



Child Haven International

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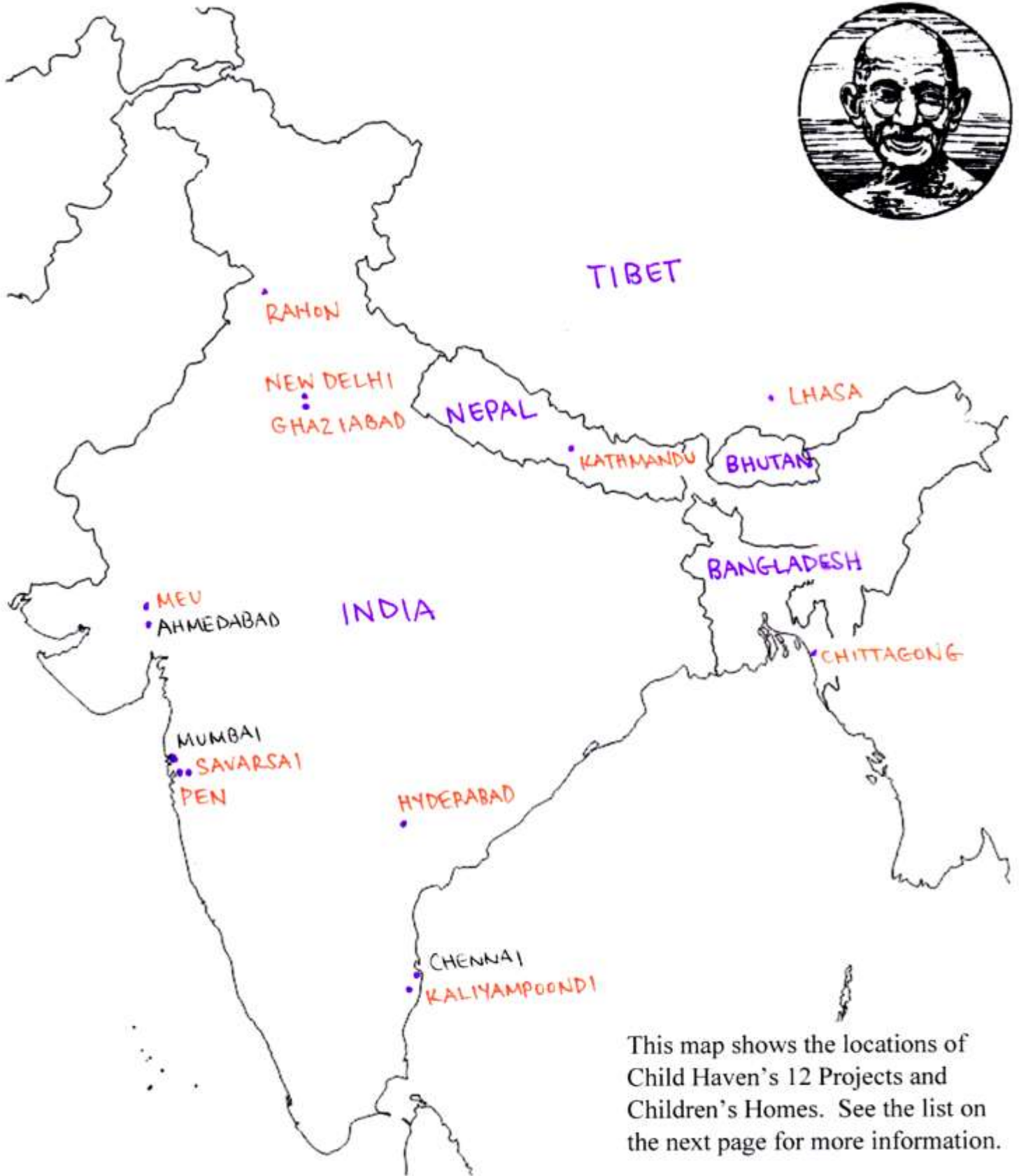
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June 2025



Kaliyampoondi – Social Work student Shiva Ranjani (above right), one of the students whose education Child Haven sponsors, performs as part of a street theatre play about the dangers of child marriage with some of our Child Haven children. They performed their play, which they also wrote, in front of the temple in a village near our Home. They received rave reviews from the villagers who came to watch. To the left is Balamurugan who is in Grade 9.

