



Hand In Hand USA | Newsletter 2014

A non-profit organization for humanitarian aid

Summer 2014

"Our task must be to widen our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature and its beauty."

-Albert Einstein

Annual Fundraising Dinner

Hand in Hand USA's (HIH USA) 12th annual fundraising dinner was held the evening of Saturday, March 29th at the Waterford Banquet & Conference Center located in Elmhurst, IL. An attendance of 250 generous guests and patrons came together to raise close to \$140k in donations for the organization's charitable activities in India and around the world.

During the event, a live video chat was established with a few of the older students of the *Balashram* residential school for poor and orphaned children of Odisha. They shared some of their experiences and goals with the audience. The evening also included a wonderful cultural program with performances in the Carnatic and Fusion dance styles, uplifting instrumental Indian classical music and lively entertainment from an orchestra. And of course, a delicious meal of vegetarian Indian cuisine was shared by all.

New Charitable Health Care Center

The construction of the new Hariharananda Charitable Health Center (HCHC) in Jagatpur, Cuttack has been completed. On February 15, 2014 this facility was inaugurated and dedicated to the deprived section of the masses. More than 700 people attended the inauguration including eminent doctors, regional leaders and dignitaries, and the local media. Spiritual leaders blessed the doctors and others who are giving honorary service and are directly or indirectly involved in this project.



New Charitable Health Center provides comprehensive care

This new center provides expanded medical treatment including radiology, obstetrics and gynecology, ECG, minor surgery, pathology, microbiology, immunization, vaccination, x-ray, ultrasonography and more. All these services will be offered free to the poorest of the poor. This health center will also conduct mobile dental health camps in deprived rural areas. HIH USA is grateful for the continued financial support of donors to help take this big step forward in alleviating the medical suffering of the impoverished people of this region.

Hariharananda Balashram

For India's 25 million orphans, there is little hope for a better life. But, for hundreds of severely impoverished children living in Odisha, the *Hariharananda Balashram* is creating miracles every day. Our residential, charitable school provides a home, food, healthcare and outstanding education, ensuring viable futures for society's most vulnerable members.



Balashram students performing at the annual "Blessing Day"

On July 29, the Balashram celebrated "Blessing Day." It marks the 11th year of operation. The Balashram is now home to 440 students and has been accepting 40 new kindergarten children each year. The goal of this project, to provide comprehensive education, care and all-round development to 480 students from grades K-12, is now very close to full maturity. It is such a beautiful humanitarian effort, and all who have contributed in any way can feel immensely proud.



40 new nursery students welcomed by senior students

Continued support is needed to maintain and expand the facilities at the *Balashram*. Some of the equipment needed includes more laundry machines, computers, televisions and other multi-media devices. Also, kitchen and playground development is still required along with the construction of a pond and basketball court.

HAND IN HAND USA

710 St. Josephs Drive
Oak Brook, IL 60560



Balashram students at the current playground area

Also, the first 40 children, who entered the school shortly after its foundation in 2004, are now 14 or 15 years old. They have started thinking about their professional training and future, while their qualities and talents are actively cultivated through specific courses at the Balashram. Some of the children are being prepared for higher education while others receive rather practical lessons to help with job placement in the skilled and technical sector.



Students learning sewing as part of practical vocational training

These children are facing career choices. Help is needed to finance their vocational training or college education. Many more tools, resources, and other provisions are needed to help with the successful transition for these students into adulthood and work life upon completing their education at the *Balashram*. It is thanks to your donations that these children have experienced so much love and care and can transition with confidence and healthy self-esteem.

Fire Relief Work

On February 8, 2014 a fire devastated the already deprived village of Gadaromita in the Kendrapada District of Odisha, India. 80 houses were completely destroyed resulting in the homelessness of 350 people and some with serious injuries. HIH USA aided the relief efforts and sponsored the donations of numerous supplies including food, clothing, blankets and utensils.

Chicago 2014 Annual Walkathon

Everyone is invited to participate or sponsor the upcoming annual HIH USA Walkathon on September 13, 2014 at 9am at Herrick Lake in Wheaton, IL. There will be food and fun for the whole family!

Goodsearch.com

Hand in Hand USA has registered with Goodsearch.com so that every time you perform a web search using their search engine HIH will receive a penny. Go to goodsearch.com and select Hand in Hand USA as your cause. Bookmark **goodsearch.com** and start using it for all your web searches.

Help Your Skin Help A Cause

Hales Cosmeceuticals beauty products are used by many well-known dermatologists, plastic surgeons, salons and spas. Each product is backed by over 20 years of experience and is free of animal derivatives. The products are comparable to any well-known brands in terms of effectiveness and results and can be purchased at a truly low price with all proceeds benefitting HIH USA.

For product inquiries and purchase please email hihcosmetics@gmail.com or call 630-882-0247. Cosmetics can also be purchased at products.handinhandusa.org.

Getting Involved

Hand In Hand USA requests and encourages it's patrons to organize fund raising events such as dinners/walkathons. Please contact Hand In Hand USA for volunteer opportunities.

Gift Matching Program

We take this opportunity to remind all our patrons that Motorola Inc., General Electric, Bank of America, AMD Foundation, JP Morgan Chase, Microsoft, Yahoo, VMWare, Wells Fargo and Verizon are matching dollar-to-dollar donations made to our organization. We encourage all our patrons to check with their respective employers/organizations and let us know what, if any, paperwork is required to add Hand in Hand USA to gift matching programs.