

# Children Are . . . Angels From Heaven

Ray O'Brien, Editor

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***This year's newsletter is dedicated to Angels that have been called back to Heaven***

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Hi Everyone,

I am writing today about some of the 2011 Children are Angels From Heaven work, to help the poor and needy. It was a very busy year for all of us with many happy smiles in many different places around the world.

Before I begin writing my short stories, I would like to say a few words about how Angels from

Heaven gathers our donations. Our donated money and goods come from hard working people, young children, local schools, labor unions, civic organizations, retired seniors, and many others. I do not have big corporate sponsors that fund everything and send me thousands and thousands of dollars each year.

It is my job, as the President of Children are Angels from Heaven, to see to it that our donations are looked after in every way, used where the need is and keep costs under control at all times and to be accountable and responsible for everything.

I never ask for donations; people know what I do each year to help the poor and many times want to help me anyway they can. They always tell their family and friends and that's how we grow each year.

Children are Angels from Heaven works because we have no payroll. I pay my own airfare and expenses to visit the children each year. So in short, your donation goes to the children. Every penny that is donated is reported to the IRS in our yearly non-profit tax return.

If you have the time and want to read up on our past work, check out our web site [www.childrenareangels.org](http://www.childrenareangels.org)

I can never even start to thank all the thousands of people who reach out to help me on both sides of the world, either with donations or hard work. They go hand in hand. One is no good without the other. I am proud of what we have done over the years with all the donations and help that I have received. I want to say Thank You to all of you.

Raymond O'Brien  
President



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 Rosemary Matarazzo  
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 Liliben Parikh  
 Chinubhai Parikh

## While in Calcutta & Rourkela... Some of the places that I visited:

Society of Indian Children's Welfare (SICW)  
 Missionaries of Charity  
 Loreto Day School, Sealdah  
 St. Vincent's Home  
 Salvation Army Girls' Home  
 Don Bosco Ashalayam  
 Adarsha Hindi Vidyalaya School  
 St. Teresa's School  
 Sabera Home for Handicapped Children  
 K.M.C.P. School  
 Providence Sisters Girls' Home  
 School of Angels Village School  
 Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy  
 St. Catherine's Seniors' Home  
 St. Ignatius Church  
 Loyola School  
 Ghoghea Primary Mission School  
 St. Joseph Girls' Primary School  
 St. Joseph Girls' Hostel, Hamirpur  
 St. Joseph Covent School  
 Mary Cooper Home

## My Arrival in Kolkata, India

I arrived in Kolkata on time this year. It was two, very long, airplane flights arriving to Kolkata at about 1AM. The flights are about 18 hours in total with about ten hours waiting in airports for flight connections. In total it took about 30 hours door to door. I cleared immigration and customs at the airport with no problem and walked outside the airport to find the car and driver that my friend in Kolkata, Cheryl Rodrigues, had set up for me to take me to my room at the Kolkata Guest House. It is about 25 KM away. Cheryl is a wonderful person who helps me every year and whatever she does is always 100% right. When I opened the outside door at the airport there was the driver with a sign saying "O'Brien." I said, "Here I am!" to the driver. Within minutes I was on my way to my room. When we arrived at the Guest House it was about 3AM. I got out of the car and said "Thank You" to the driver. We waited at the front gate for just a minute or two and one of the hotel workers opened the front gate. He was very happy to see me again. I too was happy to be back in Kolkata but I was very tired. The worker and I got my big bags to my room as quiet as we could so not to wake anyone up. I am now a long way from home but very happy to be seeing the children that I love so much and with the people in India who help me help them each year.

## St. Paul School, Wellesley, MA

Last year St. Paul School in Wellesley, MA had a stuffed animal drive for the children in India. The children gathered 350 gently used stuffed animals. I shipped them to Rourkela, India in seven boxes to be used at a local school Feast Day Celebration as prizes in game stalls. The children of St. Joseph Convent School (a very good school) would spend 10 Rs to win one of the animals. The money was then used for a very poor school in a village to help buy needed school tables and benches for two classrooms. One classroom is inside the convent and the other is in the garage area for the students. In all, the project worked out perfect, with all the children being winners!

### The St. Paul Children, The St. Joseph Children, and the Village School Children -

I could never do this work if it was not for many people involved... The teachers, the Sisters, and the students of all three schools, along with many people here including Katy and Chris McDonough of Natick, MA and the St. Paul School Principal, Karen McLaughlin.

You can see a few of the photos of everything I sent being used.

Thank You St. Paul School for your continued help each year.



## A Letter from Mae . . .

I receive many wonderful letters from so many people all the time. Many people like our work and do what they can to help us. One big reason is the funds or donations are not lost or stolen. We also do not have a payroll, our work is for the love of the children only . . . I want to share one of those letters with you today.

The letter comes from a young girl 16 years old. She lives in North Carolina and has five siblings. Her name is Mae. Mae's mom and dad have been a part of Angels from Heaven since the day we started our charity work.

Mae has always been interested in our work. Even as a young girl many years ago, she would read our newsletters or send me her birthday money to help the poor children during my Indian visits. . . Without getting lost in words Mae is a grown up now and is making her plans for the future. I received this letter two weeks ago from her. I have permission from her, and her mom and dad to share the letter with all of you.

**Mae wants to become a Sister.** I guess our work has touched many people in a way I never thought about! Enjoy the letter and Thank You for your help and support each year . . .



12/29/11 SMS

Dear Mr. O'Brien,

I hope you and your family had a Merry and Blessed Christmas! I just wanted to thank you for all your love and support my whole life! Your influence has become an integral part of who I am. You have given my family and I so much - both physically + spiritually. You helped me come to my choice of becoming a Sister by instilling your love of the poor into me. Thank you again.

You and your family will always be in my prayers and thoughts!

Love and Blessings!

Mae.

## Immaculate Conception School, Lowell MA

Again this year I spent much time with the Angels from the Street, children who live under the bridge in Calcutta. I'm telling all of you these children are the happiest kids I've ever met. I dream about them when I go to sleep each night. They ask for nothing, and to be honest they do not need any material things to be happy. Yes, something special is nice for them, but it is not needed. These children are survivors and are always happy! They always show up one hour early for school every day!

This year the Immaculate Conception School in Lowell, MA held a school fundraiser called a Hop-A-Thon. The children raised \$562 by taking pledges and jumping up and down in the school yard. What a great effort the students gave to raise these funds.

Last year when I was in India, we took these special children to an amusement park called Nicco Park. They had so much fun that the Sisters, teachers and I decided to do it all again this year with the money raised from the Immaculate Conception School only this time another place was added to the day trip called Science City. It is a special place all about Science and how it relates to everyone.

Before we left on our day trip in the early morning, Sister Lucy, the principal of St. Teresa's School, had new uniforms made for every child. The kids got all dressed up and looked so pretty. She had hired a big city bus for 33 children to travel on for the day. The children were happily looking out the windows and waving good-bye to everyone as the bus pulled away from the school and started our fun trip.

