



# 25th Anniversary Year Children Are Angels From Heaven

Ray O'Brien, Editor

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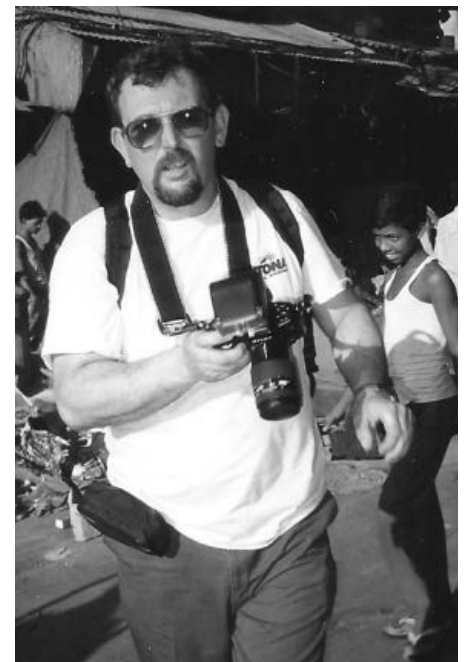
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## My Mode of Transportation To and Around India



Ray taking photos in Calcutta, 1996

Hi Everyone,

This year's newsletter is going to be very different from past years. In 2020 I was not allowed to travel to India because of Covid 19 and the entire world was in lockdown. This year I am going to write a short newsletter looking back at the previous twenty-five trips to Kolkata, India starting in 1996.

Every newsletter I have written each year is now on our web site [www.childrenareangels.org](http://www.childrenareangels.org) so to keep this newsletter short I am only going to just highlight a few projects from each year. To me it will be like a walk back in time as I remember every story and every place I visited over the years and the people who *we* helped.

***The years 2020 and 2021 have been horrible times in the world due to Covid and the loss of many members of our families and friends who have passed away. I dedicate this newsletter to all of them, along with the many others who have suffered from this disease and recovered.***

Please find some quiet time and your favorite chair to sit and read this special newsletter. I am sure that you will enjoy reading it.

Thank You for your continued support and help each year for *Children are Angels from Heaven* as I could not have done it without your help.

Ray O'Brien, President

# 1996

This was my first trip to India. I thought it would be a regular trip and I would be just a tourist, but to my big surprise, it was **Culture Shock** for me. I had never seen so many people in one place let alone all the manual labor people had to do to live each day. I arrived in monsoon season with heavy rains and this was very difficult for me to comprehend. The hard work never stopped for these people.

I stayed with the Xavier Family on Ekbalpore Road in Kidderpore. I was part of their family for two weeks. They took me on tours to many places and family events, as well as visiting orphanages with older children and those with babies. One of the most beautiful tours was a train trip to the Taj Mahal. I will never forget the love and kindness from this family as well as lessons in life about India.

My life truly changed after I met Mother Teresa on this first visit. It was on this trip that I made a promise to myself that I will try to help poor people the best I can for the rest of my life for the simple reason that at this time, I had two adopted children from Calcutta, India. At the end of the trip, Ann Xavier and I had the honor of escorting a little baby home to its new adoptive family in the USA.



*Ray at the Taj Mahal*



*Ray in the flooded street*



*Local small store*



*Ann Xavier and I escorting an adopted baby to USA*



*IMH Orphanage*



*Monsoon Rains*



*I meet Mother Teresa*



*The Xavier Family*



*Sister Julianna and the children in St. Vincent's garden*

# 1997

After I came home in 1996 from my first trip to India I could not stop thinking about it all year long and how could I help people or make them smile with just a little money and lots of LOVE in my heart.

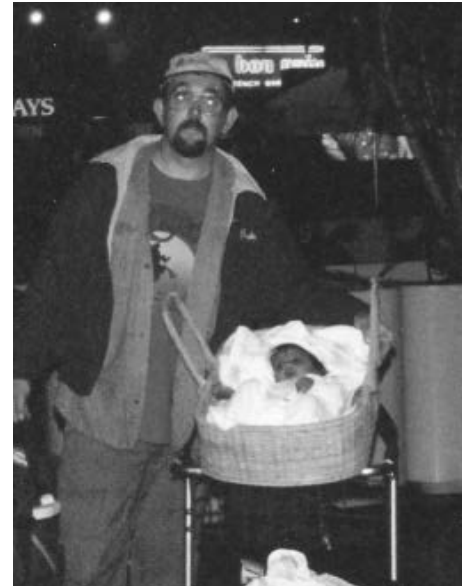
This trip was a very busy trip as I visited many places and did so much. It was a wonderful experience and also a great way for me to learn about the world all of us live in together.

On this trip I unexpectedly met my boy Raymond for the first time at an orphanage. I just happened to be visiting the orphanage the night Raymond was brought in. It was something I will never forget. He was abandoned outside and his entire little body was covered with mosquito bites. I honestly did not know if Raymond would live that night. Thanks to the great care of the Massies, Raymond did ok and I went to see him every day of this trip.

I also escorted an adopted baby back to the USA by myself.



