



# Hand In Hand USA

One drop can make a difference

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

SUMMER 2022



NEWSLETTER

**“Act as if what you do  
makes a difference.**

**It does.”**

- William James  
American Philosopher and Historian

## Heartfelt Greetings

Hariharananda Balashram continues to face challenges even now that the students have returned to school. Since the children missed over a year during the first wave of Covid, the instructors discovered that many of the younger students forgot quite a bit of what they had learned. To address the gaps and varying needs of these children, the administration decided to separate them into appropriate learning groups until they can again be taught together as a class. This has created a demand for more teachers and it has been quite difficult, as well as expensive, to find qualified educators for the school.

Despite these challenges, Balashram continues to support, educate and inspire the children in their care. Our summer newsletter highlights the many programs and events being held at Balashram, as well as a special feature on the dedication, motivation and success of former Balashram student, Rashmita Sethi.

Sincerely,  
**The Hand In Hand USA Team**



*Balashram representative meets with a potential student*

## Hariharananda Balashram

As old students were brought back to the school and continued their education, due to the Covid situation, Balashram was unable to enroll new students for the 2021-2022 school year until February at which time 39 Nursery (Pre-Kindergarten) and 46 Kindergarten students were admitted.



*Balashram welcomes the new students*

Returning to the regular recruitment schedule in April, Balashram representatives began scouting for the 2022-2023 Nursery class where approximately 40 more new students will be admitted. The scouting process involves visits to families and children in remote villages to assess the needs and circumstances of each child.

## Feature



*Balashram's graduate student Rashmita Sethi*

Rashmita Sethi was born in the Village of Narendrapur, District of Kendrapada. She lived there with her mother, her father and her 3 siblings. Rashmita's father is physically handicapped with backbone issues. He cannot stand straight and has difficulty moving, which makes working next to impossible. He managed to open a small shop, and the family gets by on the shop's meager earnings.

Rashmita entered Balashram in 2005 and completed her education in 2017. She knew at the age of 15 that she wanted to be a nurse and help the many needy people surrounding her. Upon graduation, Balashram continued to provide housing and care for Rashmita and also paid for her to attend nursing school. Balashram helped Rashmita realize her dream of becoming a nurse. It was because Balashram helped her to achieve her full potential that she decided she wanted to help others.

"My all expenses paid by Balashram. I want to be a good nurse and help people."

Rashmita, while still in nursing school, administered vaccination

shots to Balashram students, much to the delight and appreciation of school staff and students.

“I want to serve the needy people in society.”

This was a beautiful thing for her to do and an inspiration to current Balashram students to see Rashmita making her dreams come true.

Rashmita hopes to one day get a job in a big hospital.

Congratulations to Rashmita and best wishes to her for continued success and happiness in her chosen career journey.

## Balashram Activities

### Financial Literacy Classes

Literacy Classes (“Finlit”) were held online January 24 - February 9, 2022 in collaboration with Enactus Somaiya Social Cell of KJ Somaiya Institute of Management, Mumbai. These classes were organized and held for thirty Project Chrysalis students continuing their education beyond 10th grade. One of the major focuses of the Finlit class was savings. Students were also introduced to online banking, loans, investing, micro-finance and fraud, among other things.

### Bharat Scouts & Guides

A state level national integration camp, called “PRATIKSHYA”, was organized by the Odisha State Bharat Scouts & Guides and held March 13 - March 17. The Scouts learned about gender equality, good health and wellbeing, clean water and sanitation, climate action and poverty. Participants learned how to get along well with others, the importance of teamwork, cleanliness and punctuality. They also learned about the importance of discipline, how to politely and properly receive guests in one’s home and how to cook. The Scouts and Guides Camp strives to help students live their best life once they graduate and have jobs, responsibilities and homes of their own.



Students perform at camp

### Moral Education Camp

A week-long Moral Education Camp was held April 19 - April 24 for Classes III - VIII. The camp was held at Balashram and featured classes in yoga and meditation, student reflections and group discussions. Activities included games, competitions and student presentations. The camp also held moral classes that focused on topics such as life as a student, ways in which you are a good human being and the importance of friendship.



A week long moral education camp included various activities

On the first day of camp, an art contest was held with the two themes, “My Village” and “Earth is My Mother”. Below are a few of the winning pieces. Congratulations to all the students who participated!



Earth is my mother

**“A life that ignores the miseries of others is no human life”**

Abhjit Naskar, Neuroscientist and Author



My Village

As always, we are so very grateful for our HIH USA family. It is you who enable us to keep Balashram running each year and also to continue providing much-needed support to the destitute communities of India.

Thank you,  
The Hand In Hand USA Team



**“An imbalance between rich and poor is the oldest  
And most fatal ailment of all republics”**

Plutarch, Greek Historian



**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: [handinhand@handinhandusa.org](mailto:handinhand@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](mailto:treasurer@handinhandusa.org) with any questions.

**Join Our Email List**

To get our newsletter, information about events and periodic updates, please join our mailing list. Visit [handinhandusa.org](http://handinhandusa.org) to subscribe.

**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](http://Smile.Amazon.com) and search for and select Hand In Hand USA.