

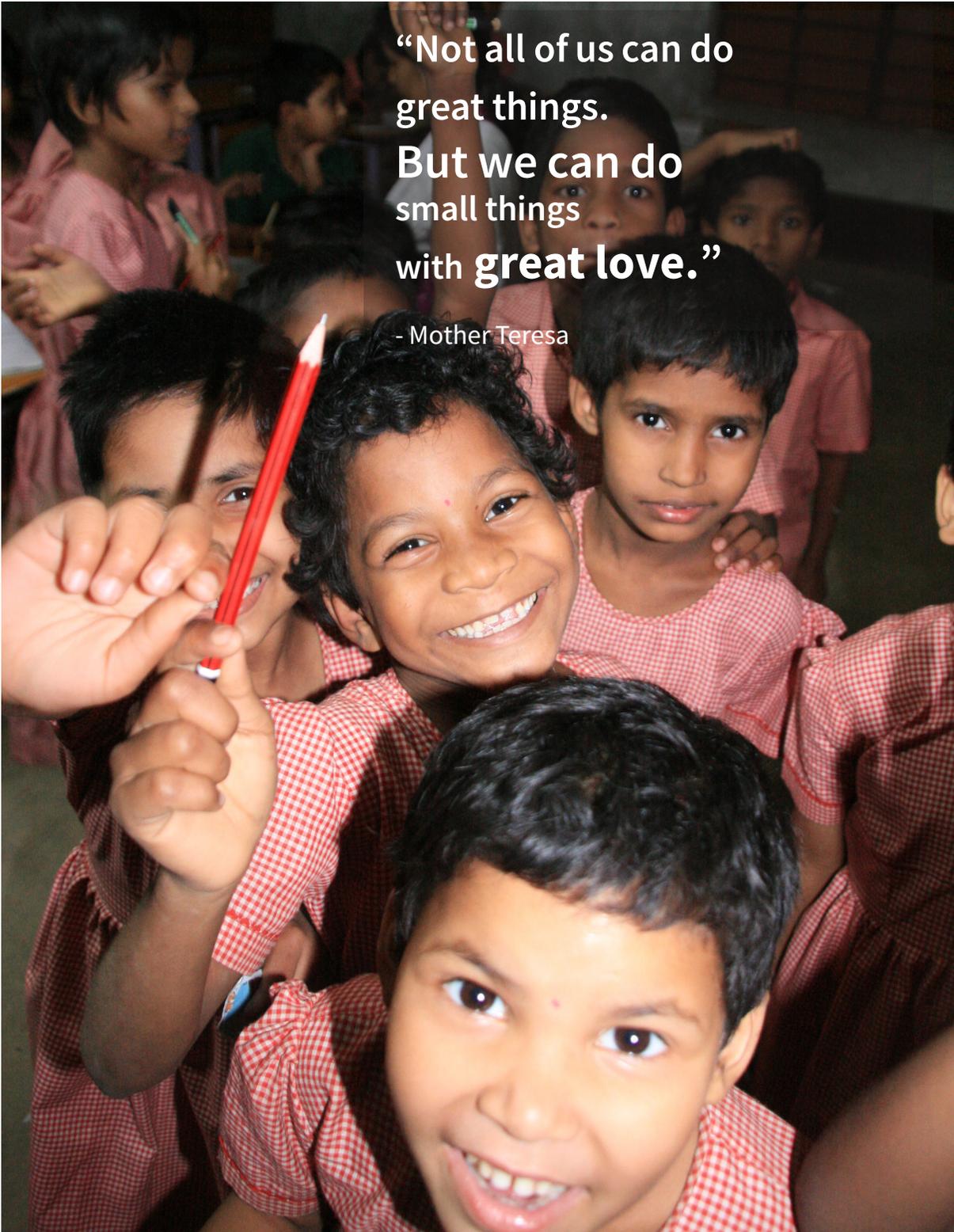


Hand In Hand USA

One drop can make a difference

A non-profit 501(c)(3) organization for humanitarian aid

DECEMBER 2020



“Not all of us can do
great things.
But we can do
small things
with **great love.**”

- Mother Teresa

NEWSLETTER

Warm Greetings!

Happy holidays and season's greetings to you and yours! Your generous support throughout the year has made it possible for us to continue our humanitarian efforts in India, even in the midst of this dangerous viral pandemic. We thank you.

As this year comes to a close, we humbly request that you consider making an end-of-the-year, tax-deductible donation so that we may continue to focus on our projects in India: the Hariharananda Balashram, our mobile health and dental clinics and medical dispensaries. This has been quite a year with the global COVID-19 pandemic, and we want to be sure to stay on top of our fundraising efforts because they are so important.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and may 2021 be a year filled with health, happiness, and peace.

Please enjoy our Winter Newsletter!

Hand In Hand USA team

Hariharananda Balashram

Hariharananda Balashram ("Balashram") is a 100% charitable, fully-residential school helping to fight child hunger, homelessness and illiteracy in the remote villages of Odisha, India. Balashram is a nurturing facility, providing its children with organic, nutritious food, quality medical care, and outstanding education, with the goal of ensuring viable, vibrant futures for its children.

Balashram is home to over 500 children in grades K-12. Balashram is the place these children are loved and cared for. Balashram is their home.

Below are heartwarming stories of just a few of the Balashram students.

