



Ray O'Brien, Editor

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Hi Everyone,

I would first like to say "Thank You" to all the people, companies, along with civic organizations, who have reached out to help *Children are Angels from Heaven* not just this past year but in all the years since 1996. Over all these years, together, we have done so many projects and helped so many people, even I have to read our website, www.childrenareangels.org, to look back and see the work that was done over the years. I find it amazing, that such a small NGO Charity could do so much to help people in just a few years. I might add it was all done with no payroll. Our work has always been looked after by volunteers. For me to sit here and write this newsletter to all of you, it is an honor because together, we made *Children are Angels from Heaven* what it is today. I cannot think of any good news anymore to watch on the television or read in the newspapers as it's

all bad news. When you read this short, yearly *Angels* newsletter you will see smiles and happy people. It's all about people helping others the best way we can with limited funds. What makes it all work is being responsible and accountable for every donation. I hope you find the newsletter informative and pass it on to someone who you think may enjoy reading it. Thank You for all your Support and Help year after year.

Ray O'Brien, President

HELP FOR CHILDREN OF NEPAL - 2024

Children are Angels from Heaven just completed a project in the country of Nepal. Nepal is very far away north of India. The school we helped was St. Joseph School in a very remote village named Korabari. The story started with my friend, Sister Mary, of the Daughters of the Cross Sisters in India. She is a very good friend and we have done many projects together for the children in India from buying computers, digging water wells to making playgrounds and many projects in between.



The Sisters I work with know where the need is great for poor people and children. They have their feet on the ground every day and see everything first hand. This is one reason I like working with them and now you know a little about Sister Mary and the Daughters of the Cross Sisters, so I will start with the Nepal story.

Sister Mary called the Convent in Nepal and spoke to Sister Bindu and told her a little about *Children are Angels from Heaven* and our work. Sister Bindu knew about me from Kolkata and connected me with Sister Shanti at St. Joseph School Korabari, Nepal. Sister Shanti was excellent to work with. She told me that the Village School started in 2015 with a kindergarten for first generation learners who live near the school. Since the first year the school opened, the enrollment has grown. Today the school goes to Class Eight with 367 students and a staff of 15, with five Daughters of the Cross Sisters.

In the general area around the school, the families have little and rely on rice paddy cultivation for their basic needs. Most everyone is landless and are only day laborers. The common person works in fields owned by others. To reach this village there is no proper road or easy transportation. In Monsoon Season, attendance is not 100% at school because it is too dangerous, the small streams and rivers overflow with water so **NO** holidays are given in summer in Nepal. But in Monsoons Season, all get 10-14 day holidays.

Sister Shanti sent me further information and photos to look over and study if this school would be a good place for *Children are Angels from Heaven* to do a project. I was given a list of what the school needs. The most needed item in

the school was High and Low benches so all students at St. Joseph School, in all classrooms, have a place to sit on a chair and study at a table. With present student enrollment at 367, there are not enough seats for everyone. After a few days of going over all Sister Shanti's information and photos to understand where our donated money would be spent and the reason, I gave Sister Shanti and the Daughters of the Cross Sisters the green light to start the desk project. In early March 2024, 40 High and Low benches were ordered for the school from a local vendor who worked very well with the Sisters. They delivered everything to the school at the lowest price he could with good quality workmanship. Forty new High and Low benches will seat three small students in kindergarten or first grade or two older students in the 5, 6, 7, or 8th grade.

I am happy to report everything worked out perfectly. Even better was the High Low benches were **below** my estimated figure.

Because Sister Shanti was excellent to work with along with all the other Sisters and the school had other needs for the students, *Children are Angels from Heaven* would take on another project with the school with the extra funds.

Along with the High/Low desks, we also bought 18 – 3' x 6' White Boards to put in every classroom in the school so the teachers can teach at the front of the classroom from a big board hanging on the wall like blackboards we have here. We were also able to stretch the extra funds to buy three small teacher's desks with a locked drawer for the front of the classroom for three teachers.

Again everything worked out perfect and it was another accomplishment.

The donated money by all of you that I am responsible for was well spent to help the school and its students and every penny was accounted for.

The High/Low desks arrived at the school by farm tractor and trailer. The farm tractor traveled approximately 30 miles to the school in two trips, one in the daytime and one at night.

It was a happy time for everyone off-loading everything into the school where the finished tops were placed on the desks and the 18 white boards were put in one room to later hang on the classroom walls.

I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for the help you give me year after year to help others in need. I could not do this work without your support.



DONATIONS TO INDIA



About four months ago I was given many very special holy items from Claire. Claire is a very religious person and she told me she wanted her special gifts (that she always treasured) to go to a special place and asked if I could take care of it for her.

It took some time but with help from The Daughters of the Cross Sisters in Rourkela, India, I was able to do this. Claire's gifts were three big beautiful crucifixes along with many smaller ones and also many Rosary Beads and other small Holy items.

