



# Children are . . . Angels From Heaven

Ray O'Brien, Editor

Vol. 8 January to December 2005

## Hi Everyone,

Another year has passed and so has another trip to Calcutta, India, in November 2005. As you know, I visit poor children every year in Calcutta, India, at Thanksgiving, as a way to say Thank You for my three beautiful children who were adopted from that city.. My trips started in 1996 because my oldest daughter Joanna, who was six-years-old, asked me "Dad what is India like?" Because all three of my children were escorted during the adoption process, I never traveled to India. I felt it was my obligation as a "Dad" to find out about the country my little girl was born in. Over the past ten years of visiting the children of Calcutta, I have learned so much about the world that we live in. Some of it is very sad, people living in the street, children not being able to go to school, or babies in an orphanage. It is a very different life than here in America. I find it sometimes hard to understand. The children I meet are very poor and yet they are the happiest children I have ever met. I do whatever I can to help these children and other children all over the world. For the simple reason children are children no matter where they were born or live.

Because *Angels From Heaven* has grown, many people from all over the world now help me. Some people reach out to help me long-term with many different projects helping the children, others help with just a few special projects. Either way we touch many children's lives in a small, special way. It is not easy work! We have no payroll of any kind. The only reward is the smiles from the children. This work could never be done if it was not for all of you giving your time, energy, and efforts.

Last year was a very busy year for *Angels From Heaven*. At one time I had so much going on for children I could not keep up with everything. But we made it! In the following pages of this newsletter you will see some of our work. I would like to say THANK YOU to all of you for your continued support and help. I am hopeful we can continue to work together to help many more children in the future and write more newsletters with short happy stories of helping children. My next trip will be November, 2006. As always I am accountable and responsible for all donations. If anyone has any questions, feel free to call me 1-781-483-1002.



Check out our website  
[www.childrenareangels.org](http://www.childrenareangels.org)

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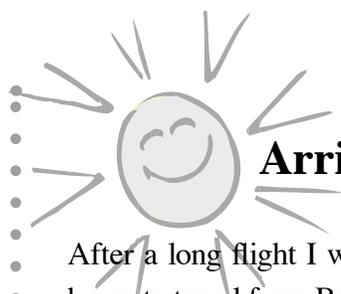
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This year's newsletter  
is dedicated to Angels  
that have been called back  
to Heaven.

Robert Healey  
Cheryl Grigas  
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Cheryl Madden  
Carl Asker  
Ruth Walsh  
Cheryl (A child in India)



## Arrival in Calcutta

After a long flight I was glad to get to Calcutta. It takes approximately 24 hours to travel from Boston to Calcutta one way, including a short stopover in Europe. The flights arrive in the early morning hours around 2 AM Calcutta time. It takes one hour to go through Immigration and Customs clearance at the airport and it is about a 45 minute ride to my room. By the time I get there, it is about 4 AM and I am tired. I sleep for about 8 hours and get up and start unpacking and sorting out all the donations for the children that I have brought with me. The cost of my airfare is about \$1,400 which I pay personally. Leaving the day before Thanksgiving gives me two extra days to travel and catch up on the time difference. Remember Calcutta is a half a world away, when its daytime here its nighttime there! It's very hard to adjust to. After my first day of getting settled and exchanging dollars for rupees along with having lunch and dinner with my Indian Mum and Uncle, I am now ready to visit the children.

## While in Calcutta...

Some of the places I visited are:

Society of Indian Children's Welfare

Missionaries of Charity

Loreto Day School, Sealdha

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

School of Angels Village Schools 1 & 2

Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy

St. Catherine's Seniors Home

Rehabilitation Centres For Children



*Rumpa*

## Cheryl's Wheelchair to Rumpa

Many times no matter where you live, sadness is a part of our life. The loss of a loved one is especially hard. This year I was given a special wheelchair to take with me to Calcutta from a Mom who had lost a very special daughter to a form of Muscular Dystrophy at the age of twenty-six. It was very hard for (Mom) Kathy Madden to give up the wheelchair because Cheryl had used it for so many years. It had become a part of her life helping her daughter. I called Kathy to talk about the wheelchair and how we could best put it back in service to help someone. I told Kathy I did not know anyone at the moment who needed a wheelchair but I gave her my word I would find someone in need for it and that person would be very special. With that, Kathy gave me the wheelchair. I know Kathy was sad to let it go, as it was part of her daughter's life with her. After getting the wheelchair delivered to my home by Mindy Benson, Cheryl's physical therapist, I oiled up the wheels and even shined the wheelchair up to look new. I contacted a special friend in Calcutta, Dr. Dadina, who had previously helped me with two children's operations, Samita with a cleft lip, and Dasi with a crossed eye. Dr. Dadina said she could help me find a child in need of a wheelchair and to bring it with

me on my trip. I contacted British Airlines to arrange for extra luggage charges for the wheelchair to travel with me to Calcutta. The cost would be \$140. As I have always said, God helps me with my trips to help the children. It turned out that British Airlines waived the \$140 fee when I arrived at the airport and told them what the wheelchair was for. When I arrived in India, Customs let everything enter the country, including the wheelchair, as duty free and I left the airport via the green door. As you can tell, everything worked out perfectly. I met Dr. Dadina within the first week of my trip. She picked me up at the Xavier home and we loaded the wheelchair into the back of her car. I did not know where we were going at the time, but Dr. Dadina said it was very special and the wheelchair would be very much appreciated by somebody. Within a half an hour's ride we arrived at the Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy. I met Sudha Kaul, the Executive Director and Tessa Hamblin, Director of Rehabilitation. We sat and had tea and talked about the Institute of Cerebral Palsy, how it started and the work that is done each day to help the children. After our short meeting it was time to bring the wheelchair to a very special person. The little girl's name is Rumpa who is eleven years old. Rumpa has Cerebral Palsy (spastic quadriplegia) and comes from a very poor family. Rumpa will now be in Cheryl's wheelchair many hours of the day. The little girl was so happy and excited when she received the wheelchair. I had tears in my eyes seeing her. In the end I was very happy with the outcome of the wheelchair. It went to a great place and to a beautiful child in need, but I remembered the loss of Cheryl back in America and her Mother Kathy missing her, which made me sad. When I returned to America, I gave Kathy all the paperwork and photos regarding the wheelchair. I know she was happy that Cheryl's wheelchair now lives on with Rumpa in Calcutta. Kathy herself told me Cheryl would be very proud.

**I would like to say a special Thank You to Kathy for the gift of Cheryl's wheelchair.**



*Soib*

## Indian Institute Of Cerebral Palsy

During my visit with Rumpa, Tessa Hamblin gave me a personal tour of the facility. It was big, clean and had 350 children in its care. I visited every room and every child. I was amazed at the different levels of help the children receive. For example, I watched a boy run a computer with his feet because his arms and hands did not work. I watched other children getting therapy or instruction in arts and crafts. This center was well run in a very caring and loving way. Tessa told me one of the biggest problems they have right now is getting the children on and off the bus to come and go from the Institute. All the children are handicapped but the bus is not, as it is not required to be by law. To get the children on and off the bus is a project in itself. The first children who get on the bus are the children who can stand and walk. They are put in the rear of the bus then a board is put across the bus stairs as a makeshift ramp for the children who are in wheelchairs to enter the bus. They are placed in the front of the bus. This is a big problem especially when the children arrive home. A new bus with handicapped access costs \$45,000 in U.S. funds. I was asked if I could help buy a bus for the center but I explained that *Angels from Heaven* is a small charity and we do not have that kind of money but I would seek donations for the bus. I felt bad saying this but it's the truth. Instead I offered to sponsor two children in the center for one year; one being our little friend Rumpa, an eleven-year-old girl, and also a five-year-old boy named Soib. Both children have Cerebral Palsy (Spastic Quadriplegic) and come from very poor families. After visiting this center and all the children I consider it an honor for *Angels from Heaven* to be able to help these two children.....My only regret of this visit was not being able to pull out my *Angels from Heaven* checkbook and write a check for \$45,000 to buy the children a new handicapped bus.



