



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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Frank & Mary

Teresa Pothier

"Tootie" Kiela

Douglas A Redman

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Cammine Giuggio

Charlie Barbour

Harold Wright

Hi Everyone,

Another year has passed and so has another trip to Calcutta, India in November 2006. As all of you know, I visit the poor children every year in Calcutta 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, six years old, was asking 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 eleven years of visiting the children of Calcutta, I too, have learned so much about the world 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 very different from our life 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 long-term with many different projects to help the children, others help with just a few special projects. Either way, we touch hundreds of 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 we accomplished many projects to help these children. It was a very good year and everything went well. I have found that over the years, much of our work not only helps the children in India and other parts of the world, but also children here in America to learn about the world we live in. I am proud of our work and the people who help *Angels from Heaven*. The next few pages of this newsletter will tell some short stories of our work and how we try to help people in need. Our work truly is a labor of love. I hope you enjoy the stories from last year's trip.



Ray

Arrival in Calcutta

As many of you know I always leave for Calcutta just before the American Thanksgiving in November. I travel at this time of the year because it is a time to give thanks. This year's trip was no exception. On the day before Thanksgiving, Wednesday, November 22, 2006, my sister-in-law, Jeanne, drove me to the airport. We arrived at 1 PM for a 6 PM flight. I knew security would be tight and I had two large 70-pound duffle bags full of donations for the children along with a large carry on bag so I wanted to be early for check in. Everything went perfect, within 45 minutes the paperwork and bags were processed for the trip. I was ready to travel! It takes about 18 hours to fly to Calcutta, India with about nine hours additional waiting in airports for flight connections. It's not an easy trip to make especially in economy class. Arrival in Calcutta is always around 2 AM. It takes about one and a half hours to claim my baggage and clear Indian Immigration and Customs. Its now about 3:30 AM local time. I leave the airport and take a prepaid taxi to my room. My room is about 25 kilometers from the airport. The big difference between this trip of going to my room from the airport and all my previous trips is Mum and Uncle Xavier are not here to help me. They have gone to Canada to live with family so from this trip forward, I am on my own. I know in my heart it's not going to be easy to do this work without their help and assistance. On the way to my room in the early morning, I see lots of goats in the streets going to the market. I also see many people sleeping on the side of the road. This makes me very sad. After about 35 minutes, the taxi arrives at the building where my small room is. It is very dark and a rickshaw is parked almost in the middle of the locked front gate. The rickshaw driver is asleep on a blanket beside it. I walk very carefully and step up to the iron gate and yell in saying "hello!" A young man from past years reaches out with a key to unlock the gate. He gives me a big handshake and says "hello and welcome." I am taken to my room #6 with my heavy bags and try to be quiet so as not to disturb others. I open the door and see something I've been looking forward to for many hours, my bed. I am beat! I have been traveling for over 30 hours. I left the USA on Wednesday, and it is now Friday. I completely missed Thanksgiving on Thursday. I am happy to be in Calcutta and look forward to seeing the children and the many places I visit each year, after a good night's sleep.

While in Calcutta ...
Some of the places I visit:

Society of Indian Children's Welfare (SICW)
Missionaries of Charity
Lorreto Day School Sealdah
St. Vincent's Home
Salvation Army Girls School
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. Vincent's Home

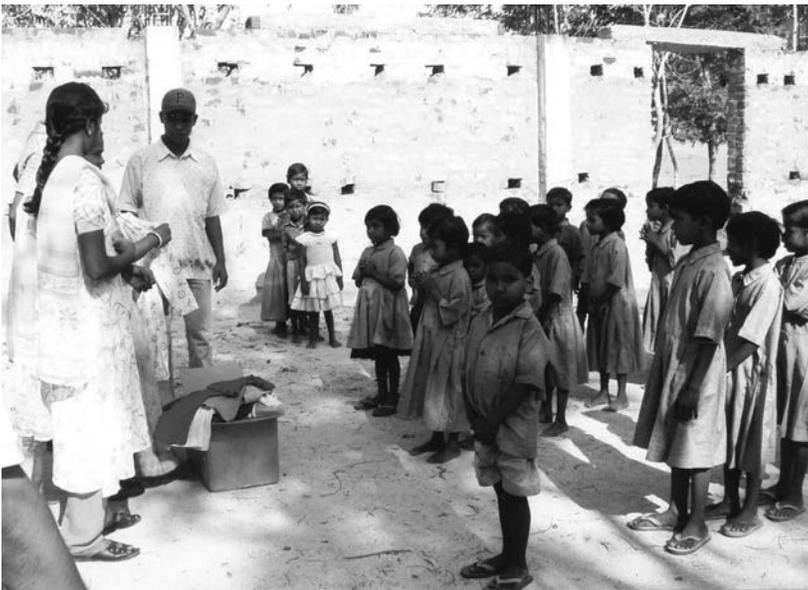
The first place I always visit in Calcutta is St. Vincent's Home. Over the years, I have been involved in many projects with the Sisters and the children. This year was no exception. During the year I sent many donation boxes full of children's clothes, Christmas decorations, along with three Christmas trees and three wreaths for the Sisters to hold for me until my arrival to distribute. I am very happy to tell all of you everything arrived in good order. Sister Geeta and Sister Sarita helped me with distributing the decorations which went to St. Catherine's Seniors Home, The Providence Sisters Children's home, Missionaries of Charity Brothers Home and St. Ignatious Church. (See related stories in this newsletter) It was a great time sorting out everything with everyone. Thank You for all the Christmas donations; they were really appreciated!



