



Child Haven International

ACCUEIL INTERNATIONAL POUR L'ENFANCE

19014 Concession 7, Maxville ON K0C 1T0

613-527-2829

fred@childhaven.ca

childhaven.ca



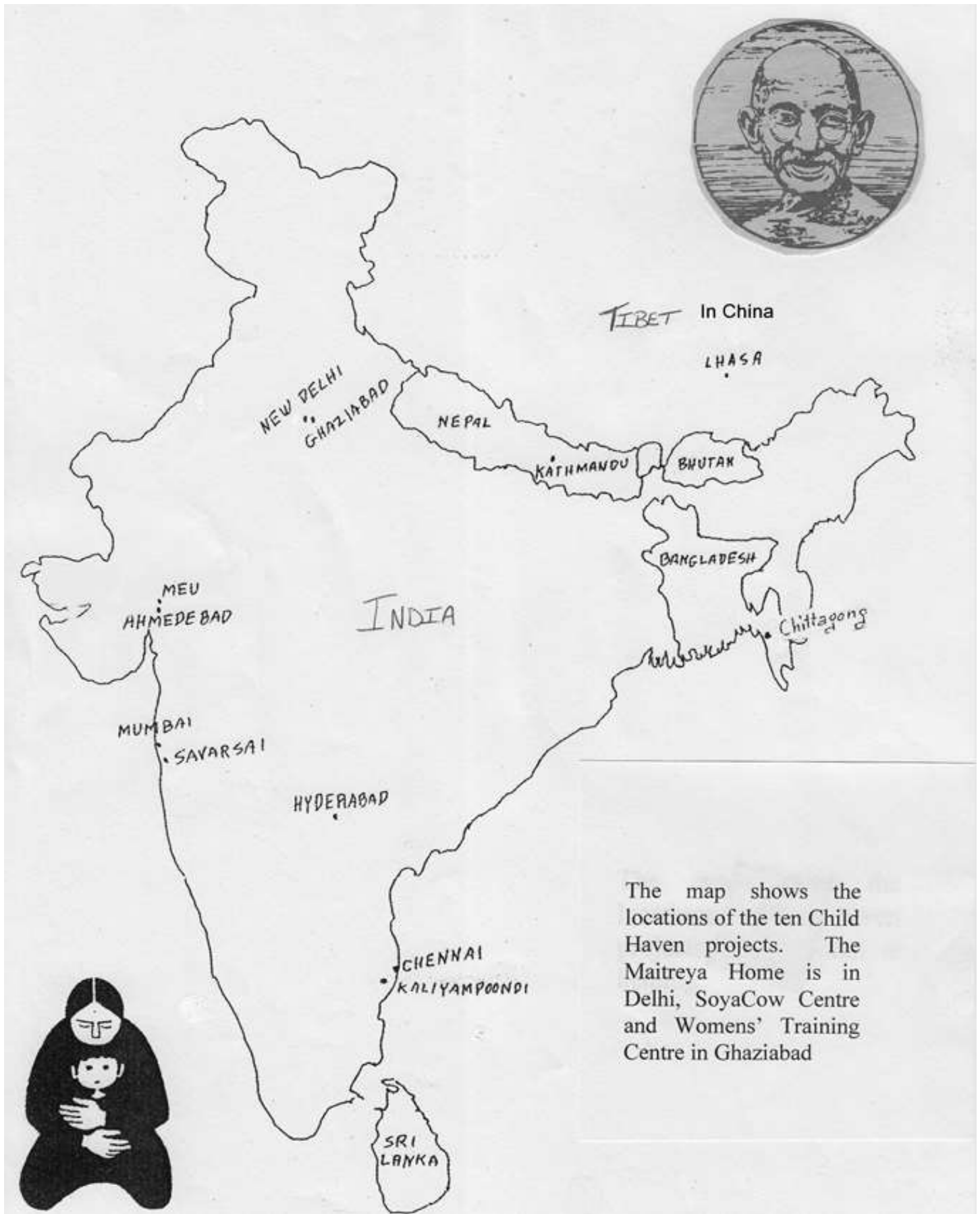
Green Tara - Protector of Children,
Women, and the Environment

Summer 2021



Kathmandu - Kanya Gurung, the Coordinator of all our Nepal projects with two of the five children who are new to our Kathmandu Home. They are, Sarad, age 4, in Kanya's lap and Ashika, age 5, standing beside them. You can read the stories of these new children on page 4. Kanya has worked at our Home for 25 years.

