

Child Haven International



ACCUEIL INTERNATIONAL POUR L'ENFANCE

19014 Concession 7, Maxville ON K0C 1T0

613-527-2829

fred@childhaven.ca

childhaven.ca

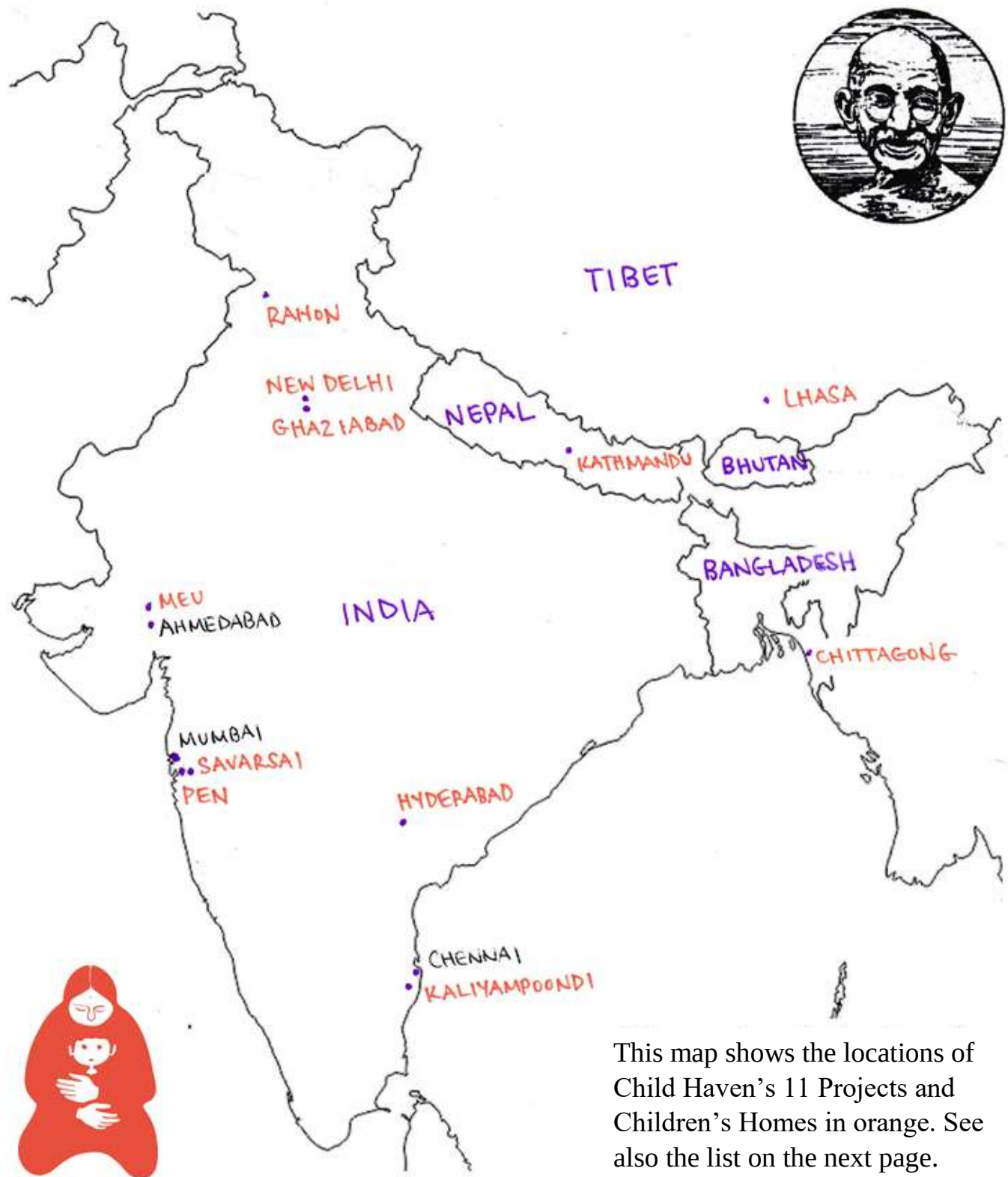


Winter 2023



Kaliyampoondi – Why it's a soya circle! All our Homes serve soymilk twice a day from our “soya cow” machines. Soymilk can be an important source of protein in vegetarian homes such as ours. This must be the after school snack serving since the girls are not in their school uniforms. Looks like it was a white ribbon day! Very auspicious.