St. Patrick's Girl Scouts Troop 3310 & 1368 — Stoneham, MA

In January of 2006, I was given seven boxes of donated school supplies and clothes from the Girls Scouts of both these troops. The children had a clothing and school supply drive to help children in need many miles away. The Girl Scouts did a great job gathering many things and giving it to *Angels from Heaven* for shipment to India. Everything arrived in Calcutta in March 2006. A loyal friend of the children and *Angels from Heaven*, Anwesa Bhattacharya was in charge of the project when the donations arrived in Calcutta. She distributed the donations to five different places.

1. Tribal children studying in a small school at Purulia, a rural hamlet 300 kms away from Calcutta.
2. Students of a school for underprivileged children at Khidirpur, Calcutta.
3. Poor children being brought up at an orphanage in Calcutta named Future Hope School.
4. Very poor children dwelling at a particular locality in Calcutta.
5. Fifteen -year old boy being brought up by his Mother in adverse conditions.

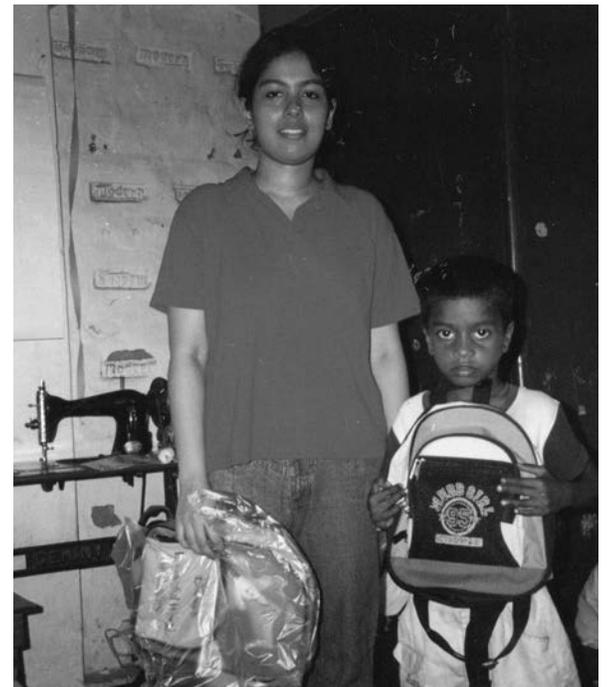


Because of the size of the project and the number of donations, this project took time to complete. In the end many children were given something they otherwise would never be able to have or afford. Anwesa sent me a nice report and lots of photos of everything.

On the back page of the report is a letter from Anwesa it reads:

I am considering myself lucky in having had the opportunity to associate myself with the entire exercise which brought a few rays of bright sunshine in the lives of a lot of poor and deprived children at least for a few moments.

On behalf of the children to whom I reached, the gifts smeared with love and affection from well wishers of a far away land, I heartily thank Mr. Raymond O'Brien and the Girl Scout Groups involved in the endeavor.



St. Joseph's Convent Preprimary School Rourkela, Orissa

Rourkela Orissa, India is about an eight hour train ride from Calcutta. It is a very rural area. Here my friend Sister Mary and other Sisters of the Daughters of the Cross teach in a small school St. Joseph's Convent Preprimary School. Because of your overwhelming support with school supplies and toys I was able to send this small school much needed aid. On the back of one of the photos Sister writes me: We accept everything with joy on behalf of the poor who surround us. Below are a few photos of your donations at work.



Immaculate Conception School Lowell, MA

Another special project in 2006 was a clothing drive by Mrs. Zarba's 5th grade class. I had visited the children and showed them a few photos of India and the work we do to help the children. A few days later Mrs. Zarba called me and said after I left the classroom, the children were very touched by the work we do and wanted to help. She asked for suggestions. We agreed a project which would connect the children and help her children to learn about the world would be best. I suggested a used clothing drive for a very special school I visit each year the K.M.C.P. Municipal School. Mrs. Zarba was in agreement. I contacted Mrs. Nes-



sa of the Calcutta school and told her about the project. She was very happy with it and said she would help any way she could. With everyone in agreement the clothes drive began. Each student of The Immaculate Conception School was only allowed to bring in one piece of used clothing. It had to be in excellent condition, something special! The 5th grade looked after all the donations for the entire school. When all was collected, I was called by Mrs. Zarba to revisit the 5th grade class at her school. What a shock to see all the beautiful clothes when I entered her classroom and the smiles of all the children. It was great! The clothes were folded and



put into five big boxes. I said good bye and THANK YOU to all the children and took the boxes home to ship to the K.M.C.P. School in India. About nine weeks later everything arrived. Mrs Nessa and her staff were very grateful for everything sent to her school. The children loved the clothes and it was a wonderful example of children helping poor children connecting the world. Thank You to everyone who helped with this project especially Mrs. Zarba and Mrs. Nessa.

Shoes to Nicaragua

For the past two years *Angels from Heaven* supported a young college student named, Abby, who goes to San Juan, Nicaragua the sister city to Newton, MA to work on community service projects. Our shoe drive this year was outstanding! I was able to send shoes to India as well as Nicaragua! We collected 236 pairs of shoes. They came from many people who wanted to help, including a young girl named Nina who collected 65 pairs. One hundred and eighteen small size shoes went to Nicaragua and 118 larger sizes went to India. I can't say "Thank You" enough to all of you for your help in making this project a success. Below is a letter from Abby along with some photos.

Dear Mr. O'Brien,

On May 27th I traveled to San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua with eight other freshman college students for my fourth time to work on community service projects in Newton's Sister City. San Juan is located on the southwest coast, is an impoverished fishing village that lacks many resources we often take for granted. I have been twice in 2005 and once this past winter. While down there we have worked on projects such as painting worn out blackboards, painting schools, building a preschool, digging a well, delivering school supplies, helping the mobile library go out into the country to exchange books at schools, teaching English, and assisting Habitat for Humanity in building safer ovens and water purification systems. This trip we were also able

to distribute tons of shoes that you collected. Many of these children had been wearing sneakers with holes in them, sandals that were falling apart, or no shoes at all. They were very grateful to be handed a pair of almost new shoes, which they will be sure to get plenty of use out of. Thank you and your donors so much for your donations. Without them many more children would have to walk the miles to school without shoes.

