC had brought many hundreds of children to Canada for adoption. They came from Vietnam, India, Cambodia, Bangladesh and other places.



Bonnie, left, and Sandra inside airport security

FFC had such wonderful rapport with Canada Immigration that Bonnie and Sandra were allowed to go inside security in their white coats to match the incoming children with their new parents. Also, Canada Immigration trusted FFC. If the papers weren't ready, they would let the child enter Canada on the assurance that the papers would follow. Following is such a case:

On the morning of May 9, 1975, Bonnie got a telephone call from Naomi Bronstein in Montreal: "There's a Vietnamese baby in Denver who was just air-lifted out of Vietnam. Do you want him?"

"Do I WANT him!!!" hollered Bonnie, and then the wheels started to spin. 45 minutes after the call Bonnie was leaving for Montreal airport. She flew to New York City, and met the baby who had been flown from Denver, and had the baby back home the same evening. The baby had been brought from Vietnam to a group in Denver who were arranging adoptions to the USA. He was identified only by the word "Bronstein" on his wristband. The people knew Naomi Bronstein and figured from the wristband that Rosemary Taylor in Vietnam was sending him to *Families for Children* in Canada. And because he was slightly disabled, Naomi was sending him to Bonnie.

Bonnie accepted him not knowing what his disability might be. It turned out that he was healthy except for chronic running ears. We immediately obtained treatment for his ears, but unfortunately he had already suffered 30% hearing impairment in both ears. Bonnie had applied for a child because there were a lot of children in the orphanage who hadn't been placed yet,

and it was urgent to get them out, but we didn't know anything about this particular child. He had been in the orphanage for a year. Because of medical problems he was considered hard-to-place. He was with a group of children on a ship sent to Guam, and from there by plane to Denver.

He was admitted to Canada with no papers whatsoever on the promise of FCC that the papers would follow. When he first arrived it took a few days to find appropriate names for him, and the children referred to him as "new kid." This tag stuck for several months, even after he was named. When he woke up in the morning, Shikha would say, "Mommy, tum up and det New Tid." Bonnie named him Vodinh Nhat Hanh, after a Vietnamese artist, and after Thich Nhat Hanh, the famous Buddhist monk who opposed the Vietnamese war.

Without a birth certificate we didn't know Vodinh's exact birth date. The orphanage said he had come as a tiny infant, and he had been there about a year. So we figured he was about 14 months old. We took him to Dr Vaidya, who agreed that he was likely born in March of the previous year, so we should pick a day. The three of us agreed on the first day of Spring. March 21, 1974 is his birthday. He now works for a truck rental agency.



Vodinh in Vietnam

Preliminary Survey Report

5864 survey sheets went out with our last newsletter. So far 155 have been returned:
Where did you learn about Child Haven?

From a friend - 77; From a Dinner - 21; All other places were very few.

(So person-to-person is the best. Tell your friends about Child Haven!)

Do you read the newsletter: Cover to cover - 119 *(Quite gratifying to our newsletter writers)*

Do you like to get the newsletter in the mail?

Yes - 80; Prefer email - 39 *(Even though it costs more, most want a copy in their hands.)*

Nevertheless, 80 want us to have their email to inform them about Child Haven news.

21 already help at a Dinner; 20 more would like to, and are being connected to a local Dinner committee.

Leaving a bequest: 10 already are; 16 intend to write it into their will; 10 want more information about doing so.

94 "would consider buying" Fred's upcoming book: ***Bonnie and Her Twenty One Children***



Nepal – Phoolmaya recently received her nursing degree after three years of study. In order to get a reduced tuition fee for her studies, she agreed to work for at least one year in a remote region of Nepal. Her first posting is in Gorkha, which she reached by walking for 6 days. She is part of a team of 4 women, including 2 nurse mid-wives, and another nurse. From her post, she often walks several miles to the villages she serves.

Meena is very attentive to the flowers she has planted in the flower boxes around the front court-yard. She and her older brother and sister came to Child Haven after their father was killed by Indian border police as he tried to cross the border. Her younger brother died of malnutrition before they arrived at Child Haven.

Is there anything — anything in the world — as beautiful or as precious as a child.



Child Haven's Post-Secondary Student Sponsorship Program

When Child Haven offers a home and education for a child in need, it is for the long term! All the CH children attend our own, local public, or private schools, depending on the quality of the local schools, with standard graduation at Grade 10. School fees, books, and uniforms are all paid by Child Haven as needed. After that level, there are additional fees and educational expenses for youth taking post-secondary programs. These range from \$450 to \$3,000 per year, depending on the course of study. If the youth is motivated, and serious about studying, Child Haven will ensure that he or she is supported to achieve their educational goals.

