



# Child Haven International

ACCUEIL INTERNATIONAL POUR L'ENFANCE

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## August 2024

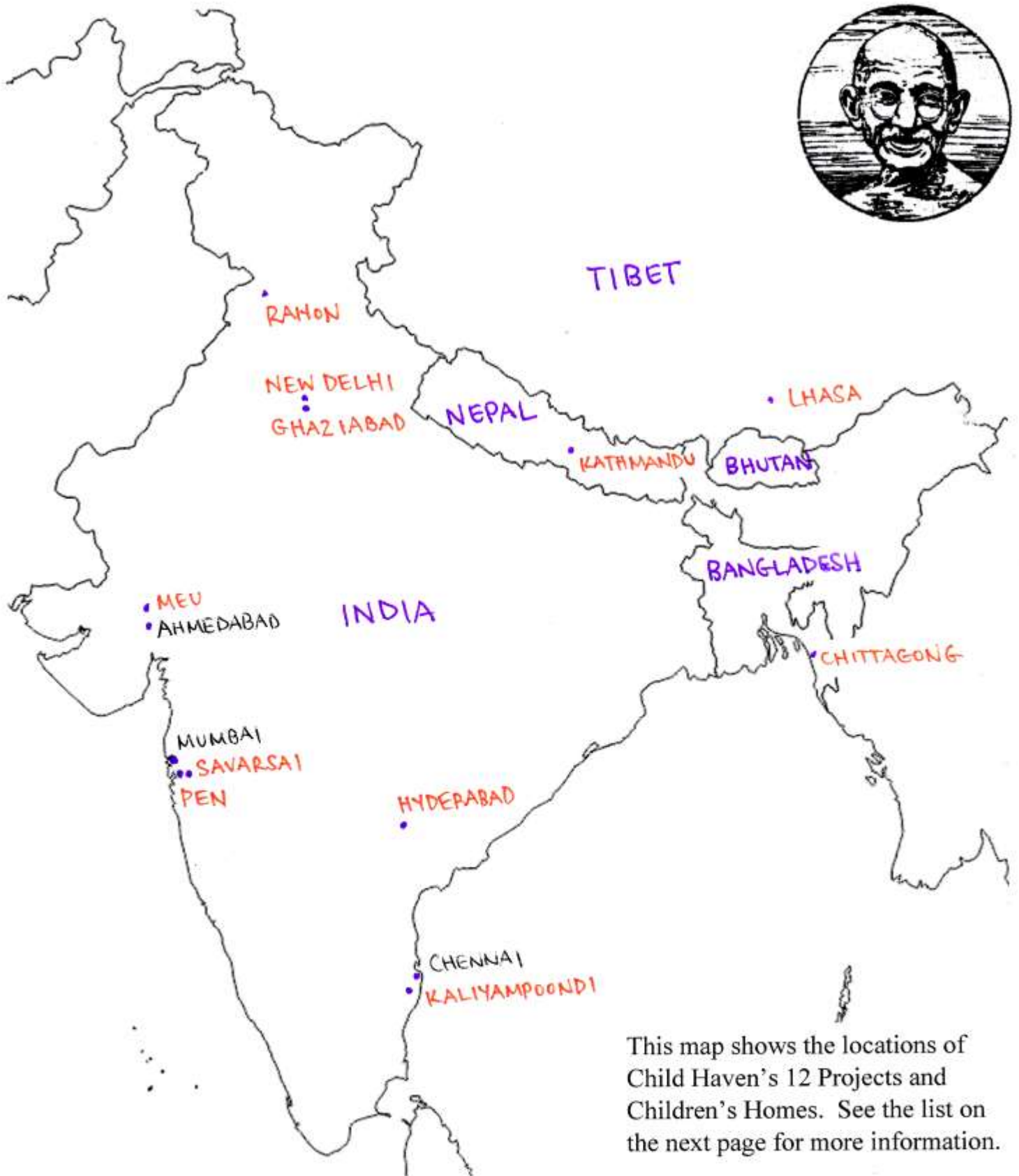


*Kaliyampoondi* - Gajendiran, Tharun and Navaresh are all 10 years old and in Grade 5. They are having their freshly made morning soy milk which is prepared for them twice a day at the Home. 3 of our intrepid staff members take turns getting up at 4 a.m. in the morning to make the 46 liters of soymilk needed to fuel our children's academic prowess during the school day ahead! They will have another cup made by another set of staff members to fuel their play with their after-school snack later in the afternoon.

