



Hand In Hand USA | Newsletter 2015

A non-profit organization for humanitarian aid

Summer 2015

"The fragrance remains on the hand that gives the flower"
-Mahatma Gandhi



Charitable Health Care Update

Warm summer greetings dear Hand In Hand USA patrons! Construction of a new medical facility in Arua, India is currently in progress. It has been sponsored by Dr. A. Satyendranath Banerjee of Cleveland, Ohio in the memory of his beloved daughter Dr. Saroja who died in a car accident. Special thanks to the generous doctor and his family.

This new medical facility will provide free healthcare to the poor people in the region and serve the medical needs of the students and other residents of the Hariharananda Balashram. The building is expected to be ready for use by August 2015.

Annual Fund-Raising Dinner

On Saturday April 25th, 2015, Hand in Hand USA was proud to host the 13th annual fund-raising dinner at Waterford Banquet Hall in Elmhurst, IL. This annual event, organized by the volunteer group, is primarily aimed at spreading greater awareness of HIH USA missions amongst our patrons within the Midwest region, raising much needed sponsorships for ongoing humanitarian projects.

The atmosphere at the event was captivating and over 150 guests were welcomed by several enthusiastic volunteers. The evening started with a social hour featuring some tasty appetizers. Master of ceremony, Suganya Pratap, kicked off the program with the introduction.

Durga Chunduri, president of HIH USA, welcomed everyone to support the great cause and then updated the audience about the achievements of the organization.



Executive members and volunteers at fund-raising dinner



Puneet Mansharamani and MC Suganya Pratap on stage

Puneet Mansharamani, an ardent member of HIH USA, who visited the Balashram recently with his wife and 2 young kids, shared several lively photos and further affirmed the positive environment in which these children are being brought up. Listening to volunteers' children Gowri and Raghav, who shared a few letters written by the students of Balashram was profoundly heartwarming. It affirms the joy of giving, and it's certainly true that world will be a better place if we all open our hearts and perform acts of kindness! An uplifting performance by SRUTILAYA Orchestra followed.

A vote of thanks was given by Mihir Dash, a longtime member of HIH USA which dropped the curtain on an evening of socializing, music and great food that had all come together for a great cause. Everyone was exceptionally generous and committed for continued support of this noble cause.

Nepal Earthquake Relief

On the same day as our fund-raising dinner, tragedy struck the country of Nepal. A devastating earthquake, with 7.8 magnitude on the Richter scale, killed more than 8,000 people with some casualties also reported in the neighboring countries of India, China and Bangladesh.

Nepal is already one of Asia's poorest countries and has little ability to fund a reconstruction effort on its own. HIH USA has always included natural disaster aid as part of its core mission and has contributed to the relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Haiti Earthquake and Oklahoma Tornadoes. HIH USA will continue to raise funds to support the ongoing relief efforts in Nepal, and if you would like to help with this cause, please specify "Nepal Earthquake Relief" on your check donations.

Hariharananda Balashram

Poverty in India is widespread and lack of basic life essentials such as safe drinking water, sanitation, housing, healthcare and food impact the lives of hundreds of millions. For the nearly 30 million orphans and millions more citizens who cannot read, there is little hope for a better life. But, in the state of Odisha, the *Hariharananda Balashram* is helping to fight hunger, homelessness and illiteracy one child at a time. Our residential, charitable school provides a nurturing home, healthy food, quality medical care and outstanding education, ensuring viable futures for society's most vulnerable members.

Each year, the Balashram accepts 40 new nursery age students and this year, will achieve its full capacity of 480 students across 12 grades. The children are rescued from the most dire of circumstances and living conditions and given the special opportunity to experience a better life and brighter future.



Balashram students share their experience each newsletter on Pg. 3

News From The Balashram

Special attention is given to information days, when lectures and discussions help the students increase their general knowledge and expand their social and health awareness. The subjects recently covered were consumer rights, citizen's duties and a presentation on AIDS Day explaining the significance of the worldwide disease and measures to protect and prevent contracting.

It is beautiful to witness the growth and development of the children of the Balashram. Success is particularly visible amongst those who have been living at the residential school since childhood. They have become responsible and self-confident adolescents, and some of them have participated at state-wide competitions and exhibitions.

Many Balashram students competed successfully in a Mathematics Olympiad and a Mental Exercise Tournament in the capital city of Bhubaneswar.

Two of the students were selected for the prestigious *Rajya Puraskar Award* in the scout and guide categories. This state level award was presented to Ruchismita and Deepak by the Governor of Odisha (pictured below).



Balashram students honored by the Governor of Odisha

In December, four of our students participated in a competitive science exhibition on natural resource and energy conservation at the ODM-Public School in Bhubaneswar. Under the guidance of their science teacher, they developed a method to generate electricity for the supply of traffic lights, by means of a speed bumper on the road. The students built a demonstration model from material they had purchased at the local market (see image below).



Student Saras Pradhan (right) explains his science project

Financial support is always needed to maintain the Balashram. We appreciate your help as do the children.

In Their Own Words...

A special message from a child of the Balashram to our Hand In Hand USA community

My Balashram: my home forever

Hello,

I am Deepa Jena. Now I am in Class IV. I came to Hariharananda Balashram when I was five years old. Now I am 10 years old.

My Balashram is a good school. I am very happy as a student of Balashram. I love my Balashram because:



1. In my village there is no electricity but in Balashram there is electricity.
2. In my village we get water from very far but in Balashram there are taps.
3. In Balashram, there is a big computer lab and a library.
4. In Balashram, there is a beautiful garden but in my house there is no garden.
5. In Balashram, many mamas and babas are there to take care of me but in my house no one is there to take care of me.
6. In Balashram I am getting help to know and learn everything but in my house there is no one to let me know different things.
7. In my Balashram we are having many good rules which make us disciplined but in my house there is nothing.
8. In my Balashram there are many colourful pictorial books to read and to know but in my house it is impossible to get even a book.
9. In my Balashram there are many teachers to teach different subjects and my teachers tell story to me.
10. I enjoy almost all festivals here with my friends so I never feel alone.

I am ever joyful. I am very happy that you asked me to share my thoughts about my school. I hope you enjoyed my child like words.

My love and thanks to all.

Deepa Jena, Class-IV

HAND IN HAND USA
710 St. Josephs Drive
Oak Brook, IL 60523

Thank you for your continued support!!! May your summer be filled with health and happiness!!!

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.

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.

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.

Smile.Amazon.com

Amazon donates 0.5% of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon – same products, same prices, same service. Simply start your shopping at Smile.Amazon.com and search and select **Hand In Hand USA**.