



# Child Haven International

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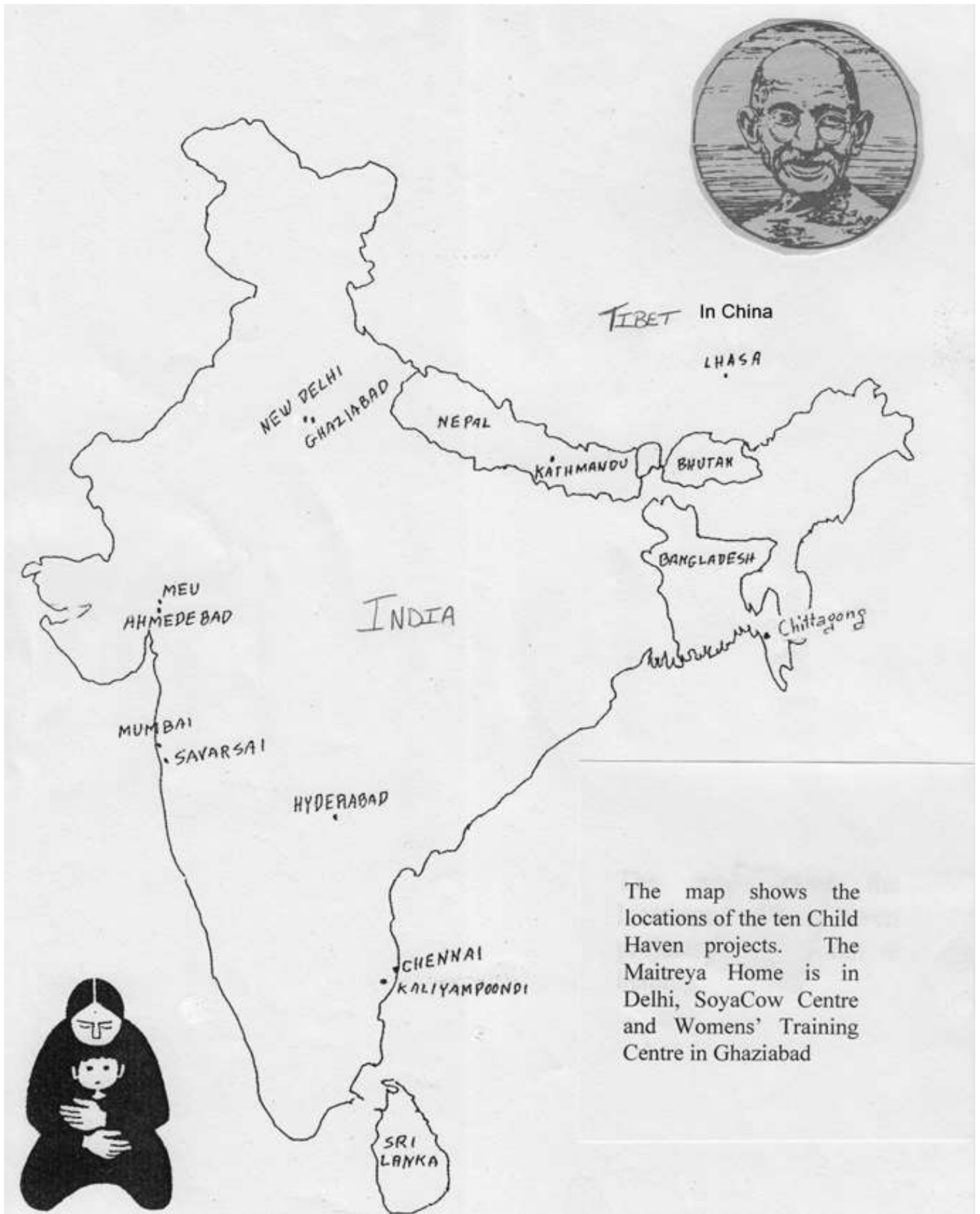


## February 2017



*Kaliyampoondi* – Sometimes it can be helpful to have so many older sisters! Gomathi, Grade 6, gets some help from LiviShree, Grade 11, as she gets ready for school.

Bangladesh	3,20,21	MVP	11	Nepal	18,19
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*Bangladesh* – Assistant Office Manager Jasmin and five year old daughter Azmeena introduce their most beautiful baby in the world, Amreem, to Bonniema on a recent visit to the Home.