Sincerely

Abby



St. Raphael School Medford MA.



The staff, children and parents of this school have always supported *Angels from Heaven*. Over the years there have been many fundraisers along with donations given for the children. Because I live around the corner from St. Raphael, donations are always left on my porch, everything from school uniforms and baby clothes to shoes. The teachers have been great. Many times I have visited the children of this school to tell the children where I visit and to show a few photos. This year many of the younger children of St. Raphael

made drawings for me to bring to the children in Calcutta. In my heart I feel it connects the children of the world to learn about each other, in some very small way making the world a better place. Besides taking with me on this trip the many donations left at my door and the drawings, one of the teacher's husband donated well over 500 new pens for the children. It is great to work with people who love to help others in the world.



St. Paul's School Wellesley, MA

Every year for the last few years St. Paul's School has been a big part of *Angels from Heaven*. In June at the end of the school year, the children donate many left over school supplies, pens, pencils, crayons and markers. The school supplies are sorted into small boxes and sent to many schools in Calcutta where they are greatly appreciated. In October at Halloween the children donate close to 200 lbs. of their Halloween candy to people and places in need. It was also sorted and sent to many places here in America and overseas. Below is a list of where the candy was sent.



1. Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA
2. Children's Hospital Center For Families, Boston, MA
3. St. Charles Children's Home, Rochester, NH
4. Nazareth House, Boston, MA
5. Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, DC
6. Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, TX
7. Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany
8. 101st Army National Guard, Iraq
9. Crossroads Women's Shelter, Boston, MA
10. 102nd Army National Guard, Iraq
11. Many children in Calcutta, India

Many thanks to the children and staff of St. Paul's School. You have touched the lives of many people around the world and home.

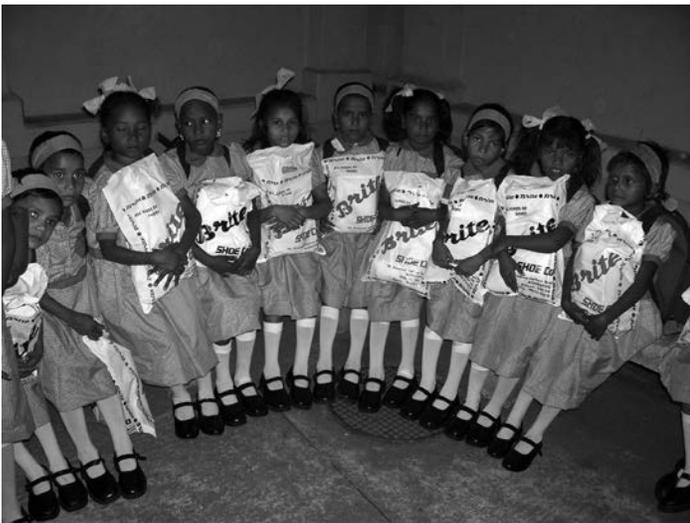


St. Teresa's School

Last year I wrote in my newsletter about a program *Angels from Heaven* and St. Teresa's School had started together. St. Teresa's School is a large school and well known in Calcutta. Down the road from the school, families live under a bridge or flyover. The living conditions are poor and unsanitary. I am proud to say that because of the donations



and school supplies I have received from you, approximately 45 children from this area now go to school for one and a half to two hours a day five days a week. It is a wonderful program. Sister Teresa, the school principal, makes sure the children learn basic things such as drawing, math, writing, along with arts and crafts. Each day the children are given a good snack to eat and once a week the children are given a big bag of rice to take home to eat. During the year I had funded, with the help of your donations, a trip to the zoo for the children, and a special day for India's Independence Holiday in August. The children love school and what they are learning. Because of your generosity I was able to purchase a new uniform for the children and a pair of shoes, many of



the children never had a pair of shoes before, two bars of soap, a comb, and a ribbon for the children's hair. The children were so grateful and happy; I could write forever about these beautiful children. They are eager to learn every day



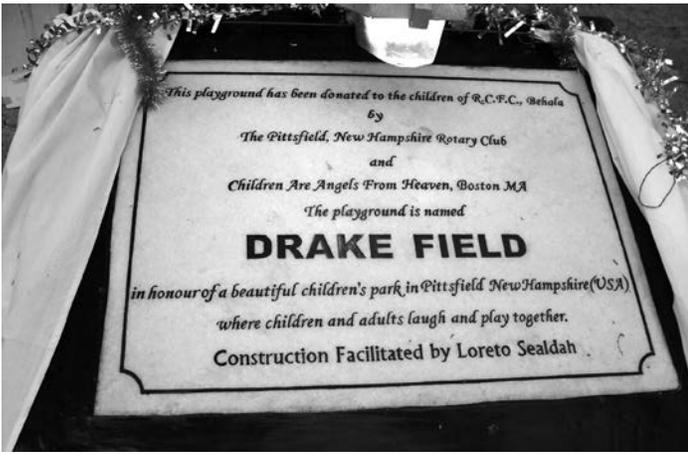
in class. This program was started with a .25 cent donation from a very special girl in America and it has grown like a beautiful flower.....**Thank you for your continued support**

Rehabilitation Centers for Children

Understand I am not a professional writer and this story is very special to many people. Please do your best to follow the story line as it is a little complicated to write about all the love, kindness and generosity given by many people on both sides of the world to help provide children with a needed playground.