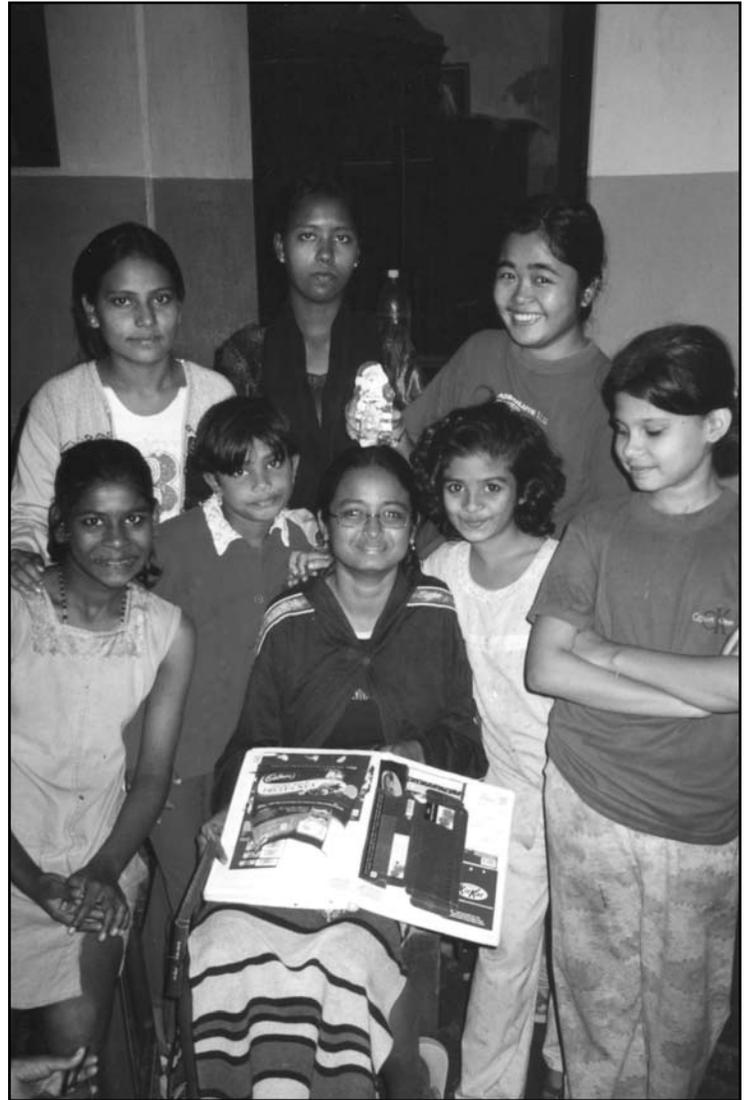
*Mother and Ray*

## Missionaries of Charity

I always look forward to my visit at the Mother House during my visit to Calcutta. It is located in a busy part of the city with lots of traffic and people. Mother Teresa was a very special person as she loved everyone. I will never forget my visit with her in 1996 where I learned many things. Much of it I did not understand at the time of our meeting, but as time goes on, many of the things we talked about I have come to understand making me a better person. Mother was called to Heaven on September 5, 1997. It was a sad day for the entire world. The Missionaries of Charity continue to carry on Mother's work around the world helping the poorest of the poor. Much of the work is very hard and sad. I am always happy to make a small donation in the name of *Children are Angels from Heaven* to this wonderful Charity during my visit. Before I end my visit at the Mother House I always visit Mother's tomb and say a few prayers and thank her for her kindness and love to all people of the world.

## St. Vincent's Home

St. Vincent's Home is one of my favorite places to visit in Calcutta. The Daughters of the Cross Sisters run the home and I know almost every child by name here. There are about 40 children who live here, all girls. This year I brought with me a few games for the children as well as some English flash cards to study math. I was able to visit these children often during my trip, as my room is close by the home. I enjoy these children very much and look forward to each years visit with them. During the year I had sent Sister a few dollars to take all the children to the zoo for a special day. All the children told me they had a fun time and said "Thank You". One child even told me, "Uncle we had a coke and ice cream all in one day during the zoo trip." The children range in age from about seven-years-old to about seventeen years of age. I can talk to these children very well as they all speak English. Many of the children also speak Hindi and Bengali. During my visits I always bring candy with me to hand out to the children. One girl named Sandra really surprised me. I said, "Do you like candy?" She said, "Yes Uncle especially chocolate as its something we rarely get. We only receive chocolate on very special occasions such as a birthday or holiday." Being from America and not understanding this, I said to her, "Really? How special is it?" She went into her room area and came back with a photo album. She opened it to show me it was full of empty chocolate candy wrappers from years ago with the dates written on them as to when she received them and the name of the person who gave it to her. I said, "Wow I guess chocolate candy is special." During this visit we again set up the Christmas tree I had given these children from many years ago. It was a fun time with singing and dancing. I love these kids and hold them close to my heart all year long. On my last visit during my trip it is always very hard to say good-bye to these children and the Sisters. Over the years it has been like a home away from home for me. We have had many happy times together.



*Sandra*



*Ray Giving Math Test with Flash Cards*

## St. Catherine's Seniors Home

This seniors home is located right next door to the children of St. Vincent's. The Daughters of the Cross also run it. The Sister in charge is Sister Francis Ann. This is the home where I visit my friend Marie. Marie is the person I bring the Boston Globe newspaper to each year. This year I had a chance to meet many of the women who live at the home. I always have a special meal (Chinese food) for the children at St. Vincent's. This year I asked Sister Francis Ann if we could include the seniors in our special dinner. To my delight she said yes. Mum Xavier ordered up all the food for everyone. The food is always delivered by motorcycle. This year the delivery order was so large it came by motorcycle and a taxi! Upon arrival, the food has to be transferred into the home's pots and pans so the delivery man can take his with him when he leaves. I just have to smile as I write this thinking about it. Sister Francis Ann along with all the other Sisters and workers used every pot and pan in the home and, as if God himself was with us, the last pot in the home finished the transfer of food. A plan to perfection. All the women and children enjoyed themselves that night. Chinese food is a very special treat. On my way out the door, Sister asked me, did I like the seniors' Christmas tree? It was a 6 foot tree in a pot with colored paper on the branches. I said to myself next year I am



*Sister Mary*

## Sister Mary and Daughters of the Cross

I have to tip my hat to these wonderful Sisters. Over the years, many Sisters have helped me in any way they can during my visits. In many of the stories you read in this newsletter you will see the Sisters are a part of them. One Sister who helped me this year was Sister Mary. Because of her love and kindness for people, she allowed me to send her donations for the children. I sent many of your donations to her; pencils, pens, crayons, toys and clothes for the children. It was directly because of Sister Mary and the Daughters of the Cross's willingness to help me, that we reached out to so many children this year. Thank You Sisters.