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***Kaliyampoondi*** - Harini, above, is finding many ways to express her beautiful perspectives on the world around her. As you may recall from a previous newsletter, she arrived at the Kaliyampoondi Home after she was kidnapped from her family who were homeless and sleeping on the street at the time. She was returned to her family 6 months later. Over the past year at the Home, she has made new friends with her many brothers and sisters and received loving support in a multitude of ways. One of those ways was getting to spend the weekend taking drawing classes. She applied her new skills to make the colorful portrayal of a fruit basket pictured above! It was only a few hours later during afternoon free time that Harini couldn't contain herself and moved on to making a much more elaborate art installation of shiny leaves, little buds, jagged rocks, and elegant white flowers. We are so happy to experience Harini's creativity and can't wait to see what she comes up with next.

### ***Child Haven Homes***

**Meu**, Gujarat, India, 93 children 8 women, Language: Gujarati

**Hyderabad**, Telangana, India, 170 children 14 women, Language: Telugu

**Kaliyampoondi**, Tamil Nadu, India, 280 children 35 women, 35 Seniors, Language: Tamil

**Maitreya Foundation**, New Delhi, India, 24 children 1 woman, Language: Tibetan & Hindi

**Savarsai**, Maharashtra, India, 77 children 4 women, Language: Marathi

**Tribal Home**, City of Pen, near Savarsai Home, 63 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 (program on hold for the moment)

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





*Savarsai* - Our Home is located in a bucolic rural setting next to a small river winding its way through a valley with lots of forest and wilderness to explore. Our budding naturalists are always ready for their next outdoor adventure. Thanks to Chetan, far left, our Boy's Supervisor for making this particular expedition possible!

Photos by Vihan





*Savarsai* - The relentless girls' soccer team celebrated a series of victories in early June of this year. The 7 girls, pictured above, participated in an under 16 soccer tournament, the "Conqueror's Cup" in the teeming metropolis of Mumbai. It was quite the experience and even involved navigating celebrity status!

Through their beautiful teamwork and sportsmanship, the girls won three matches. The last match was a nail-biting tie that was then broken by the girls' winning goals, causing them to take home the impressive league champion trophy pictured above. Two players received special acknowledgements for their show-stopping moves. Indrika, pictured in the yellow jersey on the left, won the Best Goalkeeper trophy for stopping every goal throughout the matches except for two. Jivika, pictured above on the far left above, won the Player of the Match award for her top-notch skills. Several people were so impressed with their performance that they even asked to take pictures with them.





Congratulations to everyone for putting in so much heart and passion into this wonderful team sport!

### *Hyderabad - Interview with Srikanth and his mother by Avani Pisapati*

Srikanth (above left) is sitting in his mother's (above right) one-room house smiling, reflecting on his time at the Child Haven Home in Hyderabad. He is about to complete the final year of his Bachelors of Technology Degree and has reached a place where he can look back on it all. He remembers the deep emotional ties that he developed with the staff and his many brothers and sisters of the Home. He remembers his older brothers giving motivational speeches on the rights and wrongs of life's challenging paths. He reminisces on the friends and tutors that helped him become the dedicated student he is today. He laughs as he recalls his favorite meals at the home: *dosa*, *pulihara* (tamarind rice), and *chapati*.

Srikanth's mother, Parvathamma, sits proudly next to him on this day. They sit in the small house which is an accessory to a larger home beside it, where the landowners and their family live. The walls are lined with shelves ostensibly containing everything the family owns; one shelf crammed with all their clothing is next to another shelf containing a television and another with all their steel dishware. Despite the limited space they have, Srikanth and Parvathamma seem happy. They remember times when life was much harder.

When Srikanth was a 10 year-old boy, his father suffered from severe alcoholism and his mother did *matti pani*, Telugu for soil work. At the time, Srikanth's parents were unable to provide enough food for all their children, Parvathamma explains, with tears in her eyes. One day, someone who was managing the construction of a new building at the Hyderabad Child Haven Home noticed how much their family was struggling. He suggested that they bring their three children to Child Haven, and so they did. After the staff heard about their challenges, they immediately suggested that all three stay at Child Haven. And since then, Srikanth, his siblings, and his parents were able to "survive", as they put it.