If everyone remembers from my newsletter last year I had visited a small hospital, Rehabilitation Centers for Children in Calcutta with an escort from Sister Cyril's Loreto Day School Avijit. It was very sad seeing all the children and the physical problems that all of them had. During this visit in 2005, when I returned to Sister Cyril's office, I asked Sister if there was some way I could help the children of this hospital. She said what the hospital really needed was a new playground for the children as the old area was now unusable and unsafe. I did not forget these children and my talk with Sister Cyril. I knew in my heart this would be a very big project and expensive to complete but I would do my very best to see it through on my 2006 visit to Calcutta.

A few months after my return home to America, I visited the Pittsfield, New Hampshire Rotary Club. I gave a talk to the members and showed photos of the many places that I visited. The Rotary Club members have always supported *Angels from Heaven* and our work to help poor children in need. This year was no different! At the end of my short presentation the club gave me their full support to have the playground built. I was truly touched by this generous offer, and I could not get over The Pittsfield Rotary Club and their kindness in wanting to help children half way around



the world. I contacted Sister Cyril who handled all the work to get this playground completed from dispersing payments to emailing me with photos of equipment along with estimates. Everything began to come together. Many people were so excited about the new playground. Sister and Avijit



put lots of time into this project to see that everything was perfect and I was informed by mail many miles away as to how it was going. I would write to the Rotary Club and pass on the information to them to keep them in the loop. As the days went by The Pittsfield Rotary members joined in with school supplies for the children. More began to follow. Money was donated by way of checks to *Angels from Heaven* from a local family to be spent in memory of the loss of



a loved one, Mr. Robert Healey, for a dedication party on the day the playground was to open. It was just so beautiful to have so many people step forward to help these children. I decided this new playground should have a name. We thought long and hard about it. The name that was chosen was Drake

Field. This name comes from a beautiful children's park in Pittsfield, NH. It is a wonderful area next to the Suncook River where adults and children play together. With that I contacted Sister Cyril and asked if a small plaque or monument could be made with a special inscription on it and have it installed at the entrance to the playground. Sister thought this was a great idea and did everything she could to see this project was completed. Sister even had a light installed on the monument to see it at night. It was perfect! We now had Drake Field in Pittsfield, New Hampshire and also very soon to be Drake Field at the R.C.F.C. Hospital in Behala, Calcutta.

During the summer I had taken many photographs of Drake Field and the town of Pittsfield, NH to be able to show the staff and children at the R.C.F.C. Hospital just





what Drake Field looked like and what the surrounding area was like. The photos were mounted on big poster boards at the Loreto Day School for all to see there and then transported on the roof of the bus to the R.C.F. C. hospital.

On the day of the dedication for the new playground De-



ember 2, 2006, I met Sister Cyril at the Loreto Day School. She drove both of us to the hospital; it was a nice ride. Sister has been a Nun in Calcutta for over 50 years helping thousands of people; if anyone knows about Calcutta it's her. Upon our arrival at the hospital, many staff members as well as the children and Board members greeted Sister Cyril and myself with a very warm welcome. It was so good to be able to be at the hospital and in a few minutes finally see with my own eyes the new playground. The hospital staff walked us along the front side of the building until we came to the new playground. I honestly could not believe my eyes when I saw the playground area. It was beautiful. Many people were sitting on chairs waiting for our arrival. Next thing I knew, Sister Cyril and I are being introduced to the crowd. It was unbelievable! Before I could enter the playground area we cut a big ribbon which was put across the entrance to the playground. I was given a pair of scissors that Sister and I held together and I said "Today I dedicate this playground to all the children of the world," and we both cut the ribbon. As I walked into the playground area and looked around I could see all the new equipment as well as the Drake Field

plaque. Surrounding the playground area was a large wall beautifully painted with flowers and all kinds of animals, elephants, deer, giraffe, and zebra. It was wonderful! I was told by Sister Cyril she wanted the children to be a part of this project as the playground was for them. She had her Rainbow children along with the hospital children clean and paint the wall under the direction of the Loreto School Art Teacher Utpal Bandhyapadhy. It looked so good! Our program for the day included song and dance by the children as well as an acting skit of a doctor's office. At the end of the show, Sister Cyril arranged to have a BIG chocolate cake made in the shape of the playground with swings and slides on it along with ice cream and samosas. This was given in memory of Mr. Robert Healey. After everyone had plenty of food, Sister Cyril put all the school supplies donated by the Pittsfield, NH Rotary Club on the table for the children at the hospital to see. The children were so happy and were wide-eyed looking at all the supplies. It was great to see all the children smile. The day ended up perfect, one I will never forget. What really made it great was so many people all around the world working together to help these special children. That in itself is very special, my heartfelt thanks to all of you.

Loreto Day School Sealdah

As you have just read in the previous story, Sister Cyril is a person who can get things done for the children. I have had many visits at her school on AJC Bose Road. This year when I visited the Loreto Day School Sealdah it was what we would call on this side of the world Open House or Exhibition Day. The entire school is open to the public for everyone to see the school's 1300 students display the work they have learned about. It's quite a show. The children learn everything from air, water, and soil testing to nuclear power plants. The school is full of many displays. Sister Cyril assigned a young girl to me, a Senior Rainbow



Adarsha Hindi Vidyalaya School

I always enjoy visiting the staff and children at this small school. There are over 1200 children who attend the school, boys and girls in two sessions morning and afternoon. Although the children do not speak English, the staff



does, so we get along just fine. I love seeing the children's happy faces when I arrive at the door for the first time each year. The kids are happy to see me and I am happy to see them. I wish in my heart I had more to give to this school. The need is for everything. One thing the children do have

is respect for each other and the school itself. Each child wears a uniform to school. The children's hair is always combed and the girls even have blue ribbons in their hair. One thing that is very special, each student wears the school pin on his or her uniform. The children always look very sharp when I see them in school or walking to and from school. I am very proud to help these children as best I can. This year I was given over 500 new pens from a teacher here in the USA to give to all the children and I had sent by postal service many boxes of school supplies that all of you had donated to *Angels from Heaven* to this school. Mr. Ashok Tiwari the principal, held all the boxes for me so I could see everything upon my arrival at the school. It was a real nice visit to this school and I hope to do it again next year.



named Shefali to escort me to classrooms in the school to view the projects and meet the students. I asked many questions of the children about the related projects and I have to tell you every child had great answers. At the end of my tour of the school, Shefali took me to the poster board display. I was so surprised to see the big poster boards of Pittsfield, New Hampshire mixed in with all the students work. It was nice watching all the people and children walking over to see these especially the photos of the Pittsfield, NH

Hot Air Balloon Rally.