## Loreto Day School Sealdah

This years visit with Sister Cyril and the Loreto school was as nice as always. Last year I had left money with Sister to again buy some sports equipment for about 15 village schools. Sister gave me photographs and receipts of everything along with thank you letters from all the schools. Sister told me the children and teachers at the villages were very happy with the donations. I also visited some of Sister Cyril's Rainbow children (abandoned street children) and I had a nice talk with her regarding the orange, mango, and banana program for these children. *Children are Angels from Heaven* sponsors one fruit for 200 children once a week with Sisters help. Fruit is very expensive in Calcutta and poor children very rarely receive any. Sister Cyril and I also talked about *Angels from Heaven* being involved in the making of a playground at a children's hospital. I was very interested in this playground project and requested an on-site visit from Sister. Sister Cyril set up the on-site visit for the following day and also supplied a car and escort for me. See page 7, Rehabilitation Center for Children.



*St. Catherine's and the Chinese Food*

going to bring a Christmas tree from America for these seniors along with all the

decorations to go with it and surprise everyone. Between you and me, I have already shipped the tree and decorations. I will meet up with everything in November, 2006 during my visit to Calcutta. Watch for the story and photos in next year's newsletter. The Seniors are going to be so surprised and happy!

*Sister Cyril*



## Rehabilitation . . . . . Centres For Children

I arrived at the Loreto school at 9 AM the following day. I met sister Cyril and Avijit. He was to be my escort to the children's hospital for the day to show me the hospital grounds and meet the staff and children. We had a nice talk during our ride to the hospital as Avijit spoke English very well. My visit at the hospital was happy and sad at the same time. I was very happy to be able to help with the children's playground, but sad to see so many children in need with physical problems. When I sat with the staff to go over the plans for the playground, I said I wanted a first class job with no shortcuts and with good equipment. I also said Sister Cyril would handle all the funding disbursements and paperwork for the project and oversee everything. Our goal is to have the playground completed in 2006. This project is a very big undertaking for *Children are Angels from Heaven*. I will keep you posted as to how everything worked out in my next newsletter.

## Adarsha Hindi Vidyalaya School

As I have written many times before, this school is one of my favorite to visit. It's a very small school with hundreds of children (1600) in two sessions morning and afternoons. Not many of the children speak English at this school so it is very hard for me to talk to them. Mr. Ashok Tiwari, the principal, always helps me. It amazes me how the children remember me and how polite they all are. When I enter a classroom the children stand and say hello and will not sit down until I tell them to. One other thing I always remember about this school is how happy the children are always smiling. Every girl and boy is in a school uniform. School prayers start every session.

As I visit the classrooms, I see every boy's hair is combed and the girls all have pretty ribbons in their hair. Without even asking you know this is a place to learn and the discipline is very strict. I sent this school about 5 boxes of school supplies and childrens clothes during the year. I was shown everything and thanked for it. I love the kids and staff at this school. The biggest problem I have with helping this school is that the need is so great for so many children. I can only do so much. I could not have done what we already have done over the years if it was not for all of you here in America supporting my efforts. From the staff and children at this school, I Thank You.



Salvation Army

## Salvation Army Girls Home Behala

Another great visit with all the girls of this home and my friend Asha Sarkar along with Captain George Patrick. There are approximately 150 children who live at this home. The ages of the children range from five-years-old to sixteen-years-old. All the children are happy children and very friendly. I brought with me your

pencils, colored pencils, and crayons along with a few balls and Frisbees. The donations were all put on a table and handed out to the children in an orderly manner with no problems at all, as the children are all well behaved. I also had a good time playing with the kids in the yard. They were laughing and having a good time playing with the toys especially the Frisbees. At the end of my visit the children sang and danced for me as a way to say Thank You. It was a memorable visit for everyone. These children are just like other young children in the world, they love to draw. Thank you for all your donations...

## Don Bosco Ashalayam . . . . .

Don Bosco Ashalayam is a home for street children in Howarh. The children are taught vocational training such as woodworking, painting, drawing, tailoring, and bakery. Over the years *Children are Angels from Heaven* has done many different projects with this organization and I am proud to say every one has turned successful. This year with the help of my friends, Mr. Bernard Maung and Mr. Frank Louis, *Children are Angels from Heaven* sponsored a driving class for ten boys to be able to obtain a drivers license. If a boy can get the training and qualify for a license he may be able to find work as a taxi driver or may be a delivery person. This will help the him to stand on his own feet and support himself financially as well as mentally. Getting a drivers license is not as easy to do as in America. Millions of people never get one in India and if they do, the chance of owning a car is slim because of the large costs involved with a car and its upkeep. Out of the ten boys who took the drivers training, we had hoped seven would pass the class. I am happy to tell you all ten boys passed and received their drivers license. At this time four of the boys have found work driving, and now



A student of the driver training program

# Society of Indian Children's Welfare •••••

I enjoyed my visit very much this year at SICW. It was nice to see the staff again along with the children. I visited the orphanage and the handicapped children during my visit. When you visit orphan children it takes a while to understand the only family the children have is the staff that takes care of them. There is no Mom and Dad or Uncle or Aunts! It is very sad to see such beautiful children who are given up or abandoned. The Massies of the orphanage work very hard to love and care for these unwanted children.

This was something I explained to local school children in Mrs. Plant's class at St Raphael School in Medford, MA. To my surprise, with the help of Mrs. Plant, a parent, Jill Flaherty, and all the children, the class made up about 60 special gift packages for the Massies who take care of the children as a way to say THANK YOU to them. The special gifts included soaps and creams all wrapped up in pretty paper and tied with a colored ribbon. I personally took these special gifts with me on my flight and distributed all of them to the Massies at this orphanage during this visit. It was a happy time as I passed all of them out to everyone.



*Mrs. Plants Class*

I also visited the handicapped children of the orphanage and met head teacher, Sarita Dhir, and Dr. Dadina who was visiting the children. Visiting handicapped children is so much different than visiting newborn babies at the orphanage. The children are bigger children. Some are blind, others delayed or have more problems. The chance of these

children ever getting adopted is very rare. I take my hat off to Sarita and the staff for working with these special children and doing what it takes to help the children learn in their own special way. Because of my Raymond I know the work is not easy. During my visit I offered to buy the handicapped children some new toys. Sarita did an excellent job of doing everything and getting what was needed for the children. She also sent me a beautiful note and a few photos. I am very proud of SICW and the work they do for children. I am looking forward to this years visit with everyone again.