A few years ago, Srikanth's father passed away due to alcoholism and his mother became unable to work due to serious health issues. Things got rough once again. But this time, thanks to the opportunities that have presented themselves to Srikanth, he was able to support his family through his work as an electrician. They are in a much better position than they were 10 years ago, Parvathamma shares, especially now that all the siblings are getting educated through Child Haven's support. How lucky we are to know and support Srikanth! We hope he and his entire family have continued success and happiness in their future!



### *Hyderabad - Interview with Manisha and her father by Avani Pisapati*

When anyone asks Manisha, pictured above with her father Ravi, about what gives her the strength she has today, she always answers “Child Haven is my power.” It must be a question that she gets often now that she has completed her Bachelor’s Degree in Pharmacy a few months ago and just got a job in a pharmacy! Big congratulations to Manisha on such an impressive accomplishment!

Manisha was in need of some extra support and strength when she was 12 years-old. At that age, her mother passed away after suffering from mental illness. Her father and grandmother were unable to find work to support Manisha and her two siblings. It was not an easy time, and Manisha’s elders did not wish to pass on their hardships to her and her siblings. A year later, her grandmother luckily heard about Child Haven and suggested that Ravi take Manisha to the Child Haven Home in Hyderabad. With time, Manisha flourished there, learning fun cultural activities such as dancing, how to communicate, and how to love and care for other people. It was also an especially exciting time for her when everyone got to celebrate India’s Republic Day and Independence Day, and when hot, spicy porridge, or Pongal, was served! These experiences stick deeply with Manisha to this day and have given her the strength and power to continue moving forward in life.

It is abundantly clear that Manisha’s growth will continue outside the walls of Child Haven as well. She hasn’t stopped dreaming big and hopes to pursue a Master’s in Pharmacy and become a Pharmacist in the near future. We are so lucky to share her powerful story with everyone and are certain she will inspire many others wherever she goes.

Fun fact! Ravi is a huge Chiranjeevi fan, a famous Telugu actor who has appeared in over 150 films across India. Chiranjeevi is also the father of another famous Telugu actor, Ram Charan, who starred in RRR’s hit song “Naatu Naatu”. Ravi has even blessed his family home with a picture of Chiranjeevi, shown to the right, and enjoys dancing to his music whenever it’s played at weddings or special occasions!







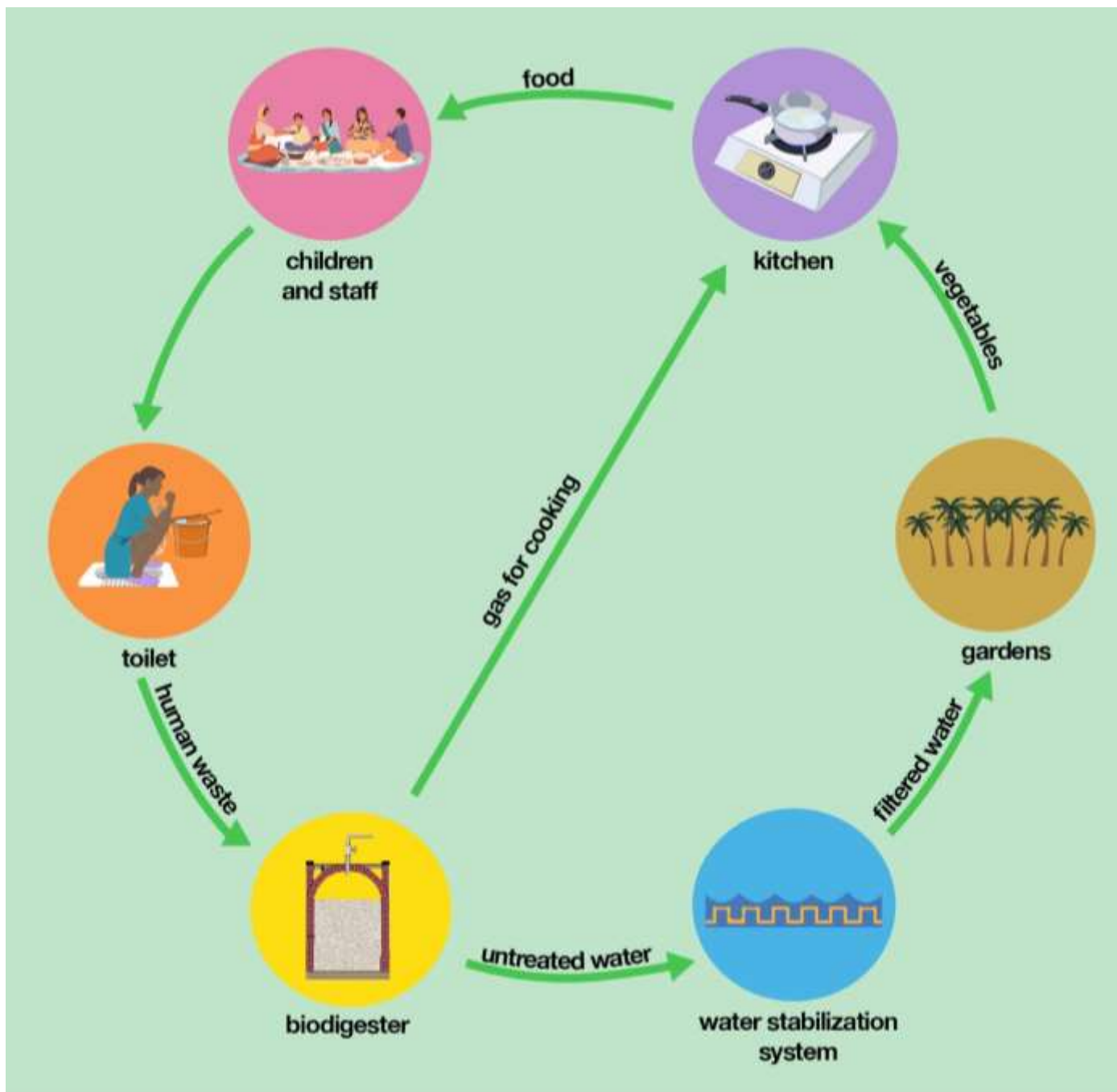
*Hyderabad* - Matron, Sultana, (center above) takes attendance to see if anyone is still sleeping before sending the girls off to school. To the right, Care-giver Vani, center, watches over the boys as they get ready to head out to the school bus waiting outside the gate.