At Science City the kids enjoyed looking at all the science exhibits, fish in tanks, flowers and soil, water systems, along with Earth and the planets and a room full of mirrors that was a maze. Remember a day like this for the children is very rare so it was all exciting to them. Something the children really liked at Science City was a ride in the elevator inside the building. Believe it or not 33 children and the operator fit into the small elevator all at the same time, the children laughing and yelling all the way to the top floor. It was a very happy moment for all the kids. Sister Sini, the teachers, and I just had to laugh!

After our stop at Science City, we went back to the big bus and continued our journey to Nicco Park. During the bus ride Sister Sini had lots of snacks for the children. We arrived at Nicco Park in about 30 minutes. When we entered the park every child had a big smile on her face. The kids went on so many rides that I lost count. Each one was a new adventure for them. At about noon time the Sisters and teachers rounded up everyone for a nice lunch. After lunch everyone cleaned their area up. I must write this to all of you, not one grain of food was thrown away. Every piece of food was eaten by the children. Only paper and empty plates were thrown away in the rubbish. Children in India learn at an early age never to waste food in any amount. After lunch the kids were back on the rides again. The kids were well behaved at all times. There never was any problems. As our day came to an end and we boarded the bus to go back to St. Teresa's School. Sister Sini passed out more snacks. The children were so tired from a fun day most of them fell asleep on the ride home. When we arrived at the school, Sister Lucy was waiting for us. Sister Lucy had arranged a nice soft drink of Sprite for the children and a box lunch to take home for dinner.

This entire day was funded by the students with the help of all the teachers of the Immaculate Conception School in Lowell, MA. It was a day the Angels children will carry with them their entire life.

Thank You to everyone in Calcutta, Sister Lucy, Sister Sini along with the teachers, Mrs. Toppo and Teresa and at the Immaculate Conception School in Lowell, MA, Miss Firoino, the school principal, and the 8th grade teacher, Mrs. Gallontto along with all the IC School students and staff for making this a very special project for some very special children.

Here are a few photos to look at . . .





## Montrose, School Medfield, MA

With the help of parents, Katy and Chris McDonagh and Montrose School staff member, Ellen Baker, the students of 7th and 8th grade classes held a large stuffed animal collection for Children are Angels from Heaven. Our original thought was to give the stuffed animals to the Angels from the street children in the afternoon program at St. Teresa's School. As it turned out, the students at the Montrose School worked so hard and collected so many animals that we had enough to bring to three places during this year's visit. St. Teresa's School, The Municipal School morning class, and the Providence Sisters Girls' home, all in Calcutta.

At each school the children were lined up according to age and the smallest children got to pick out their very own stuffed animal sent to them by the students of the Montrose School or a jump rope or Frisbee that I added to the collection. It was so wonderful to witness the happy smiles of the children and see the gleam in their eyes as each one selected a new toy.

This work could never have been done if it was not for the Montrose School Students stepping forward to help us. Their efforts brought so much happiness and laughter to so many children in India. I also do not want to forget Sisters Lucy and Sini at St. Teresa's School, the staff at the Municipal Morning School, the Providence Sisters at the girls home, and my friend, Cheryl Rodrigues for making this a wonderful project from start to finish.

A nice poster board with photos of all of this has been sent to the Montrose School for the 7th and 8th grade classes to see everything. . . along with a big "Thank You"

The next page has some photos for you to see the smiles and the joy that these toys brought to the children.



## St. Teresa's School



## Municipal School Morning Class



## Providence Sisters Girls' Home



## St. Raphael School Medford, MA

This year my friend at St. Raphael School, Margie Chisholm, helped me gather even more stuffed animals and beanie babies for the children in India. Margie gave me a large box with many



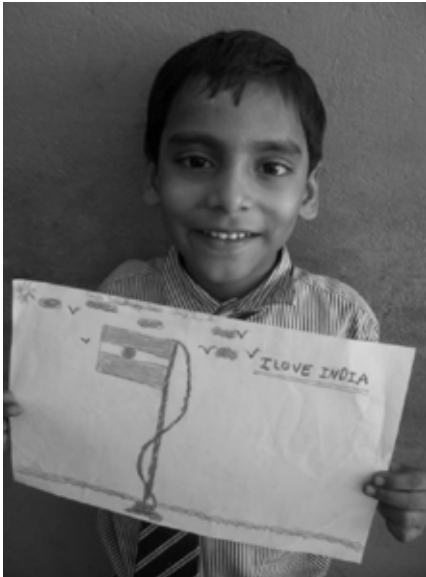
animals that I brought to the Municipal school afternoon class in Calcutta. Along with the animals, I had a lot of school supplies for each of the students that I bought in India. It was a short visit at the school but always nice to see the children's happy smiles.



## Loyola Primary School

Each year we have a special project called Picture Project where children on each side of the world draw pictures and exchange them to learn about each other. This year the Loyola Primary School in Calcutta worked very hard to produce some very artistic drawings. I brought the children some donated candy Twizzlers. I also had a lot of fun with the teachers Parkum, Victoria, and the Principal, Sister Sangita and the children during my visit. Here are some of the photos to show you.





## Society For Indian Childrens' Welfare

SICW is a very special place for me to visit as my oldest daughter passed through its doors. A visit with the children and staff is so rewarding. It is something you would never forget. It is very easy to see the love this orphanage has for the children and the care that is given to them. My visits at SICW are always very special, as I am visiting the staff who are old friends. I cherish every minute of my time here. This year I had many baby blankets and other small supplies for the home including a few nice dolls. SICW is special in every way! It is a great home for many very poor children who are all in need. These beautiful children are pictured in the next column. Check out the SICW web site <http://www.sicwforchildren.org>



## Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy

As many of you know, I have a handicapped boy named Raymond. If I lived in Calcutta, my boy would go to this wonderful school. At the school there are more children and classrooms than I can count. My friend and contact is Tessa Hamblin, the Director of Rehabilitation at the school for handicapped children. Children are Angels from Heaven sponsors two children here Soib and Rumpa. Again this year with the help of Cathy Madden, we had a small party for Rumpa's classroom complete with cake, ice cream, and stuffed animals for everyone along with a small gift for Rumpa. It was a wonderful visit. I learned how the children in the class who can walk and use their hands passed out all the food and also helped feed the children who could not use their hands. Some of the children also had problems hearing or seeing. All the children were very happy and excited and so was I. I also learned this year that Rumpa's teachers are getting her to talk. It's a little hard to understand her but she is doing great. I could write for days about this great place for handicapped children. Rather than do that today, here is the web site address:

<http://www.iicpindia.org/> Check it out and see how great work is done every day at IICP.



## Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy



## Sabera Home for Handicapped Children

Of all the places I visit, The Sabera Handicapped Home always makes me cry. It is so sad seeing so many children handicapped in so many ways. Every child has their own story but I learned many years ago it is not a crime to be born. I give the Sabera staff my highest respect for looking after these children and doing everything they can to help them. Many of the severely handicapped children came from IMH when it closed a few years ago and are bigger children. For the children who can go to school at the home each day, a small school is set up on the lower floor of the building with two teachers to teach the children basic skills. It was wonderful to see the school children so happy at the school and the teachers, Subhas Santra and Jolly Chowdhury so willing to help them. Upstairs in the building is where

the handicapped children sleep. Each year I visit the children and the Massie's with the handicapped children. Nurse Shila Sardar and all the Massie's look after every child in a very special way with plenty of love and understanding. There is a young girl I have been visiting at Sabera for many years. Children are Angels from Heaven had her crossed eye fixed a long time ago, her name is Dasi. Each year a family back in the USA sends Dasi some beautiful clothes and gifts. The Massies always help me with these things for her. Trust me, when you visit Sabera, you never, ever, forget every minute of the visit. It's beautiful, its happy, along with being sad, all at the same time. Many times it is overwhelming for me and yes I cry! I love all these kids & staff very much.



## Providence Sisters Girls Home

This year I had the pleasure of visiting this home with my friend Cheryl Rodrigues. It was a fun, interesting visit with the children and Sisters as they were performing a Christmas play for about 100 guests at the home on Sunday afternoon. The kids were terrific and the show was so good. I can still hear the music "God is good." I could see when I arrived that everyone worked very hard with the decorations and costumes as well as practicing for the play. Everyone did an outstanding job! Here are a few photos of the show.







**Loreto Day School  
Sealdah, India**

A visit to this school is always special but this time it was a little sad for me. I arrived as I always do at the main office door. The staff always says, "You're back again" and I just smile. I sit and talk for a while with everyone waiting my turn to visit the school principal and my friend, Sister Cyril. As I have always written in my newsletters Sister Cyril is a can-do person. There is no job she will not do to help children, especially children in need. She is a wonderful person and has worked very hard to make her school one of the very best in Calcutta. When Sister Cyril arrived in the room to say hello to me, she gave me a big hug and took me to her small office for a nice chat. She told me that at the end of the year she was going to step down as principal from the school

and take life at a little slower pace. I was very sad to hear this news from her but I understood. Sister arrived from Ireland to India in January 1956 and worked very hard over the years becoming the Loretto Day School Principal in 1979. Everyone in Calcutta knows Sister Cyril for the wonderful work she has done. I will miss her very much and I am proud to say Sister opened my eyes to the poor on one of my early visits to India with a village trip with her school children. That was a trip that inspired me to get involved and help poor children as best I can. "God Bless You Sister Cyril I will miss you and always carry you in my heart each day for your hard work, love and kindness to help others including me."



**Medford, MA  
Kiwanis Club &  
The Pittsfield, NH  
Rotary Club**

Both of these civic clubs have helped Children are Angels from Heaven for many years. It is directly because of their efforts to help that I was able to purchase general school supplies for many children in Calcutta. My friend, Cheryl, helped me with the purchase to get as much as we could with the funds that were made available. Everything went great! We bought enough school supplies for 360 children exercise books with lined paper, rulers, pencils, sharpener, erasers, and Crayons. Everything was sorted out and personally distributed to the children by me. After handing out everything to each student with the teachers at his or her school, the reward was seeing the happy smiles from the students and teachers.

**Thank You Medford, MA Kiwanis Club and Pittsfield, NH Rotary Club.** Your gift to the children will make the world a more educated place.

Here is a list of where all the school supplies went:

- Adarsha Hindi Vidyalaya School
- K.M.C.P. School
- Fishing Village school



*Cheryl ordering supplies at the store*



*K.M.C.P. School*



*Adarsha Hindi Vidyalaya School*



*Fishing Village School*



*Fishing village school boy*

## St. Vincent's Home

For many years now Children are Angels from Heaven has sponsored a nice Chinese dinner for everyone at St. Vincent's. This year was no exception. We had dinner for the Seniors' at St. Catherine's home and the children at St. Guertude's along with all the Daughters of the Cross Sisters. It was a nice meal with rice, Chili chicken, chow & fried fish fingers for everyone. This year it was a very large order for about 250 people. The food was good but a mistake was made on my part this year, that I want to share with you. The order was very large as I try to have a nice meal for everyone. In the past we have done this dinner in two parts one for the children and one for the seniors. This year I tried to do it all in one at one time.

It was too much to do for one night and at the end we ran short on food and that happened at the dinner for the children. Everyone did get something but not enough. There was also no seconds of the meal as in the past for the children. It was still a nice time but it could have been better. I accept full responsibility for this mistake and promise you next year will be different. Here are a few photos of this year's dinner.



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## Don Bosco Ashalayam



Here is where my friend Bernard works, a wonderful advocate for the street children. One visit to Ashalayam and it makes you think about your personal life and how lucky you are. The children here are all street children with no place else to go. Many of the children are found in the railroad stations. Each child asks to come to this home, they are not taken there by force. The entire staff at Ashalayam works very hard to help all the children either by schooling or to learn a trade such as wood working, welding or even baking. There is one thing Ashalayam gives the children that they desperately need and have never received, plenty of love and understanding. I could fill this page with wonderful happy faces and work being done at Ashalayam but instead, for this newsletter, I will only show you

one photo of a boy who came to the Ashalayam night shelter the night before my visit because he had no place to go. Ashalayam is a happy and sad place all in one. The one thing the children have when they enter the front door of this home is a happy smile and they always leave with much more than they came with, a skill or education along with friends and a family and a place to call home.

## Adarsha Hindi Vidyalaya School

Over the past few years because I have so many places to visit, my visit at this school has been very short. This school has a dedicated staff of teachers that do the very best they can with what they have to work with. If I started to list the things the school needed we would start with a new school building with much bigger classrooms. I love my visits here with these children. One reason the children remember me is they understand I care about all of them along with their future. Many times when I am near the school walking along the street, a young child will yell to me, "Hello Uncle." When I turn my head, I can see the child in their school uniform. I always say to the School Principal Mr Ashok Tiwari, "If I ever become a millionaire I am going to build you a brand new school." I hope someday God grants my wish and I live to see a new school for these children.

## St. Paul's School, Wellesly, MA and Halloween Candy

Every year just after Halloween, the students of this school bring lots of candy to send to many places that appreciate a nice American treat. The school has been doing this every year since 2004. Principal Karen McLaughlin and Kathy and Chris McDonough of Natick, looked after the entire project at the school. Even though this year the weather was very bad for Halloween and postponed until the following week, the children still brought in 60 pounds of candy to give to Children are Angels from Heaven to be distributed by me. This is a very special project every year and I want to say "Thank You" to everyone for your help. I could not do it without you. Here is a list of where all the candy was distributed.

1. Dana Farber Cancer Ins. Boston, MA
2. Children's Hospital, Boston, MA
3. Nazareth House, Boston, MA
4. St. Charles Child. Home, Rochester, NH
5. Pine Street Inn, Boston, MA
6. NE Shelter for Homeless Vet., Boston
7. Hundreds of Children in India

## Time to Leave Calcutta and Travel to Rourkela, Orissa by Rail

For this part of my trip to India I need help. The Daughters of the Cross Sisters in Rourkela have sent Sister Kiran to Calcutta to escort me by train back to Rourkela. It is a very long, tiring journey for the Sister to look after me and get us both back to Rourkela. Sister did an excellent job getting the taxi cabs and just looking out for both of us.

