

Dear Friends of Operation Shanti,

We're finishing up our third year at Karunya Mane, our children's home, which now provides care for **41** children. Everyone's doing really well in school, some are doing exceptionally well, and the kids are enjoying just being kids. Project Food and More, started three years ago, now supports **52** kids with monthly care packages, and we continue to help the street kids and homeless women on the streets of Mysore. See our website ([www.operation-shanti.org](http://www.operation-shanti.org)) and our blog ([operationshanti.blogspot.com](http://operationshanti.blogspot.com)) for more on our work. And, again, thank you for your continued support.

### Karunya Mane: Kids Growing Up Nicely

This past summer, a bunch of the kids got to participate in two different summer camps. They enjoyed a lot of different activities: drama, dance, arts and crafts, hikes through nature, and learning about eco-friendly practices. The kids also get to interact and make friends with other children who attend the camps, most of whom are from middle-class families.



The 2011/2012 school year started at the beginning of June. This year, we enrolled six additional kids into St. Francis School, a very good school with an English-based curriculum. Sowmya and Vinuta, two of our girls who did very well in kindergarten last year, joined Lalita in 1st grade, while little Nanjunda joined Surya in 2nd grade. Mohan, Manu, and Raju (left) started upper kindergarten this year at St. Francis, after having done very well last year in lower kindergarten.

Renuka and Sadiq (3rd grade), Vijayalakshmi and Divya (4th grade), and Vinod (5th grade), are demonstrating great improvement in their performance in school this year. Swarana (below, right) had to repeat 1st grade this year after having a tough time last year, and so far she's excelling – her handwriting has improved dramatically and she now does her homework daily. Sometimes kids just need another chance...

Little Jeevan (right) joined us this year at KM, along with his sister Shilpa. Shilpa, age 7, had not yet attended school as she stayed home to watch little Jeevan while her mom went out looking for work. They lived in grass shacks in the slums. When Jeevan came to KM, he was very thin and lethargic. Now, he is a healthy, attentive, and chubby two-year-old boy who talks nonstop and takes in everything around him.



Suma and Prema, age 13, have fun during their free time with the acting and drama skills that they learned during summer camp. Remember when Prema (right) lived on the streets just a few years ago? She's in her third year at KM, is now doing well in school, and is one of the girls' leaders.

Suma is currently our oldest girl at KM, and is in the 8th grade. Our Child Plan helps us plan for the futures of all of our kids, and calls for schooling until at least 10th grade, at which time all students take the state-wide standardized exam. Depending on performance, the kids will either continue their education or attend vocational training schools.



Many thanks to Janea Wiedmann for the wonderful photographs.

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In May, two friends from the UK came to India to get married in a traditional Indian ceremony. The kids were invited to the festivities. Everyone had a really fun time!



#### Project Food and More (all names have been changed for privacy reasons)

Project Food and More just completed its third year of providing monthly care packages to children orphaned by HIV/AIDS, and now cares for 52 kids. Recent additions to the PFM program are:

- Nikhil and Nisarga, age seven and five, who live with their mom in a room that their grandma provided to them. Dad died in 2009, and mom works for daily wages when she can;
- Haseena, a single mother who lost her husband in 2010 and now cares for her three kids, all of whom are positive; Haseena is basically alone and has nobody else to help her with her children;
- Sanjay, age 12, who lives with his mom and older sister in a one-room rented house in a slum with their mother and father, who are both sick and cannot work consistently.

#### Project Street

We continue our presence on the street to assist those without homes and resources with their basic needs. We assist a poor man with his diabetes medication, continue to support three girls with their educational expenses at a local private school, and support our street moms with their housing. The street women whom we have known and worked with for a long time refer many of our newcomers to us. Kumari, one of the first women whom we met in 2005, continues to refer new kids to us. One of her friends died last year, leaving her four children without a home. Kumari told us about them, and the kids are now thriving at KM and in school.

#### Ways to Help

- A few of our kids at Karunya Mane are still looking for sponsors. Click here if you're interested: [Sponsor a Karunya Mane Kid!](#)
- If you'd like to sponsor a Project Food and More kid for \$25.00 (Rs.1200) per month, please click here: [Sponsor a Project Food and More Kid!](#)
- To donate online if you live in India, please donate through our listing on GiveIndia here.



- If you are in India and want to make an in-kind donation, we appreciate dal, ragi, vegetables, and fruit, as well as items we use daily, like bath and laundry soap, pencils, notebooks, and shampoo.
- We are looking for volunteers with experience teaching English to kids.

#### Make a Difference. Donate Today.

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