Kaliyampoondi	1, 6-7, 18-19, 22-23	Hyderabad	14-16	Nepal	11, 19-20
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Ghaziabad Women's Vocational Training Program - Our Program is continuing apace in spite of massive renovations to keep the building from flooding during the rainy season. The floor is being raised about 18 inches, and the roof is being repaired. Since our project began in this low-income neighborhood many years ago, buildings around it have been constructed and the road in front raised up so that our main workshop had been lower than the road. The reconstruction has caused some shifting of the classes, but they continue in albeit more cramped conditions. We look forward to the construction being complete and no more flooding!

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

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.)

Dharamsala, Himachal Pradesh, India, Tibetan Children's Village - support for 17 children - Language: Tibetan

Women's Programs Child Haven Sponsors

Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, India, education in tailoring for 50 women at a time; Beauty and Wellness Course. Language: Hindi

Rahon, Punjab, India, education in tailoring for 50 women at a time. Language: Punjabi - Currently on hold

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



Meu – Our Home covers just a few acres, but it encompasses many worlds, such as this one nestled under some flowering bushes along the fence beside the Girl’s Dormitory. It appears that fairies prefer spinach freshly harvested from our over-flowing garden. Tending to and feeding their fairy friends are Samia, 8, Kailas, 11, and Komal, age 12.



In addition to tending fairies, there are a lot of balls in the air at this Home such as these kept aloft by Sahil, age 12 in purple above, Vanjara, 17, and Devanshi, 15. To the right, Vanjara practices and keeps it up all by herself!



Meu - The three-legged race quickly capsized into a tangle of flailing limbs and laughter...





Tis the Season for abundance at our Homes! In Savarsai (left) the mango trees are holding forth much to the delight of all! In Kaliyampoondi above, the first bananas are appearing in the new orchard funded by Tanya and our other friends at Baal Dan Charities.

In Chittagong, local pineapples are the equivalent in Taka of 3 for a dollar! Below, the corn is ripe in Kaliyampoondi and there is even some that escaped the hungry monkeys who make the garden a regular stop on their local rounds.





Kaliyampoondi – The staff decided that when life hands you watermelons, make watermelon juice! Above, Jothi, Sathya, Sarojini Devi, Bharathy, Mohan and Gunasekaran prepare the juice after which Mohan and Dyana (below) serve the appreciative drinkers. With so many mouths to feed, this Home buys watermelon by the field this time of year!





Savarsai – This winter, children, staff, and community members gathered for a playful evening program celebrating the 1-year anniversary of the opening of the new girl’s dormitory. Pictured above left are sisters Vanshika, age 10, Dnyaneshwari, age 13, and Vedika, age 6, performing at the event while their Child Haven siblings cheered them on. The girls came to the Home after their father passed away and their mother abandoned them for a new husband. This is when their loving grandparents Lelabai (below left) and Kashinath Jadhav (below right), took the responsibility of caring for them. Lelabai and Kashinath have spent most of their lives weaving baskets for a living, having learned this skill from their parents. They earn around 5,000 rupees (about 80 Canadian dollars) a month from this labor, which was not enough to support their grandchildren’s well-being and themselves. Lelabai and Kashinath are very grateful to have found out about Child Haven and that their grandchildren are now able to go to school and receive everything they were wishing to provide for their granddaughters. Child Haven is so lucky to have them as a part of our large family! We wish the brightest of futures to them and their courageous grandparents.

Above right, Vanishka (center) celebrates Holi with two of her new friends, Jiya left and Vaidhai right.





Savarsai – There is so much care and skill that goes into the preparation of food at our Homes. Above on the left our multi-talented watchwoman and cook Nanda, helps prepare chapatis by rolling dough and then heating them on a hot pan. A close-up of the handiwork is shown above on the right.

Chapatis are a flatbread made of whole-wheat flour or *atta* known to be a staple food throughout South Asia, East Africa, and now many diasporas throughout the world. They can be eaten with different kinds of curries and dishes, such as the delicious lentils shown in Aashiq and Vaidehi's plates to the right.

Traditionally, chapati flour was hand-ground in stone mills, known as *chakkis* by women in rural villages. Some women would even sing songs while they ground away, singing about daily struggles and resilience around caste, gender, family, and the human condition.

There is tremendous culture, love, and connection that is transmitted from the fields to the table when a child sits down to eat a meal, such as Jivika, Akanksha and Gargi shown here on the left. It is truly a collective effort of a great number of people, and we appreciate all of those who have worked and provided support to feed the 1,300 children of Child Haven three meals a day!