*Leaving for India 1997*



*I return to the USA with a special baby*



*New Christmas Tree for St. Catherine's Home*



*Helping Calcutta Rotary for a Polio free world*



*First swing set for children at St. Vincent's*



*Mother Teresa's tomb*



*Sister Cyril of Loreto Day School Sealdah with her Rainbow Children*



*New clothes given to the street families*



*Little Raymond's arrival at IMH Orphanage*



*Adarsha Hindi Vidyalaya School*

# 1998

As each year moves forward I visit more places and meet many more children. I always revisit the places I had visited before, and I also add a new visit someplace with more children. It has become very busy for me.

My arrival to Calcutta went well and it was a happy time for me and the people that I visit. I have brought with me many donations from all of you to give away from chocolate candy to used clothes to small toys, tennis and basketballs with a few dolls and school backpacks.



*New clothes and toys*



*Tennis balls for children*



*Ray arrives in Calcutta with donations*



*Chinese dinner for St. Vincent's children*



*Salvation Army visit*



*International Mission of Hope Orphanage*



*International Mission of Hope Orphanage*



*Adarsha Hindi Vidyalaya School staff with our donations*



*New cassette tape & radio bought in Calcutta for the St. Vincent's children*



*Chocolate candy for children*



*Visiting the Adarsha Hindi Vidyalaya School children in their classrooms*

# 1999

This year I made two trips to India in February and November.

During the past year many people and companies have reached out to help me with this work, and for that I will be forever grateful. I worked very hard all year long to get ready for both trips with packing and shipping of many donations for the children.

It was not easy but we got it done! Every child I met this year received a tennis ball. Think of it like this... a gently used tennis ball is bright in color, you cannot break it, and most of the time a group of children play with it so it's not just a toy for one child. It becomes a great gift for many children to play with.

Another donation I received this year was hundreds of small dolls for girls. Everyone loved everything I shipped or brought with me in my luggage. Many people also stepped forward with monetary donations so I could buy things in Calcutta for the children. Everything worked out great on both trips. I was invited to and attended a Christian wedding for Ann and Joe on the February trip.



*Donations arrive in India*



*A bag of tennis balls for Sister Cyril's Rainbow Children*



*Sports equipment bought for older students of the Adarsha Hindi Vidyalaya School*



*Ray installing new basketball nets at St. Vincent's*



*350 Hindi to English Dictionaries with 750 Exercise Books for the Hindi School*



*Tennis balls for many children*



*Packing dolls for India*



*Shipping drums of donations to India by AEA Technology, Burlington, MA*



*Donated dolls for the Salvation Army Girls Home*

(1999 Continued)



*My first trip to a village school with Loreto Sealdah children*



*I have lunch at IMH Orphanage Nursery*



*A visit at the SICW Orphanage*

## 2000

After a few visits to India, I start to understand that the smallest gift means so much to the people and children of India. It could be just a tennis ball or a swing set for a group of children at a home, maybe even a new sweater for a hard working Massie at an orphanage.

I love visiting the local schools and orphanages and helping the children but to do it I need help from both sides of the world. And with God's help it always works out.



*Older students at St. Teresa's School are required to read the newspaper every day*



*New swing set made at St. Vincent's*



*Another visit to IMH Orphanage*



*I took two older girls to IMH from St. Vincent's to visit the children*



*A new Christmas tree to the Salvation Army Girls Home in Behala*



*New sweaters for the IMH Massies*



*I escorted this baby back to the USA*



*A visit to St. Thomas Technical School*



*Front gate to IMH Orphanage*



*Birthday party for Priska at St. Vincents*

# 2001

I feel a deep love for the children of India and all year I try to gather donations to send and then to meet up with them in India later in the year

This year I sent many drums of small donation that you could imagine from balls to dolls as well as clothes and shoes. When I visit the local schools, I look for children with a medical issue that maybe I can help get fixed like a crossed eye. The kids are now in my heart and my work is never ending for them and I love it.



*Drums of tennis balls*



*Lots of stuffed animals and children's clothes*



*Tennis balls for a boy's home*



*Donations for Mother Teresa*



*Christmas tree for the Bethany Sisters*



*Giving donations to the children*



*New sneakers for a young girl*

*Trumpa's eye operation  
from a crossed eye to a repaired eye.*



# 2002

This was the year of school desks. As my trips continued each year, I found myself trying to accomplish bigger projects to help children in India as well as visit new places and find more children in need. It sure was not easy to do.

In the early spring I collected used school desks from St. Joseph School and Medford Vocational School in Medford, MA. We loaded the desks in a large donated truck and I drove it to Berea, Kentucky for afternoon schools in the area for children. I also took some desks to Belmont, New Hampshire to a Christian School.

In Calcutta, India, with the help of my friend, Bernard Maung of Don Bosco Ashalayam Home for street boys, we were able to make new school high and low desks plus benches for half the school at the Adarsha Hindi Vidyalaya School this year as the old wooden ones were worn out. The boys at Don Bosco got to learn to fabricate the metal and weld it all together to make the new chairs and desks and the Adarsha Hindi Vidyalaya School received the finished project for the children in each classroom to sit, learn and be comfortable. Bernard worked hard to oversee this project and the Don Bosco boys did a wonderful job. I again visited the many places I do each year in India.



