

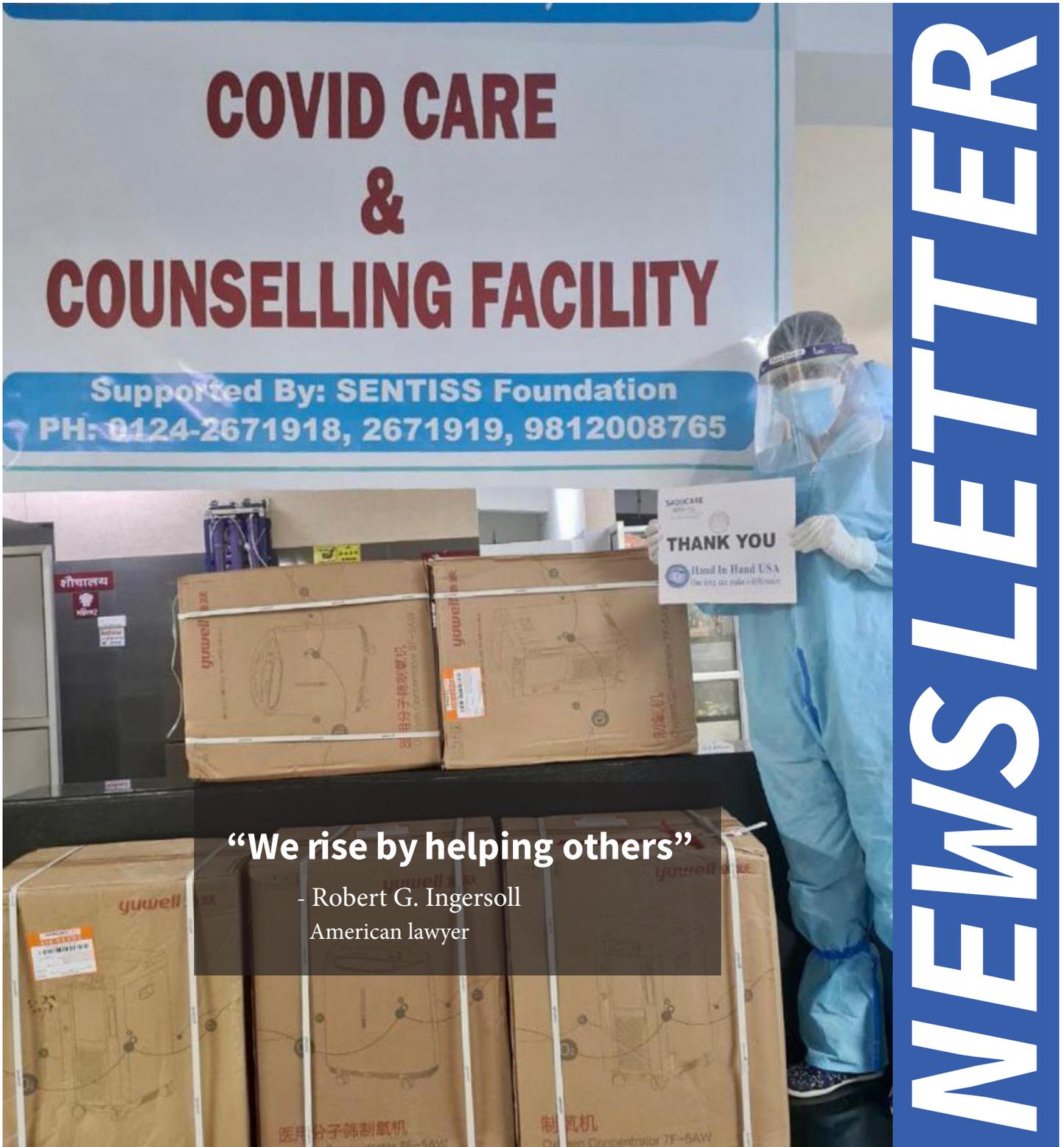


Hand In Hand USA

One drop can make a difference

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

SUMMER 2021



NEWSLETTER

“We rise by helping others”

- Robert G. Ingersoll
American lawyer

Warm Greetings!

This has been quite the year. India was devastated by a dreadful second wave of COVID in March of 2021. The situation was dire: India was suffering a severe shortage of all things needed to keep the crisis at bay: oxygen, oxygen concentrators, doctors, and a means to get help to the people who most desperately needed it. At one point, India was reporting COVID cases at the alarming rate of approximately 400,000 people per day. Due to the absence of medical supplies, people were literally dying in the streets.

Hand In Hand USA (“HIH USA”) immediately began working on sending funds and procuring medical equipment: ICU beds, oxygen concentrators, nebulizers, etc. We were able to make a significant and meaningful impact with your invaluable donations and care, and we could not have made such an impact without you.

As always, we are so very grateful to you - our generous supporters - for helping to make this happen.

Hand In Hand USA team

Hariharananda Balashram

Balashram has managed to keep all its children and staff healthy during both waves of COVID. On April 19, 2021, the Government of India closed all schools and hostels. However, with perseverance, Balashram has been able to bring back nearly all their students (in phases) assuring the Government that the children would be kept safe. The school is currently on lockdown. Neither students nor staff are leaving the campus and no outsiders are being allowed in. Safety protocols have kept its students and staff healthy and safe.

A very few people who work with the food are being allowed to leave only for essential items from the local market and they are following safety guidelines.