An Interview with Kanchi and Lavanya by Avani Pisapati

When I first met Kanchi (left) and Lavanya (right), in the freshly minted library at the Children's Home in Kathmandu, I felt at ease. Perhaps it was because we were all around the same height, a few inches more or less from each other. Or maybe it was Kanchi's groundedness, emanating from the firm grip on her wooden cane and the earthly elements that carved the crow's feet on her kind face. Lavanya too had a peaceful presence, sharing a comfortable embrace with her grandmother. Whatever it was, their calmness revealed nothing of the treacherous story that made them part of the Child Haven family.

Lavanya, who is 7 years old and studying in the 3rd grade at the Child Haven Green Tara School, came to Child Haven 4 years ago after both of her parents died of jaundice. During the corona pandemic, Lavanya and her parents lived in a small cottage with two rooms. In one room, lived a cow that they cared for, and in the other, stayed the rest of the family. One day, Kanchi, Lavanya's grandmother, came to check on them and noticed that her daughter and son-in-law were very fragile and weak. So, Kanchi called an ambulance, and they were transported to the nearest hospital. Because of the fear around the spread of the coronavirus and limited medical resources, the parents were sent back home. Kanchi tried to bring the couple back to the hospital a little while later, but all the medical providers could do was send them to hospice, where they succumbed to their illness and passed away.

At the time of this tragedy, Kanchi did not know where to turn. She had to stop taking care of the cows and goats at her home because of her muscle and knee problems and received no income. Her other daughter (Lavanya's aunt) and son-in-law suffer from blindness, making very little income as well, and her ex-husband had passed away some years before. Kanchi truly felt alone and terrified about who would look after and support Lavanya. But one fateful day she learned about Child Haven from her daughter who had come upon it somehow. She was relieved that her granddaughter could now receive the care, food, education, and shelter that she needed.

Lavanya still remembers feeling utter joy and happiness when she first arrived at the Child Haven Home. Kanchi remembers it a little differently, tearing up as she recalls the difficulty of saying goodbye. Despite these differences, the meeting in the library was without a doubt precious, and I feel so lucky to have witnessed the powerful connection these two have maintained. I thank both of them for trusting me with their stories, including the challenges and the joys, and wish them to continue flourishing within our Child Haven family.



Kathmandu – Due to current challenges in getting volunteer visas to India from Canada, we have had a great wealth of interns at our Nepal Home! Among them have been Katherine Walsh, above left, who is generously making available to our children and staff, her 48 years in the teaching profession! Here she helps Chetana, Mina and Anita with their homework. Above right, Don Fraser plays ball with one of his many adoring fans. Don just completed his 7th visit to the Home for a total of 20 months! We hope he returns at least another 20 times.

Below left, artist Liisa Rissanen leads an art project with some of the children in the Dining Hall. To the right, Dorcas Doran, who lives near Markstay, Ontario, helps Biranjan with his homework.

If you would like to be a volunteer/intern at one of our Homes (and who wouldn't) learn how at www.childhaven.ca/intern.html!



Bonnie Lore by Fred Cappuccino, her long-suffering husband

“Fred use your walker,” she says. “Fred where is your walker?” she asks me. “Fred you better use your walker, I don’t want you to fall down,” she tells me. As readers of this erudite column know by now, most of the time, I am Bonnie’s attentive and dutiful servant. Every now and again though something goes wrong and I think for myself.

The other night, with her watchful eyes closed in peaceful slumber, I set out blissfully sans walker to the loo, thinking just this once, I’d do it the old fashioned way. I made it half-way around the bed when I swear the bed stuck out one of its legs to trip me. Wham, down I came. My head permanently dented the metal bar under our clothes rack and my hip landed on our hard maple floor with all the weight of my falling frame on top of it. As Sancho Panza said in describing some of the many misfortunes of Don Quixote, *“whether the pitcher hits the stone, or the stone hits the pitcher, it’s going to be hard on the pitcher”*. So it was for my hip. My head was fine, a little banged up, but the hip that has balanced and bounced hundreds if not thousands of children over the years is a little beyond its child toting prime. The good doctors at the Cornwall General Hospital, where I was rushed with much to-do, found a small fracture in said hip. Miracle upon miracle, they managed to screw it all back together with three well-placed screws! At this writing I am in rehab at the Glengarry Memorial Hospital, not far from our home in Alexandria and able to walk albeit rather gingerly. Of course I have got both hands on my trusty walker.