Arpita Barik

Arpita Barik came to Balashram when she was only four years old from the Kendrapara district in Odisha, India. Arpita is blind in one eye. Arpita's father was completely blind. She studied at Balashram through her 12th year and then felt ready to act on a lifelong dream of hers: becoming a nurse.

Arpita is now continuing her training in nursing and aspires to serve publicly by joining the Government Healthcare Department. Arpita has endured many trials and tribulations throughout her young life yet she remains a very sweet and disciplined young woman, who has stayed true to herself and her aspirations and who desires to help others.

Arpita is forever grateful to Balashram for the "golden opportunity" it has given her to live a beautiful life.

Hand In Hand USA Newsletter *December 2020*



Arpita Barik is training to become a nurse

Sabita Dalai

Sabita Dalai came to Balashram from the Kendujhar district in Odisha, India. Sabita's father suffered from Cerebral Malaria and died six months before Sabita and her twin brother were born. Brutally driven out of their home, Sabita's mother ventured to a nearby village and settled into the government land with the help of kind villagers. Sabita's mother began earning her keep by working as a village health care worker. The income her mother received as a government-employed healthcare worker did not even allot her two meals a day for her family.

Sabita entered the Balashram as a young child and has completed her 10th grade. Sabita was a state-level volleyball, rugby, and soccer player in school and continues her education in hopes of becoming a sports trainer/P.E. teacher. Thanks to Balashram, she now has aspirations that she can make come true and earn a decent living doing something she loves.



Sabita aspires to be a P. E. teacher

.....
Thank you for your support!
.....

handinhandusa.org

Disaster Relief

This year, the entire world was devastated by COVID-19. Because of fast-acting India officials and the school administration, Balashram was put on immediate lockdown and, thankfully, all children and staff remained safe from COVID.



Balashram students sew masks

Healthcare

People living in rural areas in India have little to no access to healthcare. This lack of medical care contributes to high rates of preventable deaths. Hand In Hand USA has medical centers and mobile units we sponsor that are able to assist over 100,000 patients a year. Now more than ever the healthcare centers have become an imperative resource to the poor. Throughout the pandemic, healthcare centers continue to treat patients.



Villagers stand in line to seek medical care

.....
“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”
- Mahatma Gandhi
.....

COVID-19 Pandemic

This year, Hand In Hand USA was able to fulfill an intense need for personal protective equipment (“PPE”) to frontline healthcare professionals. We acquired N95, KN95, and surgical masks by acting quickly and were able to have plastic face shields made, thus assisting our healthcare workers in their plight to assist those afflicted with COVID-19.

With our resources, we donated masks and face shields to anesthesiologists in Michigan and to employees at John H. Stroger Hospital (Cook County, IL), who were seeing record numbers of COVID-positive patients without proper PPE. We also donated masks, shields, and goggles to an independent medical practice in Naperville, Illinois and to Swedish Covenant Hospital in Rockford, Illinois, just to name a few.



Youth volunteers helped in packing and delivering the PPE



Healthcare staff appreciated PPE donation in a time of need

Fundraising Events

COVID-19 impacted many of our planned fundraising events. However, we continued to fundraise but did so safely.

First Virtual Fundraiser

We hosted our first-ever virtual fundraiser. We secured the comedic genius of LA-based stand-up comedian/host, Rajiv Saytal and scheduled our event for September 27, 2020.

Viewers were treated to presentations from Hand In Hand USA Board members, provided with first-hand accounts of Mrs. Bhavani Ravi and Dr. Ankit Patel's January visit to the Balashram and information about local outreach endeavors. The evening concluded with a hilarious live performance by Rajiv Saytal.



Stand up comedian Rajiv Saytal performed virtually

**FIRST
VIRTUAL
FUNDRAISER**
PRESENTED BY



JOIN US
FOR AN ENTERTAINING
EVENING
**STAND UP COMEDY BY
RAJIV SATYAL**



Trophy winners at the Golf Fundraiser



Donated auction items were available for bidding to raise funds

Giving on the Green Golf Fundraiser

On Sunday, August 23, Hand In Hand USA supporters gathered at White Eagle Golf Course in Naperville, Illinois to compete in a fundraising shotgun-start golf tournament. The weather was beautiful and we had approximately 80 participants show up to play on White Eagle's spectacular championship course. After the tournament, golfers met in a tent set up by Hand In Hand USA and were treated to delicious appetizers, drinks, and a silent auction, all while remaining safe by social distancing.

The goal at the start of this amazing event was to support the educational needs of 80 children for one year. In the end, we received donations to fund education for 140 children! Amazing supporters made this possible!

.....
"Service to others is the rent you pay
for your room here on earth."
.....

- Muhammad Ali

Annual Dallas Walk-a-Thon

Our Dallas chapter held a virtual fundraising walk-a-thon the weekend of Saturday, December 5-6, 2020. The event allowed walkers to choose their own location so they could socially distance themselves from others while walking in support.

Getting Involved

If you are interested in organizing an event to raise awareness or funds to support the charitable activities of HIH USA, please allow us to help you get started! Please contact: fundraising@handinhandusa.org

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.

Smile.Amazon.com

Amazon donates 0.5% of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. Simply start your shopping at [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and search and select **Hand In Hand USA**.

Join Our Mailing List

To get our newsletter, information about events, and periodic updates, please join our mailing list. Visit handinhandusa.org to subscribe.