Then our young scholars head off for another school day filled with adventure, discovery and just the right amount of mischief to keep things interesting. Many of these children will be the first ones in their families to graduate from high school!

For this Home alone, Child Haven pays 3,487,600 rupees, or \$57,371 Canadian dollars per year for tuition at this school. Uniforms cost \$2,629 (CDN) and schoolbooks another \$8,584 (CDN). Of course, for these children, an education is invaluable as will be graduating from the vocational or college programs which Child Haven, with your support, will provide as well.







In all of our Child Haven Homes in India and Nepal we have installed a biogas system that creates energy and conserves nutrients produced from the decomposition of human waste. Pictured above is a diagram created by Avani to help inform children, staff, and the community about this cycle of resources in our Homes. Inspired by the waste management systems used in Gandhi's ashrams, the late Dr. S V Mapuskar, a Child Haven International (India) Board Member, refined and implemented this biogas system for use in our Homes.

Human waste is first piped from the Home toilets into a biodigester. As it composts, gas is produced and piped to the kitchen for use as cooking fuel. Waste water from this process is then sent to a water stabilization tank where pathogens are removed. This nutrient-rich, filtered water is used to fertilize and nourish vegetables and trees grown in our Home's gardens. Vegetables are then cooked in the kitchen and eaten by children and staff. When they then use the toilets again, the whole cycle repeats! This means that in all our Homes, we are able to manage our human waste in a hygienic, environmentally safe, and financially beneficial manner. We hope that this diagram, translated into local languages and reproduced as a poster or mural at each of our Homes, will help raise awareness about this important system in the communities we serve.



### *Kaliyampoondi -*

Jennifer (left) is 15 and in Grade 10. Her sister Jenish is 10 and in Grade 5. They are enjoying a visit from their mother, (right). Their father abandoned the family and their mother's meagre income as a house keeper in Chennai, was not enough to support her daughters. She was delighted to find a safe and dependable place for her daughters to live at our Home. She comes to visit her daughters whenever she is able to.

Karthik, pictured to the right in the pink shirt and below in the yellow shirt, is a gentle 15-year-old studying in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade at our Kaliyampoondi Home. At first glance, he may appear rather serious and quiet, but he is making waves in his family by working hard and dreaming big, hoping to become a police officer one day. His mother and father, also pictured to the right, have faced many challenges in their life, including serious spinal issues that prevent Karthik's mother from being able to walk and work. She is not able to visit our Home very often so Karthik goes to visit her when he can manage to.