Each year *Angels from Heaven* supports the Loreto Day School with funding for an orange, mango and banana program for it's Rainbow children. Because fruit is so expen-



sive in Calcutta this program gives Sister the money to buy one fruit for 200 children once a week. We have funded this program for a few years and it has worked out great. We look forward to working with the Loreto Day School and Sister Cyril in 2007 on another small project to help the children. As you can see work helping children in need is never ending!



Fishing Village School “School of Angels”

For the last few years *Angels from Heaven* sponsors two village schools through Nupur Sanyal and the Institute of Social work in Calcutta . One of village schools is located about 10 miles from the city of Calcutta, the other is far away about a three hour drive one way. Because of three problem days in Calcutta with Bandhs (strikes), it was not safe for me to travel and I had to cut short some of my visits. One was the far away village school. On November



29th, Nupur arranged for me to have an escort for the day to show me the village school close by. I had met Anwsha Bhattacharya last year. We had a nice ride to the village school with Anwsha pointing out different things along the way. When we arrived at the end of the road at the village school, Anwsha and I, along with the driver, got out of the



car and started walking along a dirt path towards the village school carrying the school supplies and candy I had brought for the children. When we arrived at the school every child in the room stood and greeted us with happy smiles. The

children number about 90 of all ages with three teachers. The children put on a great show of Indian song and dance for about 45 minutes. At the end of the program, Anwsha, along with the teachers and the village Doctor, gave out the school supplies and candy to the children. It was nice seeing all the children smile and enjoy their treats. I did have a few questions I wanted to ask the teachers of the school. Anwsha acted as a translator for me so I could talk to the teachers. I asked questions like: What is most needed at this school for the children to learn? The answer was a black-board. With that, I said to them I would do my best to get it



for next year. As we left the school and walked back down the dirt path, I turned to wave goodbye to everyone feeling happy and sad all at the same time. I honestly did not want to leave these happy children.

Missionaries of Charity



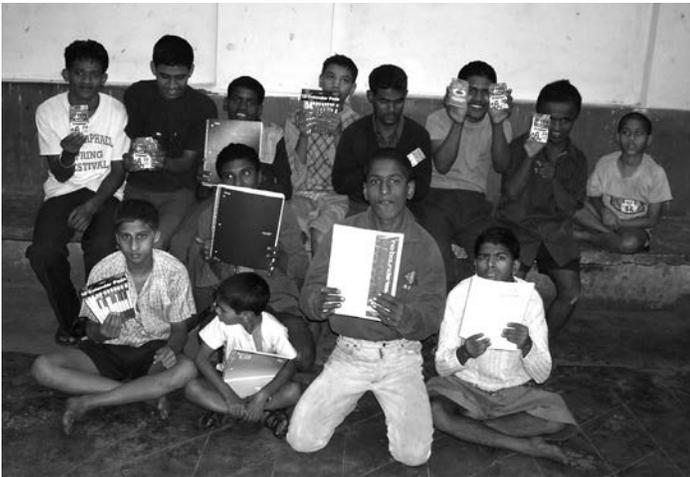
When you think of Calcutta one always thinks of Mother Teresa and what she did for the poor people of the world, especially in India. I personally am very proud to say in 1996 I had a chance to meet Mother in person. It was a moment in my life I will never forget. This year as in all past years I visited the Mother House at 54 A.J.C. Bose Rd. and Mother's tomb. I always say a few prayers before her and ask for her help and guidance to help as many children



as I can during my visit. When I leave the Mother House I leave a small donation from all of us. This money is always used to help the poorest of the poor throughout the world.

Another place I had a chance to visit this year was the Brothers of the Missionaries of Charity. They are located in the Kidderpore section of

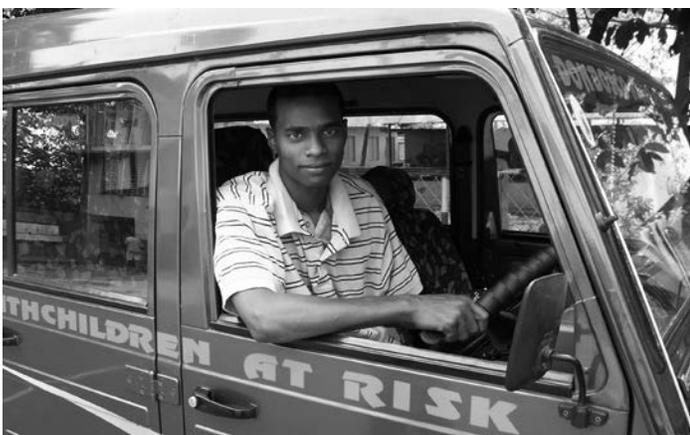
Calcutta. The Brothers run a small school for handicapped children. I had a chance to visit these children and bring them some of your school supplies and candy that they enjoyed very much. I also gave the Brothers a Christmas tree and decorations from you that I had shipped to Calcutta to



set up for Christmas in the chapel of the home with the other Brothers and all the children.