*SICW Orphanage*



*Adarsha Hindi Vidyalaya School*

## Sabera Home for Handicapped Children

When I visit this home I always try to surprise the staff and children. Our friendship goes way back to the Days of International Mission of Hope where my three children were all adopted from. I know just about every Massie who cares for the handicapped children at this home. When I first enter the room where the children are, everyone's eyes light up with great happiness. All of us are so happy to see each other again. As I visit the children I say a small silent prayer for each one. It's very sad to see children that are in so much need of care. It is overwhelming for me at times. Year after year I see the same children and if they are gone, many times God has called them to Heaven. One special child I was looking forward to visiting is my little friend Samita. She is the girl with the cleft lip *Angels from Heaven* and Dr. Dadina had repaired. I am so happy to write and tell all of you Samita looks great! She has now put



*Isha*

on weight and the Massies take good care of her. She still has the big scar on her cheek but she looked so much better than previous years. For one reason, she can now eat without food falling out of her mouth due to her cleft lip. Another child I'd like to write about is my little friend Isha. This poor little girl has such twisted feet. I was happy to see her but also so sad inside, as I can see every year her

feet are in a poorer condition. I am not a doctor and have no medical training but I strongly believe if this poor unwanted little girl had the opportunity for quality medical care for her condition when she was small, maybe braces or AFO's, they may have kept her legs and feet looking normal. She still may have never walked but her feet would have looked so much better. I do not know if it is too late to help but if it is not and there is a doctor out there who is an expert and can help this child, I'd love to hear from you. One final child I'd like to say a few words about is Dasi she was another girl Dr. Dadina helped me with a few years ago. She had a crossed eye and now looks beautiful. The sweetest kid ever! Do you know what she says to me when I meet her? Can you call my Mother? I can't tell you how sad I was to hear that. I did not know what to tell her, as she is an abandoned child. This is what happens when you visit a home like this. Your emotions go from very happy to very sad in a matter of seconds. I will never stop helping these kids until the day I die. These children did nothing, except be born into this world.

## Kolkata Municipal Corporation Primary School

During the year I sent this school many boxes of donated school supplies and small clothes for the children. I am happy to say when I visited this school, the head teacher, Mrs. Nessa, had everything to show me. It was an honor for me to stand in front of all the children of this small school and hand out everything donated to *Angels from Heaven*. The children and staff were very happy and appreciative of everything given to the school. This school is just around the corner from where I stay during my visits to Calcutta. Mrs. Xavier and Uncle Clarence (Mum & Uncle) have always played a very special role in helping me help the children of this school. I could never do it alone because of the language problem and not understanding how to get things done for this school. All of us had a nice



*Municipal School*

visit together. I enjoyed it very much. It takes lots of effort to gather everything, pack it all up, and ship it to the children.

It's not easy! It was great seeing all the donations in the hands of the children and teachers. I hope to again send school supplies to this school in 2006. The only way I can do it is with your help.

## Fishing Village Schools 1 & 2 "School of Angels"

Again this year with the help of many people *Children are Angels from Heaven* was able to sponsor two village schools near Calcutta. Our work was in partnership with Mrs. Nupur Sanyal and The Institute of Social Welfare located in Calcutta. I am happy to report many children did receive a basic education in each of these villages because of our efforts. I personally visited each school.

The First Fishing Village School is about an hours drive and a short walk to the school. Mrs. Sanyal had an important meeting on the day of my visit to this village school but sent a very qualified person, Anwesha Bhattacharya to escort me and answer all my questions. Mrs. Sanyal also sent a young boy, Mithu Mondal, who *Children are Angels from Heaven* sponsors, to go to the school with us to help with the donations and to also visit the children. Our trip together was great. When we arrived at the small school, all the children were waiting for us. As I walked in the front door, the children threw flowers on me as a sign of welcome. The children sang and danced as I sat and watched. I had many questions about the school. Anwesha translated my questions to the teachers



Village School

and I received answers to everything. As the children were singing and I looked around the room I noticed a large sign that was made for the school from all of us here. It said School of Angels and had an Angel painted on it... I was happy about that. At the end of the performance by all of the children, the teachers of the small school, Anwesha, Mithun, and

myself handed out many school supplies along with candy to the children. Everyone was very happy and excited!

The Second Fishing Village School is farther away, approximately three hours by car. The very next day Mrs. Sanyal personally took me to this school. Again I had many school sup-

plies and candy to give the children from your donations. This school is in a very remote area near the Bay of Bengal. Once again the children were waiting for me to arrive. The school is very small with one teacher and about 70 children. These children were very small and you could see the happiness in their eyes that I was back to visit them again.

After song and dance Nupur and I enjoyed handing out all the gifts to the teacher and children. Again everyone was very happy and sorry to see my visit end at this school. It was really a good visit and produced many happy faces. Because of the long car ride back to Calcutta, I had time to think about my trips to India and all the children I visit.

I must be crazy traveling halfway around the world, to a country I do not know just to bring the children general school supplies (pencils and crayons) along with candy. Deep in my heart I know it does not take millions of dollars to reach out and help children in some small way. I feel helping children get a basic education is the greatest gift you can give to poor children. Anything you are taught can NEVER be taken away. In a small way all of us have made the world a better place! To me this makes everything worthwhile. My trips, no matter how hard or difficult, will continue to help these children the best I can. Thank You for all your school donations & candy.

## St. Teresa's School

St. Teresa's school is a very good school in Calcutta and is well known throughout the city. The principal of the school just happens to be a Daughter of the Cross Sister named Sister



Village School

Teresa. I always enjoy my visit to this school as I know many of the children and everyone speaks English. As I walked around the school, I visited many children, some learning in a classroom and others acting on a stage for an upcoming competition. I was taken to one very special classroom to observe many small children and a young Sister working together. The Sister's name was Sister Nirmala. The children were all very small and you could see they were happy. After I met these children I went to the office and sat with Sister Teresa. We talked about the children of the school and the last class that I visited. She told me these children are very poor and come to the school after the regular class is let out for the day. Sister Teresa also told me the families of these children live under a bridge about a mile from the school. Sister said she would like to help these children more but to do it she needs funding. I told her I would like to visit where these children live and see things for myself and maybe I could help her. Sister set up a visit for the next day with Sister Nirmala escorting me. Sister took me to the flyover (bridge) and I met the children and some of the parents and took some photos. It is very hard to explain what it was like. I loved the children and parents, what I did not like is the living conditions these people live in. It was very poor and sad. After my visit I went back to Sister Teresa's office. I told her I was given a donation of birthday money from a young girl (Tess) two years ago to help a poor street boy go to school. His parents could not let him go to school, as they needed him to work to make money for the family. I still had that money and could add to it if we could come to some type of agreement to send the children under this bridge to school on an every day basis. I am very happy to tell all of you, paperwork was written up to name this program *Angels from the Streets*. It will cost approximately 50,000 Rs or about \$1,200 US dollars to send 40 to 50 of the children living under this bridge to school for one and one half hours per day five days a week for one year. The children will be provided with uniforms and given a very basic education along with a snack. Once a week the children will be given rice to take home. This is a very big undertaking for everyone involved especially Sister Teresa. I know the program has already started. I left many school supplies (crayons, pencils, etc.) with Sister Teresa for these children. These were your donations and I will have a follow-up report for everyone after my next visit with the children in November, 2006. If anyone has any questions feel free to call me.