Of the 142 students from the Nepal and Kaliyampoondi Homes in post-secondary education in the 2013-14 year, here are just a few examples who need sponsors:

In Nepal, **S.T.**, a young woman, is studying for her Diploma in Pharmacy, with fees of \$726; **M.P.**, a young man, is working for his BA in Hotel Management at an annual cost of \$452.

In Kaliyampoondi, **R.M.** is working towards a BE in Civil (Engineering), which costs \$723 per year; **T.A.** is on her way to a B Sc in Chemistry, costing \$508 this year. And four students of the Kaliyampoondi Home are working towards their Masters degrees - ranging from \$462 to \$1692 in annual fees for each!



Once these young people successfully finish their studies, they will have demonstrated their determination, as well as their academic achievements. They will be able to apply their skills as positive contributors in their community and country. The support of donors for the post-secondary student sponsorship program helps Child Haven to offer each child the life-changing gift of higher education.

Please contact Sheila Laursen at sheila@childhaven.ca or the Child Haven office (fred@childhaven.ca) if you would like to sponsor a post-secondary student. It's the gift of a lifetime!

Kaliyampoondi – Two of our college students, home for a visit, help clear out some bricks from the new girl's dorm under construction at the Home. Juli is in her final year of studying for a Bachelor of Commerce degree, and Nirmala Devi is working on a Bachelor of English degree.



Meu, Gujarat - Thanks to a generous donation from the Kamra family in Ottawa and California, our new Home in Gujarat is now complete. The two buildings have space for a library, computer room, office, infirmary, kindergarten, dining hall and boys and girls dormitories. On their first visit children and staff rush from room to room checking out their new digs. Meanwhile, Mangu tries the hallway out for dancing, twirling around in the abundant space. Mangu's mother ran away and her father is a rag-picker. Being unable to care for her alone he brought her to the Home.

Manju leads a rush up the steps to inspect the view from the roof followed by Vinay, on the right. Vinay's father died of tuberculosis, and his mother, after first trying to make ends meet living with his grandmother, eventually brought him to Child Haven. Close behind comes Hemangani, center, whose mother also disappeared and after her school-teacher reported she was being abused was also brought to the Home.



Meu, Gujarat – Just before the children moved into our new Home in Meu, a Hindu Puja was held to bless the Home. It was a lively and cheerful affair with lots of prayers and chanting accompanied by a priest playing the drum while another priest beat out a stirring rhythm with spoons on a metal plate. In the center was a ceremonial fire fueled by dried cow-dung into which is thrown rice, dhal, flower petals, mustard seeds and other propitious items.



Towards the end of the ceremony, elders from the Home offer a coconut to be placed in the fire. The coconut's pure water, nutritious fruit and hard shell represent the divine we are told. It also represents selfless service as every part of the tree is used in multiple ways. Bonniema joins Child Haven Board Members, the doctors Chitana, to her left, who represent the Home as the coconut is presented wrapped in red cloth.



With drum, plate and chanting climbing at an ever heightening crescendo of spirited rhythm, everyone claps their hands in time, and joins in the chant. As the climax of the ceremony is reached, some of the children are brought forward to hold and wave around a plate on which incense is burning as the final blessing.

A Muslim blessing is also being planned.



PATRONS OF CHILD HAVEN:

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Dr Kazi Nurul Islam, Prof of World
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NEPAL

Dr Yanta Mani Pradhan, Ophthalmologist
Lions Eye Care Centre, Kathmandu
Ms Renu Sharma, President, Nepal
Womens Foundation, Kathmandu

INDIA

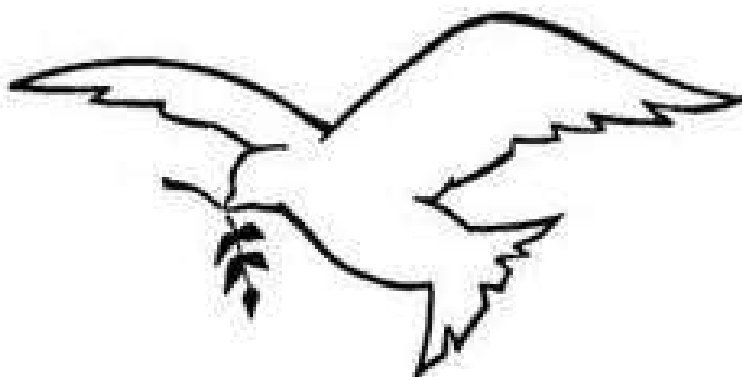
Dr K.M. Chitania, Gopi Nursing Home
The late Mukunda Kolhatkar, Gandhian
Dr S.V. Mapuskar, MD and Engineer
A. Muruganatham, Social Entrepreneur
V. Kalyanam, Personal Secretary to Mahatma
Gandhi
Swami Agnivesh, Arya Samaj