Don Bosco Ashalayam

Don Bosco Ashalayam is located in Hawrah across the river in Calcutta. It is a home for many street children. In



all I think the total of homes for the children number nine, with one being a girls home. These young children have had a very hard start to life. The only crime they committed was being born. They have no home and little family. Before Ashalayam many of the children lived in railroad stations or on the streets. Don Bosco Ashalayam takes these children into their homes and according to age try to help them. Many are too old to start going to a primary school so they are taught a trade such as welding or baking. Many of the smaller children would attend school each day. *Angels from Heaven* has

been a friend of these children for the past few years and has helped the children in some small way each year. Last year we sent ten of the older children to school to learn how to drive and get a driver's license to find work. Although the children may never own a car, they can now use their new skill to make money for their future families. This program worked out so well last year, *Angels from Heaven* with the help of Bernard Maung and Frank Louis of Don Bosco Ashalayam will send ten more children to driving school at a cost of \$556. Last year we were ten for ten as all who took the driving class passed the examination and now many of the boys have jobs. Notice the Christmas Wreath put in the woodworking shop from all of you in the photos.



Sabera Home for Handicapped Children



Each visit to Sabera makes me feel very sad. I love the children so much and with all the money in the world nobody would be able to help cure some of the children's medical problems. I have visited many of these children since they were babies. I think about the children when I am home every single day and always say a prayer for them at night before I go to bed. On this visit I had a friend travel with me to Sabera, Theresa from the Loreto Day School. As always when we arrived at the home, the Massies were very happy to see me. I have known many of them for many years. My visit at the home was short but productive. I had originally wanted to see Isha but she was taken into Calcutta for an evaluation of her feet. I did visit all the other children and it was nice seeing them. Another child who I visited since she was a baby is a girl I call



Twinkle. Twinkle is blind and the Massies taught her to sing "twinkle twinkle little star how I love you" Another child who came to see me was my little friend Dasi. She was a baby with the crossed eyes that *Angels* had repaired with Dr. Dadina. Finally, I visited Samita, the little girl with the cleft lip. She is a much bigger girl since her cleft lip was repaired but she is severely delayed and just lays on a mat. These are only a few of the children in the this home. Sabera Home for Handicapped Children is very clean and the Massies do an excellent job

looking after the children. I am proud of the work *Angels from Heaven* has done to help these children over the years and I look forward to my next visit in November 2007.

Kolkata Municipal Corporation Primary School

This school is just around the corner from where my room is that I stay in when I visit Calcutta. The children are so sweet and polite when I visit. Mrs. Nessa is the head teacher and she helps me any way she can. This year many boxes were sent to the school. In them were school supplies from all of you, as well as clothing from The Immaculate Conception School in Lowell, MA. The staff and the children of the school loved everything! Seeing the children's happy smiles made all the work to ship everything well worthwhile. The staff at the school does an outstanding job working with the children to teach them. I am very proud and happy to help the children that I can and look forward to having this school one of the first places I visit in 2007.



Society of Indian Children's Welfare

My oldest daughter had passed through the doors of this orphanage many years ago. And to this day I have never forgot the love and kindness they showed her. It's a wonderful place with many programs not only to help orphaned children but also handicapped children and poor children in general. There is no limit to the love and kindness





for all children in need at this home. This year I shipped many toys and baby clothes to SICW. To my amazement everything arrived at the home the same day I visited. The staff and I opened the boxes together. It was just beautiful

seeing everything from all of you. The staff loved everything and was very happy with our donations. Thank You for your help for these special children.



Salvation Army Girls' Home

This girls' home is located in Behala and has 140 children in its care. Many of the children I have visited before.



This year during my visit, I brought with me a very large bag of candy for my friend Asha to pass out. I had shipped badminton rackets and birdies earlier for the children to play with. It was fun playing with them. When I got tired and sat down, the children gathered around me and started to sing songs. I especially remember a song they called the "Amanda

Song" from a woman who had visited them earlier in the year from Somerville, MA. She taught them the song.

I did have a chance to talk to Captain Patrick, the person in charge, in regards to a water problem at the home. The children do not get fresh, clean water to drink especially in the monsoon season. He asked if *Angels from Heaven* could help him with the problem. I told him I would do my very best to help him by next year 2007. At this time plans are moving forward to help the children get good fresh water to drink. My visit ended with big waves from all the children as Asha escorted me to the main street to get a taxi ride back to my room.



Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy





This visit is always very special to me as I have a handicapped child. All of the children that go to school here (350) are also handicapped so we have much in common. Tessa Hamblin is the Director of Rehabilitation and my contact at the school. She always gives me 100% of her time and effort to show me around the school and answer all my questions. We now sponsor two children at this school, a boy named Soib, and a girl named Rumpa. Every child attends classroom according to what level they are comfortable in. The programs offered are truly outstanding from computers to arts and crafts. Last year I watched a boy with no arms use a computer mouse with his foot to draw a picture on the computer screen. That in itself was unbelievable.

Last year I wrote in my newsletter the need for a bus with a handicapped lift gate to get the children on and off the bus. I asked Tess if it would also be ok if I could ride on the bus when the children went home. I wanted to see their problems for myself. I must tell you, it was one of the saddest things I have ever seen. First the children who can barely walk get on the bus with help from the driver and his helper. Then the children who cannot walk are pushed in wheelchairs to the stairs of the bus then the two people lift the child, one by the arms and one by the legs, and carry them on the bus placing them in a seat. They put a safety harness around the child's chest and lap to hold them in the seat and upright when moving. It was very, very, very sad



to see. These children are human beings and they deserve better. There was no dignity in this process. Tess has asked for help from many people in regards to this bus issue and a lift gate. It is a major concern of hers and she would like to improve the situation. For now, with limited funds the school can only do the best they can for the children. If you are interested in donating to this cause please call me at 781-483-1002.