### *Child Haven Homes*

**Meu (formerly Gandhinagar)**, 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  
**Ghaziabad Women's Centre**, Uttar Pradesh, India; education in tailoring for 50 women at a time; inexpensive sanitary napkin production and sale; Beauty and Wellness Course, Language: Hindi  
*(Many other children are sponsored for education, but are not living in one of our Homes.)*





*Meu* – Brothers and sister Arjun, 7, Kajul, 13 and Karan, 12 (from left to right) are new to the Home. Not long ago a school principal wrote to our Home from a nearby village saying that these three children were full orphans and staying with an uncle who was unable to care for them.

They were not attending school and sometimes ate sand to keep away their hunger. After checking with the local Child Welfare Board, they were brought to the Home.

Manish, (below left) is a full orphan. He is in the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade. He has an older brother who comes to visit when he can.

Pooja, (below right) has a father who works as a day laborer and no mother.



*Meu* – Children's Care-giver, Hinaben, with some of her fans at the Home. We can see they are terrified of her.



Below, Care-Givers Josnaben, center, and Nitaben enjoy some books from our library with a few of the boys.







*Meu* – Volunteer-Intern Sharon Fialco (upper left) helps the staff and girls prepare black millet rotlas, a Gujarati winter-time treat which are cooked on clay platters over a wood-fire. These are a special treat. The usual chapattis are made from wheat on the gas stove in the kitchen.

## *Child Haven Children*

Through the years we have noticed that children at our nine overseas Homes are special. For example:

- 1) ***There is no obesity among them.*** The food is simple fare, but nourishing. They also exercise a lot with calisthenics in the morning and a lot of walking, running, jumping and playing during the day.
- 2) ***They have very few cavities.*** Perhaps this is due to less junk food, less sugar and healthy vegetarian food.
- 3) ***They excel in school.*** Many people assume that poor and low-caste children are less intelligent, but our children in competition with village children in their common school tend to achieve academically and in athletics, usually taking the top academic and athletic places in the classroom.
- 4) ***There is a cushion of love.*** Several years ago there was a tsunami that devastated fishing villages not too far from our Kaliyampoondi Home. Twenty orphan children came to Kaliyampoondi. For several days they were listless and slept on a big sand-pile intended for use in cement work, which they found comforting and home-like. In Canada the practice would be to send in a team of crisis counsellors. We couldn't do that over there. Gradually they watched the other children in the Home, who had all come from their own traumatic experiences, who were running and laughing much of the time. Soon they began mingling with the other children and the healing process began. *There is healing in the Home's loving, family atmosphere.*

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

In 1998, a young 19 year-old mother came with her 6 month old son to our Hyderabad Home. She had heard about the Home from a nurse friend. Venkatama spoke with Bonniema and told her that her husband, whom she had married at the age of 13 had died not long ago. Now her family wanted her to re-marry and she didn't want to. She and her husband had worked together as daily labourers and now that she had a little son, Prashanth, she couldn't do that anymore and her family didn't want to support her. Would Bonniema please take her in with her little boy?



So Bonniema said of course you can come and work here, we can use some more help with our children. For the next 18 years, Venkatama was a tireless cook and children's care-giver. Her son Prasanth flourished with the other children. While Venkatama was a very loving and dedicated care-giver, one of the challenges she faced was controlling her temper, and when angry, her tendency to express herself utilizing a remarkably un-Gandhian vocabulary. Over and over again Bonniema spoke with her after being told of another outburst. She would say "Venkatama you are a wonderful worker and everyone would be very sorry to see you go, but you have to be more respectful of the children or the other staff members" as the case might be. Venkatama would always apologize and in recent years was having this problem less and less.

Meanwhile Prasanth continued his schooling and finally took a one year Electrician Training Course and began working with a local company. On Bonniema's last visit he asked if he could have a meeting with her. He told her that he would like to take his mother away to live with his father's mother who had been cared for by another daughter who had just passed away. He thought that he would be able to support all of them on his salary as an electrician. He also had been able to purchase a small piece of land in her village and with his mother's savings and his salary planned to start slowly building a little house for them which had been Venkatama's dream for a long time.

Bonniema called in Venkatama and asked her if that was what she wanted to do. "Yes," she said, "my mother-in-law needs my help."

