



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

Child Haven International

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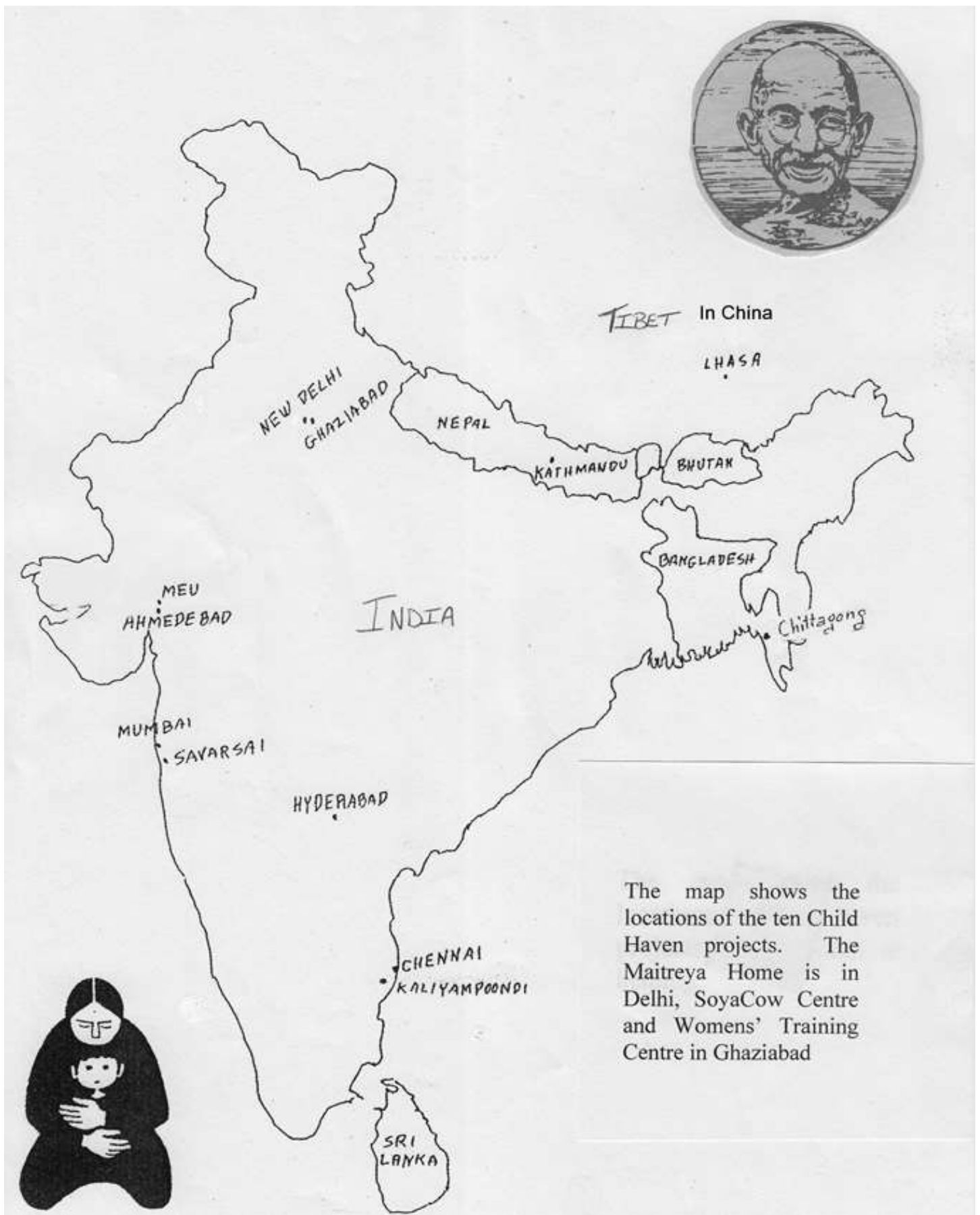