In order for the children to continue learning during this crisis period, strict protocols are in place to secure their safety. The boys and girls are separated in their own hostels. The teachers are going to the boys’ hostel to teach the boys and the girls are being taught on the school campus. Social distancing, masking and quarantining when necessary also help to keep everybody safe from COVID. In the event of an actual minor COVID case or outbreak, Balashram students and personnel would not have to leave for medical attention, as HCHC is on campus and keeps appropriate medicine in stock.

Every day, both the school and the residential hostels are sanitized. In addition, a hot drink called “Ayurvedic Kadha” (a concoction of various herbs known to improve immunity) is being provided to the children.

Yoga and Asanas are being practiced daily by the children to maintain good mental health.

Balashram’s adherence to these meticulous hygiene and safety protocols has kept students and staff healthy and safe.



Balashram’s self-sustainable-model helped in the functioning of the school during lockdown



When educating the minds of our youth, we must not forget to educate their hearts

Dalai Lama
Buddhist Spiritual Leader



Healthcare and Disaster Relief

2021 has thus far been a disastrous year for India, with COVID running rampant through its cities and villages. In addition to cities such as Delhi and Cuttack, HIH USA elected to focus our efforts in the remote villages where the poorest of the poor are located. Because of the magnitude of the COVID crisis, our healthcare efforts were intertwined with our disaster relief efforts this year.

HIH USA immediately initiated a COVID Disaster Relief fundraiser and reached out to all of you for help. Through our connections both here and in India, HIH USA sent 36 5L oxygen concentrators to Cuttack, to be used in the Covid centers that were established as the hospitals were overrun. In addition, we were able to procure 300 D type Jumbo Oxygen Cylinders and distributed them in Cuttack and the Districts of Kendrapara and Ganjam.



300 D-type jumbo cylinders were donated in Cuttack and the Districts of Kendrapara and Ganjam



Hariharananda Charitable Health Centre, Jagatpur was setup as a vaccination site

To go beyond our own reach in India, HIH USA partnered with other non-profit organizations in India to make sure that we were able to help as many areas as possible.

SADH Care Hospital

Located in Haryana, HIH USA was able to assist SADH Care Hospital in setting up a COVID ICU ward. SADH Care Hospital is a not-for-profit organization managed by a team of ex-army doctors who now dedicate themselves to SADH. We were able to supply SADH Care Hospital with desperately-needed items to set up an ICU ward.



5 ICU beds, 5 oxygen concentrators and 6 nebulizers were donated to SADH CARE HOSPITAL

Prattyancha

We were able to fund the purchase of 30 5L oxygen concentrators and partnered with Prattyancha, a volunteer-run organization of healthcare workers and service providers in Ranchi, India, to distribute the concentrators. Ranchi is one of the poorest areas in all of India and was completely out of oxygen, causing COVID-related deaths by the hour. Volunteers went from hospital to hospital as well as worked with the Indian Medical Association (“IMA”) to identify patients with the most need and provide them with life saving oxygen support.

In addition, as part of our humanitarian outreach, HIH USA also provided additional funds to Prattyancha to assist their efforts in arranging hospital beds, ICU beds, ventilators, ambulances and even last right vehicles for the distressed. In a parallel initiative, they were also delivering medicine kits and free food to COVID patients or their dependent elderly.



30 5L oxygen concentrators were funded for Prattyancha

Doctors For You

Doctors For You, a non-profit that provides medical care to vulnerable communities in crisis and non-crisis situations, setup and managed Covid Care facilities to treat patients that had nowhere else to go. To support the efforts in Delhi as well as other cities where Doctors For You was operating, HIH USA procured and shipped 10, 10L oxygen concentrators to treat the more ill patients.



10-10L oxygen concentrators provided to severely ill patients

Local Outreach

In March, 2021, HIH USA began a local outreach program with The Community House at Willowbrook Center in Willowbrook, Illinois. Specifically, we work with 5, 6 and 7 year olds in the after-school program at Anne M. Jeans School, an underserved school. HIH USA volunteers go to the school 2-3 times per week to read to and do corresponding activities with the students in the after-school program.



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Online Fundraiser

On April 26, HIH USA initiated an online COVID-19 Relief Fundraiser to assist the people of India who were being devastated by COVID. We used our social media platforms (Facebook and Instagram), as well as email to ask for help in the form of donations. The funds we raised allowed us to procure desperately-needed medical equipment like oxygen, oxygen concentrators, ICU beds and more. With special thanks to our supporters, we were able to raise nearly \$50,000, all of which was used to help India in the many ways discussed in this newsletter.



HIH USA supporters generously and promptly donated to our online fundraiser to help with the healthcare crisis caused by the second wave of COVID 19

HIH USA is proud of the way we were all able to come together our team, our supporters and local and international not-for-profit organizations - so that we could provide relief to the people of India. Our efforts were a major accomplishment for a small organization such as ours.

We are ever so grateful to our supporters for their unwavering commitment to HIH USA. Together, we made a meaningful and powerful impact on the COVID crisis in India.

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In all natural disasters through time, man needs to attach meaning to tragedy, no matter how random and inexplicable the event is.

Nathaniel Philbrick
American Historian, History Author, Pulitzer Prize
Finalist

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Getting Involved

If you are interested in organizing an event to raise awareness or funds to support the charitable activities of Hand In Hand 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.

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