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Kuttiyammal - much-loved member of our Kaliyampoondi staff, died earlier this year from health issues unrelated to the Covid crisis. She is pictured above in light blue sari with her typically warm smile holding the flaming incense plate as she leads Kaliyampoondi's Pongal celebration, a fall harvest festival. For 30 years, her primary domain was the kitchen which she presided over with great enthusiasm and energy. Her cheerful curiosity and gregarious nature made her a fond companion for volunteer-interns such as Robin Colyer and Peter Hamilton pictured to the right above. Her son Satish remains a beloved member of our staff.

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

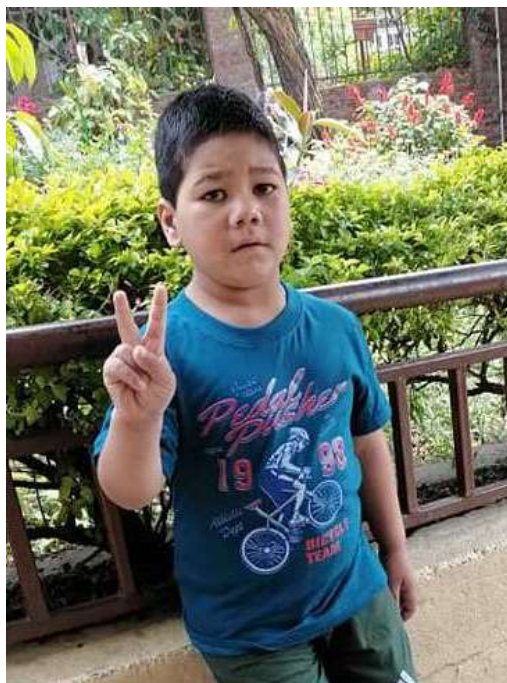
Women's Programs Child Haven Sponsored

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

Pen Village, Maharashtra, inexpensive sanitary napkin production and sale. Language: Marathi

Kathmandu, Nepal, education in tailoring for women. Language: Nepali



Kathmandu New Children - These are the three other new children at this Home in addition to Sarad and Ashika on the front cover. They are Tufan, above left, age 5, and the brothers Badal, 5 years-old, and Ayush, age 7, shown above with their uncle. One of them came after they and their mother were being abused by their father. Another child's parents disappeared and the child was left with destitute grand-parents. Another was sent to Kathmandu as a child laborer, and two others were abandoned by their father after their mother passed away. They are all fitting into their new Child Haven family very well.

Newly arrived Ashika, to the right of the photo below, and some of her new friends, show off their painted hands as they prepare for a dance lesson. To the right below, the children play with one of their many letter games on the front porch of the boy's dormitory.





Kathmandu - One of the girls who grew up in our Home in Kathmandu, Geeta, graduated with a degree in nursing thanks to the generous support of our Child Haven donors. She then took a job as a nurse at a clinic in a remote part of Nepal where her husband also works as a social worker. They have 2 young children. When her husband came down with Covid several months ago, they had a huge struggle finding the oxygen he needed for his cure. They eventually did and fortunately he recovered well. Geeta informed us that their remote clinic had no supplies to handle the Covid crisis. She mentioned that they didn't even have the basics like gloves, masks and sanitizer. So we asked her to make a list of the provisions her clinic needed. We then contacted our Nepal Child Haven Board Chairman, Shyam Dhaubadel, who founded and runs the Siddhi Memorial Hospital in Bhaktapur, to see if he could help purchase the items and ship them to Geeta. Shyam readily agreed and was able to purchase the supplies at a reduced cost thanks to his many good contacts. Our Home transferred funds to Shyam for the purchase and for transport to Geeta's village. Geeta and her clinic is now well equipped to provide necessary care safely to the people in their surrounding communities!

Above left is Geeta with some of the children in her village, and above right, her meeting with community women before the pandemic. Below is a picture of the materials arriving at the clinic. Thanks to Geeta, Shyam, and all for helping to make this donation possible!





