



Hand In Hand USA

One drop can make a difference

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

SUMMER 2024



**“Remember that
the happiest people are not
those getting more,
but those giving more.”**

- H. Jackson Brown Jr.

NEWSLETTER

Heartfelt Greetings

We hope you are having a lovely start to the summer! Please enjoy our summer newsletter, which highlights some of our recent fundraising events as well as a special student feature on Balashram student, Puspanjali Das.

Sincerely,

The Hand In Hand USA Team

Fundraising

INDIAN FOOD FEAST

HIH USA Boston hosted their very first fundraising event on November 18. HIH USA supporters gathered at Legacy Farms, Hopkinton, MA for a delicious feast of traditional Indian food. Congratulations to Boston on their first ever fundraiser raising \$900!

CHARLOTTE LUNCH

HIH USA Charlotte held a fundraising lunch on December 9, 2023, hosted by Adesh and Sujata Gupta, immediately following a guided meditation session at The Charlotte Center. There were approximately 25 guests who attended the event. Corporate matches from Wells Fargo, AIG, and Truist helped to make this fundraiser an extraordinarily profitable one, bringing in over \$26,000!

“SAMARPAN”

Bharatakala Natya Academy’s mesmerizing recital, “Samarpan,” was held on December 17, 2023, at South Forsyth High School, Cumming, GA. Under the guidance of esteemed teacher, Subhatra Sudarshan, children performed approximately 27 diverse dances, including Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Kerala folk dance, and Tamil folk. This unique event raised \$7,000!

UCSB DHADKAN

Dhadkan, a University of California Santa Barbara based student organization, reached out to HIH USA regarding partnering for a fundraiser. Dhadkan hosts an annual Bollywood/Bhangra dance competition and donates all proceeds earned to the charity of their choice. This year, HIH USA was chosen because of the work that we do in South India.

Their fundraising competition, “Nachle Deewane 2024” took place on Saturday, April 13 and it was a huge success, raising several thousands of dollars. Much appreciation and thanks to UCSB Dhadkan!

CHICAGO SPRING FUNDRAISER



On April 27, Hand In Hand USA supporters gathered at Ashton Place in Willowbrook, IL for our annual spring fundraising event. Guests were treated to a delicious sit-down meal, dance performances by both Risha Lakkadi and Shakti Queen Beats and viewed a heartwarming video of one Balashram student’s journey. The event also included a paddle raise, a 360 Photo Booth and guests dancing the night away to the energetic music spun by DJ D’Stylz! This spectacular event raised over \$150,000!

“An investment in knowledge
pays the best interest.”

- Benjamin Franklin

Student Spotlight

Puspanjali Das



Puspanjali Das came to Balashram from Kendrapara, District of Chandannagar in 2010. Puspanjali’s father died when she was only four years old leaving her family with no means to earn an income.

Puspanjali was delighted to be welcomed into the Balashram family and, in addition to the educational curriculum, she very much enjoyed the co-curricular activities, such as dance, music and tabla. She was also eager to partake in vocational training studies such as electrical, plumbing, tailoring and cooking.

“Our school gives many opportunities to improve our inner skills and talents.”

Puspanjali is now 17 years old and is so thankful for all that she received at Balashram.

“... I feel so proud that I can able to stand in my leg myself in a good way due to support of my school.”

“In my future, I will try to make India free of corruption and also try to eradicate poverty, unemployment. I will focus on poor tribal people and try to help them.”

Puspanjali aspires to become a political leader:

“I pray to God and Shree Guruji to bless me to fulfill my aim. I sincerely wish to serve for my family and for my Balashram.”

We wish Puspanjali all the best in her future endeavors!

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“Do your little bit of good where you are; it’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”

- Desmond Tutu

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Fundraising



Hand In Hand USA Board Member, Dr. Ankit Patel, traveled to India this past January. In addition to being able to visit the students and administrators at Balashram, he was also able to visit the healthcare clinic in Jagatpur and discuss their most pressing needs, the most vital being:

- (1) an ultrasound machine
- (2) a dedicated hemoglobin a1c machine

We are thrilled to report that we raised the funds to purchase both these machines at our April 27, Chicago fundraiser!

We gratefully thank you for your generous and continued support. Without it, we would not be able to provide help where it is so desperately needed.

Donations can be made in the following ways:

- > On our website : handinhandusa.org/donate
- > Mail a check to "Hand In Hand USA"
- > Please scan the code below to make a donation