Kaliyampoondi	1, 22-24	Interning	9	Chapattis	14
Hyderabad	3,8	Librarian Returns	10-11	Bonnie Lore	19
Chittagong	4-7	Wonder Woman	12	Meu	21
Brave Girl Award	9	One Degree of Separation	13	Donating	16
Maitreya Home	17	Savarsai	18	Tribal Home	19
MVP	20	Support Groups & Dinners	6		



This map shows the locations of Child Haven's 11 Projects and Children's Homes in orange. See also the list on the next page.

This issue is 24 pages, 4600 copies printed.

Revenue Canada Charitable number, 11885 1922 RR0001. USA Charitable number, 22-2637689



Hyderabad – We have some very important people in our Homes! Among them are, from left to right, Maheshwari who is 6 years old and in Grade 1, Jahnvi who is 6 and in Kindergarten, Spandana who is 8 and in Grade 1 and Bhargavi, who is 9 and in Grade 3. Congratulations both to them and our hard-working staff; their buttons are buttoned, ties tied, hair brushed and my, aren't they looking sharp?

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

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



Chittagong – Lomboti, one of this Home’s amazing cooks, receives help from Ammesiny, center, who is in Grade 7, and Janatun, far right, who is in Grade 8. Looks like freshly trimmed green leaves are on the menu!

Cornelio, below left, was living with his family in a remote region where there was no school. Mohammad, below right, is also new to the Home. He came after his father who is a rickshaw puller abandoned his mother and married a second wife.





Chittagong – One of the highlights of any cultural program at this Home is the Bamboo Dance. Every few years, new poles are purchased and painted. Sahin, left, age 14, and Muntaha, above, age 7, do the behind the scenes needful. Below some of the older girls practice the dance using the old poles, while the younger ones look on. Their time will come. This dance is from the one of the tribal tradition in Bangladesh. It involves stepping between rhythmically clapping poles. A misstep can result in a sore foot! But thanks to lots of practice, that just about never happens.





Chittagong

Our Montessori School goes up to Grade 4, and serves 141 children including those living in the Home as well as children from the low-income communities near our Home. All the children are served a meal every day which includes the soymilk the girls above are drinking.

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 Dougherty 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
	Winnipeg, MB	Zobida Ambtman 204-489-7630



Chittagong New Children – Tahidul, above left, and his mother were abandoned by his father who works as a rickshaw puller. Unable to care for Tahidul, his mother brought him to our Home.

Suraya, above right, is also new. After her mother was killed, her aunt brought her to our Home. Her father is ill and unable to provide for her. Her aunt comes to visit Suraya when she is able to.



Priya, far left is 6 years old. Her father died of cancer and her mother makes a meager living cleaning houses. Her younger sister will come also when she is a little older.

Ki Ki Lhah, close left, is also 6. Her father was injured while felling trees and cannot work anymore. Her mother has just one leg. They were struggling to support themselves and were relieved to hear about Child Haven.



Hyderabad – Rhidika, above left, is utilizing her considerable hula-hooping prowess to show Dhoni next to her and above right, how to get his swing thing going. Looks like she is a very good teacher!

Below, the children stay up to date with all the news of the day in the *Hyderabad Times*. From left to right are Maheshwari, age 16, Srivani, age 12, Varshini, age 14, Laxmi, 16, and Manasa, who is also 16.