*Berea, Kentucky*



*Belmont, New Hampshire*



*Old benches and tables*



*Old benches not very comfortable*



*Very small tables and crowded*



*Hindi School in Alipore, Calcutta, India*



*School desks to Berea, Kentucky*



*Don Bosco Boys Trade School*



*New tables crafted by the boys*





*New tables and benches*



*Three birthday cakes for the St. Vincent's children*



*Donations to Kolkata in 2003*



*New tables and benches at the Hindi School*

## 2003

This year I reached out to another child with a medical condition. Samita is handicapped and was born with a cleft palate and could not eat properly. I watched the Massie try to feed her by covering up the open side of her mouth so the food would not fall out when she was fed. Right away I knew this was wrong and reached out to help her with an operation. Her operation was a success as her pictures will show you.

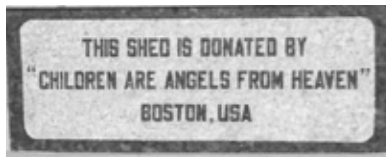
I also brought with me many donations including two wheelchairs to give away to people in need. And we also had a new Work Shed made at Don Bosco boys home. It was another very busy trip for me.



*Delivery of the wheelchairs*



*More tables and benches*



*Little Sisters of the Poor*



*A visit to the Basanti Orphanage*



*New work shed at Don Bosco*



*Boys learning to make hospital beds in the new work shed*

# 2004



*Calculators for children at a local school*



*Rulers and crayons for the smaller children*



*New clothes for the Village School*



*Donations*



*25th Anniversary SICW*



*Candy and school donations*



*Giving pencils to school children*



*Samita being fed by a Massie*



*Samita before the operation*



*Samita eating from a spoon for the first time*



*Samita after the operation*

# 2005



*Sister Cyril with school donations*



*New sports uniforms for Don Bosco*



*The big Pepsi Challenge Basketball game*



*After the game Pepsi for everyone*



*A visit to a fishing village school*



*Children and teachers at the village school*



*Ten boxes of children's clothes sent to the Leo Club*



*Dasi before*



*Dasi after*



*Shoes to Nicaragua*



*Shoes arrive for the children of Nicaragua*



*Ray leaving for India in November*



*Setting up the Christmas tree at St. Vincent's*



*Two drums of donations of children's toys and clothes going to New Orleans*



*Shipped donations arrive in India*



*Visiting another orphanage in India*



*Donated goods arrive in Louisiana for Hurricane Katrina Relief*



*Giving children a math quiz in Calcutta*



*Nicco Fun Park in Calcutta with children*



*1800 pairs of warm gloves donated for the poor*

*300 pairs to Krakow, Poland for the winter  
300 pairs to a medical missionary nun in  
Virginia who helps poor people  
600 pairs to the Pine Street Inn Homeless  
Shelter for men and women in Boston  
300 pairs to the Shattuck Shelter in Boston  
for homeless people  
300 pairs to Waveland, Mississippi  
as part of Hurricane Katrina Relief*



*Children and sisters enjoying Nicco Park*

# 2006

After another year of collecting donations, and planning for my trip to India, the day finally came and I was on my way to see everyone again. During the year I had worked with Sister Cyril of the Loreto Day School and together we built a beautiful playground named Drake Field after a playground in Pittsfield, New Hampshire. This was done at The Rehabilitation Centers for Children in Calcutta.

I also brought with me or shipped many Christmas decorations, soft toys, children's clothes, school supplies, and lots of Halloween candy to give away. It was another very busy trip but a great trip where I was happy to see everyone and everyone was happy to see me.



*Drake Field playground*



*Drake Field, a happy time for everyone*



*The kids love Drake Field*



*Mother Teresa Brothers and Daughters of the Cross Sister getting some Christmas decorations*



*Don Bosco boys with Christmas wreath*



*St. Gertrude's senior with a new Christmas tree*



*Chinese dinner for seniors at St. Gertrude's*



*KMCP school with a box of soft toys*



*St. Vincent's children at the Christmas Tree*



*New uniforms, socks and shoes for Angel from the Street program*



*Fishing village School of Angels*



*Anwesha giving pencils to the children*

# 2007

This year I visited Calcutta again but I also will take a trip to a city called Rourkela to visit more Daughters of the Cross Sisters and many children in another state in India. It was a very interesting trip. I learned Rourkela is much different than Calcutta. It is more of a rural area with not as many people and the air quality is much better. But one thing was the same in Rourkela as in Calcutta, the Indian people were all friendly and happy to see me. While in Rourkela, the Daughters of the Cross Sisters and myself took many small children for a visit to a zoo with a nice picnic lunch enjoyed by all.



*Donated school supplies arrive in Rourkela*



*Old Man of The Mountain shirts for a village school*



*KMCP School Picture Project*



*Angels from the Streets classroom*



*School supplies at work in the classroom*



*My room with donations*



*Our Children are angels from Heaven school supplies*



*A fun day seeing all the animals and having a picnic*



*A visit to Sabera Home for handicapped children*



*Pittsfield, NH tee shirts for the Rainbow Children*



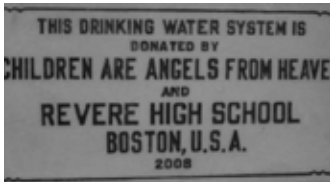
*Angels from the street child learning math*



*Zoo trip*

# 2008

I arrived in Calcutta as usual the week before the American Thanksgiving to give “Thanks” for my three beautiful children who were adopted from Calcutta, India. During this trip I got to see the new clean filtered and cooled fresh water system that had been built by Bernard Maung for the Salvation Army girl’s home in Behala. The children were getting sick from drinking the ground water unfiltered. I also visited many other places in Calcutta and Rourkela and a few village schools.