Providence Sisters Children's Home

Last year when I met these children, we went on a field trip to Nico Park, a fun park. *Angels from Heaven* sponsored it. Sister Mary made all the arrangements for this trip. In all, there are about 30 children at the home. This year's visit was great. We set up one of the Christmas trees that I had shipped to Calcutta with the decorations which were donated. It was nice to see the children so happy doing the work and everyone took part in it. After the tree was set up, we sang songs and played games. To make it a night the children will never forget, I had arranged for Chinese food to be delivered at 7 PM for dinner. When the delivery arrived, the children and Sisters were so happy. Before the food ever came out of the bags ALL the children and Sisters stood in the kitchen of the home folded their hands to say prayers thanking God for the food and remembering people in need all over the world. It was really touching. Once the prayers finished the Sisters opened the bags and sorted out the five different foods from rice to fish. This was a real treat for everyone. After dinner we talked with each other and played more



at 7 PM for dinner. When the delivery arrived, the children and Sisters were so happy. Before the food ever came out of the bags ALL the children and Sisters stood in the kitchen of the home folded their hands to say prayers thanking God for the food and remembering people in need all over the world. It was really touching. Once the prayers finished the Sisters opened the bags and sorted out the five different foods from rice to fish. This was a real treat for everyone. After dinner we talked with each other and played more





games. One game I thought up, was I had a bunch of new pens and a bag of candy. I placed the two bunches on the floor across the room in separate piles. I had the kids line up and I said you can take one gift from either pile but only take the one that will do you the most good. The small girls chose the candy the older girls took a pen. At the end everyone got a pen and candy. It was a nice way to end a wonderful time with these children.



St. Catherine's Seniors' Home

Due to of all your love and kindness here in America, I was able to send a beautiful Christmas tree and lots of decorations to this seniors' home. Sister Francis Ann along with all the ladies of the home were so happy to receive these items. The tree was set up



in the dining room on a table for all to see. It looked beautiful! *Angels from Heaven* again had Chinese food ordered for dinner for approximately 70 women. I can tell you it was a time I will never forget. The women were so happy and grateful for everything.

St. Vincent's Home

This was the first place I had ever visited in Calcutta on my first trip in 1996. I never forgot about the children and Sisters. This year Sister Geeta was the Sister in charge. When I visited the children this year, they were so happy to see me. It was so good to feel welcomed. I remembered almost all of the children's names and some of the older children had gone, but other, younger children had arrived. In all there are about 45 children. Over the years, we have done many things at St. Vincent's for the children. The one thing I always tell them is to take care of what was done or bought for them. I am proud to say everything we have done as far back as ten years is still in working order. The



big radio with tape deck, the swing sets, and the Christmas tree. The children set up the Christmas tree about a week after my first visit with them. It always looks very nice. Not many places have a 6 ft. North American Christmas tree in Calcutta. In my newsletters you will read I have always said that chocolate candy is something children never receive in Calcutta. A bag of Hershey kisses would make so many kids happy. As a special treat this year, I was given a wonderful donation of the biggest chocolate candy bar I had ever seen from a friend at work to give to a girl at St. Vincent's named

Sandra. When I gave it to her and she opened it, she did not know what it was. She thought it was a board game. Then she read the wrapper and saw it was chocolate candy. Wow, was she happy, along with all the other children of the home. Everyone had a feast on chocolate candy! When I visited them last time, I ordered Chinese food for everyone. My friend Anwasha came with me to visit the children. All of us had a fun night with music and dance, singing, and most of all friendship. It was very hard to say goodbye at the end of the evening, as all the children knew Uncle Ray would be far away on his way back to America when they woke up the next morning.

St. Paul's School

Most of the children at St. Vincent's Home go to school at St. Paul's. So I know many of the children. St. Paul's is a very big, all girls school run by The Daughters of the Cross. My visit was short but I did have time to meet the smaller children and hand out some books from a local Medford dentist and drawings from the St. Raphael School Children. The children appreciated everything and enjoyed getting their photo taken.



St. Ignatius Church



Each year when I visit Calcutta, I consider my home church to be St. Ignatius. It is right down the street from my room. Father Fernando is the parish priest. Each year I try in some small way to help the church by giving small donations for the poor children at Christmas time. I have found over the years, Beanie Babies go a long way. They are small, in all

colors, all different shapes and the children love them. Mrs. Xavier was not in India this year to help me but I am proud to say Father Fernando was. Right from my arrival in Calcutta, Father told me after Sunday Mass, "Ray I am here for you if you have any problems. Please come and have lunch with me some day. Your work is very important to the people of Calcutta."



I never forgot Father Fernando's kindness to me. As the days of my trip went on, I would see Father from time to time and he would ask how I was. At one point he came to my room and knocked on the door to say hello. Father said to me, "Ray you look like you have lost a lot of weight. Please come have lunch or dinner with me." I am the shy type and I said I was ok, and that I would see about dinner or lunch some day. I ran around for the next few days doing my thing, visiting what seemed to be thousands of

children. In the middle of the work week, another strike day was declared and I was told it would again not be safe for me to travel outside the neighborhood. With that I called Father Fernando and said I'd be available for lunch. He said, "That will be great! I'll see you at the rectory around noon."



With that I gathered all the donations I had for the church including two nice Christmas wreaths and put everything in a box. At noon I walked to the rectory to meet Father. We had a nice Indian lunch

together and talked about many things in America, India and the world. His kindness to me will NEVER be forgotten.

Below is a letter from Father Fernando to the People who help *Angels from Heaven*.

The Donors

Children are Angels from Heaven, Boston

Dear Mr. Ray

I write to thank you and the members of your group of Children are Angels from Heaven for their donations of the Christmas Wreath which we make use for at the Children's Masses and the soft toys for distribution in our Christmas tree program for poor children to be held December 17, 2006.