"Well then you must go with our blessing and thanks for so many years of dedicated service and loving care to our children," Bonniema replied.

On Venkatama's last night, a special meal was prepared and many of the children and staff gave testimonials about how much they appreciated her care and how much she will be missed.

Both Venkatama and Prasanth promise to come back and visit whenever they can.







*Hyderabad* – Brothers Satish and Abhishek are in Grade 5 and Grade 3 respectively.

Durga Prasad, below left, is studying in Grade 6. He came to this home about four years ago when his father passed away. He is an active boy in studies.

Varshini, below right, is studying in Grade 2. All of these children go visit their mothers on holidays.







*Hyderabad* – There's a lot of work that goes into making food for 183 children at this Home. Above left, Mainikyam , in Grade 7, chops greens. Cook Yadagiri, above center right, pours the rinsed rice into the cauldron for cooking with help from one of our visiting college students, Arun Kumar who is working on his BS in Physics, Chemistry and Computer Science.

Below the food is served by staff members, left to right, Manjula, Kamala and Satyamma.



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Direct Deposit provides an automated process for one-time and recurring contributions.

Using our secure online application, you can set up a withdrawal from your Canadian bank account through a simple electronic funds transfer. Lower transaction charges and reduction in handling and processing; Direct Deposit is a cost effective method of receiving contributions.

The Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD) Agreement form is available through our web site at, [childhaven.ca/direct\\_withdrawal.html](http://childhaven.ca/direct_withdrawal.html)

**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 # 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.

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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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

**Mary Grace O’Shaunessycallahananan has switched!!!** Mary Grace knows that the best way to contribute to Child Haven is through monthly\* donations, so that is what she is doing.

**Nicholas Igor Shastakhoviyostoyevskichov has switched!!!** Nicholas Igor wants to do the best he can to enable Child Haven to be more functional. He decided to give monthly\*.

Is that ever cool???

\* [http://childhaven.ca/direct\\_withdrawal.html](http://childhaven.ca/direct_withdrawal.html)



## *MVP Women's Center*

Ganga is giving Megha a facial in the new beautician training program opened last year at the request of the local women.

Many of the women who take part in the training program are recent migrants from Bihar, who have fled famine and other economic hardships hoping to find some way to feed their families.



Kajal, middle left, and her sister Nayha took the tailoring training offered at the MVP three years ago, and have now opened a small tailoring shop of their own, where they also sell inexpensive cosmetics. Their parents work as sweepers, and struggled to care for the sisters and their brother.

Now the whole family is much more secure. They say they have plenty of customers and that they also do pedicures which are very popular.



### *Savarasai –*

Right, sisters and brother Smiskha, age eight, Akansha, age six and Aryan, age seven, are all living at the Home.

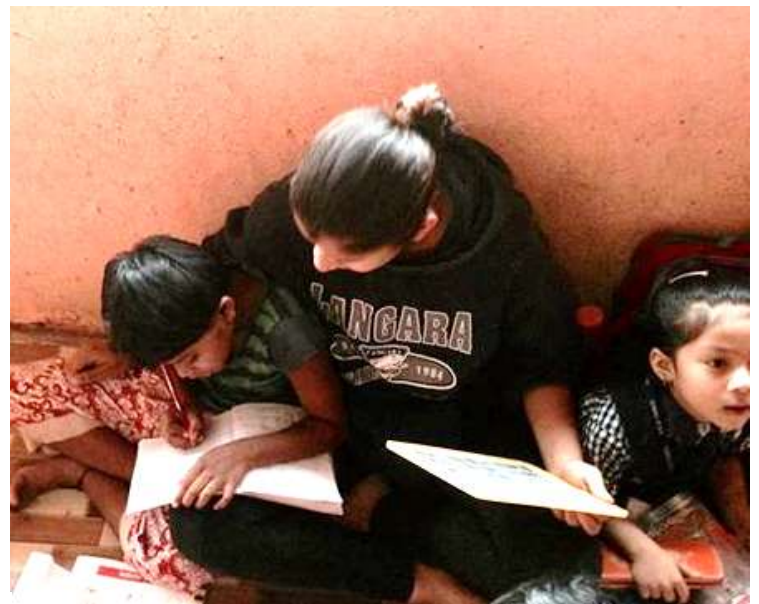
Two years ago their single mother brought the older two to the Home, but was able to and wanted to keep Akshana until she was older. Recently, Akshana has joined her older brother and sister.



