



# Hand In Hand USA | Newsletter 2016

A non-profit organization for humanitarian aid

Summer 2016



*"Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle.  
Happiness never decreases by being shared."*

**-Buddha**

## **Annual Fundraising Dinner**

On Saturday, April 23rd, 2016, Hand in Hand USA was proud to host the 14th Annual Fundraising Dinner at Waterford Banquet Hall in Elmhurst. The annual event organized by the volunteer group each year is primarily aimed at spreading greater awareness of the HIH USA mission amongst its patrons within the Midwest region, raising much needed sponsorships for its ongoing humanitarian projects.

More than 100 guests attended the fundraiser and enjoyed a social hour before the program started. At 7pm, Master of Ceremony, Abhay, kicked things off with enthusiasm and led interactive games that engaged the attendees throughout the evening and inspired everyone to open their hearts and donate to the noble cause.

Mrs. Durga Chunduri, president of Hand In Hand USA, welcomed everyone and spoke about caring, loving and giving. She also guided the audience in observation of a moment of silence in honor of the late Dr. Rani Chintam who had been a long time, beloved supporter of the organization. Her joyful and generous presence was deeply missed.

Distinguished guest, Raja Krishnamoorthi, offered a keynote address congratulating HIH USA for the organization's dedicated service and accomplishments. Mr. Krishnamoorthi recently became the Democratic nominee for Illinois' 8th U.S. Congressional District in this year's elections. He served as Barack Obama's policy director in his successful U.S. Senate campaign and is the president of Sivananthan Labs.



*Raja Krishnamoorthi with HIH USA volunteers*

Puneet Mansharamani and Mihir Dash, both dedicated members of HIH USA, shared their stories, photos and videos and gave updates on the Balashram and health centers. The Balashram has recently achieved the milestone of reaching its intended capacity of 480 students with the first group of high school graduates.

The cultural part of the program included beautiful classical Indian dance performances by Lakshmi Siva and Natya Dance Theater, which was founded and directed by Hema Rajagopalam. The audience also enjoyed the wonderful live music of Fitoor Entertainment.



*Dance performance by Natya Dance Theater at fundraising dinner*

It was a fine event and everyone was exceptionally generous in raising the much needed funds to continue the noble work. Financial support is always needed to continue these service projects.

## **Message From President Durga Chunduri**

Hand In Hand USA welcomes you to the 14th annual fundraising dinner. The time we spend here is filled with caring, loving, giving and commitment to the education of children, healthcare, and emergency relief in India and around the world. These few hours elevate each individual to a greater purpose.

Hand in Hand USA was established in 2001 to provide healthcare, primary education, and aid in the event of a natural disaster to those who are deprived of basic necessities. Health clinics and residential schools were established.

Four outpatient clinics were started and treated 5000 patients in the first year. Now they treat 124,000 patients per year.

In 2004 a residential school was started with 40 children. Now we have reached the maximum capacity with 480 children.

95% of all donations that are given go directly to the projects for Hand in Hand. By December of 2016, we will have completed 15 years of service and each year we continue to grow thanks to your contributions.

On behalf of Hand in Hand USA, I'd like to thank all of the supporters in Chicago as well as throughout the country for their generous donations. I'd also like to thank our volunteers who help the organization with their dedicated service in spite of their work and family commitments.

### **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.

The students continue to succeed in their studies and extra-curricular activities. Recently, Anil Munda Lohar of 7<sup>th</sup> grade, sang and recorded two songs for radio – a children's song and a patriotic song. They were then broadcast on All India Radio on March 6<sup>th</sup> in the morning.



### **Hand In Hand USA Project Chrysalis**

The first batch of Balashram children are completing Class 10 and graduating from the school. The purpose of Project Chrysalis is to build a fund which will enable these children to either complete their secondary education at other schools or be trained for specific skilled jobs at vocational institutions.

The current funding mechanism of Hariharananda Balashram cannot provide for children after they graduate from the institution and so we request you to support them and secure their future through Project Chrysalis.

Funds received through Project Chrysalis will only be used for supporting the further education/job training of these children after they leave Balashram. Project Chrysalis will have a completely transparent project tracking system, which will provide regular updates to contributors.

Many students have taken examinations administered by the Central Board of Standard Education of the state and qualify for admission to a local college where they can earn a degree in 3 years. The cost to complete this program is 5000 USD. This would allow them to find meaningful work and become productive members of society breaking their cycle of poverty. We humbly request patrons to consider sponsoring a Balashram teen and this initiative. Of course, any contribution will make a difference.



*The first graduating class of Balashram students*

### **Charitable Health Centers**

Many new services have commenced at the new Charitable Health Clinic in Jagatpur. These include Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) interventions such as cauterization and minor operations. Urology services are now being offered multiple days each week. In the dental unit, root canals and crown capping can now be performed. There is also a diabetic department which treats 300 patients each week! Additional financial support is very much needed to continue and expand these medical services to those most impoverished citizens in pain and in need of care.

*Hand In Hand USA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation, which will aid our ongoing service projects. The volunteer staff sincerely thanks you for your continued support and so do the children of the Balashram!*

## In Their Own Words...

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

### **God's Gift to me enlightening my Life**

Balashram, it's not only a school but also a loving home for us. It gives shelter to hundreds of children - those who are orphan, or deprived of getting proper food and education. The children are brought up here with love and care just like in a family.

Before coming to this ashram, I lost my father forever. My family was in bad condition. For that I was unable to get proper food and education. But, if I had not come to this ashram it would be very difficult for me to survive.

The day when I came to Balashram, I was a little nervous but the Balashram family strengthens me by their love and care. It took me to its lap as a child. I became friendly with all.

As time passed by, I grew up and left my play things and did concentrate in study. The members of Balashram are very helpful to each other. They help each other and care for others. My teachers advise me to act in a right way and to concentrate in study to be a good person in life.

### **MY AIM**

*In my view teaching is the noblest job. A teacher can make a scientist, a doctor, a prime minister and any great person. That's why my aim is to be a teacher.*

*In my school my teachers love me, give right knowledge and show me the right path. To spread the knowledge, I would like to be a teacher. I am sure I would be a teacher in my life.*

I would like to say that Balashram is a gift of God for me which enlightens my life. It is bringing a great change in my life style. It provides me an opportunity to participate in various competitions outside the school and show my talents. I can express myself without fear.

I am very happy to live in this Balashram . I express my heartiest thank to my God and my Guru who are doing everything for my betterment. I thank a lot!



***Sandhya Mallick, Class-VI***

#### 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](mailto:hihcosmetics@gmail.com) or call 630-882-0247. Cosmetics can also be purchased at [products.handinhandusa.org](http://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](http://goodsearch.com) and select Hand in Hand USA as your cause. Bookmark [goodsearch.com](http://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](http://Smile.Amazon.com) and search and select **Hand In Hand USA**.

#### **HAND IN HAND USA**

710 St. Josephs Drive  
Oak Brook, IL 60560