DONATING BY CREDIT CARD (Visa or Master Card,
Canada and U.S.) can also be done by calling Child Haven directly,
613-527-2829. We also accept donations by **Paypal** 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 \$10,096/month from 245 donors.
Canadahelps \$1483/month from 26 donors.
Donor credit card \$3382/month from 85 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.)*



Sponsorship Co-coordinator, Sheila Laursen
Social Worker, Christine Johnston, MSW
Dinner Liaison, Beth Keogan
Webmaster, Kerry Keogan
Refugee counsellor in Canada, Tara Upreti
Bazaar and Auction Liaison, Pam Hellstrom
Canadian Directors of Child Haven: Dr Nat Shah, Peter Freud,
Bonnie and Fred Cappuccino, Bernadette Caron
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

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 Interns. You can also check out our new Intern Brochure on our web-site www.childhaven.ca



Volunteer Intern Pam Hellstrom, above with some of her Kaliyampoondi friends. Below Bonniema's grand-daughter, Krystal Khuu, helping long-time Kaliyampoondi cook Kuttiyama, and practicing her Tamil. Krystal already speaks Vietnamese, French and English and picked up quite a bit of Tamil during her three month stay at the Home.



Hyderabad This spring Bonniema and Robin arrived for the climax of the Home's Summer Program, planned for the school vacation period. It lasted for several weeks. At dawn, on their first day, the boy's **cricket** and girl's "**kabbadi**" finals take place in the comparatively "cooler" early morning, (the temperature reaches, 43 degrees C, [109 degrees F], by mid-afternoon). Kabbadi is a traditional Indian game in which team members who cross over into the other team's half of the playing field are not supposed to take a breath until they return to their side. They repeat "kabaddi, kabbadi, kabbadi," over and over so the referee knows they're not breathing in. Both games are played with great enthusiasm and are the culmination of multiple earlier games.

The second early morning, boys' **volleyball**, and girl's "**kho kho**" finals are held. Kho kho, another popular Indian game involves lots of mad dashes between seated players, with much laughter and shouting from the side-lines. Kabaddi and kho kho require no special equipment, but much attention is given to measuring out a playing field marked with light sand on the clay dirt of the playground.

After breakfast, **Carrom** finals, girl's and boy's, are held. Carrom, a kind of table billiards, popular in almost all our homes, is played by flicking disks with your fingers into corner pockets of the playing board. These games are played with intense concentration and quite a bit of kibitzing, cheering, and commiseration from the assembled enthusiasts.





Above, children work on the sand lines for the games tournament. Above right, a game of kabbadi in full swing with Assistant Manager, William, acting as referee. To the right, one of the great volleys of the volleyball tournament. Below all eyes are glued to the moves of a carrom world championship match.



Right below, several girls with feet barely touching the ground fly by in a round of kho kho.





Kaliyampoondi – Bonniema meeting the three-and-a-half-year-old twins Varsha and Varshani. Both have cataracts which will be operated on soon. Their single mother had difficulty caring for them, and after neighbors started abusing them she asked if they could come to Child Haven. Below, Rani, came with her single mother Mary, now a new care-giver for our Home. Rani, who has Down's syndrome, is adding a wonderful new dimension to the Home.





V. Kalyanam, age 91, being helped to the stage for his keynote address at the Kaliyampoondi Home Day by Siranjeevi, left, one of the Home Day organizers and Home Manager, Ganesh Kumar, standing below. Kalyanam, a Patron of Child Haven, shared stories inspired in part by his work as one of Mahatma Gandhi's personal secretaries.



Years ago, he became Gandhi's secretary when all of Gandhi's other secretaries were locked up in jail for taking part in satyagraha campaigns. Young Kalyanam, working as a gardener at one of Gandhi's ashram's was drafted as a secretary when Gandhi heard he could type.

He addressed the assembled children, staff and guests about the importance of physical labor. Until recently he could often be found sweeping the street he lives on. "I would rather be known as a great sweeper, than a great speaker", he said. Fortunately, he is both, and as always his remarks and sense of humor were well received. He is wearing his special Child Haven Hat. Kalyanan is still an avid gardener. Ganesh often takes buckets of good Kaliyampoondi soil and aged cow manure when he visits him at his home in Chennai.





Tibet in China – Due to a change in China government policy, children in private Children’s Homes in Tibet, including Child Haven have been shifted to government-run homes. Child Haven still supports the education and living expenses of 11 young people, most of whom grew up in the Home and are now in college. We also support the education of three low-income children living with their extended families, and provide medical and living expenses to several individuals in need of our support.