## Nicco Park Trip

Early in 2005 a movie came out in the USA about Calcutta. The name of it was "Born Into Brothels." I went to see it seven times. What touched me most about the movie

was how happy the children were and their willingness to learn. In the case of the movie it was about photography. I must have written to everyone ten times to see the movie as it was the most accurate movie I had ever seen of Calcutta and the children of the streets. My favorite part of the movie is when Aunty Zana took all the children to the beach for the day. For me the excitement of the children going to the beach for the first time and seeing the water and waves made me so happy. At one point I'm not ashamed to say it, I had tears of happiness running down my face. I will never forget this film about these eight children. It was directly because of this movie and your donations I was able to try something a little different this year. I contacted my friend Sister Mary and told her about the movie and that I too would like to take some children to the beach for the day and give them a day they would never forget. Sister Mary is a very good worker for children; she knows what's best for them. She wrote and told me going to the beach really would not work as the beach would be too far away for a day trip; instead she suggested a trip to Nicco Park for the children. Nicco Park is a fun park located about one hour outside of Calcutta. The park has many fun rides with lots to see and do. It's a place not every child would have a chance to visit as it is expensive. Sister Mary contacted the Providence Sisters Children's Home and invited Sisters Dolly and Rita along with the children in their care to go on the trip for the day as these children would be perfect for this trip. I sent Sister Mary funds to arrange everything so we could go when I arrived in Calcutta late in November, 2005. Sister Mary hired a bus and arranged an escort. There were 28 people in all who went on this trip for the entire day. It was really fun for everyone. We had a nice lunch and I took many photos. The park had bumper cars, tilt a whirl, and even a roller coaster, something for all the

*Nicco Park Trip*



children. One ride the children really liked was called Iceland. It was a building, made like in igloo, and inside it was cold and all ice. There was loud rock and roll music playing and everyone was dancing or trying to on the slippery floor. Every few minutes ice would fall from a machine mounted near the roof of the building ten feet high. It was like it was snowing inside. In all everyone had a great time and it was something they will never forget. On the bus ride home everyone sang songs, laughed and joked. I also had candy to give to everyone. When we arrived, I gave each child a special gift from everyone here, a stuffed animal or a Beanie Baby. The children and Sisters all thanked me and we called it a night. Thanks to Sister Mary and her work the entire cost of this trip was \$222. Thank You for all your donations and support for me to do this work.

## Krakow Poland



Leo Club Members in Poland

If you remember in 2004 from my last newsletter, I went to Poland to visit the Warsaw Ghetto and then to Krakow to visit Auschwitz concentration camp. During this short trip I met a young girl named Paulina Pietrzykowska of the Leo Club. Leo Clubs are the counterpart of the Lions Club who are known the world over for their good work to help people in need. I spoke about poor

children in Poland and if *Angels from Heaven* could help them in some small way. It was agreed I would send donations the following year. I sent about 10 big boxes of clothes, toys, and school supplies to Krakow Poland for the children. Katarzyna Horacek, who is a Leo member received our donations, and arranged everything from A to Z to get the *Angels from Heaven* donations to the children. I'm sure it was not easy and must have been overwhelming at times for her! She took on this job to help the children as a volunteer of love and kindness to help the children and as a leader of her Club. Katarzyna did a first-class job taking photos and even making a report to send to me when everything was distributed. She was the person who the other Leo members worked with to help get things done. Your donations went to many children in

the Krakow area. I am proud and happy to report back that everything worked out PERFECT. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Leo Club of Krakow, Poland and all its members as well as the supporters of *Children are Angels from Heaven*. This project could not have been done without your help. I also would like to give a special Thanks to Katarzyna Horack for being the backbone of this project and getting the job done. You have proven to everyone at *Angels from Heaven* that you are a loyal leader of the Leo club and a good friend to the Polish Children.

## Shoes to Nicaragua

Late in 2005, I was asked if I could help with a shoe drive for poor children in San Juan Del Sur, Nicaragua. This is the Sister City of Newton, MA in America. The shoes were very important as many small children get sick because of



walking on the ground with bare feet. The shoes protect the children from infection and disease. The shoes were taken to Nicaragua by young people from the Newton area who were doing charity work in affiliation with the Sister City Project. We collected about 39 pairs of shoes in a very short time. Our work was very much appreciated and the project was a success. Thank you for your support...

## Hurricane Katrina 2005

In September of 2005 the United States was hit by a very big Hurricane. Thousands and thousands of people were killed and left homeless. I had never seen so many American families left with nothing, and homeless. I knew *Angels from Heaven* had to do something to help these poor people. I had a small amount of money and many donations in storage ready for shipment. If you remember back a few years ago, I



**Steve Powers Loading Supplies for New Orleans**

had a raffle for two Daytona Race tickets. The winner was Diane Rattray from New Hampshire. Well long story short, Diane and her family had moved just outside of New Orleans a few years ago. I contacted her and told her I had donations I'd like to send her to help the people in need in the New Orleans area. Without even so much as a question, she said yes! With help from my friend, Steve Powers, we went to our storage trailer at Xpedx Paper Company in Wilmington, MA and off-loaded two large drums and boxes to get ready to ship to New Orleans. The donations included children's clothes and lots of balls, toys and stuffed animals. I thought wherever the people were, a toy or ball would be a good donation as it would occupy the children in a homeless center during a time of crises. It was agreed by Diane that the shipment should be made as close to her church as possible as all the roads were closed near her home, although her home and family were ok. Her church, First United Methodist Church in LaPlace, Louisiana, was located about twenty miles from New Orleans. It was set up as an emergency shelter for the Red Cross workers who would sleep and eat there during this emergency. The Red Cross workers were working 12 to 14 hour shifts so sleep and a good meal from the church was very important. Everything was shipped from Boston the next day, but as close as UPS was able to take them was 50 miles from the church. It took five days for everything to arrive. Diane and the First Methodist Church members finally had all the donations from *Angels from Heaven* and were busy sorting everything and getting it ready to distribute. Because this disaster was very large, and the Red Cross workers were working so hard, I felt it important to make sure the workers continued to have a good meal waiting for them at the church when they returned from each shift so I sent Diane \$500 from *Angels from Heaven* to help with the purchase of food for the church. In all, *Children are Angels from Heaven*, Diane Rattary, and her family, along with her church, The First United Methodist Church, did everything we could to

help the people during this time of need. Diane worked with the Red Cross for much of this disaster and I will let her tell you in her words what it was like.

*The letter below was sent to me from Diane.*

FIRST, I must thank Ray and all those who support *Children are Angels* for sending the barrels to this area in our time of need. Everything is greatly appreciated.

The people you have helped are many, and I hope you can understand my decision not to take photographs. Most people who have been affected are proud people and did not enjoy taking handouts, for some it was humiliating. The situation was out of their control and that is so hard to accept. My heart aches for their losses, which are too vast to list.

The baby and young children's clothes were given to families who had moved into other family's homes right here in town where the church is. They had only taken things for a few days when they left New Orleans, and they were unable to return after the storm since there was nothing to return to.

The adult clothes went to a clothing drive being organized by a group of senior high school students in my town. This was their way of doing community service. Everything went to people who had lost clothes to the flood of the storm.

I had arranged for the wonderful people I met through my involvement with the Red Cross to bring the trolls (dolls) to Baton Rouge. That was the closest shelter to us. I asked for them to be given to the doctors and nurses to distribute to the patients. I knew they would cheer up people. With their silly faces and colorful hair they were bound to make someone smile. Well, I got to hear just how much people enjoyed them a few days later.

I was helping a delivery driver bring in supplies and she was telling me that she'd just come from the River Center, that's the center I'd sent the trolls to. She said they were everywhere, on people's cots, shelves, desks, and best of all, a little old lady in a



*First United Methodist Church*

wheel chair had tied two of them to her wheelchair and referred to it as her trollmobile! Something so silly, so simple, has made that ladies day and mine just hearing about it.

