

Dear Friends of Operation Shanti,

Welcome to our October 2006 e-newsletter, with news on our relatively busy summer over the past few months in India. This newsletter is for you, to let you know how your generous contributions are being put to good use. Enjoy, and thank you for your continuing support.

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty—In Action

This summer, we **enrolled two of our street kids in boarding school**. Everyone was quite excited to see the kids happily leave their life on the street for school, where they continue to live and study.

In addition to feeding 150+ people a hot, nutritious meal every week, passing out vitamins and food to the kids and moms on a daily basis and attending to their health and nutrition issues, we were quite busy in May and June (school starts in June in India) getting the kids ready for their new lives in school.

For a street kid—a beggar's son or daughter—to go to boarding school is more than about receiving an education. In a society where the poor are ignored or forgotten, these kids now have the chance to **improve their standing in society** as they grow into young adults. This is in direct contrast to their prior situation, where they sporadically went to local schools when they were not working or begging, and lived on the street—a scenario in which they would likely have remained for the rest of their lives.

Another bit of good news for eight-year old **Latta**, who has lived on the street her entire life and had never gone to school—this year, she started school! Although Latta was a little apprehensive at first about leaving her mom for the whole day, we encouraged her to go to school. We helped mom get Latta registered, walked her to class in the morning, purchased school supplies (book bag, pencils, notebooks, school uniform) that her mom couldn't afford, and we continue to give her positive support and encouragement.

Although there were a few hiccups in her attendance early on given her lifestyle on the street and a serious bout of anemia, for the past couple of months Latta has been attending school daily and loves it!

For these kids, we are breaking the cycle of poverty.



We endeavor to instill in the kids and moms the ability to make their own choices, and to understand that there are consequences to their choices



This summer, we initiated our **Sponsor Program**, aimed at facilitating a one-on-one connection between donors and the people we help. Our first recipients, Kumari and her kids Prema and Mohan, have moved from the street and into a house with assistance from our Sponsor Program. Their sponsor receives an initial report upon signing up, and annual updates on the progress of the sponsored family. Please check our website for additional sponsorship opportunities.

Our **volunteers have been doing a great job** for us and bring tremendous compassion and support to our work. They take time a few days each week to connect with the kids, teach them the English alphabet, numbers and counting, and a few fun yoga postures for their health.

Health-Related Efforts



Lakshman, a 28-year old father who has lived on the street for his entire life and supports his wife and two girls as best he can by selling vegetables and doing other odd jobs, contracted spinal meningitis this past August and was hospitalized for 10 days. We purchased dad's costly medicines prescribed by the doctor that basically saved his life and brain functions. Today, dad is back working and has fully-recovered.

We've been continuing our networking activities with other health-related organizations, to provide additional useful resources for our kids and moms. This summer, one of our street moms received with a long-overdue tubectomy at a local women's clinic. We helped admit a street dad to a detox center for his addiction, and we plan to admit other street dads who want to get help for their alcoholism.

With guidance from the pediatricians at the hospital, two of our one-year olds have started tuberculosis treatment. Tuberculosis is a leading cause of death in India, with over 400,000 deaths each year from the disease.

Learn more at www.operation-shanti.org.

How You Can Help

We're fundraising now to be able to do the things we want to over the next 6-12 months—a community center in the city for our Street People Program, laying the groundwork (site and construction) for our home for destitute kids, and free mobile medical services.

Help us get more kids and families off the streets and into proper shelter and help provide basic yet life-saving medicines to the poor by **donating securely today at www.operation-shanti.org**.

See our website for other ways to give and be a part of our efforts, **host** a luncheon, take up a collection at your school or workplace, and use your creativity to support Operation Shanti.



To **volunteer**, send us an email and tell us about your interests and skills:

info@operation-shanti.org

We appreciate your **non-monetary donations**: art supplies, clothing, used yoga mats...

Many thanks to the friends of Operation Shanti in Mysore, who continually support our efforts.

And, thank you for your support.

Make a difference. Donate today.