His father does his best to earn money by taking various roadside jobs and doing woodwork. They have been living in his grandparent's two-bedroom dwelling, sleeping on the floor and cooking on wood fires outside. Despite these difficulties, Karthik is doing his best to take advantage of the opportunities Child Haven has provided him. His favorite subject in school is math, and he dreams of visiting Canada one day. We know that he has a bright future ahead of him which he will hopefully get to share with his loving mother and father. Thank you to Karthik's family for putting your trust in Child Haven!



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**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 accepts e-Transfer which basically eliminates add-on fees.

Send an e-Transfer to [fred@childhaven.ca](mailto:fred@childhaven.ca)  
(security question and answer are not required)

**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  
Program Manager, Ganesh Kumar  
Web Developer, Kerry Keogan  
Videographer, Social Media Coordinator, Avani Pisapati  
Administrative Assistant, Chris Cappuccino  
Refugee Counsellor in Canada, Tara Upreti  
Canadian Directors of Child Haven: Dr. Nat Shah, Peter Freud,  
Bonnie and Fred Cappuccino, 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





*Kathmandu* - Trying their hands at playing two of our Home's traditional Nepali "*madals*" are twins Dasom in blue and Dapemsa in red. They just recently came to the Home from the Dolkha Region of Nepal after their father passed away, and their mother went abroad to find work and was not heard from again. We will keep them safe and hope for her return. They are 8 years old and in the first grade at our Green Tara Child Haven School.

To the right above, one of our snow lions in front of the Home is getting a close look at one of his new charges. Shisir came after his parents passed away. He had been staying with an aunt, but she was struggling to be able to provide food and schooling fees for him. When she heard about Child Haven, she was quite relieved that he would be well cared for and that she could come and visit when she was able to.

To the right are Dasom and Dapemsa with some of their new Child Haven family members. It is always very heart-warming to see how quickly the children who are new to our Home make friends and find comfort and joy with the other children who found their way to our Home.

The children are wearing their Green Tara Child Haven School uniforms. They are among the 71 of our Home children who attend the school. The other 430 or so children in the school are from the surrounding community. Child Haven pays full tuition for another 145 children from low-income families living near the school, and the rest pay a low tuition based on their family income.







*Kathmandu* - Volunteer/intern Mark Hammond, from British Columbia, leads a coloring class for some of our many artists. Mark spent 3 months at our Home and made many new friends! 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 if you'd like to talk it over.

A \$50 fee covers processing costs and your attendance at a two-day Orientation in Maxville. We are also thinking about holding an orientation on the west coast if interest exists. An additional \$200 donation to partially cover overseas room and board is also asked of Interns. You can check out our Intern Brochure on our web-site, [childhaven.ca](http://childhaven.ca)

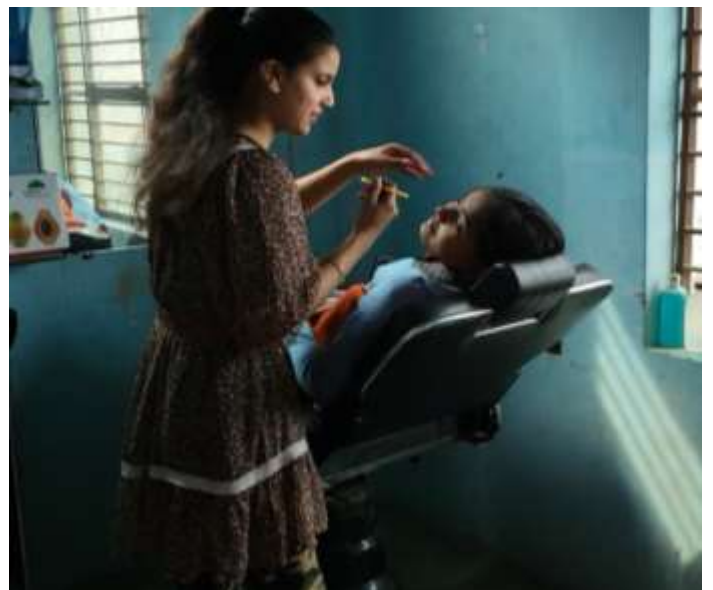
To the left, Bhavishya shows us her colouring of Buddha under the bodhi tree.