Winter 2021



Chittagong - Here are some new children being welcomed into our Child Haven family. (L to r), Nusrat, age 6, is from Noakhali. Two years ago her father died in an accident. Her mother has been unable to make ends meet. Muntaha, age 7, has a father who also had an accident while working as a pipe-fitter and can no longer support his family. Tina Tripura, is 5-years-old. Her family lives in the Chittagong Hill Tracts area. Her father is mentally unstable and unable to provide for them. Ismat Jahan's father died of Covid related causes. She is 6 years old. 7-year-old Fatema Akter's father was a rickshaw puller and is unable to work anymore. Her older sister Nasima is also at the Home. Their families will come visit when they are able to.

Kaliyampoondi	18-20	Hyderabad	15-17	Nepal	7
Bonnie Lore	11	Tribal Home	21	Support Groups	13
Donating	14	Savarsai	12-13, 24	Maitreya Home	6
Meu	3-5	Chittagong	1, 8-10, 23	MVP	22



The map shows the locations of the ten Child Haven projects. The Maitreya Home is in Delhi, SoyaCow Centre and Womens' Training Centre in Ghaziabad



Meu - The boys play a game of "dhamal dhoko" under the supervision of Shakshi, top center, who generally makes herself at home wherever she deems her presence to be needed.

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.)

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



Meu - Above, Komal and Kajal are studying Commerce in Grade 12. Here they are receiving technical assistance from our Girl's Caregiver Ashaben (right) with their on-line class.

Below left, our Boy's Caregiver Kirtibhai offers guidance for our studious boys including Thakor Dharmendra to the left and Krishna to the right.

Of course it's not book work all the time. There are also opportunities for field-study as well. Below right, Prakash, Sonal, Kailash, Tushar, Aarav, and Dharmik pose during a pause in their exploration and experimentation with the trajectory of child-powered centrifugal force on the Home's merry-go-round.





Meu - Lots of gardening going on at this Home! Above left Durga and Simran help plant onions sets in the garden. Above right, our gardener Sureshbhai and helpers plant a new tree in the compound.

Below, Aarav, Nirmala and Ravi are landscaping around their carefully designed sand palace with cuttings from flowering trees on the compound. Komal and Shakshi, (also seen on page 3) foreground, help prepare the cuttings while Kailash, in the blue shirt offers support.





Maitreya Home - Study time in the Home's library. For some, prepping for mid-term exams, for others practicing their Tibetan script.





Kathmandu - Among the new children at our Home are brothers Bipin and Biranjan. Biranjan is 8 years old and studying in Grade 1 (shown here taming the ferocious lion). His younger brother Bipin, is 6 years old and in our Montessori class. They were staying with their grandmother who was struggling with great difficulty to feed herself and the boys. They are doing well in their new Child Haven family.

We are also very happy to welcome Melissa to our Home (above right). She is from from Bajhang, a remote district of Nepal. Welcome Melissa!

Below left, Janai Purnima, the Hindu thread festival, was celebrated with colorful bracelets for everyone. Below right, our Matron, Tika, gives a tika to Jeet, who is now 12 and in Grade 6. Jeet has 2 sisters who are also in our Home.





Chittagong - Our Montessori school for community children has re-opened thanks to the decreasing number of covid cases in the area and the approval from local governmental authorities. In the picture above, our staff member Monir takes temperatures at the gate while school teacher Jaheda oversees hand-washing in the newly installed sink. As vaccinations are still unavailable for many in this area, masks are required to help keep everyone and their families safe.

Below, Alpona, one of our teachers, oversees her class. The students and teachers were very excited to resume classes. The school had provided home study materials for our students during the lock-down but being back together again in-person had been much anticipated. The school goes from pre-KG through Grade 4 and has students from the low-income or slum area around our Home. There are currently 122 children attending the school including 30 from our Home.





Chittagong - Our older children often help with cooking at this Home and on this occasion made some vegetarian deep-fried wonderfulness for all to enjoy. Above left (l to r), Sonipru, Binita, Moni and Fariha.