I held on to the stuffed animals; my goal was to get the chance to go down to one of the distribution sites and give them out myself. I found the right person to tag along with and I will never forget what I saw on the corner of Esplanade Avenue in the residential section of the famous French Quarter. This is the area the tourists never see, unless they get lost. This is the very poor area where people have lived their whole lives. The place where you really see the pain of loss that has been endured, and the hope that will keep them cleaning up, day after day trying to rebuild their lives. Even before we got off the interstate, I could see just how vast the destruction was; it truly became a ghost town, and some had begun to refer to it as NO town. The NO being for New Orleans. Dozens of abandoned cars on the median, here that is referred to as the common ground. The cars were completely submerged in the floodwaters. Trash was heaped everywhere and refrigerators lined the curbs waiting for pick up that just could not come, since most of the trash trucks had been flooded too. The ominous “X” on the front of every house, showing it had been checked for occupants.

We reached the site and found the group from the church. I unloaded buckets and watched for kids in the cars. At first there were none, then I saw two approaching the entrance, I got a couple of stuffed animals and walked over to the car, smiled and said hello to the Mom and asked if I could give the kids the toys, she gratefully said yes. The kids reached out for the stuffed animals, the smiles in their eyes made my day. They had most likely lost their things and having something to hug was of comfort to them. Everyone looked so tired, things were not happening very fast then, electricity was sporadic and water still couldn't be trusted.

The people were there to get water, a lunch and some simple things to start mopping up the mess, their lives had become. They were not only poor people, they were simply people. They had suffered a loss most of us will never even be able to comprehend.

I hope with my words I have painted a picture for you, not just of sadness and destruction, but also of hope that the people have here. The sheer determinations to come, pick up, and literally, dust off and start again.

As you can see Diane has become my Angel from New Orleans. Many thanks to her and her church along with all of you, for all your help and support.

## Work Gloves

In October of 2005 *Angels from Heaven* received a donation of 1,800 pair of small work gloves from Drake Daniels of Quality Press located in Hudson NH. Drake called me and said he



would donate them to *Angels from Heaven* if I could find a use for them. With winter just around the corner I knew I could find good homes for all of them. Here is a list of where all the gloves went and also three letters I received.

300 Pair to Krakow, Poland for the winter

300 Pair to a medical missionary nun in Virginia who helps poor people

600 Pair to the Pine Street Inn homeless shelter for men and women in Boston

300 Pair to the Shattuck Shelter in Boston for homeless people

300 Pair to Waveland, Mississippi as part of Hurricane Katrina Relief

## Letter from Wendy Price

One Box of 300 gloves made their way onto a 53-foot truck bound for Waveland, Mississippi that Wayland, MA has adopted as a “Sister City” in an effort to help this community who essentially lost everything in Hurricane Katrina. The Mayor of Waveland came to tell us about the devastation and said “picture your home and all its contents, and all that is familiar to you, then waking up the next morning and its all gone!” What they do have is their faith, resiliency, and commitment to rebuild their town. In the meantime, they live in FEMA trailers needing to outfit them in order to sleep, eat and live. It is a very difficult situation with no quick fixes but these residents are committed and working hard to rebuild their lives. This box of gloves will keep their hands warm as they continue to clear the debris and attempt to carry on with their day-to-day lives. These acts of kindness not only served as a practical purpose; they show the people of Waveland have not been forgotten. The gloves were greatly appreciated.

## Letter from the Shattuck Shelter

Another 300 gloves went to the Shattuck Shelter in Jamaica Plain that cares for Boston's homeless men and women. The number of homeless people in Boston is greater than we all really want to

think about, and the Shattuck Shelter is doing its very best, with limited funds, to help these people stay alive and get back on their feet. The outreach workers see more than 500 people a week. Some refuse to go to the shelter, so all you can do is give them things like gloves, clothes, and blankets and hope they can make it through the frigid nights in winter. The gloves were distributed immediately, and were hugely appreciated by those trying to help our local homeless people.

## Letter from the Pine Street Inn

Thank you so much for the 600 pairs of gloves for the Pine Street Inn. These gloves will certainly come in handy during the cold winter months ahead of us. We have distributed them amongst our mens and womens clothing rooms.

## St. Paul's School - Wellesley, MA Candy Drive

Each year in early November, St. Paul's School has a candy drive for my trip to Calcutta. This year the children donated 175 pounds of every kind of candy you could ever think of. It was by far too much candy for me to take with me in my luggage to Calcutta as I am only allowed two 70 lb. bags as luggage. I sorted out the candy for the children of Calcutta and the rest was donated to other places where I thought it would be appreciated. The children of St. Paul's school intrusted the candy to my care and I felt it a great responsibility to make sure every piece went to the right place. As it turned out it was a lot of work but I received many beautiful Thank You letters for the candy. Below is a list of where the candy went to....

Bravo Company #73063 US Marines, Iraq  
Walter Reed Army Hospital, Washington, DC  
Brooke Army Medical Center Ft Sam Houston, Texas  
Landstuhl Reg. Med. Ctr. USA Med. Operations Germany  
Dana Farber Cancer Institute Boston Ma  
Childrens Hospital Boston Ma  
Polish children in Krakow Poland  
Nazareth House Boston Ma  
St. Charles Children's Home Rochester, NH  
Hundreds of Indian Children during my trip

## St. Raphael T-Shirts

In October of 2005 I received a donation of 211 beautiful T-shirts from St. Raphael School. I packaged up everything and

sent them by ship to Sister Mary in Calcutta, India as well as Don Bosco in Howarh, India. The shirts were distributed to



very poor children throughout the area including the Brothers of the Missionaries of Charity.

## School Supply Donations

Last year in 2005 I requested as donations small school supplies for the children. I can never thank you enough for everything. I was able to bring every child I visited a pencil or some crayons maybe a backpack or a ruler and also have enough to leave the teacher in charge with a little assortment to last for a month or so. School supplies for a local school or a village school are great donations. Children have to learn and without the tools to do it, it is next to impossible. St Paul's School of Wellesley and St Raphael School of Medford each held an end of year school supply drive in June. Many of my family, friends, co-workers, and even people I did not know sent me school supplies. I am grateful to all of you for your help. It sure is a good feeling to visit a school in the city, or in a village and bring with me much needed school supplies. It is very sad seeing children trying to write with a pencil that is so small they can't even hold it because it is so worn down. Thank You for your school these donations of school supplies.

## Toys for Tots at Christmas

Last year in December Children are Angels from Heaven joined in with the United States Marine Corps and Teamsters Local #25 to gather Christmas presents for children in need at Christmas time. Our toys were many, and greatly appreciated.

## Deposit Cans

We started collecting soda and beer cans along with bottles about four years ago as a way to raise money for *Angels from Heaven*. With 5 cents for each deposit we now have a total of over \$2,000 collected since the start of the program. That's over 40,000 deposit cans. It's a dirty and sticky job sorting out all the deposit cans and bottles, but seeing the smiles of children we help makes it all worthwhile. It also is a way to raise cash without breaking the backs of the people who help us. I would like to say Thank You to the many people and companies who have donated to this program including the Woburn Redemption Center. Because of the effort put forth by many people in past years, more and more people have joined in and are now also helping us collect the deposit cans and bottles. Five cents goes a long way to help a poor child. I was never one to collect deposit cans, and for me to get through the sorting and the sticky mess, I think of it like this. For every can or bottle I pick up, or that is donated, it is a pencil for a poor child. That makes it all very easy.