### *Ghaziabad Women's Vocational Program -*

We continue to be impressed with the determination and motivation of the women who flock to tailoring and beautician training programs in this low-income community. Most have come from remote parts of India where their families struggled to survive with market gardening and other rural livelihoods. Here in the city, new skills are required to fulfill their dreams of a more secure economic footing. Huge thanks to our dedicated staff for making this possible!





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

As you dear readers know well by now, Bonnie is an astoundingly compassionate and motivated woman. Having Ganesh, who grew up in our Kaliyampoondi Home, here helping out with Child Haven in Canada, I have more opportunity to hear about her exploits in India over the last many decades.

One story he relayed was about a little boy named Nirmal. Nirmal was brought to our Kaliyampoondi Home at the age of 5 after his mother disappeared. No one knew who his father was or even if he was still alive. One of our local Child Haven donors heard about the boy, and knew he would be kept safe and raised well by Child Haven so brought him there.



As with all of our children, the staff contacted the local governmental Social Welfare Council (SWC) to register the child and get their approval for his being there. After 6 months or so the SWC got back to the Home saying that since Nirmal had no known parents or relatives, he should be placed in an orphanage and put up for adoption. By this time, Nirmal had adjusted well to his new Child Haven family and was horrified at having to leave. When the agency staff came to take him away, Nirmal cried and pleaded not to go but to no avail. Bonnie, who was in Canada at the time, was told about this and was horrified at the repeated trauma Nirmal was being subjected to. There were also stories of boys being given to the adoptive family who would pay the most, not necessarily the most appropriate or loving. She resolved to do what she could to bring Nirmal back to the Home. After weeks of encouraging and following up with the staff, a legal aid worker was found who indicated that if Nirmal could appear before a judge, and tell him that he wanted to return to the Home, the judge could order that to happen. So with his help that happened - Nirmal appeared before a judge and stated in no uncertain terms that he wanted to go back to Child Haven and the judge so ordered it.

Nirmal, to the right with some of his awards, is now in 11<sup>th</sup> Grade at our Kaliyampoondi Home. Last year he was the school topper in Grade 10. We are excited to watch him grow and flourish in the years ahead!

Bonnie is still in close touch with the Homes by phone and by zoom but with her not travelling as much, guess what? That makes me an even greater focus of all her passion to be of support and encouragement to those around her. I can't even think about, much less get away with, not having my can of delicious Ensure twice a day. At least when she was making 4 trips to visit our Homes every year I could get away with a few days off!

But, of course when I look at her I still get weak in the knees, (although at 98 that's not the only time I get weak in the knees). All in all I remain very grateful and fortunate to be in the orbit of this 90 year old dynamo, as wild a ride as that sometimes can be.





## *Kaliyampoondi -*

Child Haven Videographer and Social Media Coordinator, Avani Pisapati, squatting, finds that some of her best shots are the candid ones, when the children are not “helping her” with special poses or “me and my best friend” portraits, although those can be pretty cute too. Somehow it is always a little challenging for her to be quite as invisible as she’d like to be! You can check out what she comes up with though on our Facebook page at [facebook.com/childhaveninternational](https://facebook.com/childhaveninternational) and our on Instagram account at [Instagram.com/childhavencanada](https://Instagram.com/childhavencanada)

## *Child Haven Support Groups and Fundraising Dinners 2024*

Date	Location	Contact
TBA	Waterloo, ON	Sydney Cook 226-929-4275
Oct 6	Edmonton, AB	Sylvia Krogh 780-454-6216
Oct 19	Montreal/ Lennoxville	Sheila Laursen 514-697-4195
Oct 26	Hardwick, VT, USA	Robin Cappuccino 802-533-2296, Deborah Hart 802-472-5284
TBA	Mississauga, ON	Shyam Sheth & Leena Motwani 647-876-8488, Tushar Mehta 416-839-1938
TBA	Vancouver, BC	Yamini Gandesha 604-999-2549, Katherine Doyle & Ian Cameron 604-255-4077
	Hamilton, ON	Ginny Megin 905-332-6474, Valerie Dougherty 905-465-1911, Marion Sewell-Sneyd 905-972-0773
	Comox/Courtenay, BC	Heather Holm 250-338-2181
	Victoria, BC	Robin Colyer 819-432-5997 & Peter Hamilton 819-432-5997
	Qualicum/Parksville, BC	Cilla Lewenhaupt 250-752-0968
	Kingston, ON	Jackie Morgan Rush & Andrew Rush 613-542-6992 or 343-333-1974
	Calgary, AB	Salimah Jina 403-991-4696
	Ottawa, ON	Lynda Inkster 613-824-1720, Parin Bhimani 613-422-1573
	Perth, ON	Lori Taylor 613-803-1184, Tracey Parker 613-267-4305
	Glengarry, ON	Alyson Graham 613-525-0796, Julie Slater 613-525-1104
	Burlington, VT, USA	Elango Dev 615-440-7913
	Lennoxville, QC	Phyllis Baxter 819-364-8273
	Lincoln MA USA	Christine Damon 781-879-5870
	Canmore, AB	Simon Bryant 403-609-8125
	Carleton Place, ON	Jane Hamilton-Eaton 613-853-7959
	Winnipeg, MB	Zobida Ambtman 204-489-7630
	Cornwall, ON	Elaine MacDonald 613-330-3117 <a href="mailto:elainemacdonald11@gmail.com">elainemacdonald11@gmail.com</a>