Below left are the tired cooks, Lalimpar, Papri, Jing Nun Par, Sahin, Pathan, Dilshat and Sweetie. It can be challenging to cook for so many children as our cooks know all too well. With many hands and the reward of happy children at the end, it all pans out. The cooking skills learned in the process, by both boys and girls, will certainly come in handy in the years ahead.





Chittagong - When school is over, Polinush and Mamun, (above) power their magic flying carpet being ridden with great bravery by Rana and Tasim. The carpet was created on-site by our young magicians with help from the fallen leaf of a betel nut tree.

To the right and equally magical are the cut paper creations made for a class project by, (l to r), Juthi, Anika and Sahin.

Below Banu and Lomboti cut vegetables for the evening's meal and below right, Monir prepares watermelon for an afternoon snack.



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

Bonnie was very pleased to hear that among the 12 new children at our Chittagong Home (five of whom are on the cover of this erudite journal), are children from Muslim, Hindu, Christian, Buddhist and Tribal families. We have long felt that there is profound truth in the teachings of all religions. When Bonnie is requested at borders to write down her religion she often writes “all of the above”. The opportunity for our children and staff to learn about, and come to love as family, people from other religious backgrounds is one that we value highly. That belief along with no regard for caste, equality among genders, simple living, non-violence and vegetarianism are all part of the Gandhian philosophy we try, in our humble way, to apply at our Homes.



Eleven of the twelve new children at our Chittagong Home

Of course that is all possible because of your kind and generous support. Bonnie and I are so grateful that even with a pandemic raging, you have sent what you have been able, to keep our 1,300 children fed, clothed, up-to-date on their studies, with the loving care of our dedicated staff members.

With borders re-opening and schools re-starting, perhaps we will be able to see each other in person in the not too distant future. We certainly hope so. As the border to the US is re-opened, Robin was able to visit and brought along this Torii Gate he made with his chainsaw from some cedar poles, for the entrance to our garden. “Peace” is inscribed at the top in Japanese. Torii Gates are found at the entrance to Shinto Shrines in Japan, and are said to elevate one’s awareness, when passing through, from the mundane to the spiritual. I make a point of taking Bonnie through the Gate whenever she gets annoyed with my Fred-foolery.

As we all know, Bonnie is very committed to respecting all religions. It’s probably time for me to start a religion based on the meditative power of naps, using one’s teacup several times between washings, wearing unkempt garb and maybe I’ll get a little more respect around here!





Savarsai - Above left, Samishka, Jyoti and Akansha are learning to make chapatis with the other girls. The boys also take their turns learning this invaluable skill.

Above, Dr Niyati, a dentist who helps at our Home, talks teeth with 12-year-old Aryan Pujari.

To the left, Ayush, Jay and Indrika giving their all in a dance performance at the Home.

Photos by Home Manager, Prakash



This Home often has visits and special programs put on by Masters in Social Work students from a Mumbai University who are doing field work under the supervision of our local board member Dr. Vaishali Patil. In this photo, one of these students, Vincent, to the right, is leading a workshop with the boys.





Savarsai - A little rain didn't stop our boys from valiantly striving to build a human tower as part of their commemoration of Krishna's Birthday at the Home.

Sure there was mud inadvertently involved, but with all that rain it washed right off, and when the inevitable happened at least there was a soft landing.

As is often the case in this part of the world, a little (or a lot of) rain can bring a welcome respite from some scorching temperatures!

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

DONATING THROUGH UNITED WAY

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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Hyderabad - Earlier this summer, some of our girls gathered for a class over zoom in the Girl's Dorm. The class is interactive, so they can be called upon by the teacher and also ask questions as needed.

Fortunately, due to lowering covid caseloads, in-person classes are resuming at most of our Homes.

As of this writing, there have been no new outbreaks of covid at the Homes, but precautions are being taken as the children go back to school. We'll keep our fingers crossed (and masks on and hands sanitized)!

Below the boys join their teacher over zoom in the Dining Hall.