*Project by Revere, MA High School*



*New water tank on roof*



*Cooling machine pump and filters*



*Finished water system*



*Donations for Rourkela*



*My bed with mosquito netting*



*Cutting rice to have food*



*Children in line for a drink of clean, fresh cold water*



*Donations arriving*



*A new Christmas tree for a convent*



*The Sisters enjoy a game of Jacks from our donations*



*Here I visit a village school*



*Picture Project*

# 2009

It was a very busy year for *Children are Angels from Heaven* in 2009. We started gathering donated items in early January and working on new projects for the children. Just to name a few, sending boxes of jump ropes, frisbees, and balls donated by Miss O'Hearn's 6th grade class at the Immaculate Conception School in Lowell, MA, the Angels in Rourkela sponsored school children in Orissa, along with the Angels from The Street Program in Kolkata. The St. Raphael School children of Medford, MA. worked hard to continue the picture project with the Indian children and St. Paul's School in Wellesley, MA. continued to donate much appreciated candy for the children in India and many other places in need. Bernard Maung and the Don Bosco Boys at Ashalaym in Howrah made another order of School desks for the Adarsha Hindi Vidyalaya School. When I arrived in India, I brought even more donations for the children as well as some Marshmallow Fluff and Skippy peanut butter to make Fluffernutters. I even went to a beautiful Hindu wedding. It was a great trip with many things were done to help the children.



*Toys and balls for the children*



*Dr. Dadina with new donated facemasks*



*Soft toys and supplies for SICW*



*Sister Teresa and Sister Sini making Fluffernutters*



*Don Bosco Ashalayam boys making desks*



*Adarsha Hindi Vidyalaya School with new desks*



*Fluffernutters*



*Sudipro and Anwasha*



*Beautiful Hindu wedding*



# 2010

My trip to India this year will always be known for sending many training school clocks and school supplies to local schools as well as doing many other things that I do every year to visit everyone such as the Seniors Dinner & the Nicco Park trip . But also this past year something was done for a little boy named Soumya that was very special.

Because of all the Angels on this side of the world and also all the Angels on the other side of the world Soumya has had two operations on his face for his cleft lip. He still needs one more in order to speak more clearly. He has a small hole on the roof of his mouth that will be fixed in 2011. It's because of ALL of us that Soumya has his new face, as we started the ball rolling to help him just after the first time I met him in 2008. His right eye is blind or close to it. We cannot fix that as only God can, but I knew we could fix the boy's face with quite a bit of help including, great doctors in Calcutta, Dr. Zarin Dadina and Dr. Arun Ganguly who is associated with Smile Train, A wonderful hospital in Calcutta called The Assembly of God Hospital, and loving and caring social workers from the Institute of Social work in Calcutta headed by Nupur Sanyal, along with his teachers at the school and his family. In the end we did it!! Soumya has a new handsome face.



Old school training clock



Teacher with new training clocks



Students with new clocks



Soumya **before** surgery



Soumya **after** surgery

# 2011

As the years pass, I have become very busy with our *Children Are Angels From Heaven* work. I have seen with my own eyes how special a small gift can be to give to a child. The girls love soft toys like Beanie Babies and the boys like balls. I asked for help with a small collection of donations and I was overwhelmed at the results. I was given boxes of Beanie Babies from children at local schools. I was also given boxes of tennis balls to distribute to the children.

We built new swings and soccer goals at a village school and went to Nicco Park again, plus having an IAM #447 special dinner for children. One donation given me was costume jewelry. The older girls loved all of it. It was a full year of work looking after our donations, but the smiles of the children made it all worthwhile.



Donations sent to India



Sisters Lucy and Sister Sini

# 2012

During the past year I worked with the Daughters of the Cross, Sisters in Orissa, India along with Anwasha Bhattacharya in Bangalore, India on two very special projects. I am happy to report that both projects, a beautiful playground in memory of Steve Seide of New York and a project for bicycles in Bangalore for school children who got good grades in school working with Anwasha and a non-profit NGO called Samridhdhi Trust.

Both projects were completed successfully. We also kept up with the dinners we sponsor, school supplies we distribute, our picture project, and meeting with hundreds and hundreds of Indian children in many schools giving them Halloween candy and many soft toys. All producing so many wonderful and happy smiles.



*Children with the stuffed animals and Beanie Babies*



*School supplies*



*Distributing the school supplies*



*School supplies for the Hindi School*



*A trip to Nicco Fun Park*



*Machinest Union Local #447 sponsored dinner*



*Sponsored by the I.C. School, Lowell, MA*



*Slide for the children*



*Costume jewelry for girls*



*New swing*



*Merry-Go-Round*



*New soccer goal in Ghoghea Village*



*Machinest Union #447 sponsored dinner*



*Swings*



*Sieve Park made in Phalsa, India for children*



*Bicycles for students*



*More bicycles for Bangalore*



*Mum Xavier handing out school supplies*



*Picture project*



*Sister Rose with soft toys*

## 2013

I thought about last year's trip and it made me sad to learn that so many people have to live every day not having a private bathroom. So with this in mind, I went back to the small village of Phalsa and had a new proper private bathroom constructed with a septic system and stalls made for boys and girls at a local school. It took many *Angels from Heaven* donations, but thanks to all of you, the project was completed and it was perfect.