You see I’m 99 now, and I have at least three birthday parties in the works for my birthday next January. I’ve got to get back in shape! In the meantime, I’m learning all the nurse’s names and life stories and practicing for everyone the songs I will choose from to sing at the upcoming centennial galas.

Bonnie comes to visit me twice a day, with treats and newspapers along with all the family and Child Haven news of the day. I still live to see her and am so touched to be able to hold her hand each time she leaves as we tell each other “I love you”. Oh, and rest assured, I probably will refrain from hot-rodding without the trusty walker, at least for a little while.



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

DONATING THROUGH CANADAHELPS provides Canadian residents a choice of onetime, monthly or security donations
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/91193>

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.

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To give through United Way, just designate your donation to 'Child Haven International' and include our Registered Charity # Canada 11885 1922 RR0001. USA 22-2637689. Receipts are issued by United Way.

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

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Bonnie and Fred Cappuccino, Neha Shah
Decal of Gandhi, P V Anthony,
Mother & Child logo, Eugene Fern
Sketch of Bonnie and Fred, Andrina Cox
Co-International Directors, Bonnie Cappuccino, Robin Cappuccino
Erudite, Elegant and Educational Newsletter
Editor Emeritus, Fred Cappuccino





Hyderabad – There's a lot that goes into filling the plates of the children at every meal! To the left, our cook, Subha Lakshmi chops beets with help from Nikitha, 18, and Nandini, 17. To the left below, cooks Swathi, Subha Lakshmi and Padmamma make puri for this special meal.

Immediately below, many hands serve the meal to the children as they file by with their plates.





Above, Blessen enjoys the meal and Care-giver Chandra Kala serves water. To the right, Ganga, 18, Srivani, 15, and Shirisha, 17, enjoy the meal and then below the children and staff clean up after yet another feast. Three times a day, every day of the year, year after year, beautiful wholesome meals being prepared, our children being fed. Thanks to all!





Hyderabad – There was no dream too big for Ramana (left) when it came to choosing what he wanted to do with his skills and talents. He remembers one day when he was in the 12th grade, our Canadian office manager, Steven Bayne, took him on a field trip to visit HITEC City, the financial business district of Hyderabad. Passing by beautiful, tall, and shining buildings, he wondered what it would be like to be inside of them. He thought that maybe he'd have a good life if he worked away in those special buildings.

After inquiring about these magical towers, he found out that if he got an IT job, he may have a chance to join the world of these business professionals. He had studied in Telugu-medium school, which supposedly made learning computer code difficult—but he was undeterred. Ramana set a goal to work there and now he is doing exactly that. Today he is 29 years old and working for an international commercial real estate company that provides brokerage services to people all over the world.

Ramana came to the Child Haven Home when he was about 8 years old and studying in the 4th grade. At that time, his family was struggling to pay for books, school uniforms, tuition, and internet connection. It was a difficult life that would have forced Ramana to work at a young age to support his family. Luckily, Ramana and his family found Child Haven, and Ramana took the courageous step to embrace an entirely new life. With the help of many loving teachers, caregivers, staff, and international volunteers, he completed his education and mastered the English language and coding. Today he is immensely grateful to all the supporters who helped him get to where he is, and we are beyond lucky that he is a part of our family! Congratulations Ramana!

Another ambitious brother in the Hyderabad Child Haven family is Sainath (right). Sainath came to the Home when he was 3 years old, after his father left his family and his mother was unable to support her three children with daily-wage construction work. As the eldest in the family, he similarly would have had to forgo his education and work at a young age to support his family. Luckily, there was another choice for him at the Child Haven Home.

Of course, his journey wasn't all easy. When he was a toddler, he remembers how sad he was when his mother first dropped him off. And when leaving the Home at the age of 17, he faced difficulties dealing with people who weren't as kind as the staff and family he grew up with. But with time and with lots of support from mentors such as Assistant Manager Shiva, he found his way—Sainath has completed his B. Tech, is now working as a software engineer, and is supporting his mother financially.

His next big plans are to one day start a software company and build apps and websites for people! Hopefully he will still remember us when he becomes famous! Thank you Sainath for being a wonderful role model to all of your Child Haven brothers, sisters, and siblings.





Meu – Older boys and staff members play a game of volleyball beneath the setting Gujarati sun. For the team facing the west, it may be hard to see the ball sometimes, but it's all in good fun so it doesn't really matter. The setting of the sun brings welcome relief from the intense heat of the day.