It didn't take Akshana long to make herself at home. Below, she and Karyshma, daughter of staff members Echa and Rema, engage in scientific exploration of principles of volume, weight, density and mass. Much discovery awaits them.







*Savarsai* – Ally Duckworth, above second from right, has been a volunteer intern here for the past three months. One of her duties has been working with Hindavi, age seven. Hindavani is on the left in both pictures above. Hindavi is in KG2, a class she has repeated.

Ally reports that “Hindavi struggles with some learning disabilities, one being dyslexia. It can be a struggle for her. For example, counting past 30 is difficult. I work one-on-one with her, as I have a learning disability myself and have gone to a school for kids with learning disabilities, so I kind of get the idea of how to teach a child with a LD. Having a learning disability doesn't make you any less smart, it just means you have a different way of learning, sometimes an even more fun way of learning! For Hindavi, we use objects, such as my fingers, because I have noticed she won't get it if its written down. She is a tactile learner, she needs to have objects to hold and to count with.”



Ally also helped in the kitchen as she is doing in the picture above, rolling chapatis while our cook Rohini roasts them on the griddle. Having finished and enjoyed her three months in Savarsai, Ally is now at our Home in Meu for another three months.

### *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 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 check out our new Intern Brochure on our web-site, [childhaven.ca/intern.html](http://childhaven.ca/intern.html)

Volunteer-interns supplement the loving care provided by our dedicated staff. Typically they spend time helping in the kitchen, tutoring the children, helping with homework, help with English skills, and a plethora of other activities depending on their special interests and skills.





*Kaliyampoondi* – Satish, seated above center, got up at 3 this morning to make soya milk for the children. Here he watches as Papi, the matron, serves it to some of the girls.

Left, a circle of girls with their morning refreshment.





*Kaliyampoondi* – Above, cooks Indara, Mary and Kuttiyama clean grain for one of the meals for 300 children that they help create three times a day. Below, Home Manager Ganesh and his wife Sowmiya with Bonniema holding their daughter Pooja, the most beautiful baby in the world.







*Kaliyampoondi* – Above, home from a day at school. Here, all of our children attend the local public schools. They often place at the top of their respective classes. One reason might be the homework and tuition classes (below) held at the Home once in the morning before school and once in the late afternoon. Of course they are also just really smart kids!







*Tribal Home* – These four students from the Tribal Home took part in a recent door-to-door survey assessing food security in their community. The results of this survey will be used as part of a larger campaign focusing on meeting the basic food needs of low-income people in Maharashtra State.

## *Child Haven Support Groups and our Fundraising Dinners*

*Please check our web site for updated information*

<b>Mar 31</b>	<b>Cornwall, ON</b>	Elaine MacDonald 613-938-7763
<b>Apr 1</b>	<b>Victoria, BC (Group 1)</b>	Surinder & Ann Kumar 250-412-5135, Christine Johnston 250-385-5444
<b>Apr 7-8</b>	<b>Victoria, BC (Group 2)</b>	Jenny Farkas 250-721-1579
<b>Apr 08</b>	<b>Calgary, AB</b>	Dave Greene 403-816-1705, Lata Patel 403-462-5474
<b>Apr 18</b>	<b>Lennoxville, QC</b>	Keith Baxter 819-346-8273
<b>Apr 21</b>	<b>Ottawa, ON</b>	Lynda Inkster 613-837-3532, Dave Basu & Parin Bhimani 613-422-1573
<b>Apr 22</b>	<b>Lincoln, MA, USA</b>	Christine Damon 781-879-5870
<b>Apr 23</b>	<b>Waterloo, ON</b>	Deepti Celetti 519-846-0505, Carol Burrows 519-744-8449
<b>Apr 29</b>	<b>Mississauga, ON</b>	Shyam Sheth & Leena Motwani 647-876-8488, Tushar Mehta 416-839-1938
<b>June 16</b>	<b>Perth, ON</b>	Sally Ziskowski 613-772-0678, Liisa Rissanen 613-268-2137
<b>June 17</b>	<b>Kingston, ON</b>	Andrew Rush 613-542-6992 or 343-333-1974
<b>Sept 16</b>	<b>Vancouver, BC</b>	Katherine Doyle & Ian Cameron 604-255-4077, Yamini 604-476-0264
<b>Sept 24</b>	<b>Winnipeg, MB</b>	Zobida Ambtman 204-489-7630, Arvind Naran 204-891-7510
<b>Oct 14</b>	<b>Carleton Place, ON</b>	Jane Hamilton 613-853-7959
<b>Oct 19</b>	<b>Comox/Courtenay, BC</b>	Heather Holm 250-338-2181
<b>Oct 20</b>	<b>Qualicum/Parksville, BC</b>	Leona Matte 250-752-7404
<b>Oct 21</b>	<b>Canmore, AB</b>	Paula Duncan & Simon Bryant 403-609-8125
<b>Oct 22</b>	<b>Edmonton, AB</b>	Sylvia Krogh 780-454-6216
<b>Oct</b>	<b>Hardwick, VT, USA</b>	Robin Cappuccino & Sharon Fialco 802-533-2296, Rachel Davey 413-250-6204
<b>Oct</b>	<b>Glengarry, ON</b>	Julie Slater 613-525-1104
<b>Nov 04</b>	<b>Montreal, QC</b>	Sheila Laursen 514-697-4195, Conny Belanger 514-542-3381
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Hamilton, ON</b>	Ginny 905-332-6476, Marion 905-972-0773



