

Our unending focus on good educational practices for our kids is showing good results.

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Education Continues to be Our Bedrock

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.
-- Nelson Mandela

Hi there,

Summer vacation (April and May) in south India is upon us and, so far, it's been a good two-month break. Our tenth graders took their public board exams in April and passed with flying colors, thanks to their hard work and your support.

Your support also contributed to a fun summer vacation for the kids! Read on ...



Exceeding Expectations

Given an average statewide score of 60%, **Prajwal** (83%) and **Pavan** (81%) scored very well on the 10th-grade board exams -- their pictures even ended up in the newspaper! Pavan's score was quite impressive considering that he started his education in 2010, when he came to live with us. Prajwal has always been a strong student, and both of them plan to pursue commerce in 11th grade.

Vinod (61%) also passed, which was quite a feat considering that he had to miss most of the last three months of school -- including the evening test prep sessions -- for health reasons. Vinod is seeking admission to CAVA, the city's college of visual arts, to pursue his passion for drawing.

Mamatha (73%) and **Pooja** (70%) also did well. Pooja is considering a career in nursing, and Mamatha will pursue commerce. **Prema** (59%) was truly our star performer -- 59% may not sound impressive but it is considering the hurdles that she overcame since childhood just to get to the point of taking the exam. Prema plans to pursue an arts curriculum and then possibly social work or psychology.



Our two other older girls are doing well. **Manjula** completed 12th grade and will start college in July, likely

concentrating in computer science. Her older sister **Suma** will begin her second year of college later this summer.

Eleven of our kids will attend a new school based on the Waldorf education method, and we look forward to watching them change and grow in their new learning environment.

Summer Fun!

Because any group home setting can easily feel like an institution, we do our best to make Karunya Mane like a real home. So, this summer vacation, we took the kids on two outings that most parents would plan for their own kids at home: a visit to the swimming pool and a trip to the movie theatre!



In early May, and to help combat the scorching Mysore weather, the kids spent a good six hours in a local swimming pool. They had a blast! For many, it was the first time in the pool, and yet a fear of the water was not even in the picture.

In mid-April, the kids saw *Raajakumara*, a hit Kannada

movie that had good life lessons.

Surya, one of our 15-year-olds, said: "The morals I learnt were not to waste food, instead, give it to the poor people; take care of our parents; always be simple even if you are wealthy; be kind to people; help the poor and needy; and we should not forget the place where we started from."

A New Home

We've been searching for a site for a new children's home for a long time and are getting closer to securing something lasting and permanent for our kids. But we need your help to take our efforts over the line.

We've been saving toward this goal for years because we eventually need to move from our current location. We need an estimated \$300,000-\$350,000 more for the site and to build a new home that best meets the needs of our kids.

To donate to this effort, select "New Children Home Fund" on our [donation page](#).

In this video, JD talks about living at Karunya Mane.





Thank You!

Thank you for supporting our efforts to help our HIV+ individuals who need life-saving medical treatments.

- Chinamma, who had major surgery for a splenic aneurysm, is doing very well and has fully recovered.
- Padma, who suffered from avascular necrosis in her hip joints brought on by her HIV medication, has recovered well from her core decompression surgery.
- Screening showed that Shashikala had HSIL, a precursor to cervical cancer, and she underwent a successful hysterectomy.

See here for additional information on [Project Food and More](#).

New Little Ones

Welcome four new little ones to Karunya Mane, our children's home!

Tharun, age 6, was orphaned five years ago and has lived with his grannie since then. But she's getting older and it's time for Tharun to start school, so she asked us to take him in and give him a good education.

Mahesh, age 8, is the younger brother to one of our medium-size boys. Their mother faces health issues that make it difficult for her to care for them and their father is an absentee dad. Mahesh is a good little boy and is happy to be living with his brother at Karunya Mane.

We babysit Prakash and Chethan, age 4, who are from the next-door slum. Both sets of parents must work and they don't want their boys roaming around unattended. The boys start kindergarten this year, along with Akash, our other little one.

To sponsor one of these little tykes or any of

our other kids, here's the link: [sponsor a child](#).



Our New Ambassadors

Danielle Depompei

Whenever Danielle travels to Mysore, India to study at the K. Pattabhi Jois Asthanga Yoga Institute, she makes time to visit with the kids at Operation Shanti. Her genuine smile and easygoing, caring demeanor make her popular among our kids, particularly our girls, who make sure that she leaves her visits with them with a new hairdo! Danielle practices at and teaches the night program at Ashtanga Yoga Columbus (AYC).

Joanna Lancaster

In her own words: "Being part of this fabulous project, Operation Shanti, is such an honor, truly. My participation is modest. I support this beautiful organization by teaching open yoga classes on a donation basis in Switzerland. Although my helping hand may be a drop of water in the ocean, I believe that every little bit helps and gathering forces can make a real difference."

Pam Green

We met Pam during one of her stays at her winter home of Mysore, India. Previously, Pam was a registered nurse with a specialty in HIV and received her MBA from the Kellogg School of Management. After a few years in the corporate world, Pam decided that she needed a more balanced lifestyle and started Anokhi Green, a company that designs custom malas and gemstone jewelry using raw materials and vintage pieces from India. In 2017, Pam visited the children at Operation Shanti and wanted to do more because she views education as a way out of the cycle of poverty (especially for girls).

Marque Gareaux

Marque is a dedicated student and teacher of Ashtanga yoga, and just a really great guy. When Marque met our

kids, they immediately took to him (and his long hair, which the little girls loved to make into braids!) and he to them. Marque has 20 years of climbing and mountaineering experience and did a 4-year tour with the United States Marines before dedicating himself to Ashtanga yoga and co-founding Great Lakes Ashtanga Yoga in Ohio.

Earl Solis

Earl, an engineer and yoga practitioner/teacher from the Bay Area, first learned about Operation Shanti during his first trip to Mysore in 2015. Earl is fairly new to the organization and has been moved to support the mission of everyone having the opportunity to live their full potential. As an Operation Shanti Ambassador, Earl continually gives, hosts fundraising events, and spreads awareness in his local community.

For more on our ambassadors, click [here](#).







We're about to start another school year, and we're excited for our kids because they improve every year in all areas of their lives.

"Like" us on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) to stay up-to-date on what's going on with the kids and women in our programs.

Have a great summer vacation and thank you again for your support.

The Operation Shanti Team

A mind when stretched by a new idea never regains its original dimensions.
-- *Anonymous*



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