Radhika, Brave Girl

by Hyderabad Volunteer/Intern, Gaye Gibson

This is Radhika with the certificate for the Brave Girl award she received recently on National Girl Child Day. This is a very special award. Radhika was picked up by a CWC (Child Welfare Committee) van and taken to the ceremony. One of our Home's staff members who was at the presentation said that Radhika was treated like a celebrity. She had the opportunity to speak with the Collector, and the picture taken of her with him will be in the newspaper. Along with the award, she received 3,000 rupees which is approximately \$50CDN. I asked her what she was going to do with the money and she said "Sister that money will have to go to my home. I am just a small girl and that is too much money for me to have here."

When I asked her why she received the Brave Girl award, she told me "Sister, I am in 4th class. My mother was drinking too much and was beating me and kicked me out. I am a small girl and didn't know what to do."

The men out there are very bad. I went to the police station to make a complaint and they took me to the CWC. Then the CWC brought me to Child Haven." I don't know how long Radhika has been at CHI, but I do know that she is thriving. She is doing very well with her studies, is very disciplined and has many friends. A couple of weeks ago she won the award for best behavior. All because she is a Brave Girl. ❤️

Volunteer Interns Needed

Gaye Gibson just completed her third 3 month stay at our Hyderabad Home. Among her many duties were taking children on walks, arranging hula-hoop competitions, helping with hospital stays and offering love and support to everyone.

With covid cases abating, we are accepting volunteer-interns again. They pay their own travel and commit three to six months to interning in India, Nepal, or Bangladesh. Please contact our office in Maxville at 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 find our Intern Brochure at childhaven.ca.

All of our Homes are requesting more interns as they have proven to be very helpful, each in their own way.



A Librarian Returns

By Marion Sewell Sneyd

Recently I was able to visit Child Haven in Nepal for a week. This was my 4th visit and this time I went with my son Matthew who has helped set up Montessori classes in Child Haven's Green Tara School. He was there to do some teacher training. I went to check and do some sorting in the library. Cathy Wilson and I had developed the library in the new school in 2008.

What a joy to be back to see the children and the didis in the home. I had taken a list of the grade seven students I taught along with their teacher for 3 months in 2005. I was anxious to see how they are doing 18 years later.

To my surprise Dhruba, my student, appeared at the school to see me. He is now working on his thesis finishing his Master's Degree in Information Technology. He helped Child Haven as the Assistant Manager of our Home for some time. He also has a business taking tourists to places outside Kathmandu. Dhruba took me to visit Minkumar, another student. He had presented me with a beautiful painting he had done, when I left the home. Minkumar studied Hotel Management and at the moment is looking after his 5 month old daughter while his wife works. Soon he will be looking for another job.

Shoonil, another student, is an electrical engineer. I think of him often because he had done a piece of embroidery which I have on my wall. It says "All people who survive in the world are equal". Samjana took a



Dhruba

management course and is now a teacher at a school. Pinki is a dental hygienist. Summit graduated in accounting management and now designs packages for rice and noodles. Dependra studied tourism and management and works in a restaurant. Ramesh is in Kuwait working in hotel management. Kolan works for his sister's business, a Nepali paper. Usab is a house painter. Santi is a Montessori teacher in Kathmandu. Ujaly works in his family business. Kabita



Mathew Sneyd doing a workshop with our Green Tara Montessori teachers. To the far left are Shreejana and Priyanka who grew up in the Home and now teach at our school.



Minkumar and his daughter

lives near the home and they own a restaurant. Raju studied at the Animation Institute and works as a freelancer. Rupa, Ningma, and Mina studied Travel and Tourism. Shanti, Raju, Utsah, Hotel Management. Nigma is a matron at a Childrens Home and the kids love her, I was told. Dowra is a chef's assistant. Summit works in a Chinese factory. Nera owns a pharmacy shop and is a health assistant there.

I am so impressed with their progress and all that Child Haven has done for them. Their lives might have been so different if they hadn't come to live in the Home and be supported throughout their education.

When I was at the home in 2005, 2 little girls about 3 and 5 came to the gate with a relative. Their mother had died in a bus accident and their father had gone to India. Child Haven took them into the home. I spoke with Kabita, the older one, on the phone. She lives near-by. She is working on a 5 year program in environmental engineering. Susmita her younger sister, is working on a BA in business administration. It was very emotional to talk with Kabita and hear of their progress. So many girls in Nepal have little or no education. Green Tara School that Child Haven built and opened in 2005, not only educates the children in the home, but educates and supports many of the local children.