Child Haven Support Groups for Fundraising Events 2025

Fundraiser	Location	Contact
Sat, Oct 25	Montreal/ Lennoxville	Sheila Laursen 514-697-4195
	Edmonton, AB	Sylvia Krogh 780-454-6216
	Hardwick, VT, USA	Robin Cappuccino 802-533-2296, Deborah Hartt 802-472-5284
	Mississauga, ON	Shyam Sheth & Leena Motwani 647-876-8488, Tushar Mehta 416-839-1938
	Hamilton, ON	Ginny Megin 905-332-6474, Valerie Dougherty 905-465-1911
	Comox/Courtenay, BC	Heather Holm 250-338-2181
	Qualicum/Parksville, BC	Cilla Lewenhaupt 250-752-0968
	Kingston, ON	Jackie Morgan Rush & Andrew Rush 613-542-6992 or 343-333-1974
	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, elainemacdonald11@gmail.com
	Kitchener/Waterloo, ON	Sydney Cook 226-929-4275
	Calgary, AB	Salimah Jina 403-991-4696
	Vancouver, BC	Yamini Gandesha 604-999-2549, Katherine Doyle 604-220-9324
	Victoria, BC	Robin Colyer 819-432-5997 & Peter Hamilton 819-432-5997
	Ottawa, ON	Lynda Inkster 613-824-1720, Parin Bhimani 613-422-1573



Kaliyampoondi –

Above left Visiting Child Haven videographer and web-designer Avani Pisapati cuts the ribbon on one of the classrooms in our new Vocational and Training Building built with the generous support of the Kamra family (above). To Avani's right are staff members Indhra, Deepa and Sudhakar

To the left, some of our girls were up in the wee hours before the Opening, preparing a massive and beautiful rangoli design for the auspicious occasion.



Below left, one of our beautiful bovines, Lakshmi and her handsome calf Murugan, were called in to bless the new space. She very kindly left her offering in front of the building.

The center will house classrooms for computer training, music classes, typing classes, a sports room, homework and tailoring training.

Inside the new facility, our drumming teacher, Dilip Kumar leads a class for some of our burgeoning traditional Indian drumming aficionados.

Immediately below, our Home Manager Sarojini leads a typing class for some of the Grade 7 boys.

On the bottom is a view of the mural freshly painted on the front of the new building highlighting Tribal Art and the heritage of the many tribal students in our Home.





Jothi, Child Haven Wonder Woman by Avani Pisapati

Some people just find their calling, I have learned. Jothi, the fearless head cook at the Child Haven Home in Kaliyampoondi, Tamil Nadu, is no doubt one of those people. If you get the chance to visit the Home, you will find Jothi breezing steadily and effortlessly through the kitchen, watching over multiple brewing pots, eyeballing and throwing fistfuls of various spices, and orchestrating the completion of quality meals fit for about 300 children and staff. It is no wonder that she is this season's Child Haven Wonder Woman.

Sandhiya, CHI staff member, and I were lucky enough to catch her one evening in the middle of her flow state. I asked her how her day was going, and she said, "Super!" without

flinching. She went on to mix chapati dough and slice vegetables while the pressure cooker wailed in the background. She kept her cool amidst all the activity and then shared her life story with us.

Jothi first came to Child Haven about 17 years ago with her three children when she was facing serious difficulty in providing enough food, clothing, education, and basic resources for her family and self. As a young woman, she also experienced emotional torture from other community members and had no outside support. At first, she was hired as a caregiver and was responsible for waking children up in the morning, getting them dressed for school, and giving them baths and the like. Then after some time, she moved on to the kitchen and was responsible for washing the many vessels, in all shapes and sizes, that accumulate every day at the Home. It wasn't long before working in the kitchen that others noticed that she had a special gift for cooking. So, she learned from the senior cook at the time, Kutiyamma, and slowly mastered her culinary skills.

If cooking for 300 people isn't enough, Jothi also manages to incorporate healthy ingredients and meal options for people with nutritional challenges. For example, she collaborates with the nurse at the Home to cook ragi dishes for diabetes patients.

If the kitchen is the heart of every home, then Jothi is at the heart of it all. And Child Haven has a special place in her heart as well. She says that every time she goes home in the evening and the Child Haven gate closes behind her, she looks back, and longs to return soon. We are all so lucky to have this incredible Wonder Woman in our big family. Thank you, Jothi, for all you do!

