

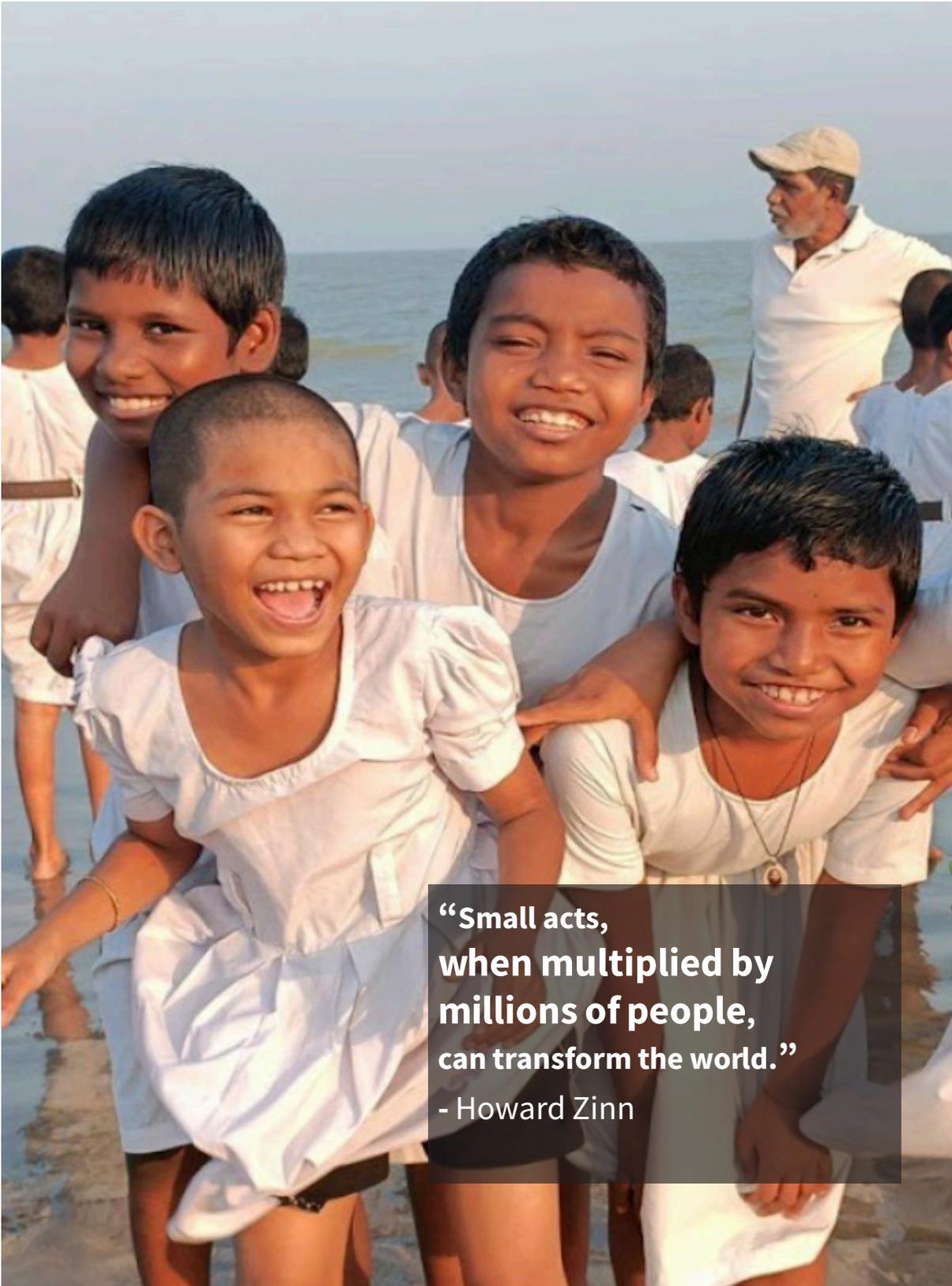


Hand In Hand USA

One drop can make a difference

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

SUMMER 2025



**“Small acts,
when multiplied by
millions of people,
can transform the world.”**
- Howard Zinn

NEWSLETTER

Heartfelt Greetings

Please enjoy our Summer Newsletter, which highlights Hariharananda Balashram, healthcare updates and a special feature on former Balashram student, Satyakam Rout.

Sincerely,

The Hand In Hand USA Team

Hariharananda Balashram

Hariharananda Balashram celebrated a big milestone in December 2024—its 20th anniversary! The campus was filled with joy as students and staff came together to mark two decades of nurturing young lives. A commemorative book is currently in development to honor this special occasion. The school continues to innovate, with smart boards being installed in classrooms to enhance the learning experience.