Hyderabad - The metal rooftop canopy over the Boy's Dorm provides a sheltered place for activities and for the boys to hang their laundry during the rainy season. Above left, Manager Sunil offers some words of inspiration before the yoga class.

To the left, many hands make lighter work as members of the staff create a treat for an upcoming special meal.

Below, Girl's Supervisor Umadevi, and some of the girls perfect the Ganesh statues they have made for the Ganesh Festival. Ganesh, the remover of obstacles, is a welcome presence in the Home!





Hyderabad - Earlier this fall, the Home celebrated Bathukamma, a very popular festival in Telangana State. In Telugu, 'Bathukamma' means 'Goddess come Alive'. It is celebrated to thank the Goddess Parvati for her blessings for this year's crop harvest and to ask her blessing for the next year.

An important part of the festivities is a seven layer tier of flowers which can be seen to the left.

Some of our women staff (left) dance around offerings as do some of our girls and boys (below). As always, special food was made and served.

Photos by Boy's Supervisor Yadagiri



Kaliyampoondi

Sandhiya and Jenifer are both 13 years old and studying in the 8th Grade. They are playing a traditional children's game throwing one stone in the air and grabbing others while the first stone is still in the air.

Photos by Boy's Supervisor Sudhakar



This Home has enough room for both a girl's and a boys' volleyball court! Both are well used.





Kaliyampoondi

Schools are re-opening but what a year it has been. Above some of the children take part in a “just for fun” Math and English workshop. To the right above, Jenmaragani and Immanuel sing for a national level singing competition. The Home plans to continue to take advantage of some of extra-curricular on-line offerings that the children have especially enjoyed. To the right and below, on-line classes which have at least for now come to a close.





Kaliyampoondi - Left above, having one of their twice daily soymilk breaks are (l to r) Karuppu Samy in Grade 9, his brother Vishal in Grade 1, and then Baskaran and Joseph, also in 9th Grade

Above right, Anushka in Grade 7, Gracy in Grade 6 and Jemna Ragini are having a special meal on banana leaves!

To the right, Mary, Sundary, Adhi and Lakshmi all studying in 12 Grade, are having soymilk with some of the girls on the verandah of the Dining Hall.

Below, Girl's Supervisor Dayana is over-seeing a study class of Grade 11 girls outside in the playground.





Tribal Home - Above, tutor Hiran Sir, seated on the floor, is teaching math. It was a struggle to keep everyone inspired and up-to-date on their studies with schools closed due to the pandemic. Schools are now re-opening slowly. In spite of the best efforts of Hiran and everyone else, there will be a lot of catching up to do.

To the left, Sushma, 9th Grade, is offering a blessing to Lord Ganesh whose statue is installed in the Home for several days every year around his birthday.

It is customary that the installation and blessing are done by a male, but, at the Tribal Home the female students take on this role to drive home the idea of gender equality.

Below left, Preeti, Sheetal, Snehal, Sushma and Pratiksha are dressed elegantly for a dance performance.



MVP - Our women's vocational project, fully funded by Child Haven and conducted by our long-time partner, Manav Vikas Parishad, has continued albeit with less women in classes at a time. Above are some of the women in the women's tailoring training program. One of them has brought an assistant to take care of her cellphone while she is working.

Below, two of the tailoring students with bags they are making to sell for extra income as part of the tailoring training program.





Chittagong - Sweety is holding the most beautiful baby in the world, Azran, Home Manager Jasmin's 7-month-old son. Azran loves to spend time at the Home. One of the many reasons why is Sweety, who is 17 and in Grade 11. Sweety came to the Home 12 years ago, recommended by the Gandhi Ashram in Noakhali, which both knew about Sweety's situation and that Child Haven would provide her a safe and loving Home.

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

Rabindranath Tagore



Savarsai - The children wear their best and brightest for Rakshah Bandan, a day to celebrate sisters and brothers. With so many sisters and brothers in our Child Haven family, that's a lot of celebration!

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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