We also continued our work to give away school supplies, senior's walking canes and lots of candy. I ended this year's trip with another visit to Nicco Fun Park with the Angels from the Street Children in Calcutta, an experience no one would ever forget.



*Seniors Dinner*



*Girls room*



*Boys room*



*New bathroom building*



*Another trip to Nicco Park*



*The children*



*The rides*



*Water Park*



*St. Raphael uniforms to Indian children*



*Senior canes*



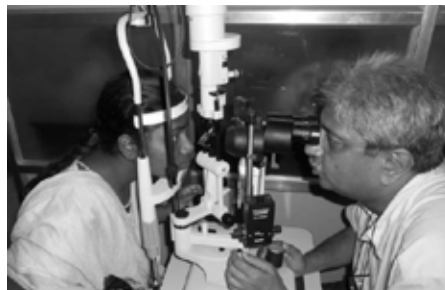
*Candy for children*



*Lokeswaranda Eye Foundation in Purulia*



*Dr. Asis Chatterjee*



*Examining Priti before operation*

# 2014

2014 was no different from any other year with lots to do every single day. I cannot write every story of the trip as there are just too many of them, so I will tell about the highlights.

During the 2013 trip I met a young girl name Priti. She had a problem with her right eye and was not doing well in school as she could not see properly. With the help of my friend Dibyendu Bhattacharya of Kolkata, and Dr. Asis Chatterjee at the Lokeswaranda Eye Foundation in Purulia, along with Sister Anna Mary in Rourkela, Priti had an eye operation and a short time later, returned to school.

Another special project was buying computers for a school in Rourkela in memory of John Barrett from his wife Kathy. We had another small playground made in Rourkela at a primary school for young children. Another great project were pretty wrist bracelets made by the Girl Scouts in Westfield, MA for the children in a small Indian village. In Calcutta we made another trip to Nicco Park and had the annual Senior's dinner along with distributing many school supplies to hundreds of children at local schools.



*Priti before operation*



*Priti just after the operation*



*Priti after the operation back in school*



*New computers in school*



*In memory of John Barrett of Bedford, MA*



*New playground Merry Go Round*



*New Monkey Bars at a primary school*



*New Elastic Bracelets for girls in a village made by the Westfield, MA Girl Scouts*

## 2015

On September 9, 2015 the CEO of Ryder Systems Inc., Mr. Robert Sanchez, and Ryder FMS President, Mr. Dennis Cooke, came to visit me at my Ryder workplace truck shop (0567) located in Stoneham, MA to congratulate me on being picked as one of the Heroes of the Fortune 500 in 2015. During that visit I had a nice talk with Mr. Sanchez about the work *Children are Angels from Heaven* has accomplished over the years and our future projects and goals for an upcoming trip later this year, 2015, at Thanksgiving.

Mr. Sanchez was very interested to hear some of the stories and what *Children are Angels from Heaven* had done over the years to help poor children. He told me I must be very proud of what I and all my donors have accomplished. We at Ryder, know that you have worked hard every day for our company for over 31 years and yet you have found the time to extend yourself in such a big way to help so many people who are in need. I congratulate you and your followers at *Children are Angels from Heaven*.

Mr. Sanchez handed me a very generous check and said that it could be spent on one of our upcoming projects. I then explained that the year before I had visited Orissa, India and saw two local, small schools where the children sat on the floor in the classroom as there were no school desks or

chairs for the students. Mr. Sanchez did not hesitate, he said let's look after those children ASAP....

I shook his hand and said "Thank You."

Because of Ryder Systems Inc. generosity and The Daughters of the Cross Sisters looking after every penny of the donated money, *Children are Angels from Heaven* was able to put chairs and tables in not just two, but three small schools.

Also during this trip, our small charity was able to have more bathrooms made at a local village in Orissa as well as supporting and funding the afternoon program at St. Teresa School in Calcutta for poor school children. We passed out many senior's walking canes donated by the Aleppo Shriners organization and funded a program of backpacks for the KMCP School in Calcutta.

Just as the trip ended, I received a message from Sister Kathleen who is the head Sister of the Daughters of the Cross all over the world. She requested to see me at St. Vincents in Calcutta. When I arrived at the Convent, Sister Anupama introduced me to Sister Kathleen. Sister Kathleen said to me, Ray you and your followers have done a wonderful job helping so many people how can I ever thank you. My reply back to Sister Kathleen was very simple. I said, Sister just say Thank You and I will pass it on to everyone who helps me. She said 'Thank You' with a big smile!



*Robert Sanchez, CEO, Ray and Ryder FMS  
President Dennis Cooke*



*New bathroom for the Ghoghea Village school children*



*New sport equipment for the Don Bosco boys*



*Ghoghea - Before*



*Ghoghea - After*



*New backpacks for the KMCP school children*



*Sheetalpara - Before*



*Sheetalpara - After*



*Sister Kathleen, Ray, and Suster Anupama*



*St. Joseph Primary - Before*



*St. Joseph Primary - After*



*Another trip to Nicco Fun Park*



*Supporting our "Angels from the Street" program*



*Walking canes for seniors*

# 2016

This year *Children are Angels from Heaven* accomplished two very big projects for children and neither one of them was easy to do.