As the academic year concluded, final examinations began in February for students from Nursery to Grade IX and Grade XI, while Grade X and Grade XII students took their CBSE Board Examinations. Preparations for the 2025–26

academic year also began with the Nursery Admission Survey Process, which attracted 284 applicants. From this pool, 20 girls and 20 boys between the ages of 4 and 5 will join the Balashram family.

COMMIT TO CHANGE (C2C)

The Commit to Change (C2C) program continues to support Balashram through a collaborative approach to academic enrichment. C2C recently completed a successful first round of classes for Grades IX, X, and XI and has now shifted its focus to Grade VIII. The program is steadily evolving to enhance the overall learning journey of Balashram students.

Student Spotlight Satyakam Rout



Satyakam Rout's story is one of resilience, determination, and triumph. Hailing from Kendrapara District in Odisha, Satyakam faced early adversity with the loss of his father and his mother's struggle to support their small family. In 2007, he was selected to join Balashram as a nursery student, where he was embraced with love and care by

the school's staff and teachers.

While he naturally gravitated towards science and mathematics, he initially struggled with literature and social sciences. With perseverance and a strong work ethic, he overcame these challenges, scoring an impressive 89% in his Standard X exams and 90% in Standard XII. In 2021, he pursued a B.Sc. in Chemistry at Kendrapara Autonomous College.

Following his undergraduate studies, Satyakam achieved an extraordinary feat by ranking 154 in the IIT-JAM, securing admission into the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology, Madras for an M.Sc. in Chemistry. His humility shines through in his words: **"To all those who helped me in the past, I should make them proud in the future."**

His mother and the entire Balashram community are immensely proud of his accomplishments.

Healthcare

On February 28th, the Hariharananda Charitable Health Centres (HCHC) celebrated their 25th anniversary with a commemorative function held in Jagatpur. The event was graced by leading doctors and dignitaries, marking a quarter-century of dedicated healthcare service. Since their inception in 1999, HCHC has served over 1 million patients and has earned a reputation as a local center of excellence.

Recent months have seen significant developments in our healthcare initiatives. A new Electrolyte Analyzer has been installed and is fully operational at the Jagatpur health center, enhancing diagnostic capabilities. Additionally, the ultrasound machine previously acquired has now received official government approval and will soon be in use.

In January, in collaboration with the L V Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI)—a WHO Collaborating Centre for the

Prevention of Blindness—eye check-ups were conducted for students of Hariharananda Balashram. More than 600 students were screened, with many receiving essential eye care and corrective glasses.



Fundraisers

CHICAGO SPRING FUNDRAISER

The Chicago Spring Fundraiser, held on April 16th at Ashton Place in Willowbrook, IL, brought together Hand In Hand USA supporters for a memorable evening celebrating two major milestones: 25 years of the Hariharananda Charitable Health Centres (HCHC) and 20 years since the opening of the Hariharananda Balashram campus.

Guests heard from board members about Hand In Hand USA's accomplishments over the past year, all made possible through the generous support of donors. These achievements included fundraising efforts for three natural disasters and the provision of critical medical equipment to the Hariharananda Charitable Health Centres.

A special video presentation honoring Balashram's 20th anniversary offered a glimpse into the school's vibrant student life and its holistic approach to education.

The program also featured remarks from American India Foundation (AIF) board members Masha Sajdeh and

Varsha Jain Kaura, who spoke of their recent visit to the Balashram campus. They praised the school's nurturing environment, academic rigor, and the wide array of extracurricular activities that empower students with a well-rounded and enriching education.





DISASTER RELIEF

In response to the devastating LA wildfires, we launched a special relief fundraiser during January and February to support affected communities. We raised and donated over \$7,000 to provide direct aid to those facing financial hardship due to the fires.



Thanks to the incredible generosity of attendees and supporters, the event successfully raised over \$150,000—a testament to the shared commitment to advancing healthcare and education for those in need.

We graciously thank you for your generous and continued support. Your donations enable us to continue with projects that are already in place as well as the multiple initiatives that arise each year.

Hand In Hand USA is run by volunteer service with 95% of all proceeds and contributions going directly to the projects themselves.

- Education for One Child: \$360 annually**
- Education Lifetime Sponsorship: \$4,500**
- Room & Board for One Child: \$650 annually**
- Room & Board Lifetime Sponsorship: \$8,000**
- Education, Room & Board for One Child: \$1,010 annually**

Donations can be made in the following ways:

- > handinhandusa.org/donate
- > Please scan the code below to make a donation



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 many organizations 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.

Join Our Mailing List

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