We left St. Vincent's home at about 5:15 AM Saturday morning to get the train at Howrah Station. Most people travel by train in India so the train station had many people in it. Sister said to me, "Ray just stay with me and we will be fine." Sister found the platform that our train was to arrive on and the car and seat number we were assigned. When the train came into the station it was not a problem to board and get seated. I had one big bag of donations with me for the children of Orissa and that was put in an overhead rack. As the train rolled along the rails, Sister Kiran and I had much fun talking and laughing. It was a very interesting ride on the train for both of us looking out the windows. When I saw something that caught my eye, Sister would tell me about it so I could learn a little about India during our trip. It was a nice trip with Sister Kiran as she was fun to travel with.

After about eight hours traveling on the train, we arrived in Rourkela. Sister Mary along with another Sister and the driver all met us at the rail station. It was so good to see everyone and to be back in Rourkela. The driver loaded everything into the Jeep-type truck and we were off to St. Joseph's Convent School. It was about a 15 to 20 minute ride. Rourkela is in the countryside and it is very quiet and peaceful with no horns

beeping from the cars and trucks plus you can breathe good fresh air. When we arrived at the compound, I took my bags and walked to the guest house to the same room I had been in before. Up the stairs I went right to the room. When I opened the door, right in front of me was a big box full of fresh drinking water, a big bag of Coca Cola and other drinks, along with cookies and chips for me to snack on. I know this was special for me from the Sisters as they know I do not eat Indian food and that I like snack food. This was something I will



never forget. It was love and kindness at its best! When I looked around the room I also saw my big soft bed. I knew it was time for me to take a nap and just rest for the day. At 6 PM Saturday night I got up and went to the kitchen where I met all the Daughters of the Cross Sisters and had a nice hot meal of soup along with some potatoes and bread. After dinner and a nice talk with everyone, I went back to my guest room and caught up with some of my paperwork. I went to bed at about 9PM for a good night's sleep.

### **Sunday Nov 27, 2011**

I arrived in Rourkela just yesterday afternoon. After a good night's sleep, I woke up early. As I look out my window the sun is starting to rise and it's very quiet outside. It looks like it will be a very nice day. At about 8:15 I hear the church bells ringing, and that tells me to get ready to go to church to the 8:30 Mass. It's nice to go to church in India; the service is the same but it's all a little different. For example before you enter the church, you take off your shoes and leave them outside. The church has no chairs or pews and the parishioners sit or kneel on the floor. Men are on one





## A Playground for a Village School . . .

side of the church and women and small children are on the other. Most women in the church have their heads covered with a scarf. For some reason it just feels good to go to church and pray with the people of Rourkela. Everyone is always very friendly to me before and after the service. I'm sure if I were another religion I would also be very welcomed at other services in the area. Rourkela, Orissa is a real nice place. After Mass I went back to my room and started to get my big bag unpacked that I brought with me for the children. After lunch time because it's Sunday and the children are not at school, the Sisters and I unpack all the boxes that I sent. It was fun having them help me and to see all your wonderful donations sent to me. We sorted everything out and got things ready for Monday as I will be going to a small village named Ghoghea with the Sisters.

Over the years we have done so many small projects to help children I forget some of them... The only way Angels from Heaven can do this work is with help from people who truly want to help in some way.

What has made it all so special for me is that I have never asked anyone for anything yet my mailbox is full of Angels from Heaven mail each week. Many of the letters touch my heart. People who have lost their job and still give to Angels or companies taking up a fundraiser for Angels. Times are tough here in the USA and Canada yet the love and kindness never stops from all of you. I am truly amazed at all of it. I will forever be grateful.

Helping poor children and being accountable is not easy ... Sometimes you have the funding for a project but things just do not work out. Other times everything works out perfect...

In November 2009 I was given a donation from the company of Prince, Lobel, Glousky, and Tye of Boston MA for \$791. I wanted to use this money to help a poor street girl who had a crossed eye. I wanted to try to make her both eyes beautiful with an operation like we did with other children.

This young child would come to the afternoon class at St. Teresa's School every day. I had seen her in 2007 and 2008 but when I went back to India in 2009, the Sisters told me that she stopped going to class.

The reason the Sisters told me, is poor people move a lot. They stay in one area for a short time if things are not good for them, the family will move anywhere to find work.

I told the Sisters what I wanted to do. Sister Teresa, Sister Lucy and Sister Sini did their very best to help me but to this day they never found the little girl again. I kept that little girl in my heart and I also kept the \$791 in our bank account just in case the Sisters found the little girl.

In November 2010 I was given a special birthday gift of \$171 from two children named Punya and Tanmay. I also saved this money for some special project in the future.

As time went on and more projects were completed or needed, I revisited India in Nov 2010. I went to a small village named Ghoghea near Rourkela to visit the village school. It was a nice visit but right from the start I could see that the children were just as happy as the children are in Calcutta but they did not have things like a playground at school to play with swings, slides, or good balls to play soccer in the open field, along with good soccer goals. The goals they had were made with broken wood sticks.

When I arrived home after this trip, I gave much thought to that little village school and remembered how happy all the children were with very little to play with. The school or the children never



*The Village School*



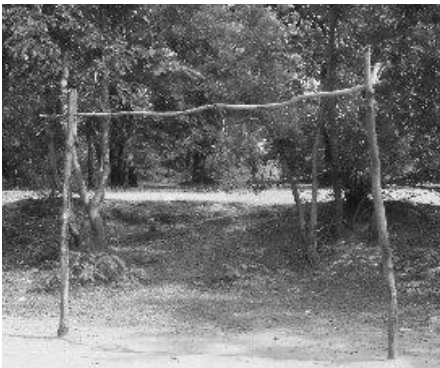


*The area and landscape*

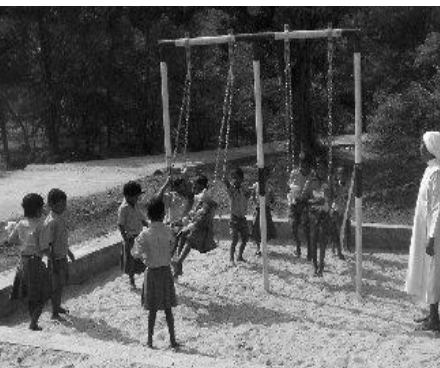
asked for anything from me. It was just a good down to earth visit that I had a opportunity to learn about a different country and culture. . . I continued to think to myself just think how happy all those kids would be with some swings and maybe some new good soccer goals. In April of 2011 I again received an 8th Birthday money gift of \$250 from Punya and Tanmay. It sure is special when young children send me their birthday gift money to spend on other children in need. . . That's another unbelievable part of this story . . . I kept that too for a future special project.

So to make a long story shorter, in hand I now had \$1,212 in donated money for a special project.

I wrote to the Daughters of the Cross Sisters in Rourkela and told them Children are Angels from Heaven would like to make a small playground with swings for the village school in Ghoghea that



*The old soccer goals*



*New swings, two sets one at each end of the playground*

I had visited earlier. I also asked about making some good strong soccer goals for the bigger children of school. With that said, Sister Mary went right to work for us along with the village Sisters gathering ideas and estimates. I did not know how much this would cost but it was a project that would make many kids so happy.