The first was to dig a well for fresh water at a village school.

The second project was to have high and low benches built for the Hindi School Children. These projects were under the direction of Mr. Dibyendu Bhattacharya. Along with these projects, we continued to visit many places and children. Everyone in the world loves chocolate candy and because of St. Paul's School, and St. John's School, of Wellesley MA, and St. John's School in the North End of Boston, I had enough to give to many children and seniors.



*Children never accessed water like this before*



*Ashok Tiwari, Principal, and Dibyendu Bhattacharya*



*New desks*



*All are ready for delivery to the school*



*Digging the well*



*Students learning on new Hi-Low tables and benches*



*Donations sent to Calcutta*



*Digging was not easy but very hard labor*



*The end result is clean fresh water for children to drink*



*Sister Teresa Anthony*



*A visit to an orphanage*

# 2017

This was another exciting year for *Children are Angels from Heaven*. Because of all our work to help children, many more people are reaching out to help our small charity. This year we had another beautiful playground made called Fun Space. The village children loved it as before there was no playground or anything like it. It was all new to them. Ryder Truck Rental of Miami, Florida, stepped forward to have a basketball court made at a local school in Rourkela. The kids loved it.

Another on-going yearly project anticipated and enjoyed is the Machinist Union IAM #447 dinner for older children. It is always a fun time with a performance of cultural dancing by all the girls before the meal.

We shipped more walking canes and walkers for seniors in need. The Westfield Girl Scouts made many plastic jump ropes out of plastic bags for the Indian children; they loved them.

I had plenty of candy and stuffed animals along with balls and frisbees for children every where I went on this trip. One special place I visited from Calcutta was Mother Teresa's Home for Leprosy in Titagarh, West Bengal. This is where all the Mother Teresa Missionaries of Charity Sisters sarees are made and other cloth items, like bed sheets for the Missionaries of Charity Homes on sixty big weaving machines. It was a wonderful, productive trip and included another trip to Nicco Park for the children.



*Slide*



*See-Saws*



*Merry Go Round*



*Ryder Basketball Court*



*They love basketball!!!*



*Westfield, MA, Girl Scout jump ropes*



*Fun Space playground*



*Stuffed animals for hundreds of children*



*Machinist Union IAM #447 party and dinner*



# 2018



*Indian dance*



*A special dinner for hundreds of children*



*A visit to one of Mother Teresa's homes*



*One of 60 hand operated weaving machines*



*Missionary of Charity Sarees*



*Sister Anna Mary with needed walker*



*American Halloween candy for the children*



*Nicco Park*

The years are now just flying by. Many people and companies have joined our efforts to reach out to help the children each year. This means more donations and responsibility for me to look after but my heart and soul is in this. Some of the highlights of this trip are visiting many school children, handing out school supplies, Halloween candy, and beautiful children's clothes to give to all the children.

We also had the IAM #447 children's dinner as well as the senior's dinner in Rourkela and Calcutta. With help from my friend Dibyendu I was able to buy a beautiful ten foot Christmas tree for the Daughters of the Cross Sisters Convent in Rourkela. We bought another computer for a village school. Ryder Truck Rental of Miami, FL sponsored a wonderful day for a mountain village school with many books and sports equipment for the children. Ryder was also responsible for paying to have the four room school furnished with beautiful new tables and benches so the children did not have to sit on the floor to learn at school.

At the Institute of Cerebral Palsy in Calcutta, we gave two sponsored children wheelchairs, one from Kathy, a few years ago, and one new one this year for Soaib. Also included in this year's trip was a short personal trip to Darjeeling, India. I visited another part of India high in the mountains and stayed with a local family meeting more people, as well as enjoying the area. Darjeeling is a beautiful place to visit and is noted for its tea.

*Children are Angels from Heaven* also sent a big donation box full of balls, Frisbees, and clothes to Mexico this year.

A man named Alan Briones, who is a Mason at the William Sutton Lodge in Saugus, MA, was born in Mexico and asked if *Children are Angels from Heaven* could help the poor near his home town in Mexico. I sent one box stuffed with everything for Allen to give away to see how it all worked out. I'm happy to say it worked out perfectly.



*Cheryl with donated baby clothes*



*Afternoon school program*



*Toys and baby clothes for SICW orphanage*



*Calculators for children*



*Toys for handicapped children at Sabera*



*New dresses for the KMCP school children*



*Colored pencils*



*Sweets and drinks at the Providence Sisters Home*



*Darjeeling Host Family*



*Soaibs wheelchair*



*Darjeeling overlooking the Himalayan Mountains*



*Rumpas wheelchair*



*Washing of the hands in Orissa*



*Visiting a village school*



*Giant Christmas tree for the Sisters Convent*



*Sponsored school children with their sponsors letters*



*Box of toys and clothes for children*



*Chips and cookies for the children*



*New computer for a village school*



*Donation of Training Clock to a school*



*Clothes for children in a village*



*Visiting a day care center*



*Mountain village school*



*New benches and tables for each classroom*



*The children sit and learn on chairs and tables*

# 2019



*Alan Briones*



*A village in Mexico*



*Donations*



*Donations given out in Mexico*

I arrive in Calcutta at my usual time of the year, Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving in the USA is a time to give Thanks, so each year I travel to India to give thanks for my three beautiful children who were adopted from India. This is why I try to help other children the best that I can. This year's trip was another good trip, with many donations from all of you, and help from people in India to get the work done. We also did work in Mexico again with my friend, Alan Briones.