Kathmandu - Our Dining Hall gets used for many things. The younger children above gather there for mediation songs and exercises in the early morning.

Soy milk is served by Minadidi (below) and others, every afternoon. With school closed, it even serves as an examination hall, right, for school exams conducted by our staff.





Chittagong - Top left, Juthi, Mamun, and Shahin Akter are making mats from coconut leaves. These will be used for sitting in the yard. Top right, an inter-age game of carom played during a break.

Above, some of the older children exercising their team skills while playing volleyball.

To the left, Hasan, Mostafa and Rana playing a board game in the library. Note the stylish green glasses worn by Rana and made by aspiring optometrist Hasan!



Chittagong - When Staff Member Nikodim (above left) returns to the Home by rickshaw from a shopping expedition for needed supplies, he is fortunate to have some enthusiastic helpers to unload and distribute his purchases.

Above right, Tasim, and Mahin, help unload a case of soda purchased as a special treat. Reports are that it made it to the kitchen without incident or loss!

Below, many hands make light work, and sometimes smaller bodies can squeeze through large doorways with bulky packages with great ease.





Chittagong – Here is a sampling of some of the Mehndi drawings done by the girls at our Chittagong Home during Eid earlier this year. Mehndi is a traditional art form using natural henna paste carefully squeezed from the tip of a cone applicator. It lasts for several weeks till fading away.

While our Dinners are on-hold at the moment due to the coronavirus, your donations are still most needed and appreciated to provide loving care for our children. Thank-you! Some of our Support Groups have held Zoom events featuring updates on our Homes and live cameo appearances and performances by some of our children overseas. Please check our web site for updated information

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Meu - Ketanbhai, one of our Boy's Supervisors, sent these photos of some of the activities our boys are engaged in when they are not attending their on-line classes. Included are Sahil playing the keyboard above, Ajay doing some tailoring on our treadle sewing machine, and Axay and Manish learning to navigate the Home's computers below. Thanks to all who have contributed to the purchase of these tools for learning through our Needs Chart, and of course, to everyone for your contributions to the loving care of our children!





Meu - Our gardener, Sureshbhai, above left, has some help harvesting the beans he has grown in our garden. Helping him are, from left to right above, Kali, Tejal, Kajal and Durga.

Below left, Neha helps by de-stemming the beans.

As this goes to press, a nine-year-old boy, (below right), whose father passed away from the Coronavirus has been welcomed to the Home. He was recommended to come by the Chairman of the local Child Welfare Committee. His mother will visit when she is able to.





Meu - Kajal, age 18, above left, practices her tailoring skills one of the Home's treadle sewing machines.

Above right, Durga age 16, with Rivansh, the most beautiful baby in the world, son of staff member Ashaben.

To the left, Shakhshi, most beautiful baby in the world, age 2 and a half performing her duties as nymph for the day.

Below, Tejal, age 16, and Nilam, age 18, peel garlic for the next meal under the careful supervision of Sapana, age 14. Nilam comes to the Home for a month every summer as a break from the Home for differently abled children which she lives at for the rest of the year.



Bonnie Lore by Fred Cappuccino, her long-suffering husband.

Bonnie and I were deeply saddened to hear about the recent death of Venkataram Kalyanam, at the age of 98. Kalyanam had served for three years as a secretary to Mohandas Gandhi, and had spent his subsequent life sharing his reflections and memories about Gandhi's life and teachings. He came to visit our Kaliyampoondi Home several times, and we were honored that he agreed to become a Patron of Child Haven. Kalyanam was also a great gardener. In fact he had been a gardener at Gandhi's ashram when Gandhi and all of his other secretaries were arrested during a Satyagraha campaign. When Gandhi was released from prison before his secretaries were, he realized that Kalyanam could type and so conscripted him into the role of secretary. His passion for gardening never abated though, and he had hundreds of plants in pots, meticulously cared for in and around his apartment in Chennai. He would sometimes call our Home to request some composted cow manure from our herd of cows which of course the Home was very happy to bring to him. Kalyanam was adept at saving papers, and he carefully saved the hand-written notes that Gandhi gave him to type. In these notes, Gandhi wrote about his horror at the fratricide between the Hindu and Muslim communities. We feel most fortunate to have gotten to know Kalyanam and to have heard his recollections.



