



Hand In Hand USA

One drop can make a difference

A non-profit organization for humanitarian aid

SUMMER 2026



NEWSLETTER

Warm Greetings,

Please enjoy our Summer Newsletter with updates on Hariharananda Balashram and a special feature on Balashram student Deepa Jena.

Sincerely,

The Hand In Hand USA Team

Hariharananda Balashram

Academics

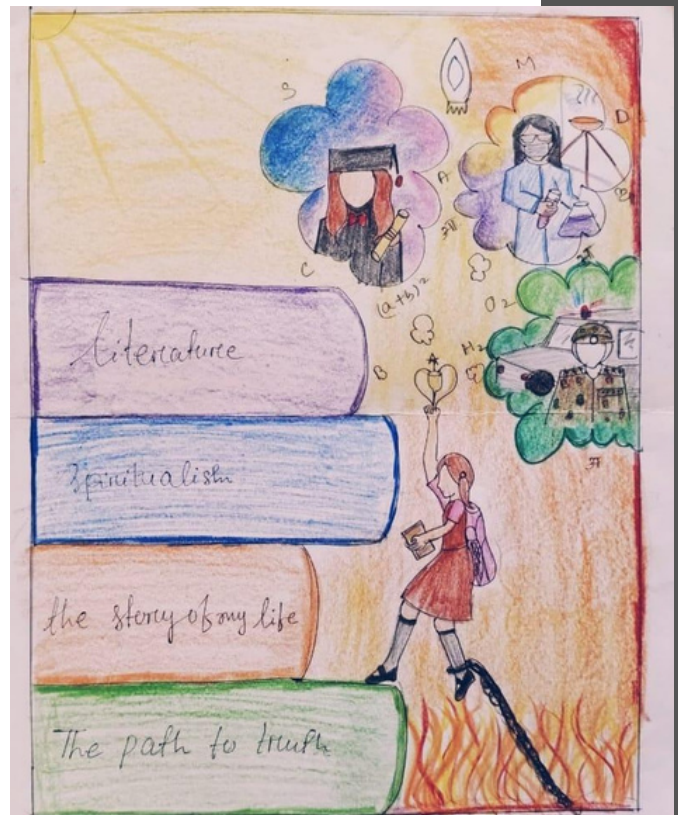
The month of May was significant as it signaled the close of the academic year 2025-2026, with examinations being held, results announced and the start of summer break.

Balashram also continues its partnership with Commit to Change (C2C). This year, Grade VIII students are studying Vedic Mathematics, Computer Science, spoken English, and Robotics. The girls have already completed two robotics projects and are proud of the skills and confidence they have gained.

The Central Board of Secondary Education Board Examination results were declared in May 2026. Balashram achieved a remarkable 100% pass rate in both the Science and Humanities fields. This outstanding achievement reflects the hard work of the students, the dedicated guidance of the teachers, and the continuous support of Balashram.

INTERNATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY

On October 11, this day was observed with the theme “The Girl I Am, The Change I Lead.” A painting competition for girls of Classes VIII–IX highlighted empowerment and equality. A painting from the submission is below:



TEACHER ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

The following two Teacher Enrichment Programs were held:

1. On October 25, CBSE training on Active Learning was conducted at Balashram with 59 activity-based teaching methods emphasized.
2. On October 27, teachers attended a seminar focusing on promoting student mental health and wellness.



Balashram Celebrations

PRAJNA KALA SANSKRUTI

On October 31, Prajna Kala Sanskruti, an inter-house competition in dance, music, and tabla was conducted by external judges. 54 students participated.



Student Spotlight

Deepa Jena



Deepa Jena arrived at Balashram at the young age of five. She had recently lost her mother and was growing up in one of India's lowest castes, where discrimination was a painful reality of Deepa's daily life.

"That hurts me deeply," I once asked my father if there was a way to remove this injustice from society. He replied, 'First, you must learn. Gain knowledge. Finish your studies. Then you can try to change something.'"

At Balashram, children from every background are treated with dignity and respect. Here, Deepa discovered a loving community where equality existed.

"Here, I truly feel unity in diversity."

In her early school years, Deepa loved biology and dance. Later, she developed a passion for political science and economics, driven by an intense desire to better understand the social, economic, and political realities of India.

Balashram provided opportunities to explore her interests through both academics and extracurricular activities, including debate competitions and dance performances.

"Balashram is my mother. Balashram is everything to me. It is a place where you learn values and morals—a place where you gain all kinds of knowledge: spiritual, physical, and intellectual. Without Balashram, I would not have come to know myself."

Deepa excelled in her Class XII examinations. Today, she dreams of studying political science, becoming a journalist, and eventually a politician.

"That way I can bring about change in my society. I want to fight corruption and challenge harmful traditions that still exist. I want to bring the moral values I learned at Balashram into society and work for justice and peace."

We have every confidence that Deepa will continue to achieve great things and make a meaningful difference in this world!

Healthcare

Across our five health centres, more than 30 dedicated doctors continue to volunteer their time to provide medical, dental, homeopathy, and ayurvedic care. In just five months, thousands of patients received care. In rural and remote areas, our health camps are often the only source of medical attention. Through these camps, we bring essential services directly to communities that would otherwise go untreated.

We are also deeply focused on preventive care and awareness. For example, we recently conducted a health awareness session for girls from Class V to XII, addressing menstrual hygiene, breaking myths, and promoting safe practices.

In another initiative, HIH USA distributed 200 pairs of eyeglasses in a rural village. For many recipients, this simple intervention meant being able to read, work, and live with dignity again.

LV PRASAD EYE INSTITUTE - VISION SCREENING

We continue our affiliation with The LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI) and on October 17, they conducted eye exams at Balashram for students from Nursery to class XII.



Fundraising

► HIH Boston held a food sale, raising \$1,010.00

Traditional South Indian Veg Thali

Preorder via WhatsApp: 551-247-9503
Price @ \$16.99

Pickup Time: 12-3 PM on Nov 22, 2025
Location: MJ's Kitchen, 100 Trillside Way, Ashland, MA

Menu:

- Steamed Rice
- Sambar
- Rasam
- Poriyal (Beans Veg)
- Yam Varuval (Elephant Yam Roast)
- Kootu (Veg Stew)
- Yogurt
- Payasam (Dessert)
- Appalam (Papad)
- Pickle

Facilitated by: Hand in Hand USA
100% proceeds go to educate unprivileged children in India.
<https://handinhandusa.org/>



► Chicago's Annual Spring Fundraising Dinner was held on April 25. The event featured both traditional and modern styles of Indian dance as entertainment, a delicious, seated meal, and more. Over \$115,000 was raised at this spectacular event!



We are deeply grateful for your continued support. Every donation we receive helps us provide care, education, and hope to the children and families we serve. Thank you for helping us create a brighter future together!

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 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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