## Empty Can Tabs

As in years past many people also collect can tabs. They are made of solid aluminum. This year *Angels from Heaven* collected seven pounds of tabs. Its not easy collecting the tabs and for a full days work you might get a small plastic bag full. The tabs are turned over to Mr. Lloyd Wentzell who is a member of the Shriners organization. The Shriners use the tabs as a way to purchase anything from wheelchairs to toys for the Shriners Hospitals. The Shriners Hospitals help children free of charge. There are two hospitals in Massachusetts, Springfield and Boston. THANK YOU to all the people who helped *Angels From Heaven* with this on-going project.



Can Tab

## Medford Kiwanis Club

Last August I was invited for another visit to the Medford Kiwanis Club for a great meal and to talk about *Angels from Heaven* and the work done over the past year. I talked about many of the projects that were done and on-going for children. I also explained I was trying to bring some of my work back to local school children in America. Many children in America have no idea how lucky they are to go to school, live under a roof and not in the street, have medi-

cal care available when needed, and also have something to eat when hungry. I explained that many children just don't know how good they have it and should count their blessings. What I have been trying to do is get a little more out of my hard work with *Angels from Heaven* and visit children in local schools in America. I talk to the children and show them a few photos and try to make them understand the world is not the same. In many cases the children start helping me help other children who are in need. Children are children no mater where they are in this world and my belief is, if I can connect the children, somehow it will make the world a better, safer place. The Kiwanis Club members were very interested with what I am doing. I was given a large donation to continue our work. I asked that the donation money, instead of directly going to children in need, be spent on something very much needed; a digital slide projector and classroom speaker to be able show our work in a more professional way in the classroom and at other events. I am proud to say the Kiwanis gave the "ok" to get what is needed.

## Women of Rotary

The Pittsfield, New Hampshire Rotary Club has always stood right beside me in my work to help poor children. This year our work spread to the Women of Rotary. I was invited in October to a monthly meeting at the home of Ann Carpenter where approximately 20 members listened to my talk about my trips and viewed my photos. I answered many questions as best I could. At the end of the night The Women of Rotary presented me with a check for *Angels from Heaven* to continue our work helping poor children. It was a nice night for everyone and something I will always remember.

## Free Newsletter Printing

For the past few years Town and Country Reprographics Inc., 230 North Main St., Concord, NH has donated the entire cost of printing our newsletter as well as setting up the entire layout with no cost to *Children are Angels from Heaven*. Thanks to the generosity of Bunny and Victor Stoykovich and the hard work of Graydon and Brooke, Town and Country Staff, I was able to do many more things for the children because I had the extra money to do it. Please remember the more *Angels from Heaven* grows each year the more newsletters that are needed. Bunny and Victor always say to me, "Ray it's no problem. We

are happy to help you and be a part of helping the children.” I take my hat off to this company for being the Best of the Best. Each year I receive many compliments on how professional our newsletter looks. Thank You Town and Country for stepping forward to help.

## Free Paper and Parking

I would like to say Thank You to Xpedx Paper Company, 613 Main St., Wilmington, MA for donating all the paper needed to print our newsletter and also for letting *Angels from Heaven* keep our storage trailer (that was donated by them) parked in their lot. All of their efforts have been a great help to *Angels from Heaven* in helping the children. I also would like to say Thank You to all the Xpedx workers for all the help and support they have given me over the years. I could not do this work without this help. Xpedx Paper Company is a division of International Paper.

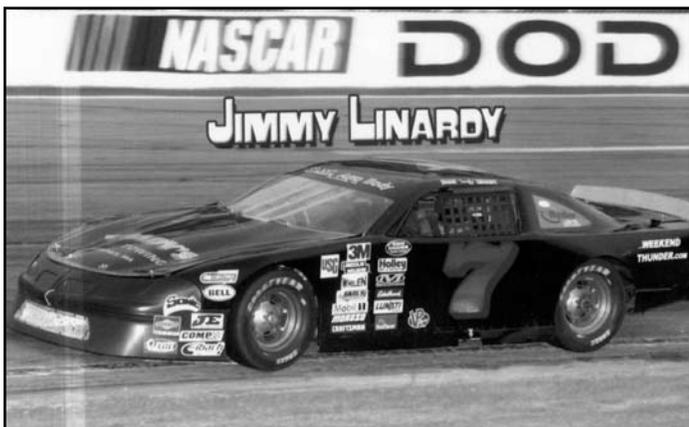
## Union Help

I would like to say Thank You to a few local Unions who help *Angels from Heaven* Teamsters Local #25, Teamsters Local #379, and Machinists Local #447.

In a time when America is sending many of our jobs to foreign countries, it makes me proud to see local Unions and their workers still stepping forward to help poor children of some of these countries. Efforts like this make me proud to be American and call the United States my home.

## Racing for the Kids

Every weekend from April to October you will find Jimmy Linardy (Scruffy) of Jims Heavy Duty Service racing his car at



Lee Speedway in New Hampshire. This is a family event for

his family. Many times this year Jim passed on his winning money from the racetrack to *Angels from Heaven* for the children. Joey and TJ both mechanics back at the shop, located at 42 Joy Street, Somerville, also work hard to help the kids, they collect hundreds of deposit cans each month for *Angels from Heaven*. If you ask anyone at this shop why they do all of this. The answer is always the same. “We did it for the Kids”. Thank You to everyone.

## A Visit to Mrs. Plant’s 1st Grade Class

Last year I met with the first grade at St Raphael School two times. In early October I was invited to St. Raphael School to talk with children in the first grade. We talked for one hour about what India is like, how far away it is, and about the Massies who care for children in an orphanage and how hard they work. The children were very small but understood very well. Mrs. Plant, Miss Young, the School Principal, and Mrs. Flaherty, a volunteer, helped me any way they could. To my surprise, on November 7, just before the beginning of my trip to Calcutta, I was asked back to the classroom to visit the children. Mrs. Plant explained her class wanted to do something for the Massies as the children were taken back by all the hard work and love they give to the children. The children had made about 50 small gifts of soaps and creams. The children gift-wrapped everything in pretty colors of paper. I was asked to bring them to the Massies from all of the children. I brought these gifts to an orphanage that is very special to me (SICW) Society of Indian Children’s Welfare. I must tell you God follows me every place I go. When I started pass out the gifts to the Massies I did not know if I had enough for everyone as there were so many Massies. That would be very bad and uncomfortable for me to not have enough of the gifts for everyone BUT God was there as I got to the last Massie and had just one gift left! The Massies were so surprised and excited. The small gifts brought much happiness to the orphanage because of this 1st grade class. Thank You, Mrs. Plant and the children of your class for your love and kindness to others.

## Two children Go to School

*Angels From Heaven* now sponsors two children to go to school. One child is named Mahammad Rafi Darga. He is a 12-year-old boy who is in the 6th grade. Rafi is deaf and he needs to attend a special school. The name of the school he goes to is Navajeevan School for the deaf in central India. This arrangement was made through Tom Chitta and The Foundation for Children in Need



L: Rafi and R: Mithu

(FCW), Rafi is doing very well and is very appreciative of our help to him.

The other child's name who we help go to school on a regular basis is Mithu Mondal from West Bengal. He goes to the Mass Education high school where he is in grade 9. He is a very good boy who wants to learn but comes from a very poor family so without our help school would be impossible for him to attend. Angels from Heaven is happy to be able to help both of these children as best we can. ALL children need an education.