When I was arranging the library, some students came to help, especially with the books in Nepali. Two students ages 15 and 16 were in the library at one point, and I asked them to write for me what Child Haven meant to them. Here is what they said.



Marion with two of her helpers



Rinjin Lama and Sudeep Tamang

Rinjin Lama:

"Child Haven International is a good institution. I am a poor boy from a rural village in Nepal. My family were facing poverty too many years and luckily Bonniema found me in that situation and brought me into CH. It is a good organization for giving food, shelter and education, so I feel lucky to get this help, which helps me to make my future bright. So I heartily say thanks to Bonniema for giving such facilities to me. She is in my heart. Thank You."

Sudeep Tamang:

"Child Haven is a good Children's Home. There are many children from different districts of Nepal getting food, shelter and education. Child Haven is open in different poor countries. I feel lucky to live in CHI. I heartily say thanks to those who helped the building and giving donations. CHI has opened a bright future for the children. If we didn't get these facilities we were facing too many problems, so Bonniema is a grandmother for us."

Child Haven Wonder Woman, Phoolmaya didi

Phoolmaya has been providing loving care to the children at our Kathmandu Home for 26 years. She recently shared her story with us. She is part of the Tamang community whose ancestors came from Tibet many years ago. She is a practicing Buddhist. When she was a small child, her elder brother went to the village school. Phoolmaya wanted to go also but her father wouldn't allow it. He preferred that she learn about and gather medicinal leaves in the forest, and to take care of the family's water buffaloes. This was useful knowledge, but she really wanted to go to school. When she was 16 years old, she enrolled in an informal education program for 6 months. She learned to write the Nepali alphabet by candlelight as there was no electricity.

Phoolmaya eventually married and had two sons. Her husband worked as a taxi driver. One day he did not come home. The next day some of his friends came to tell her he had died, electrocuted by a bare wire in a pond while he was washing his taxi. All she had was the 100 rupees he had given her for medicine for one of their sons. She went to her husband's village to stay with his parents, but his mother blamed her for her son's death, and sent her out. The owner of the taxi company helped her admit her two sons to a large Children's Home. They did not allow her to keep in close touch with her sons. She got a job winding spools of yarn in a carpet factory. One day at the vegetable market she began crying. A vegetable seller asked her why? She told her that she was a widow, her children were gone, and she had nowhere to go. The vendor told her that the Child Haven Children's Home, which was located right behind them in Bhaktapur at the time, was looking for some help. She took her to meet Annapurna, our first matron. Annapurna told her; "you came to the right place, you are a single women, we have these destitute children, would you like to help us? You would get food, a place to stay, a small salary and work to do". Phoolmaya was very happy to say yes. She came the next morning with her few things and has stayed ever since.

In the beginning she looked after 18 children below age 3. It was very hard to care for so many of them. At that time, they couldn't go outside because it wasn't safe near the well, so she had to carry a lot of water inside for their baths. She washed them one by one in a bucket. She would begin with one child and they would all be dirty again by the time she finished the last one. She had no experience taking care of so many children. Sometimes they started crying and she would start crying too. At those times she would think of her children at the other Children's Home and wondered if they were crying also. She wanted to bring them to Child Haven, but friends advised her that the other Home had much more money than Child Haven, and her sons would get a better education there. She tears up remembering that they didn't let her visit very often. Her elder son studied to be a chartered accountant. He and his wife are now in Australia. Her younger son works in Kathmandu. She talks with them at times, but is not in close touch.

She worked with the small children for 8 years. Then the woman who had been in charge of the store-room left and she was asked to take over those duties. Her children all cried when she agreed to shift, but somehow it worked out. She says she feels very lucky to be part of Child Haven and that maybe if it wasn't for Child Haven she wouldn't be alive right now. These days she loves to spend time with the children even though it is not part of her duties, just playing and helping them. She also really enjoys taking care of the flower garden and the work she does in the store room. 26 years went by very quickly she says, it's hard to believe. Easy to believe though is that everyone is ever so grateful to Phoolmaya for many years of helping both our children and our flowers to bloom and grow.