Everything we did on this trip was special from having a merry go round repaired and making a new beautiful slide, to going to small villages to hand out walking canes to senior people in need. We bought a village family a bicycle to have transportation. We had a great time with the children at the Providence Sisters Home, as well as at the senior's dinner in Kolkata and children's dinner in Rourkela. Another special dinner was buying thirty two Domino's pizzas for the Sisters and girls in Rourkela. It was another fun time for everyone as many of the people had no idea what pizza is and never had it before.

Before this year's trip came to an end, we took all the afternoon children in Kolkata back to Nicco Park for another day of fun. Everyone had a great time.

One problem I have to mention happened in September, 2019. Our *Children are Angels from Heaven* website was erased. A man named Ashim Gayen ([asim.gayen@gmail.com](mailto:asim.gayen@gmail.com)), who lives in Kolkata, did a fantastic job helping me get everything to a new site. Ashim is a professional and reached out to help us in our time of need. Check out our new website [Childrenareangels.org](http://Childrenareangels.org) or our facebook page [Facebook.com/childrenareangelsfromheaven](https://www.facebook.com/childrenareangelsfromheaven) managed by Steve Powers in NH.



*Raja welcomes me to the Kolkata Guest House*



*Dibyendu with donations - Missionaries of Charity*



*A visit with VP Abeda Razeq of the Jewish Girls School in Kolkata*



*Picture Project at the Loyola School*



*New dresses for children*



*Rumpa at the Institute of Cerebral Palsy*



*Soaib at the Institute*



*Providence Sisters Children's Home*



*SICW Orphanage*



*Seniors dinner in Kolkata*



*Ray at Mother Teresa's Tomb*



*Sports equipment for the Don Bosco boys*



*My friends at Curio Cottage in New Market*



*Donations for the Missionary*



*Sister cooking with wood in Rourkela*



*New bicycle for a family*



*The new slide*



*The children love their new playground equipment*



*New Merry Go Round*



*Pizza for the first time*



*Senior walking canes donated from Aleppo Shriners*



*This slide is built to last*



*Pizza enjoyed by all*



*Another Nicco Park fun trip*



*Ice cream for everyone*



*Alan Briones back in Mexico*



*Angels from Heaven in Mexico*



*Donations for the Mexican children*

# 2020

## OTHER ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE HELPED BY CHILDREN ARE ANGELS FROM HEAVEN

When the world turned the page from 2019 to 2020 in January, it started out to be a good year. But then March came and people all over the world were getting very sick and dying. Within a very few weeks the world entered a sickness stage that is known today as a pandemic. It did not take long, then everything was on LOCK DOWN. The entire world was now closed for business and people feared leaving their houses. Everything from A to Z was closed except essential shops like food stores. Very few people were out and about at this time. The overseas mail was suspended. There was no way I could go to India at this time. Visas were canceled and so were all the airline flights. Most everything was shut down in the USA.

In India there was very limited work and remote learning for school children. In June I was able to send a small electronic check to India to try and help the people of a fishing village in West Bengal because of Covid 19 and a Cyclone named Amphan which hit at the same time. Later in the year I was able to pay for our school sponsorships and for a bathroom project that we had started but is not finished. Both of these payments were sent by electronic mail.

The year 2020 was HORRIBLE for the entire world with over two million Covid deaths. When 2020 came to an end, it was the same situation in early 2021. Many people had lost family members and stores went out of business and everything was still closed. I did my best here in the USA by sending out a few extra donations to try and help people here. It was only because of your generosity I could do this. I will end this year's writings only to say God Bless the People who passed away or got sick from Covid. I'm sure it was a year that none of us want to remember ...



### CAN TABS

The total of can tabs collected in 2020 was **4.5 pounds**. Our grand total for the past few years is now **292 pounds**. The tabs were again turned over to Mr. Lloyd Wentzel, who is a member of the Shriners.

The Shriners turn the tabs in for scrap metal and use the funds to help the Shriners Hospitals. The Shriners Hospitals help children free of charge and they do a great job. I give all of you a challenge, get a small plastic bag and fill it with the tabs and when it is full send the bag to me. You will find how hard it is to do. Your effort will help a child in need at the Shriners Hospitals. A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped with this project. For more information regarding the Shriners or the Can Tabs, check out this web site <https://files.wtphelan.com/file/Pull-Tab-Brochure.pdf>.

### DEPOSIT CANS



Here are the totals of the deposit cans for the year 2020 and the Grand overall total. I am sure you will be very surprised when you see the numbers. I have worked hard on this project just about every afternoon, counting thousands of cans and bottles that are given to me from many people and businesses. It is not easy work, but you do what you have to do to raise funds to help the kids.

Total cans collected in 2020 was 1,060 for a cash total of \$ 53.00.  
Our Grand Total since we started this program is as follows:

213,101 Cans and Bottles have been collected for a....