*Kaliyampoondi* - Members of the [Women's Collective](#) (WC), a local organization working to empower their 100,000 rural women members throughout Tamil Nadu, graced the Home in July with their presence and wisdom. WC members Rosemary, Sumadhi, and Sasikala led workshops on the dangers of child labor and gender-based discrimination, identifying safe and unsafe touch, and using medicinal herbs. Some of the older children were even lucky enough to help them plant and learn about herbs in one of the Home's gardens! The herbs included tulsi, *nithya kalyani*, (rose periwinkle), *karpuravalli*, (a type of mint) and *thuduvai*, (a variety of climbing eggplant). These are used for curing colds, aiding digestion, and controlling blood pressure and glucose levels. We are hopeful that these topics illuminated by these local wise women will guide our children towards a more just and healthier future. They have agreed to offer workshops to our children and staff on a regular basis. We are so grateful for this selfless service provided by the WC!







*Chittagong* - Girls and boys of all ages spend their evenings studying the many subjects they are learning. The younger ones with homework from our Shishu Shorgho Montessori School, which goes through Grade 4, and the older ones from the middle school, high school or colleges they attend. Luckily for them, they often have a Child Haven sibling in the same class, who can share notes or explain things they might not have understood in class.

The older students also help tutor the young ones as some of these photos illustrate. In the upper left photo, our librarian, Kulsum, in green, helps Tina to her right, with her studies. In the upper right, Sahin and Junayed are studying so much it looks like they need bigger tables! Pathan, in blue, directly above is helping the Kindergarten class.

Below left, Nokia is helping the Grade 6 class and below right, Helal in Grade 9 is helping Tasim in Grade 4.







*Chittagong* - Anjona Tripura, above left is a new care-giver at our Home. She is from the Bandarban Hill Tracts and has three sons who are all students. She is from the Tripura Tribal Community. There are children in our Home from four Tribal communities, Tripura, like Anjona, as well as the Marma, Bawm and Santal communities. We are fortunate that Anjona can speak Tripura because sometimes when children come to the Home they do not speak Bangla, the primary language in Bangladesh. The children all learn Bangla quickly, but having staff members like Anjona helps them learn Bangla and also to maintain and appreciate their own languages

To the right, Daw Sing Marma just joined her older sister in our Home. Their mother passed away in January of this year and their father was unable to care for them. The plan was that they come one at a time because their father couldn't bear both of them leaving at the same time. But Daw Sing cried so much for her sister, that he brought her too. He will come to visit them, and take them to his home for vacation when school is out. Daw Sing and her family are Buddhist and are members of the Marma tribal community.

Below, Usaimay and Saida Sing are playing a clapping and smiling game, or is it a smiling and slapping game. In either case, it sure looks like fun!







*Chittagong* - In June of this year, our children had the joy of visiting the fascinating Chittagong Zoo. The zoo is home to over 600 animals and 66 species, ranging from colorful parrots to the fearsome Bengal tiger. It was a joyous time not only to observe wildlife but also to pose for the camera and playfully imagine they were close friends with animals from all around the world. In the upper left, Mou Mou, Fatema and Ding Di measure their height against a cooperative giraffe. Lion-tamer Tasmin, age 11, in the top right image, was brave enough to mount one of the ferocious felines!