One Degree of Separation

by Roslyn Bern, President, Leacross Foundation

Many of our actions happen without hearing how they affected others. Well, this is one story that defies comprehension. It shows us that when the butterfly flutters its wings, the rest of the world changes.

Recently a former alumni from Leacross...a young man who went to the Arctic through *Students on Ice*, travelled to Nepal for hiking. Due to severe altitude sickness, he descended and visited the medical centre for support. While he was there, he met a young medic named Prakash Khatri. When the Canadian mentioned he was hoping to visit Child Haven in Kathmandu, Prakash told him that he had grown up in the Child Haven Home. Donations from Canadians

as well as our foundation helped support Prakash all the way through his Health Assistant Degree, enabling him to serve with the Himalayan Rescue Association!

The story continued... I phoned Fred and Bonnie in Maxville, along with Steve and sent an email to Robin (who was over in Hyderabad at the time) and we discussed the coincidence! Then Bonnie reached out to Bishnu, the Manager at the Home in Kathmandu who then entered into this lovely conversation. He had been waiting for David's call to visit. I had suggested to David that if he visited, he should take photos of the Rose Cottage, built with funds from the Leacross Foundation and kindly named after me. (Rose-Roslyn)

So David visited the Home and had this to say: "It was an amazing experience. The staff were hard working, loving, patient and compassionate. The grounds were well maintained and the students had decent clean facilities that provided a solid upbringing. The number one goal is education and that really showed. Although they lacked materials and facilities we have in the west, the attitudes and spirit carried everyone's heart. The students were genuinely happy to be at school (unlike some of the moody teenagers at school in the west) and it was very touching to feel how much positivity and joy there was here."

He included a picture of the Rose Cottage (above). It is being used to house older students and staff. The building provides a safe, clean and affordable environment to live and work in. Such apartments are very expensive and hard to find elsewhere.

As President of Leacross, I sometimes don't see direct effects, but these stories remind me that we are all connected somehow. We just have to be patient and observant to see these amazing coincidences. It is with delight we continue supporting Child Haven, knowing that young minds are being educated and the children are safe and well cared for. Nothing else matters.



Prakash at work



Chapattis – It's all hands on deck when it is time to pat and roll out chapattis. That's hundreds of chapattis we're talking about!

Above the Hyderabad staff collaborating and below the staff in Kaliyampoondi with Sudharson, in the blue shirt in the center, offering guidance and inspiration. Volunteer/Intern Gaye Gibson photos



Bonnie Lore

by Fred Cappuccino, her long-suffering husband

While to her every child is a treasure to nurture and cherish, Bonnie has long been a champion of the importance of an education for girls, teens and young women. She never hesitates to advocate for girls being able to learn, both for the joy of learning and so that they can support themselves as needed. Many parents understand that their boys should go to school, but mistakenly look to their daughters only as helpers around the house until they are ready to be married off.

There is a long list of women who have graduated from their Child Haven sponsored education who now support themselves, their families and communities while working as nurses, pharmacists, engineers, dental assistants, chefs, etc. who demonstrate how useful an education can be.

Bonnie's insistence on the importance of girls receiving an education took a dramatic turn at our Kaliyampoondi Home some years ago. A father with 5 children came to the Home. He and his family made their meagre living by begging and sometimes shooting small birds with a sling-shot and then selling them. The father wanted a different future for his sons, and brought them to Child Haven to see if they could be admitted. Bonnie heard that he also had a daughter and asked about her. The father demurred, saying that she didn't really need to go to school. Bonnie politely disagreed, and asked him to reconsider. After some discussion the father was still adamant that girls don't need to go to school. Finally Bonnie calmly told him that she would be happy to take his sons into the Home, but only if his daughter came too. Otherwise none of them could come, it was his choice. After reflecting for a few moments, the father smiled and realized, as I have, all too many times, that he had met his match, and he better just agree while the agreeing was good. We will never know what would have happened if the father had said no, but we do know that he is very proud of his daughter who has recently completed Grade 10 and is looking forward to further studies.