**Grand Cash Total of \$10,655.06.**

# CHILDREN ARE ANGELS FROM HEAVEN 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.

## IN CLOSING

I have spent hours and hours, day after day writing this newsletter for all of you to read. I have to tell you it was not easy to do. What made it hard for me was to choose the most important stories and photos from my 25 trips to India to keep the newsletter within a reasonable cost for printing. During my writing when I looked back at all our accomplishments in my photos or notes, I was very surprised. The list of helping people and doing projects over the years seemed endless.

I want you to understand that these trips were not my trips; they have been **our** trips. Very little would have got done if it was not for all the people reaching out to help me and for that I will be forever grateful to you. The funny part of it is fifty percent of the people who help me I have never met. I never ask for anything and I feel our work has to speak for itself. I never take in more money or donations than I need each year. I am old school and do things to be responsible and accountable.

The one thing that I love about *Children are Angels from Heaven* is, people on both sides of the world are working together to make the world a better place and never asking for anything in return. It has been a *25 Year Journey* that I will never forget!

Thank You for all your help and support,  
Ray O'Brien, President

## EDITOR'S NOTE

I have worked with Ray for at least 22 year's on his newsletter and the stories and photos that he has each year from his trips to India. He is tireless when it comes to helping those less fortunate. He has developed it into a full time job but when Covid hit, it took away all the avenues he has used over the years to provide for the poor. Now, in this very hard time for families, seniors and those less fortunate, Ray has found donations to be down, projects slowly to be completed and the world remains in turmoil. Yet Ray finds ways to help those here and in India.

Try to imagine building bathrooms, wells for clean, drinking water and fountains for access to it. Children sitting in schools on the floor to learn are now sitting at tables with benches, and teachers have computers and something as simple as a clock to teach time with.

This is only a small portion of the whole. The amount of time extended to each trip is unbelievable. The sorting, packing, just the time to fly there as it certainly is not a quick overnight trip. Ray has always chosen the time around Thanksgiving to go. This means he has missed 25 years of Thanksgiving with his family and missed his son Raymond's birthday, but he does it in the spirit of **Thanks** for all he has and especially for his three beautiful, adopted children from India.

Another way to support this organization is every time you purchase from Amazon, you can designate a percentage of your purchase to *Children Are Angels From Heaven*. It is done through AmazonSmile. Check it out, it does add up.

Ray has established many contacts in India and outlets where he is able to purchase things there, saving very high shipping costs and making it easy to distribute directly to schools, families, and children while there. Please remember also that Ray's generosity is not only in India but he has helped people in Mexico with setting up the same type of help he gives to many in India. And he helps so many organizations right here in this country ensuring people in need are helped and children are not forgotten. One man to help many. As Ray has always said, a small piece of candy brings a smile to so many faces, a pencil and a ball is more than many could ever hope or wish for. Ray asks for no donations, people just want to help and we are thankful for that.

Bunny Stoykovich  
Editor for many years!






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**Richard Torpey**

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**Sheryl Madden**

**In Memory of  
My Hero,  
My Dad**

*Gurvant J.  
Sanghvi*


*In  
Loving  
Memory of*

**Kantaben &  
Jayantilalbai  
Sanghvi  
Liliben &  
Chinubhai  
Parikh**

*In  
Memory  
of*


**Robert & Helen  
Flynn**

**IN HONOR  
OF MY  
SIBLINGS  
AND FAMILY**



**Jon Huntington**

*In Loving Memory  
of*




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*We Love and  
Miss You  
Always*

*Your Loving Family*

*In Loving  
Memory of*

**Fred & Hazel  
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**In Memory of a Kind  
Generous Person**



**Dr. William D. Wood**

*In memory of*

**Emilie A. Rose**  
who loved to  
help others,  
especially those  
most in need.

*In Memory of*

**Anne Burke O'Connell**



**1951 - 2021**



**Mary T. Mackenzie**

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**In Memory of  
1st Lieutenant**



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*In  
Memory  
of*

**Marvin  
and  
Malinda  
Kubly**

**In Loving Memory  
of**

**Danny Healey**

"Wherever there is  
great love, there are  
always miracles."

**In memory of**

**Robert  
&  
Regina  
Healey**

who loved children  
and cared about all  
those who were poor.

**In Memory of**

**Andrew  
"Andy"  
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and  
Peggy  
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Great Guy


John  
Barrett

In Memory  
of  
Rita  
&  
Chuck  
O'Donnell

In Memory  
of  
Paul A.  
Sullivan

Longtime  
Friends  
Bunny  
&  
Victor  
Stoykovich

Rev. Robert E. O'Brien



Born: October 27, 1929  
Ordained: February 2, 1959  
Died: December 28, 1996


In Memory  
of  
Josephine  
and  
William  
O'Brien

In Memory  
of  
June  
and  
Tracy  
Rodricks

IN MEMORY OF  
Ronald Sullivan  
and His Son  
Ryan James  
Sullivan  
Who Was Killed in  
Afghanistan

In loving memory of our beloved  
CLARENCE IVAN XAVIER  
Born: Monday, November 2nd, 1931  
Died: Sunday, January 21st, 2018

Deeply loved.




Deeply missed.

In Memory of  
My Loving Wife  
Eleanore  
J.  
Huntington

In Memory of  
Kay  
Boyle  
and  
Robert  
Healy

In Loving  
Memory of  
Marilyn  
Ann  
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