It took a lot of time to be built because of heavy monsoon rains, but when I arrived to Ghoghea Orissa this past December 2011, I saw for myself the new swings and soccer goals. The total cost of everything including sending balls, jump ropes, frisbees, stuffed animals and getting sweets and drinks for all the children was around \$2,100 in total.. The Sanghvi Family of New York even sent three big boxes of school supplies to the school in honor of their Dad who had passed away. It was a day which will be hard to forget. To be honest I never want to forget it. It was beautiful in so many ways seeing all the kids so happy with their big bright



*New swings*



*New soccer goals, one at each end of the field*



*Jump ropes, balls and toys*



*Soccer goals*



*Sweets and stuffed animals for small children*



*School supplies for all the students*

smiles. I don't think that even they had ever had a day like this before.

The extra money needed for this project came from our general fund from all of you.

I want to thank Prince, Lobel, Glousky, and Tye of Boston, MA and all of its workers, for their support and understanding, also Punya and Tanmay for giving their birthday money to help the children of India each year, along with all of you who help me each year.

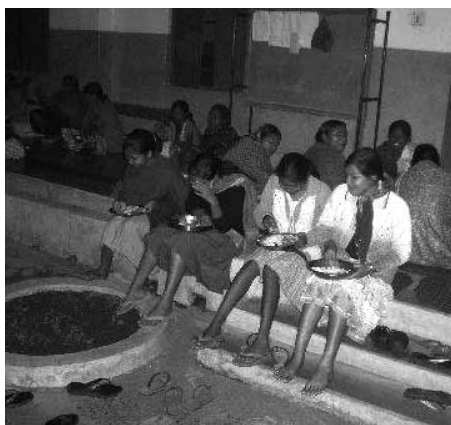
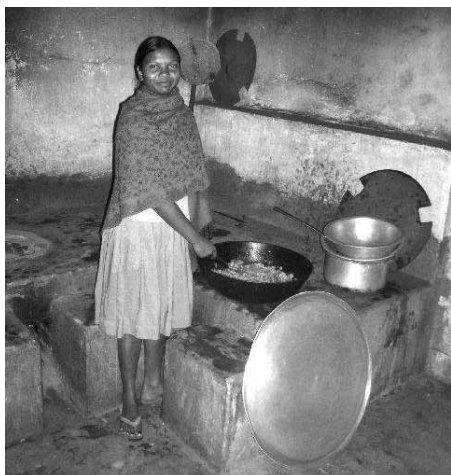
This was a well rounded out project with many people helping who donated into the general fund. Let's not forget the Daughters of the Cross Sisters who worked with me on a daily basis to keep our cost under control and see to it that everything was looked after in the proper way with no short cuts by the contractor. It worked out perfect!

## International Association of Machinist Union Local #447

Every single year the members of this labor union help me with my work helping the children. The union members NEVER forget the kids!

Last year on my trip in November 2011 as always, the members sponsored a nice dinner for 246 village children at a local school. I had made a short video and took some photos of all the children but the lights went out and it was dark. This did not stop the kids from having a nice time. It was a very happy night for everyone with good food, lots of sweets and many happy faces. Something I will always remember.

It would never happen if it was not for I.A.M. #447 stepping forward to fund the event. Thanks again to Mr. Russ Gittlen and all Local IAM #447 members for your help and support each year. Your on-going help for others is very much appreciated. Here are a few photos to enjoy and see the happy smiles!



## Sponsored Children at St. Joseph Convent School

During my visit at Saint Joseph's Convent School, I had an opportunity to visit the school every day. This is a very big school with over 2,000 students. I visited almost every classroom from the KG class to the computer Lab. Two things I will never forget about this visit was how serious school is to the children, and how much fun they have at school. The kids know what good grades mean to their future and friendships started here last a lifetime. Children are Angels from Heaven with the help of sponsors back home in America now sponsor 21 girls of all ages to go to this wonderful school. I met every sponsored child and brought them all small gifts and letters from the sponsoring families back home. It was fun to see how excited the children were when I handed everything out to them. Sister Mary helps me with this program each year and does a great job. During my visit I take a few photos of each child, the smaller children draw a picture and the older children write a letter to the sponsored family for me to bring back home with me to send to each sponsoring family. Sister Anupama, the Principal of the school always makes sure I also have a copy of the child's report card to give to the sponsoring family. It is very important that each student tries their best at school. I always make it a point to show the sponsoring family exactly how each child is doing in school and answer any questions they might have. At this time I would like to say a BIG "Thank You" to all the sponsors for your help and support. Each one never had to be asked to help the students they



just stepped forward one at a time to help. If you are interested in being part of our program *Angels in Rourkela* and helping a child with school give me a call 1-781-483-1002.

## St. Joseph Girls' Primary School

This school is very close to where I stay so it is very easy to visit. I was looking forward to seeing the children here. Earlier in the year, I was asked by the Principal of the school if it would be possible to buy new pretty dresses for a special school song and dance program. It just so happened that when I was asked if I would be able to help with this project, a young girl named Bethany in Toronto, Canada had sent me her birthday money to do a small project for the children that I visit each year. So financially it worked out. With the help of the Daughters of the Cross Sisters, the fancy dresses, thirty-three of them were made in Calcutta at a dress shop and shipped by rail to the school. Along with the fancy dresses, I also had lots of play toys for the children; stuffed animals, Frisbees, balls and jump ropes. In all, everyone had a wonderful day. I'm sure it was a day the children will never forget.

## Donated Jewelry for the Kids



A store at Hampton Beach, New Hampshire by the name of Tibetan Boutique, donated some jewelry to Children are Angels from Heaven. I decided to send it to Rourkela this year for some girls who stay at St. Joseph's Girls' Hostel Hamirpur. The Sisters and students helped me take everything out of the bags and sort it all out on a table. After everything was sorted, we could see what we had. The Sisters and I decided to have all the children line up by classrooms with the smallest children going first to go to the table, one at a time and pick something out to keep. The kids loved everything earrings, bracelets necklace and all kinds of costume jewelry. As each child took her turn she would have such a big smile on her face. Here are photos of how much enjoyment the children had from this.



## Time to Leave Rourkela and Go Back to Calcutta

I have been in Rourkela, Orissa for just about a week now. It was an interesting trip with much done for the children. Today I go back to Calcutta by rail. At 10:30 AM I am taken to the railroad station in the Jeep by the driver and four Sisters. Sister Souza will escort me the entire way on the train to Calcutta. I have a bag of donations for the children in Calcutta that I am taking with me on the train. Sister Souza has some of my other bags as well as lunch and drinks that the Daughters of the Cross Sisters made for both of us to eat during the long train ride. The train is about 30 minutes late arriving at the station. It's a very long train with many cars. The Sisters find our car and seats with no problem. Everything is put into the overhead rack and we are all set to travel. We both say good bye to everyone and now it's just myself and Sister on the train waving good bye out the window to the driver and Sisters standing on the platform.