Just between you and me, Bonnie also has a problem letting go of papers. We have stacks of boxes filled to the brim with "very important" papers. I am sure there are some great gems of Child Haven Lore there somewhere, but we might have to move out into the van as the house fills up with these bountiful treasures. Another thing Bonnie has in common with Kalyanam is a love of gardening. Having been stuck at home for the duration of the pandemic, Bonnie has decided we need some more trees and shrubs and flowers to enhance our acreage. She even expects me to go out and water them! Our dairy cows long gone, I am wondering if she will start bringing home some of that good bovine compost from Kaliyampoondi in her suitcase when she is finally able to visit there again!



From left to right are our Kaliyampoondi Home Manager, Ganesh, Bonnima, our All-India Child Haven Board Chairman, Ilango, Kalyanam and Robin visiting Kalyanam at his daughter's home in Chennai, where he stayed in the final years of his life.

Ilango is a published author and very knowledgeable Gandhian. It was he who first introduced us to Kalyanam.



The Covid Pandemic has taken a heavy toll on our Child Haven family. Mr. Rao, above right, contracted the virus last month and passed away after unsuccessful treatment at a local hospital. Here Mr. Rao is giving an award to one of our boys who is nick-named Gandhi at a celebration earlier this year. Mr. Rao had been our careful and strict bookkeeper for the past 11 years. He was a kind and gentle man who enjoyed walking and loved pizza. His passing is a great loss.

Another very sad loss for us several weeks ago was the corona virus caused death of Badridai, above left, who had been the Head Cook at our Kathmandu Home for 25 years. Badridai had left the Home to oversee the funeral of his mother who passed away due to asthma related issues. He and other members of his family contracted the virus most probably at her funeral. After several days in the hospital Badridai passed away. His family members including his son have recovered. This has been a great challenge for our Home as well as all of us who knew Badri. He had been a solid pillar of the Home for so many years.

To the left is Tejashri, who grew up in our Savarsai Home. Her husband Manoj, behind her, also passed away from the virus. She is holding the most beautiful baby in the world, Vihan. Tejashri and her son are staying with her mother-in-law and we are supporting her to take some additional vocational courses.

Reports are that over a million people have died from the virus over the last year in India alone. Our love goes out to all who have experienced the loss of dear ones. With your help, we will continue to take whatever precautions possible to keep our children and staff safe and well.



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DONATING BY CREDIT CARD can be made through our web site or by calling Child Haven directly, 613-527-2829.

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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.

There is a serious problem in donating through United Way. Some cities, including Ottawa, because of a misguided sense of confidentiality, do not give us the names of donors, and we cannot acknowledge and thank you for your gift. Donations through Canada Helps may also present this problem.

We are also able to receive **gifts of stocks and securities.**
(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”



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Editor, Robin Cappuccino



Kaliyampoondi - Special meals are sometimes served on banana leaves instead of the usual stainless steel plates. They are often used at weddings and restaurants as well.

Incidentally, fold them towards you when the meal is over if you liked your meal, and away from you if you were dissatisfied.

Below left our Head Cook, Jyoti, stirs up something good.

Below right Cooks Johnncy Rani, left, and Priya, right, make little balls which will be deep fried for a special occasion.





Kaliyampoondi - So many games are played with little stones. Above, Aswini, Banu Priya, and Divya play a tossing game in Kaliyampoondi. Below left, two of our long-time staff members, Indhra and Nirumathi take a much deserved break from their duties to play a game inscribed with chalk outside the kitchen.

Photos by Johnson Kumar





Kaliyampoondi – Well, with over 25 million Covid cases in India, it was probably bound to happen, but none the less it was something of a shock when 43 of our children and staff tested positive for the virus at our Home in June. As best we can tell, a staff member, who had gone home for a break after staying for many days at the Home, tested negative on the day he returned to the Home. He stayed isolated for several days upon arrival, but soon after that began feeling symptoms, and tested positive at that point. As several of the staff and children also were starting to show symptoms, everyone was tested and 36 children and 7 staff members were positive. Local government authorities were contacted, and after extensive consultation with medical advisors, all of the positive children and staff were taken to a local hospital which has a ward for Covid patients.

