



Hand In Hand USA

One drop can make a difference

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

WINTER 2021



NEWSLETTER

“Act as if what you do makes a difference.

It does”

- William James
American Philosopher and Historian

Heartfelt Greetings

Greetings and Happy Holidays! We thank you, our Hand In Hand USA (“HIH USA”) supporters, for making it possible for us to continue with our humanitarian efforts in India, which include charitable healthcare, medical outreach and education. Your donations enable us to help the many orphans and poorest children of India by bringing them to Hariharananda Balashram. Balashram is a residential school funded by HIH USA.

In addition to it being a school, more importantly, Balashram is a home to children who are in desperate need of the love, support and nurturing that a home provides, in addition to the basic necessities: food, shelter and clothing.

We thank you for your continued support and wish you a happy, healthy 2022!

Hand In Hand USA team

Hariharananda Balashram

Life at Balashram is finally returning to normal after a challenging start to the year due to COVID. With social distancing guidelines in place, students and faculty celebrated “Teachers Day” on September 5. On this day, the children of Balashram had the opportunity to show their appreciation for their teachers with small gifts of cards and/or drawings and an assembly.

“Children’s Day” was celebrated on November 14. Children’s Day is celebrated across India to increase awareness regarding the importance of education and the welfare of children. Balashram students celebrated this day with assemblies, singing and dancing. Diwali was also celebrated in a big way with students and faculty praying, decorating and enjoying a delicious feast.



Balashram COVID protocols include masking

Student highlight



Balashram’s graduate student Saras Pradhan

Saras Pradhan is from the remote tribal village of Kumbhari situated in the Kalahandi District of Odisha. Kumbhari is one of the least developed areas in all of Odisha. Saras’ father used to work in the fields but due to his advanced age, he was no longer able to work and earn money to support his family. Saras’ mother had health issues thus making employment not possible for her. Saras was brought to Balashram when he was six years old.

He completed his education at Balashram in 2016 when he graduated 10th grade and then proceeded to higher education.

“The twelve years in Balashram taught me prayer, music, life skills and many more. It taught me what I would need in the future.”

Upon completing his education in 2019, Saras was able to secure a job in the Postal Department and is currently working at the Postal Department as an “ABPM” (“Assistant Branch Postal Manager”) and financially supporting his family. Saras aspires to move up in the postal department to the administrative officer level. He also intends to give back to the community (Balashram), that gave him so much.

“I want to serve Balashram in any way I can. My hard work and Balashram education opened the path toward my dream and is helping to get my dream realized. The tireless struggle and relentless work of each and every Balashram family made me what I am now.”

“What I have learned at Balashram is giving me inspiration to go ahead in my future.”

“I also give thanks to all the supporters of Balashram family. Those who have supported us to stand on our legs and to get a good life. I am thankful that you support us [Balashram students] in our life. Thank you.”

Balashram gave Saras a loving home, a quality education and opportunities for his future. Saras is forever grateful and is an inspiration to other Balashram students.

Fundraising

Grand Teton Climb

In early September, Board member, Ankit Patel held a virtual birthday fundraiser in support of HIH USA. Ankit and a crew of friends chose to climb the Grand Teton mountain (13,770 feet) in Wyoming. Ankit's online fundraiser brought in over \$10,000 for HIH USA!



Ankit Patel at Grand Teton



Ankit and crew at Grand Teton

Giving On the Green

On Saturday, September 18, supporters of HIH USA came together at White Eagle Golf Course in Naperville for a "Giving on the Green" fundraiser. This private event, hosted by Ritu and Amit Khanduja, is held annually to raise awareness and provide funds for Balashram.

After the golf tournament, golfers, family and friends gathered in a tented area for food, cocktails, an auction, and live music. Presentations were given and a video on Balashram was shown.

Because of your generosity, we were able to raise funds to support the educational needs of 270 children!

Special thanks to the Khandujas for organizing and hosting this amazing event! Thanks also to our youth volunteers for working so hard that day.



On the course



Trophy winners



Youth volunteers

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"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others"

Mahatma Gandhi

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Dallas Walk-a-thon

On October 30, the HIH USA Dallas chapter held their 12th annual Walk-a-thon, entitled, "Walk A Mile - Help a Child". It was held at the beautiful Shoreline Trail in Dallas, Texas. This event raised more than 20,000!



Over 90 supporters attended the Dallas- Walk-a-thon

As always, we are so very grateful for our HIH USA family. Although COVID restrictions limited the number and type of fundraisers we typically have, with your support, we were still able to host successful fundraising events and cover all necessary costs for 2022. Thank you again for your support and your generous donations which enable us to continue to do so much good where it is needed most. Together, we will continue to provide much-needed support to the destitute communities in India.

Thank you,
The Hand In Hand USA Team

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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. Please contact treasurer@handinhandusa.org with any questions.

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