A trip like this is good for your soul. A few things I will never forget about this trip to Rourkela was how hard the people work in the villages in the rice paddies just to gather food to eat. Or how many houses in the villages have no running water or electricity going to them. At the village school how happy all the children were to see me and just receive a pencil or ruler. When I visited one family at a village, I asked the Grandfather of the family is there anything that he needs? His reply was something I will never forget. He said they had a lot of rain last year so they have plenty of rice to eat and they are all ok but he would like a warm shirt as it gets cold here at night. The shirt he had on was the only shirt he had. I was so sad to hear him say that. I wanted to take off my shirt and give it to him right then but that is something I could not do as a visitor not knowing the customs of the people.

Some other things I will not forget about this trip was the sponsored children at St. Joseph Convent School. They were all so happy to be in school getting a good education. The primary school with all the dancing, and the hostel kids having the big dinner. Lets not forget the new playground at the village.

It was a nice trip. The Daughters of the Cross Sisters did everything they could to help me do everything for the children and also looked after me. Without them, this trip could have never taken place. Sister Souza and I reached Calcutta about 9:30 at night. Getting a taxi is not easy but Sister found one that was reasonably priced and took us to St. Vincent's home. At St. Vincent's we both said good bye. Sister went in the Convent and I walked home to the guest house around the corner. Both of us had fun on the train but we were tired. It was a long day.

## Mary Cooper Home Calcutta

Each year I visit a friend at this seniors home named Mrs. Martin. She is a wonderful person who loves and helps everyone. Mrs. Martin is a very religious person and is very proud of that. Each year we sit and have a nice talk together. She always has a nice cold drink for me called Appy. It is so good! This year Muriel showed me her favorite Rosary beads from long ago. They are her favorite. She always tells me she says her prayers many times each day. At the end of my short visit we each say good bye with the hopes of meeting again the following year.



## Fishing Village School



I am picked up by car at 8AM by Nupur Sanyal and a driver from the Indian Institute of Social work . Today we will visit the Fishing Village School about one hour away from my guest house. It is always an interesting ride to the school with much traffic and congestion. Some of the things you see during the ride are very interesting like no other you have ever seen before. We arrive at the small school with no problem. The school is full of small children

sitting on the floor on a mat. The teachers are happy to see me and I am very happy to see them. Children are Angels from Heaven sponsors the entire program at this small school each year. The teachers work hard to do the very best they can with limited supplies and resources. Pencils and crayons along with lined paper are something that they never have enough of. The children are always happy at this school and loved very much by the teachers. I am proud of the work we have done here over the years. It has not been easy as the school is so far away but somehow we have been a big part of the school's future and it has worked out well. This is a photo of the Village School.

## Today is My Last Day in India

It's time to say good bye to everyone and do some shopping. I meet Anwasha, my friend who helps Angels from Heaven with the web site at about 11 AM at the Alipore Pump. If you remember Anwasha was the beautiful bride in the 2009 newsletter. We get a taxi and go to New Market where we do a little shopping at the Don Bosco Store near the post office. This is where the Don Bosco street children sell their goods that they make. From here we take an auto rickshaw and travel to Pauline's Book shop on Royd St. It makes me laugh about our ride every time I think about it. Indian money gets confusing to understand especially the change. The auto rickshaw fare was about 10 to 20 Rs (I am not sure of the exact amount ) but I gave the driver one bill of 50Rs and said 'Thank You' and got out of the auto rickshaw and waited for Anwasha to get out. I waited and waited for her, then she got out of the auto rickshaw holding a hand full of change and bills in her hand reaching out to give it to me saying here is your change with a smile on her face. It just so happened that Pauline's was closed for lunch so Anwasha and I got in another cab and went back to New Market and met my friend Jeet the store owner from Curio Cottage at New Market and all three of us had a nice lunch at China Town. It was a fun lunch for me with two great friends. After lunch we all went to Jeet's store where I bought many small gifts that I send to all of you for helping me in one way or another. Anwasha was a good help picking out things that she thought you would like. At about 3:30 Anwasha and I get in a taxi with all my big bags of goods from Jeet's and I make my way to St. Teresa's school to say my final good bye's to Sister Lucy and Sini and teachers Mrs. Toppo and Teresa along with all of the Angels from the Street children in the classrooms. From here Anwasha and I went to visit my friend Emmanuel's wife to say hello and visit for a few minutes. Emmanuel had passed away last year. From here Anwasha and I visit St. Vincent's and say good bye to everyone including Sister Teresa Anthony. I am always sad saying good bye here as I have known so many children who have lived here. Then Anwasha and I walk to the guest house with my heavy bags. Anwasha stays downstairs while I bring everything to my room and then I get a taxi and take Anwasha home and say good bye to her and thank her for her company and help all day long. I am driven by the taxi back to my room to start packing to go home. At 6:30 I go to church to thank God for a wonderful trip this year and to get me home safe. After church I meet Cheryl and we visit the DeSouza family. Their boy and my friend Francis, the human computer, passed away earlier this year and I wanted to say hello to his Mom and Dad. Mr. DeSouza always says a small prayer



for me to get home safe after every visit to India. I could see that they were both very sad but we had a nice visit together. After our visit with the DeSouza's I say good by to Cheryl and go home to finish packing. At 9PM I am all packed and ready to go to the airport for the long flight home. I know in my heart that I am going to miss everyone very much before I even leave India.

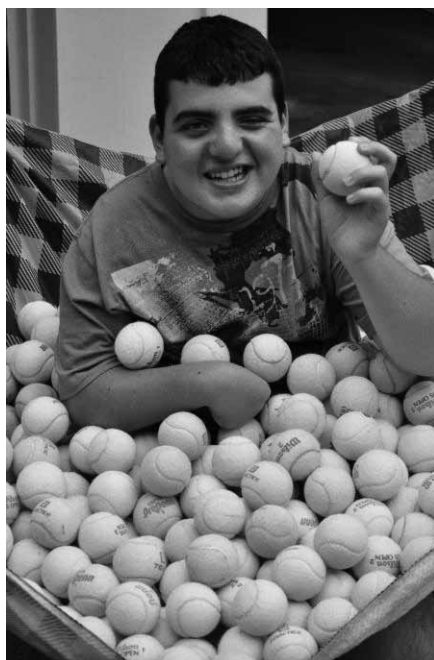
## Tornado in Joplin, Missouri-May 2011

I was home watching the TV regarding the Joplin tornados and I could not believe the damage that was done to the city as well as the loss of life. I contacted my friends The Bennett Family in Olathe, Kansas who live near the affected area in Joplin and asked how could Children are Angels from Heaven help in some small way. They sent me a few E-mails going back and forth with ideas for me to pick from to help Joplin. This was with the help of The Royal Heights United Methodist Church.