## *Jasmin, Child Haven Super Woman by Avani Pisapati*



Jasmin, the Manager of the Child Haven Home in Chittagong, Bangladesh, can always be found with a smile on her face or sharing a laugh with one of the 70 children she looks after. She is a quintessential Wonder Woman, sensitive to the challenges women face in her society and courageous enough to overcome them.

Jasmin has been working full-time at Child Haven for the past 15 years, taking on more and more responsibility throughout her time there. She first began helping children as a night-time tutor, and then worked her way up as an office helper, account officer, assistant manager, and finally, Manager.

Jasmin feels as though in this part of South Asia, people are not used to seeing women as leaders, and there are difficulties that come with that. Yet, she has found ways to thrive by remembering that taking care of people comes naturally to her and that there are women like Bonniema taking care of over a thousand children! She also understands that her success is dependent on the rest of the staff, and views them all as working parts of an interconnected

body that give her strength. Some of the staff were even there with her when she delivered her own children! In that way, she views Child Haven as her family.

She says that the most exciting part of her job is watching children grow and change before her eyes. Lots of children, when they first arrive, may struggle with their behavior; but with loving care, they become well-mannered, kind to others, and calmer. It's thoughts like these that keep her going and committed to the big task of managing the Home. We are all so fortunate that Jasmin is part of our family and appreciate all that she has brought to the Home!

Here is a recent picture of Jasmin and some of her charges. To her right is Bironita Tripura who came to visit our home to celebrate her new job working in the IT department of a well-known garment factory in Chittagong. Bironita grew up in the Home and comes back to visit often. This time she brought special treats for everyone!





*Chittagong* – In June of this year, our children celebrated Eid al-Adha with their Child Haven siblings, and dedicated staff. Eid al-Adha or the “Feast of Sacrifice” is the second largest festival celebrated by Muslims after Eid al-Fitr.

Above you can see the older kids participating in a Puchka-making party on the second day of Eid. Puchka is a Bangladeshi appetizer made with a deep-fried, puffed whole-wheat sphere filled with mashed potatoes which is dipped in a tangy mint and tamarind-based juice. It is a popular street food enjoyed throughout South Asia, made in different ways and called by various names depending on the region.

The hard-working kitchen staff enhance the fun by making other favorite dishes requested by the children. When everyone’s bellies are full from popping puchka after puchka in their mouths, children and staff enjoy participating in games in the court-yard. All our children whether Muslim, Hindu, Tribal, Buddhist or Christian take part in all of the religious and traditional festivals at the Home. That makes for a lot of celebrating!





*Chittagong* – Some of the older girls pictured above performed a marvelous rice harvest dance at the Child Haven Home in Chittagong during our visit there earlier this year. They danced to the folk song “*Notun Dhaner Chira Dibo*” (I will Plant New Rice Paddies) written by the devotional poet Gobindo Das in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The dance and song celebrate the “*notun dhan*” or “new rice” harvest. During the festival of Nobanno, held to commemorate this harvest, everyone enjoys treats made from the fresh crop. Among these treats is *pitha*, a sweet or savory snack made from rice flour batter. The girls mesmerized their Child Haven family with their graceful dancing and waving of winnowing baskets known as “*kula*”, used to separate rice grains from their outer husks. This separation is also sometimes performed by a “*dhecki*”, displayed at the front of the stage. We are all so moved and proud to witness these elegant young women connect with the 4,000 year-old tradition of rice cultivation in Bangladesh!

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

*Rabindranath Tagore*



*Savarsai* - A few months ago, Vicki, left, got the chance to go on an exciting field trip, leaving the Child Haven Home in Savarsai, to visit his family a short drive away. Vicki's family has been renting a small apartment, situated above a public toilet, for the past year. At least four people share this small two-room unit, with no furniture, no refrigerator, and no guarantee from the owner about how long they can stay there. They cook on a wood fire on their balcony and make a living by collecting and selling recyclable plastic and sometimes begging.

When Vicki was 3 months old, his mother ran away and left him with his grandmother, Ranjana, (pictured to the right). Then one day, when Vicki was older, a neighboring shopkeeper that provided produce to Child Haven, noticed him begging in the street. The shopkeeper suggested to Vicki's family that he be admitted into the Child Haven Home. As you can imagine, Ranjana and the rest of her family were very grateful to find a comforting and safe place for Vicki to be. They've already noticed how the "naughty" Vicki they once knew has matured into a caring and smiling 8 year-old boy that we all have the fortune of knowing today!



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.

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