To the right is Jothi with her two beautiful children Vishwa, who works at the Home as a boy's caregiver, and Ramya who is working on her Master's Degree in Business Administration.





Chittagong – If you’ve ever had the privilege of meeting Child Haven alumni, you may have noticed that very few of them go on to accumulate earnings just for themselves. Despite, or possibly because of, all the systems that have failed their families economically and socially, many maintain a humane spirit of generosity and care as they move forward. Pinki, (left), is just one of many Child Haven alumni who have taken up this task of supporting others. She recently completed her 3-year diploma in radiology and is now serving countless patients in a diagnostic center. She uses the income from her job to support her mother and siblings, who are unable to work.

Pinki came to the Child Haven Home when she was 6 years old. Years before, her father had become ill and couldn’t make money as a jute farmer anymore. As her mother was a housewife and their family had six children, they did not have the resources to provide Pinki and her siblings full and healthy lives. This became even more true when Pinki’s father tragically passed away from tuberculosis in 2010. Finding the safety of Child Haven for her and her sister Punom was thus a big relief for everyone.

After 16 years of support from Child Haven, Pinki now has the freedom to look forward. She dreams of completing a Bachelor of Science Degree, which would help advance her position at the diagnostic center. She likes to tell the younger girls at Child Haven that you don’t necessarily need to listen to everything that Child Haven tells you to do, but you should probably listen to most of it because it will help you! Take it from Pinki!

Muntaha, (in picture to the right, on the left), is a classmate of Pinki. She is another beautiful soul who is carving out a space for her family. She completed her diploma in textile engineering and is now working as a buyer coordinator for the clothing company Perry Ellis. She uses her income to support herself and her mother, who is not always healthy enough to work.

She is also an inspiring role model to her younger sister, Subeha to her right, who is studying in the 10th grade at Child Haven. No one knows yet what is in store for Subeha or the other young women of Child Haven Chittagong. But one thing is for sure: they will never be alone with sisters like Pinki and Muntaha to look up to.





Kaliyampoondi – Among the 28 children who are new to this Home this year are Kowsalya (left above), who is 6 years old and in 1st Grade. She came after her father passed away and her mother was at a loss how to care for her alone. She visits Kowsalya often. To the right above are siblings Kowshick, age 7, and in Grade 2, and Niranjana, who like Kowsalya is 6 and in 1st Grade. Their father also passed away and their mother helps at construction sites. She also visits whenever she can.

As new children arrive, older children are accomplishing great things. Three of our students were the top scorers in their Grade 12 graduating class. Coming in first place was Kesavan, shown below with his mother and his award certificate. Also excelling were Narmatha and Banu, right below. They received an award for coming in second and third in their Grade 12 class and are now both studying for a Bachelor of Commerce degree. Congratulations to all of them! We look forward to watching how they will continue to achieve their dreams and goals in the years ahead.





Kaliyampoondi – Shining star Priya Dharshini, 16, takes a turn lighting the ceremonial lamp in front of the temple space for all religions in the Dining Hall. The lamp is lit on special occasions. Priya Darshini recently passed her board exam for grade 11. She came to the Home at age 9 after her differently abled parents heard about it. Her older brother Dinesh Kumar came to the Home at the same time and is now in the second year of a degree in Computer Science. They keep in close touch with their parents who are excited about their progress.

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

Rabindranath Tagore



Kaliyampoondi – Our college boys often come to visit the Home on special holidays, weekends, or to pick up needed supplies. On this occasion, they helped chop a variety of fruits for an after-school snack which they helped serve, much as they had been served by previous college boys when they were the little kids at the Home. Above, 2nd year college students, Adhi Thivagar, Vignesh and Mathiew Fervic, with help from staff member Gokul, serve Soniya, who is 12 and in Grade 7.

For donations, please make cheques out to CHILD HAVEN, and mail along with this information slip to CHILD HAVEN, 19014 Conc. 7, Maxville, ON K0C 1T0 (or to Box 5099, Massena, NY 13662-5099, USA.) You can also make a donation through our website at www.childhaven.ca Donations to Child Haven are tax receiptable in Canada, India and the USA. General Full sponsorship is \$30/month or \$360/year. If you'd like to sponsor the college or technical school training of one of our older students, please contact our Post-Secondary Sponsorship Coordinator, Sheila Laursen at sheila@childhaven.ca

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