I decided to help a family who had lost everything and were recent graduates of a Bible college in the Joplin area, a mom and dad with four children. Everything was gone, from the apartment house they called home to the family car. Nothing was insured beyond liability and there was no rental insurance on the apartment. The family had nothing left but each other. Because the family had lost everything the Mom and Dad decided to move from the Joplin area and start over again in North Carolina where the Dad may have located a new job with a church. Children are Angels from Heaven sent this family \$250 to help start over again and help with some basic emergency needs. This was all looked after and verified by our friends in Olathe, KS. A nice letter was sent to the family along with a \$250 Wal Mart money order. I am going to copy the last paragraph of the beautiful letter that was sent to the family from Olathe KS for you to read.

*We pray this money will help you, but more we pray for your family. We pray that your children will heal from this frightening experience, we pray that you as parents can have calm, steady hearts as you start your life again. We pray that you will feel covered in the Lord's blanket of security of people who care.*

## Our Friend Bradley



Bradley is a handicapped little boy and needs help walking and doing things. Because Bradley has been walking more he needed more tennis balls for the bottom of his walker as they wear out faster. Bradley's Grandmother, Celeste, who always helps Children are Angels from Heaven asked if I had anymore tennis balls that I could send to her for Bradley. I said I was sorry I did not have anymore but I would try and get some. I wrote by Email in my general Angels from Heaven mails to everyone explaining the situation and guess what happened? Sally Pratt, Kathy McQueen and Kathy & Chris McDonough answered my request for the tennis balls for this little boy. Bradley was sent 239 tennis balls from all of us for the bottom of his walker.

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU  
TO RAY, CHILDREN ARE ANGELS FROM HEAVEN AND ALL  
THOSE WHO GENEROUSLY DONATED ALL THE TENNIS  
BALLS FOR MY WALKER. I HAVE BEEN DOING ALLOT OF  
WALKING AND WEARING OUT THE TENNIS BALLS IN NO  
TIME AT ALL. ALL THE DONATED BALLS WILL BE PUT TO  
GOOD USE.

THANKS AGAIN FOR YOUR KINDNESS.



GOD BLESS.

Bradley

## Non-Profit Status

We are a tax deductible and legal non-profit organization. Our International Revenue Foundation Status Classification is 501 C (3). This was done by our accountant, Mr. Robert Johnston, CPA of 444 Washington St., Boston, MA. 1-617-787-8520. Rob has done everything for us from A to Z with not one cent accepted as payment. Rob suggested right from the start that the bookkeeping be accurate and available for review by the IRS at any time. Rob also suggested all purchases or payments be made with check or credit card only. Rob has also helped us in many other ways to become what we are today. He is a great guy! If you ever need tax help he is the man to see. Thanks Rob for all your help.

## Angels From Heaven and Other Charities

Each year Children are Angels from Heaven reaches out to support as many projects as it can, not only in India but also in the the United States. We were happy to be a part of these special charities this year. Toys for Tots Drive at Christmas, Guide Dogs of America providing Guide Dogs to the Blind at no cost, Project Bread Walk for Hunger, Aleppo Shriners Children's Transportation Fund, The Children's Reading Room, Housing Families, and Autism speaks. It is directly because of your generosity, that Children are Angels from Heaven can reach out to help these worthwhile charities.



### Can Tabs



The total of can tabs collected this year 2011 was 31.6 pounds. Our grand total for the past few years is now 88.6 pounds. The tabs were again turned over to Mr. Lloyd Wentzell who is a member of the Shriners. The Shriners turn the tabs in for scrap metal and use the funds to buy needed equipment for the Shriners Hospitals. The Shriners Hospitals helps children free of charge and they do a great job. I give all of you a challenge, get a small plastic bag and fill it with the tabs and when it is full send the bag

to me. You will find out how hard it is to do. Your efforts will help a child in need at the Shriners Hospitals. A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped with this project. To find out more information regarding the Shriners or the Can Tabs, check out this web site <http://www.alepposhriners.com/ads/TabCollectionTriFold.pdf>

### Deposit Cans

Here are the totals of the deposit cans for the year 2011 and the grand overall total. I am sure you will be very surprised when you see the numbers. I have worked hard on this project just about every afternoon, counting thousands of cans and bottles that are given to me. It is not easy but you do what you have to do to raise funds to help the kids. This year's top deposit can collector was Jims Heavy Duty Service at 42 Joy St., Somerville, MA. Mechanics Buster, Joey and Jimmy did a great job this year along with their friends. "They did it for the kids."

Total cans collected this year was 14,373 for a cash total of \$ 718.64

Our totals since we started this program are as follows:

151,854 cans & bottles have been collected for a Grand Cash Total of \$ 7,592.71.

## Newsletter Printing

Bunny and Victor Stoykovich of Town and Country Reprographics, 230 North Main St., Concord, NH have donated the cost of printing the newsletter for Children are Angels from Heaven. I am so taken back by their effort and generosity to help me year after year. Bunny sets up the entire newsletter page by page for printing, all I do is send her the written information and she puts it all together for us. Bunny is an English Major from college and her work on the newsletter shows it. It is directly because of this generosity that I am able to have extra money in our checking account to reach out to many more children in need. Each year because of so many people working together to help me, Angels from Heaven grows more and more. This means we always need additional newsletters printed. Every time I explain this to Bunny she always says "Ray that's not a problem we are happy to help." I have never met such down to earth people who enjoy helping others. Thank you Bunny and Victor for all your help. If you are looking for printing work to be done large or small Town and Country Reprographics in Concord NH is the place to go. Give Bunny or Victor a call at 603-226-2828

### Parking of Our Storage Trailer

I would like to say Thank You to Xpedx Paper Company, 613 Main St., Wilmington, MA for letting us keep our storage trailer (that was donated by them) parked in their lot. It helps me many times over the year to gather needed donations stored in it to ship to the children. I would like to say thank you to all the XpedX workers and managers for the help and support they have given me over the years. We could not do this work without their help. XpedX Paper Company is a division of International Paper.



# Letters

Dear Ray  
Please use this money whatever way you feel it will benefit our special "Angels" in India

Love  
Marilyn

Dear Ray  
Thank You so much for all your hard work for the children.  
God Bless you and your family.

Love  
Carol & Bruce

Dear Ray  
David E- Mails me all your letters so I know just how much that you do. It's hard to believe that one person can do so much.

Take Care of yourself  
Anna

Ray  
This donation is in memory of my late husband Gunvant. This is the fourth anniversary of his passing. Keep doing the wonderful work that you do.

Sincerley  
Rekha

Hello Children Are Angels from Heaven  
May God Bless your trip! Thank You for allowing us the opportunity to participate in helping the children! God Bless your work.

Your Friend,  
Amber

Hi Ray  
Here is a package for Dasi, also here is a donation for Children are Angels. Have a great and safe trip!

Kathy

Hi Ray  
I hope this helps!

Dan & Judy

Ray  
Happy Thanksgiving! Have a safe fruitful & Blessed trip.

Best Regards,  
John

Ray  
Thank You for all you do for the children.

Fred & Granddaughters

Dear Ray,  
Please accept this donation in memory of Dr. Allen Crocker. He worked for many decades at Childrens Hospital in Boston with children with special needs. He always showed a special fondness for children with Downs Syndrome. He was a devoted and caring physician who consulted to our families and staff at Thom Charles River Early Intervention for 25 years. He would have valued your wonderful work. I hope that you will acknowledge him at the end of next year's newsletter.

