



Hand In Hand USA | Newsletter 2018

A non-profit organization for humanitarian aid

December 2018



"To a wise one, the whole earth is open, because the true country of a virtuous soul is the entire universe."

-Democritus

Happy Holidays!

We wish you, your family and friends a very happy holiday season! Thank you for your generosity this year. We appreciate your support which has made it possible to continue the humanitarian projects in India and around the world in 2018.

We especially thank you for your continued support of the *Balashram*, our residential school for poor and orphaned children, providing loving service for more than a decade.. May your new year, 2019, be filled with health, happiness, success and peace.

Message From President Durga Chunduri

As the year ends during this holiday season, on behalf of Hand In Hand USA, I am taking this opportunity to convey my heartfelt thanks to the contributors without whose support this organization cannot exist.

Also, I offer my sincere thanks to all the volunteers who are helping to run the HIH USA activities in the Chicago area. I thank all the individuals and organizers in different cities who are donating their time and efforts in fundraising activities.

We maintain HIH USA expenses at a minimum as the organization is managed entirely by volunteers and 97% of the donations go directly to the projects supported by HIH USA.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!



St. Louis Fundraising Dinner

Hand In Hand USA's St. Louis chapter hosted its first fundraising dinner on September 15th, 2018 at the Mahatma Gandhi Center, and it was a grand success.

Nearly 350 people attended the event and the generosity and overall support for the event was far beyond what the organizers could have expected. The colorful, dazzling cultural programs and songs entertained the audience. The projects presentation brought deeper awareness about the various humanitarian projects in India and abroad.



The first St. Louis fundraising dinner was a big success!

Hariharananda Balashram

July 29 was celebrated as the 15th foundation day of Hariharananda Balashram. During morning assembly, a small ceremony was conducted by the Principal. The senior students spoke about the importance of Balashram in their lives. In the evening a small program was organized with talks from staff chief guests, political science professor Mrs. Chandrabati Swain and English professor Saroj Barik. The event concluded with beautiful cultural activities.

The 72nd Independence Day of India was also celebrated later this past summer on August 15, 2018. All the students participated in an honorary march. The Indian Flag was hoisted by the Principal in presence of a freedom fighter, Baidehi Panda. Some of the students offered speeches on the significance of the freedom movement of India in appreciation of the freedom fighters and their contribution towards the independence of India. On the occasion, 11 tree saplings were planted and named after the freedom fighters.

More From Hariharananda Balashram

Project Chrysalis is a special fund established to enable and ensure bright futures for the children graduating from high school at Hariharananda Balashram. Contributions to this fund will solely be used to further their educational and career prospects. Please consider donating for this important cause. Some graduates return and offer help and service to the newer and younger Balashram students.



Chrysalis graduates serving younger Balashram students.

Dallas and Chicago Walkathons

The HIH USA Dallas Chapter held its 7th Annual Walkathon on November 11th. It was a chilly day, but nearly 60 people participated and raised nearly \$8,000.



7th Annual Dallas Walkathon.

The 12th annual HIH USA Chicago Walkathon also took place on September 8, 2018 at the St. James Farm Forest Preserve in Warrenville, IL.

Upcoming Annual Chicago Fundraising Dinner:
April 13, 2019 @ Waterford Banquet Hall – Elmhurst, IL

Charlotte Fundraising Dinner

The Charlotte Chapter of Hand In Hand USA hosted their 2nd annual fundraising dinner and entertainment gala on November 17, 2018. The event was attended by more than 100 people and raised nearly \$21,500 to support education, boarding and medical care for about 25 kids for one year. The donors included individuals, small businesses, nonprofits, and corporations giving matching funds.



Charlotte volunteers organized their 2nd fundraising dinner

Charitable Health Projects

Hand In Hand USA sponsors charitable health centers in India in the villages of Balighai, Bhisindipur, and Jagatpur with clinics in Arua and Athagarh. The total patients treated since the last summer newsletter will exceed 20,000.

In the wake of the recent floods in state of Kerala, HIH USA sponsored relief work in devastated communities. 11 families who lost everything were able to recover with the aid.

HIH USA has always been committed to helping those in need after natural disasters. This is an ongoing need around the world and your generous support is always much appreciated.



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. Check donations may be mailed to the address below. 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

My journey from childhood till today in Balashram

Thanks to Balashram for making my life a perfect one. Just like Kashmir is a paradise on earth, likewise Balashram is also a paradise for us. Balashram is a home to many poor and needy children. It has removed the darkness of the poor and needy children. These children will surely be ideal citizens and fulfil their dreams and bring glory to Balashram.



I decided to study and fulfil the dreams of my poor father and mother who have many hopes and dreams for me. As I grow up, I am realizing what Balashram is. It is providing me proper education. In the hostel, we are getting everything we want at any time. I am now learning well. I can now speak English fluently, and I can give speeches, participate in creative writings, etc. I am also learning music. I had participated in different competitions and got medals. I am getting training in The Bharat Scouts and Guides. I am learning martial arts like taekwondo which is a self-defense art. We are given proper medical facilities here. Our teachers are giving us perfect knowledge. They are clearing our doubts perfectly. They are just like our mother and father. I can never forget the facilities and love given to me at Balashram.

Balashram has given me a dream and I will definitely fulfil it. I want to be a software engineer in my life and I am sure that in the future by the help of worldwide Balashram family, my dream will come to a reality. I convey my sincere thanks for those who are helping and supporting us and I hope they will continue this in the near future. And I will be an ideal citizen in India and bring glory to Balashram.

“I will not win immediately but definitely”.

Sasmita Kar, Class-VII

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**.

HAND IN HAND USA

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Thank you for your continued support!!! May your holiday season be filled with joy and peace!!!