To the left is Bonnie with some of the young scholars enrolled in Child Haven's Educational Support Program in Bangladesh. These are young women whose families are not able to afford their further studies but who wish to continue their learning. They live with their families and Child Haven pays their fees.

PATRONS OF CHILD HAVEN:

PATRONS IN CANADA:

Margaret Atwood, author
Dr Brien Benoit, Neurosurgeon
Peter Downie, educator
Dr Gary Geddes, poet
Jan Jeffers, former publisher
Donna Morrison-Reed, Unitarian minister
Mark Morrison-Reed, Unitarian minister
The late Ramma Kamra, Ottawa writer
Kunjar Sharma, PhD, Honourary
Consul General of Nepal

PATRONS IN BANGLADESH:

The late Ms Jharna Dhara Chowdhury,
secretary, Gandhian Ashram Trust, Noakhali
Dr Kazi Nurul Islam, prof of World Religions,
University of Dhaka
Nahida Rahman Shumona,
Bangladesh Ambassador in Brunei

PATRONS IN INDIA:

Dr and the late Mrs K.M. Chitania,
Gopi Nursing Home
The late Mukunda Kolhatkar, Gandhian
The late Dr S. V. Mapuskar, MD, Engineer,
Padma Shri Award Recipient
A. Muruganantham, social activist, inventor,
Padma Shri Award Recipient
The late V. Kalyanam, personal secretary to
Mahatma Gandhi,
The late Swami Agnivesh, Arya Samaj, activist
Perumal Murugan, author
Recipient of Shitya Academy Award

PATRONS IN NEPAL:

The late Dr Yanta Mani Pradhan
Ms Renu Sharma, President, Nepal
Womens Foundation, Kathmandu

PATRONS IN GERMANY:

Rev Dr Eckhart Pilick & Pia Oberacker-
Pilick, Frei Religioese Landesgemeinde

PATRONS IN USA:

Shilpi Somaya Gowda, author
Deepak & Christina Kamra
Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, author
Erica Stone, President,
American Himalayan Foundation

DONATING BY DIRECT DEPOSIT provides Canadian and US donors an automated process for one-time and recurring contributions.

Using our secure online application, you can set up a withdrawal from your bank account through a simple electronic funds transfer.

The Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD) Agreement form is available through our web site under "direct deposit." Call us at 613-527-2829 if you need help.

DONATING BY INTERACT E-Transfer allows one time donation of funds between two bank accounts using email and online banking services.

Child Haven now accepts e-Transfer which basically eliminates add-on fee's.

Send an e-Transfer to fred@childhaven.ca
(security answer: childhaven)

DONATING BY CREDIT CARD can be made through our website 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.

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
Social Worker, Christine Johnston, MSW
Office Manager, Steven Bayne
Book-Keeper, Cheryl Ladouceur
Web Developer, Kerry Keogan
Administrative Assistant, Chris Cappuccino
Refugee Counsellor in Canada, Tara Upreti
Bazaar and Auction Liaison, Pam Hellstrom
Canadian Directors: Dr. Nat Shah, Bonnie and Fred Cappuccino,
Peter Freud, Neha Shah
Decal of Gandhi, P V Anthony,
Mother & Child logo, Eugene Fern
Sketch of Bonnie and Fred, Andrina Cox
International Director, Bonnie Cappuccino
Erudite, Elegant and Educational Newsletter
Editor Emeritus, Fred Cappuccino
Editor, Robin Cappuccino





Maitreya Home – Pema Yangchin, above left, is studying in the 2nd year of a Masters in History Degree. Ancient history is what she is interested in, possibly studying and writing about Buddhist stupas. She would like to do a PHD in Tibetan Buddhist art and paintings. She is excited that the primary sources in her study are in Tibetan which she has learned to read in the Home. She is interested in getting a job with the History Department of the Indian Government.