Your generosity has enhanced our Christmas celebrations and I am sure it has added extra smiles on faces of children who receive your gifts.

On behalf of the parish community, I extend my gratitude and wish all the members Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*With good wishes and God's blessings,
Rev A. Fernando
Pastor*

Two Children Go to School

Angels from Heaven still sponsors two boys to go to school. One is in south India and the other is in West Bengal. The names of the boys are Mohammond Rafi Darga and Mithu Mondal. Both boys are good boys and do their best in school. School is not easy in India as it is strict and well disciplined. With your help *Angels from Heaven* is happy to support these young boys to get an education.

Deposit Cans

The Deposit Cans never stop coming in. They give me needed cash flow to keep things going from week to week. Many families and businesses collect them for me. It's a dirty sticky job counting all the cans, but when I think of all the good the money can do to help poor children it is well worth it. Here is an example, every can I count is worth a pencil for a poor child. It makes me forget about the work involved and I am happy to do it. The workers at the Woburn Redemption Center are great people to work with. They help me every way they can. The on-going total money collected from all the cans and bottles is now at \$2394.41 Thank You for your continued support.



Can Tabs

The total of Can Tabs collected this year was 14 pounds. The tabs again this year were turned over to Mr. Lloyd Wentzell who is a member of the Shriners organization. The Shriners use the tabs as a way to buy needed equipment for the Shriners Hospitals. The Shriners Hospitals help children free of charge and do a great job. If you think it's easy to collect the tabs, just try filling one small cup full of them. It takes forever! Thanks to everyone for another great year of helping the children at the Shriners Hospitals.



Angels From Heaven and other Charities



Angels from Heaven does its best to help many people all around the world including the United States. A few programs we are happy to be a part of are, Toys for Tots Toy Drive at Christmas, The Pan Massachusetts Challenge

Bike Ride to benefit the Dana Farber Cancer Institute and also Guide Dogs of America for providing Guide Dogs at no cost to legally blind men and women. It is because of your donations to *Angels from Heaven* that we are able to extend our help to these very worthwhile charities.

Thanks to everyone for your extended support.



Medford Kiwanis Club

Each year this club supports my efforts to help children around the world. I am taken back by their on-going generosity. Our work does not take millions of dollars to do, what makes it very special is the people who step forward to help. I am proud of this club and all that it stands for "helping children all around the world." Last year the Medford Kiwanis club bought *Angels from Heaven* a state of the art slide projector to show photos and dvd's of our work to local groups and schools. It is directly because of the effort of these men and women that we are now reaching out to many more children. Thank you Medford Kiwanis for all your efforts.

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 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 Union 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 stepping forward to help poor children of the world. Efforts like this make me proud to be an American and call the United States my home.

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.

Newspaper Printing

Bunny and Victor Stoykovich of Town and Country Reprographics, 230 North Main St., Concord, NH have many times over the years, donated the entire 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. It is directly because of this generosity 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. 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.

Highlights of a Few Letters

Hi Ray,

I wanted to wish you good Luck and a safe trip to your upcoming trip to India. Where do you get all the energy? Enclosed is a little something for the children.

Jim

Dear Ray,

Your last newsletter was most heartwarming and uplifting. I was particularly touched by the article on the Sabera Home.

Rosemary

Dear Ray,

Reading the Newsletter made me realize that you have made the money go so far.

Anna

Dear Ray,

In all the names of your children I have sent Ray a donation for Children are Angels from Heaven in lieu of all the lovely material objects we have always shared at Christmas.

Lauren

Letters Continued

Dear Ray,
*I watched the CD and I don't know how you can go there.
The sadness is too much, I get tears in my eyes.*

Bill

Dear Ray,
I am so proud to be a part of your mission to give hope and love to the homeless children of the world. I always read and reread your newsletters and emails. I don't know how you find the time to do so much for the children who have so little.

Pat

Dear Ray,
The scarf you sent me is beautiful and a wonderful reminder of the work that you do with Children are Angels from Heaven.

Margie

Dear Ray,
It was noted at our last meeting to send you the sum of \$600 from the raffle fund. The members enjoy giving to your cause.

Local IAM #447

Hi Ray,
Here is the check I promised for Sister Teresa for the little Angels in the street. Those are the children I love to help.

Joan

Dear Ray,
Enclosed please find a donation to Children Are Angels and the work that you do. My career in pediatrics has certainly confirmed over and over again the chosen name for your organization. And you are right, despite the fact that all children are above average, too many are born into circumstances of deprivation and hardship. It is a joy to give to your life's mission.

David (M.D.)

In Closing

As you can see by the size of this Newsletter, *Children are Angels from Heaven* had a very busy and productive year in 2006. You will never know how much work and energy it takes to try and help the children, the sad part is there are millions more children that need our help. I find the best way to help children is through education. If the children can read and write they may have a better future than their parents did. If a mother can read and write you can be sure her children will do the same. Making the next generation of children more educated at a very young age is part of the work we do. I have worked very hard to look after every donation that has been given to me. I have said it before and I will say it again, I am accountable and responsible for everything. If you have any questions about any part of *Angels from Heaven*, please call me.

I would now like to say Thank You to everyone who has reached out to help us in this work. Our hopes are to continue to help as many poor children we can in making this world a better, safer place. I will now end this newsletter with something I read during my travels on this past trip..... It does not matter how much money someone has! What really matters is what is done with it ! Thanks again for a great year. Your support and love for these children will never be forgotten.

God Bless You
Raymond C. O'Brien

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.

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. . . .

Check our website!!!! www.childrenareangels.org

Newsletter Printing and Mailing

It costs about \$2.50 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

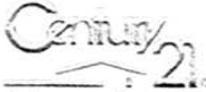
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Mission Statement

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.