No one was feeling very sick, but seven ambulances arrived and took everyone to the hospital. Above left, some of our older girls, and staff member Chitra, in pink, are loaded into one of the ambulances. Somehow the media got wind of the story, as did Tamil Nadu state authorities. Above right is M. Subramaniam, the Tamil Nadu Minister of Health and Family Services visiting Chitra and everyone else to be sure that they were doing well. The local Collector, or District Magistrate for the Home then decided that the Home should be evacuated and completely sanitized, so he arranged for all but 6 male staff to be moved to a well-equipped government dormitory near Chennai while that was taking place (below left). Some of our donors in Chennai heard about the temporary relocation and immediately brought snacks and other treats for the children in both locations (below right). The children soon began to think of the whole experience as an exciting vacation away from Home!

The children recovered quickly and as of this writing, have returned to the Home except for one staff member and a child who are still testing positive, with minimal symptoms. A reassuring aspect of the whole experience has been how supportive every level of governmental authority has been. They were pleased with the well-documented Covid safety procedures and protocols at the Home, and most impressed with how cheerful and relaxed the children seemed to be. We are extremely fortunate to have some incredibly talented and dedicated staff!





Maitreya Home - This Home for Tibetan refugee children in Delhi has been working on locally marketing the fresh soymilk and tofu that they make daily with their Soya Cow. While this effort has slowed with the pandemic, Sonam Dhondup, (above left) is one of the senior boys who help make soy products daily for the Home.

Above center and right, Tashi Yangzom and Yangchin Lhamo, exercise their burgeoning culinary skills while helping to prepare a meal for the Home.

Below, Tenzin Khechok, left, and Nigma Dorjee, get their first vaccination shots.





Hyderabad - It takes many hands to make the scrumptious food that is enjoyed at this (and all) our Homes.

Above, Boy's Supervisor, Yadagiri, right, oversees Vikas and Gopi making a scrumptious bread pudding.

Above right our Matron Sultana serves the finished product to Shiva Kumari.

To the right, Shirisha, age 12 and friends enjoy the meal

Below left long-time staff member, one of our Cooks, Shardha, deep fries delicacies

Right below, another of our Cooks, Vani, chops some of the mangos grown on the Home's trees for mango chutney. The chutney, which lasts for almost half a year, is relished by the children to spice up their rice and other food.





Hyderabad- Hanumanth grew up in our Home and left after earning a Bachelor of Social Work degree. He is now working as a Field Response Officer for the Hyderabad Senior Citizen Department. Among his duties is working to convince homeless elders to take safe shelter in available facilities as he is shown doing above right. He has also been working to arrange vaccination clinics for Hyderabad's transgender community and other marginalized communities.

Sowjanya, below, also grew up in our Home and graduated with a degree in Nursing. She is now working in the ICU and Covid treatment wards at a local hospital.

Many thanks to Sowjanya and Hanumanth and all the other members of our extended Child Haven family who are responding so compassionately and well to the Covid pandemic.

Thanks also to all who contribute to our post-secondary education expenses. Contact Sheila Laursen at Sheila@childhaven.ca for more information on how to help sponsor our deserving post-secondary students.





Savarsai - What happens when the jackfruit you are harvesting weighs more than you do? If you are at a Child Haven Home you call in a buddy for a multiple person extraction strategy as the jackfruit wranglers above have demonstrated.

Below, one of our cooks, Nanda, (left) is preparing the jackfruit for cooking with help from Dyaneshwar age 18 and Yogesh age 20. Yogesh is in his third year of studying for a degree in electrical engineering.

To the right below, Yogesh and our gardener Sudhir, sort some mangoes they have just harvested from our orchard.

Photos by our Manager, Prakash Patil





Kaliyampoondi - These girls are giving a loving start to this new addition to their flower garden. Giving a loving start to these girls are all of you. Thanks all around!

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



Kathmandu - Here are some of the amazing women providing loving care to the children at our Home pictured on Mother's Day. They are from left to right, Usha who has worked at the Home for 20 years, Lalmaya for 4 years, Ganga has worked at the Home for 25 years, Sangita, our accountant, has worked at the Home for 19 years, Mina for 12 years, Gita for 20 years, Kabita for 2 years, Buddimaya for 23 years, Sabitri for 5 years and Sushila also for 5 years. We are very grateful to all of them and to mothers everywhere!

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.

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