*Nepal* – Above, Suman Grade 4, Akash in Grade 2 and Arun in Grade 4 with an ancient statue of Ganesh at the Gokarna Temple, not far from the Home. They were acting as tour guides for Volunteer Intern Nanci Burns and Robin Cappuccino on their pre-dawn jog.

The boys are enthusiastic teachers, demonstrating which statues to sprinkle with water, how to place a tikka correctly on one's forehead and how many times bells should be rung at individual statues as Suman is doing at left.



*Nepal* – Meera (right) is studying nursing in her second of a three year course. While she is studying she plans to volunteer in a local senior citizens Home.

Below, Kaushila, with Bonniema, is in the first year of her Bachelor in Psychology course.

Child Haven does its best to assist the children who grow up in our Homes to take college or vocational training so that they will be able to support themselves and serve their communities when they leave the Home.

We have a post-secondary sponsorship program to help make that happen which is co-ordinated by Sheila Laursen. You can contact her for more information on this program at [sheila@childhaven.ca](mailto:sheila@childhaven.ca)





*Bangladesh* – Everybody learns to cook at this Home. Here Saisanu uses a traditional grinding stone to grind greens and herbs for a paste. Below, Marium chops and cleans potatoes for a curry.







*Bangladesh* – Farzana, 20, shown at left with one of her creations, came to the Home when she was six years old. She is now studying for an engineering degree in garment design and pattern making. It is a four year course and she is in her third year. Farzana has always been a prolific artist, often called upon to make special posters or decorations for the Home. Now she says her drawing skills are proving to be useful in her studies. She says with a smile that when she goes to visit her father in his village, he tells her he is praying to Allah for her to be a big engineer.

Below, Riudin uses his drawing skills to repaint the volleyball court with the help of night-watchman Ridowan and with lots of advice from Saentani age 5.



## *Maitreya Home*

Kesang Yoten is newly arrived at the Home from Arunachal Pradesh. His single mother who cleans houses when she can was struggling to care for him. She heard about the Home from a friend who works in Delhi. Kesang is a very good soccer player and shows Bonniema a trophy he has already won in his short time at the Home.



Kesang joins quite a few other children from the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh at the Home which is primarily for Tibetan refugee children. Arunachal Pradesh was once considered a part of Tibet and cultural and religious ties remain very strong.

Tashi Wangchu, left, has just completed Grade 12 and is applying to the Delhi University of Fine Arts for a course of studies leading to a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts. He has also been an avid artist from a very young age.





*Kaliyampoondi* Eighth Graders Nanthakumar, Hemanath and Sanjayare prepare to do some laundry.

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



*Meu* – Left to right above, Rajbir, the most beautiful baby in the world, is the son of caregiver, Sonalben. Komal, also the most beautiful baby in the world, is the daughter of caregivers Nitaben and Ilesh. One of their favorite people is Roshni, who came to the Home several years ago after her mother passed away.

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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