## Education never stops

The art of education is to continue to grow as long as you live. Every moment brings its lesson. Every person is a teacher.

**Look at our Web Site!**  
[www.childrenareangels.org](http://www.childrenareangels.org)

Grow in all directions. Develop a desire for Godness, An eagerness for knowledge, A capacity for friendship, An appreciation for beauty, A concern for others, Grow... Learning continues forever... Education never stops!!

## Donations

I would like to say a few words about *Angels from Heaven* donations and where they come from. They come from hardworking people all over the United States. I never have asked anyone for anything. People are just interested in helping poor children in some small way. Many times I am in shock when I read a letter with a small check enclosed or come home from work to find a bag of children's clothes or deposit cans at my front door. I have also received many donations from people I have never even met. I want to thank EVERYONE who has stepped forward to help *Angels from Heaven* from the bottom of my heart. I could not do it without all of you. As I have always stated, I will be accountable and responsible for all your donations. Please understand there is no payroll of any kind at *Angels from Heaven*. Volunteers help me do everything. All my personal expenses such as plane fare and hotel are paid out of my personal money. If you have any questions please call me. Ray OBrien 1-781-483-1002

## Non –Profit Status

We are tax deductible and a legal non-profit organization. I worked very hard to get us to this point in time. Our Internal Revenue Foundation Status Classification is 501(c) (3). Mr. Robert Johnston a CPA of 444 Washington St., Brighton, MA has really worked hard with me to get us where we are today. I could have never done it alone as the paper trail of being a non- profit is way over my head. It is hard enough to keep up with the work of gathering donations and sending out Thank You letters. Rob has done an outstanding job for *Children are Angels from Heaven* by helping us be accountable to the IRS. Rob set me straight right from the start and said everything purchased is to be charged with an Angels' credit card or paid with a *Children are Angels from Heaven* check out of the company checking account. All checks that are given to me as donations are to be made out to *Children are Angels from Heaven*. Rob had guided us every year since we have started. His direction has been perfect. He has charged us very little for his time and effort, and he has been a great person for me to call at any time and ask questions if

something came up. If he does not have the answer, he will get it ASAP. If I am out and leave Rob a message he always returns my phone calls. I could not have had a better person help me with the task of becoming non- profit. Thanks Rob ...

## Do It Now. . .

I expect to pass through this world but once, any good thing therefore that I can do, or any kindness I can show to any fellow human being, let me do it now. For I shall not pass this way again. . . .

## Ads in our Newsletter and Web Page

Starting last year *Angels from Heaven* began a flat rate pay scale for our ads in our newsletter and web site. It had been agreed by the Board of Directors that the newsletter and web site must stand on its own legs, and pay for itself. If the Newsletter printing and paper is donated, which it has been the last few years, then any extra money taken in will go into the *Angels from Heaven* general fund to help the children. An ad costs \$50 per year. The cost of the ad is tax deductible. I need your help and continued support each year. I will take as many ads as I can. Anyone interested in a new ad or with any questions please give me a call 781-483-1002. Please support the people who support our work.

## Email List

If anyone is interested in getting on the *Angels from Heaven* email list please let me know. Many things happen all year with the organization. I do my best to let everyone know what is going on all year long not just in the yearly newsletter. If you are interested all you have to do is send me your e-mail address.

## Newsletter Printing and Mailing

It costs about \$1.75 to have the Newsletter printed and mailed to your home. I have no problem spending the money to send it to all of you, but I also do not want to waste money if you are not interested in getting it. Please let me know and I will take you off the mailing list. For all of you who do get it and read it I ask you to pass it on to someone that you know who might like reading it. Any questions or extra copies please call me or write me 781-483-1002 Ray O'Brien, 16 Bower St., Medford MA 02155



## A Smile...

A smile costs nothing but gives much. It enriches those who receive without making poorer those who gave it, It takes but a moment, but the memory lasts forever. A smile creates happiness in the home, fosters goodwill in business, brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and its nature's best antidote for trouble. Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed, or stolen, for it is something that is of no value to anyone until it is given away. Some people are too tired to give a smile. Give them one of yours, as no one needs a smile so much as one who has none to give...

## Pictures Worth 1000 Words



..... Letters

Ray,

I think it's great that there are people like you out there making a difference in this world. What I do for you and the children is just a token of appreciation for your tremendous efforts.

Regards,  
Jim

Hi Ray,

Have a wonderful trip next week, thanks for everything you do to make a difference in this world. You are great!

Happy Thanksgiving and Holidays

Bill

Dear Ray

Thank You and those in your organization for the donation of all the shoes! Your work is impressive and we appreciate your generosity to include the children of San Juan del Sur

Many Thanks,

Lorraine

Dear Ray

Keep up the good work!

Gil & Susan

Dear Ray,

It was nice talking to you a couple of weeks ago. I admire your love for the needy in India. Keep up the good work you are doing. I am amazed at your spirit to go to India each year. May God Bless you in your great work.

With love and prayers,

Tom

Hi Ray,

Best of luck on your trip this month & keep up the great work.

Talk to you soon,

Rob

..... And

## In Closing

Last year was a very busy year. I did everything I could to help as many children as I could and still look after things in a professional way. I am so proud of all of you here in the USA and in Poland and India for helping me. I can tell you first hand it has been a very hard long road doing all of this for the children. Many people thank me for the work that has been done. I like to think of myself only as the glue that holds things together to get a project done. I am only one of many people involved with *Angels from Heaven* doing this work. God sends me Angels in my time of need to help me.

An example is,

The New Orleans Angel, or the Taxi Angel, then there is the Penny Angle. I can tell all of you this, for some unknown reason if I had to walk through a stone wall to help the children, God would send an Angel to help me and when I got to the other side of the wall, in the old days I'd question it .... Now I just accept it.

I was given two great honors last year. The first was from my nephew Billy Gaunt. He wrote a beautiful school report about *Angels from Heaven* and called me a hero in it for going to other countries to help poor children. The other was a special award from the Pittsfield, New Hampshire Rotary Club. I was given the Paul Harris Fellowship Award for Service Above Self. Both of these honors are, and always will be, very special to me. One thing I never want this charity to become is a game of money and numbers. I always want it to be about people and to do things in the right way. I will end now by saying THANK YOU to all of you for your support and help. My next trip will be in November at Thanksgiving 2006

God Bless You,  
Raymond C. O'Brien



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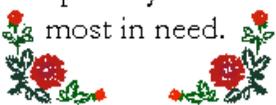
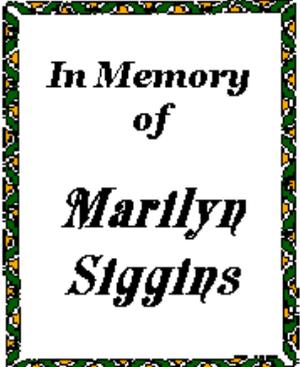
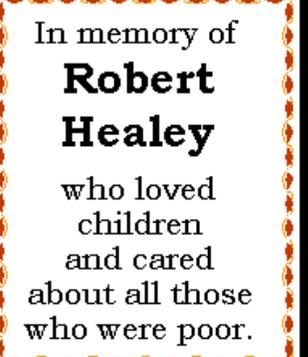


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## Mission Statement

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.

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