Sincerely,  
Lorraine Sanik, Director

Hi Ray  
I know you work hard on your trips to India. I don't know how you do it ! God Bless you.

Your Friend,  
Jim

PS Always remember you are the best !

Dear Ray  
Please accept this donation in my fathers name Julius Seide for his 84th birthday on Feb 10th. My Dad always tried to help lift up the little guy and he wanted to send you something. So I do this for him. Thanks Ray

Sincerely,  
Steve Seide

Ray  
Thank You for all that you do.

Russ & Local #447

Ray  
This year you are our Angel !

Love & Hugs ,  
Lauren & Jemma



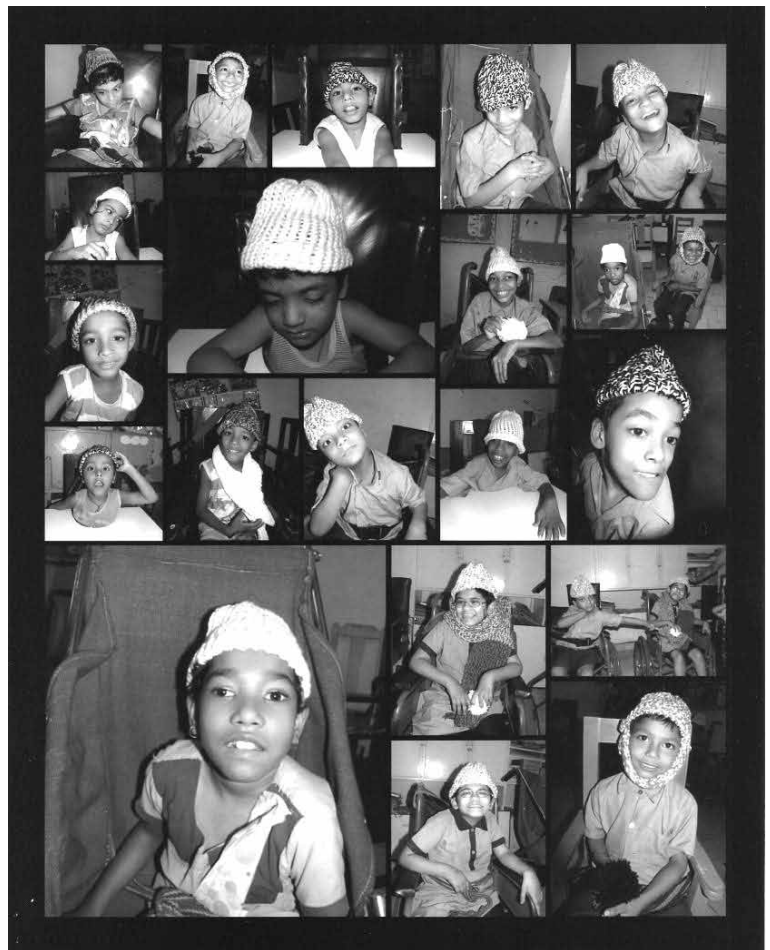
## In Closing

As you are reading the last few pages of this newsletter, I would like to say Thank You to all of you who contributed in one way or another to Children are Angels from Heaven in 2011. It was a very successful year with many of you reaching out to help me and never asking anything in return. I have done my very best to be accountable and responsible for every penny and every donation that has come to me for the children. I never want this small charity to be all about money each year. I want it to be about people helping people and that's just what it is. Look at all the photos of the kids smiling in this newsletter. You made that happen, not me alone. All I am is the mailman who delivered your love and kindness to the children with help from the people who look after them. It was a fun but very busy year for me because so many more of you reached out to help me.

I would like to end this newsletter with a short story about one child in the USA who needed some help and by helping her she helped many other children in need.

Her Name is Rachael and she is an older girl who has a developmental disability. She goes to school every day and is very interested in learning knitting. It was hard for her to get started making small things from the yarn. Rachael was disappointed that her goods were not the best and she needed more practice making things. I found out about all this through Rachael's teacher and friend Ann. Ann asked me "Ray do you know anyone who can help?" Ann knew nothing about Children are Angels from Heaven and my involvement with the Indian Children. I said, "Yes Ann I can help!" Ann was surprised.

Rachael made many knitted hats for children. As she made one, the quality of the next hat was so much better. On and on the knitting went, Rachael was very busy but getting real good at knitting the hats. When she was finished, Ann gave me a big box of hats and scarves for children. I boxed all of them up and sent them to Tessa Hemblin at the Institute of Cerebral Palsy in Calcutta, India for some of the children who go to school there. It was a perfect solution. The children in India were so happy to receive warm hats and scarves. Tessa sent Rachael a Thank You letter and photos of all the kids pictured with the hats and scarves on. Rachael was so excited seeing that her hats were enjoyed by so many Indian children. Just before my trip in 2011, Rachael made a baby blanket and gave it to me to give to someone in need in India during my visit. The blanket was just beautiful. It was one of her best pieces! I personally took that blanket with me to India in my luggage. I kept it in my backpack everywhere I went looking to give it to a special person in need. I found this person in a village in Orissa, India, a woman walking along a dirt path with a baby in a cloth sling around her shoulder. I took the blanket from my bag and walked up to the woman. Not one word was said, I just held the blanket out for her and pointed to the baby. The woman reached out and took the blanket and gave me a big smile and continued walking. The moral of the story is.... Here is a young girl in America who needed help. In the end she reached out to help so many others. That's what Children are Angels from Heaven is all about. Here are a few photos I would like to share with you to show that life is not all about money. It's about people first.



God Bless all of you and Thank You for all your help year after year,

Raymond C. O'Brien 781-483-1002



## Teamster



Local 25  
Boston, MA.



TOWN AND COUNTRY  
REPROGRAPHICS, INC.  
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Rotary Club

## Shear Madness

"the hair salon"

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MA 02155

781-391-0038

## In Memory of Aidan Jake Goodwin

9/13/2000

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grandkids.

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of

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In Memory of  
My Hero,  
My Dad

*Sunvant J.  
Sanghvi*

*In  
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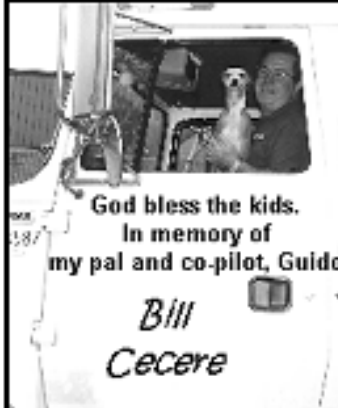
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who loved to  
help others,  
especially those  
most in need.  


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At birth, all children are equal in innocence and hope. They are not equal in circumstance and opportunity. Birth is not a crime. Yet thousands of children are sentenced to a life of hardship and need by the accident of their own birth. Children are Angels From Heaven strives to help profoundly disadvantaged children pursue productive and meaningful lives.

Check it out! [www.Childrenareangels.org](http://www.Childrenareangels.org)