Tenzin Sangpo, above right, is in the 11th Grade. He is thinking about studying Hotel Management as cooking is an interest of his. Tenzin came to the Home when he was 11 after his mother passed away. He enjoys volleyball and football.

Below is a gathering at the Home on Robin's most recent visit in December of last year.





Savarsai – There is a new Dance Teacher at our Savarsai Home! The dances performed for guests and for Bonniema and Robin have always been spectacular, and even more so now. A new feature is some very dramatic climaxes as shown above. The children are also entering into some friendly dance competitions with some of the teacher's other classes.



Several days ago, some outside children came to visit the Home. One of them had no sandals. Noticing this, Shreeraj, one of our boys, decided to give the visitor one of his pairs. Later, our staff member Venancio thanked Shreeraj for his generosity. He also asked him why he chose to give the boy his best new sandals? Sheeraj replied that before he came to the Home he lived with his grandmother who gave him all her food, sometimes leaving nothing for herself. The boy visiting had nothing, so if Shreeraj's grandmother could give him everything she had, at least he could give the little boy a pair of his sandals.

Deepest thanks to Shreeraj's grand-mother, and grand-mothers everywhere, for their love of their grand-children. She can be very proud of Shreeraj.

Thanks also to all of you, whose contributions make it possible for us to join Shreeraj's grand-mother in providing him the loving care that every child truly deserves.



Tribal Home – Priya Pawar, left, gives a talk about the dangers of child marriage as part of a role-play on the issue, below. She is in 7th grade and is 13 years old.

While India has made significant progress towards ending child marriage over the past 25 years, it is still the country with the most child marriages in the world. Indian laws define child marriage as a marriage involving a girl under 18, and/or a man under 21 years old.

As the role-play, and Priya's talk explain, child marriage takes away children's rights to an education, health and protection. A girl who is married as a child is more likely to be out of school and not earn money and contribute to the community.

With the corona virus crisis, there has been an increase in child marriages. Desperate parents, left without a livelihood in the middle of the pandemic, rushed to marry off their underage daughters.

It is wonderful that these children are raising awareness about the losses that brings!





MVP (Manav Vikas Parishad) – Our women’s tailoring training program is continuing in Ghaziabad under the direction of Rajni, standing to the left in the photo above. The beginner’s training courses are 6 months long with advanced courses available. Most of the women are recently arrived in the city from more rural parts of India. Tailoring can provide an important income as well as help clothe their families.



Our training program in beautician skills continues. To the left, students are taught the finer points of giving a pedicure. This course is also 6 months long and has 25 students each session.



Meu – Mangu, age 16, (above and above left) is one of those people that little children love. She can often be found with a little one under her arm.

To the left, Tushar, age 6, always looks forward to visits from his grandmother. She sells vegetables by the side of a road. She brought Tushar here where he can be raised with love after his parents passed away.

Below left, future animators Fenil, age 7 and Krishna, age 8, are somewhat distracted by all the shadow creatures beside them during a less than engaging moment of a children's assembly.

Below right, our English tutor, Twinkle, (second from the left) with some of the Grade 10 and 11 students who are practicing for an upcoming school exam.





Kaliyampoondi –

Cultural programs here can take several hours! From skits on environmental justice (above left) and alcoholism (left), to all manner of dancing and drumming, the children showcase their multiplicity of talents with grace and aplomb. A basic tenet of Child Haven is relishing the rich cultural skills and traditions surrounding all of our Homes.





Kaliyampoondi – Jesmitha is 12 and in Grade 7. Her father passed away when she was a baby. Her mother comes to rub coconut oil in her hair whenever she can. With your help, her light shines brightly

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

Rabindranath Tagore



Kaliyampoondi –There's a lot to do and many choices to make during the free-time after school and before homework studies at this Home. It looks like 8th Grader Uma Mageshwari, being stretched above, is in high demand. It also looks like she might actually be enjoying this conundrum.

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.

Name_____ Phone_____

Address _____

City_____ Province/State _____ Code_____

E-mail _____