Our Project Manager Norbula, sitting to Bonniema’s left above, is working with us to develop other ways we can continue to be of support to the community in the village where our Home is located. Among the possibilities we are considering is offering training in traditional Tibetan vocational skills with a special emphasis on the needs of women and children. We will also continue to support the education of the children of low-income Tibetan families.

Pictured above with Bonniema and Norbula are three of his grand-children, Dikey, and Tenzin Yishi, wearing hats, and the most beautiful baby in the world, Sonam Choekey, sitting on his aunt Yangdron’s lap. Sonam Dolkar, and Dorje Thenam, standing on either side of Norbula’s grand-daughter Dikey, are two of the young people whose education and living expenses Child Haven provides. On the far right, is our translator and most capable assistant, Pema Dorjee.



Tibet in China

As a young monk living in a Buddhist Monastery, Topgyal, left, became fascinated with the beautiful scrolls, or thangkas, hanging in the monastery outlining the traditions and practices of Tibetan medicine, a centuries-old traditional medical system based on Tibetan Buddhist teachings. It utilizes, among other things, natural materials such as herbs and minerals, which the thangkas picture and describe. He decided to become a Doctor of Tibetan Medicine, but did not have the family resources to pay for his medical schooling. Fortunately he heard about Child Haven which agreed to pay for his tuition for the four-year program. He graduated several years ago, and is now working as a doctor in a remote community in Eastern Tibet, 500 kilometers from Lhasa, previously unserved by a doctor. When asked what the biggest differences were between Tibetan and Western medicine, he replied that while there are many very good and useful aspects of western medicine, the biggest benefit in his experience with Tibetan medicine is in the focus on compassion for the patient. Here he is with his son, Tenzin Dargyal.



Dorje Thenam, left, grew up in our Home and is now in the first year of a four-year program studying Tibetan language with Child Haven's continuing support.

Child Haven Support Groups and our Fundraising Dinners

Sept 06	Victoria, BC	Second Group - Jenny Farkas 250-721-1579
Sept 21	Winnipeg, MB	Zobida Ambtman 204-489-7630
Sept 27	Montreal, QC	Sheila Laursen 514-697-4195 and Conny Belanger 514-542-3260
Oct 03	Canmore, AB	Paula Duncan & Simon Bryant 403-609-8125
Oct 04	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
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, USA	Robin Cappuccino & Sharon Fialco 802-533-2296, Rachel Davey 413-250-6204
Fall	Shafali Charity Soiree, Ottawa, ON	Salim Gias Uddin 613-863-5103
Fall	Hudson, QC	Adrienne Rayner 450-458-0580
<u>2015</u>		
	Victoria, BC	First Group, Christine Johnson 250-385-7763
Mar 20	Cornwall, ON	Elaine MacDonald 613-938-7763
Mar 28	Kingston, ON	Andy Rush 613-542-6992 or 343-333-1974
Mar ?	Lincoln, Mass , USA	Christine Damon 781-879-5670
Mar ?	Lennoxville, QC	Keith Baxter 819-346-8273
Apr 11	Calgary, AB	Dave Greene 403-816-1705
Apr 17	Ottawa, ON	Valerie Dougherty 613-727-5756, Dave Basu & Parin Bhimani 613-422-1573
Apr 25	Mississauga, ON	Shyam Sheth & Leena Motwani 416-357-3478, Tushar Mehta 416-839-1938
Apr 26	Waterloo, ON	Deepti Celetti 519-846-0505, Carol Burrows 519-744-8449
May 02	Beaches, Toronto, ON	Michelle Lalonde 416-699-5199
Oct 03	Edmonton, AB	Sylvia Krogh 780-454-6216

Donate your old Car to Child Haven



www.donatecar.ca

It's Easy! They arrange to have your vehicle picked up, no cost to you.

Tell them you want to name **Child Haven** as the charity;
they send us a cheque and we send you a **tax receipt**.

We have **already received** donations of \$226, \$970 and \$1160!



Boobesh, far right, was brought to our **Kaliyampoondi Home** at the age of seven by his grandmother after his parents died. He was the sixth child to join the Home. After Grade 12 he studied Auto mechanics, and left Child Haven after having spent 12 years there. He now heads a company that provides manpower/laborers near Chennai with 1500 employees. He invited Bonniema to visit his family and meet his wife Tamara Selvi and their three-month-old boy Ajit Kumar, the most beautiful baby in the world, and four-and-a-half year-old son Sham. They gave a donation to Child Haven of one lakh rupees (one hundred thousand), around \$1,600, and pledge to continue contributing one lakh every year.

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

Rabindranath Tagore



Hyderabad – Brothers Manoj Kumar, left, and Vikesh Kumar, far right, chumming it up with Kalyan, center. They are studying in Grade One, lower kindergarten, and upper kindergarten respectively. We're sure Manoj shared that tomato with his buddies.

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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e-mail _____