I wanted to keep the Holy items safe in transit as they would be traveling halfway around the world to a remote area so I added other donations with the Holy items to keep them safe. I filled the box with your donated stuffed animals so they would protect the items during air travel and rough roads during the long journey. I also added used eyeglasses and a big bag of Hershey Chocolate Kisses for the Sisters. *Below you will see an email from Sister Anna Mary to me with all the results along with many photos to tell the story.*

Dear Mr. Ray,

Today I am trying to send a few pictures of the parcel you sent us in India. Sr. Mukta and one of the Didi's from St. Joseph's Convent School are opening the parcel and trying to sort it out. The Crosses are very special, so I thought of placing them in a very appropriate place and give to a very special couple. The first cross is in the hall of Provincialate where the priest dresses for Holy Mass as we didn't have any cross there. Sr. Anupama had asked me to get one and I was looking for it to be special. I felt one cross would be best to place there. The second one I gave to Manas and Anupama, who you know well as I felt this Cross would go in a special place in their house and they teach their children about faith in Jesus crucified. The third Cross goes in a special place that is Provincial's main office of the Daughters of the Cross. It looks beautiful and the small crosses were given to special people.

Mr. Ray, I really couldn't go out to give the dolls as we are still having very hot weather. A few children have been given dolls in Sr. Reshma's village. The children look really happy.

Mr. Ray, thank you so much for everything...all things are good..Sisters enjoyed the chocolate sweets.

Sr. Anna Mary, FC



MORE HELP FOR THE CHILDREN OF NEPAL

For the past few months, I have been working with Sister Shanti in Nepal at a small school. The school is new and near small villages with lots of children's classes from KG to Grade 8. Earlier this year, we bought the school some needed High/Low desks for the classrooms and it gave them what they needed most. As a matter of fact it worked out so well, because of the Sisters' efforts to work with me, I sent a big box of donations to Sister Shanti and the school to give out to the children from all of us. I had a mix of everything to send from Crayons and hair bands to Frisbees and stuffed animals. The shipping was very fast and when the box arrived at the Nepal School everyone was very, very happy from the Sisters to the children.

In the photos, you will see everything along with a nice "Thank You" letter from Sister Shanti.

Thanks to all of you here, we have given smiles to many people half-way around the world. Here is a Thank You letter from Sister Shanti.

Dear Mr. Ray,

Greetings from Sr. Shanti. Thank you very, very, much for the gift box. On behalf of the children and sisters, I sincerely thank you and the donors for all the trouble they took to collect such lovely items to give to our children. God bless you and the members of those connected with the Children are Angels From Heaven. Really, God has given a BIG heart for you all. The newsletter speaks volumes of your generosity. May God be praised and your friends be blessed. We do pray for you all.

The Sisters and the school children were delighted to see the given items. Thank you for the Toys (48), Crayons (3 packets), Markers(2 packets), Pencils (1Pkt), Pair of scissors (6), Frisbees(13), Clutches (2pkt), Hairbands, (2pkt), Purse (1), Brush (1), Earrings, cooling glasses etc etc.

Yes, little children are excited to see little things. They are innocent and we can make them happy when we really want to make them happier. On the 22nd, I went to the lower class (LKG) to show and give toys, they were really happy. Then I went to Class 1 to give crayons and asked them to paint on their drawing books. They too, were delighted.

Then I went to higher Classes 2 to 8 and called only the girls, to give other small items. They too were happy.

We gave the Frisbees to the kids of Class 2 to play. OHHHHH-hhhhh, they were excited. Later boys of other classes also played. Sr. Nirmala told us to keep some in the school so that the boys can play on the school ground. I am also sending you the photos.

In the evening I went to a village and gave some toys to little ones. Once again, I thank you dear Mr. Ray and your friends for goodwill. May God pour his spirit on you all and may you receive all the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit. I do not have words to thank you all. Above all, I am grateful to God for bringing the box without damage and without any delay. Your Faith is great! CONGRATULATIONS dear Mr. Ray.

Hope you are fine. Thank God once again and rest, but again thanks. May God bless you and all those who are connected with your Good work.

Regards from,
Sr. Shanti

4 Children Are Angels from Heaven



A NEW KITCHEN FOR JASHPUR, INDIA - 2024

This was a very needed project, a new kitchen in a far away village named Jashpur, India, in the Indian state of Chhattigarh. The kitchen had become too small, because of cooking and feeding all the Sisters and children. Some of the Sisters gave up their bedrooms so the kitchen eating area could be extended to two places within the building for more room. As many times before, Sister Mary took charge of the new project to add an addition to the kitchen area so the cook could prepare meals and everyone could eat in one area together like a family.

It took time for me to save the donation money from all of you, and Sister Mary to find a good contractor to complete the kitchen project, but in the end everything worked out **GREAT!**

Let this story be told in Sister Mary's own words, so you can understand it better.

Below is Sister Mary's request letter sent to me.

St. Paul's girls' hostel was established in 2019 in response to the request of the parents from faraway villages who wanted their children to study in an English medium school in the town of Jashpur but had no provision and facility for their stay. We responded to this request although we had no proper set up and arrangements. Children are Angels from Heaven financed three good projects – toilets, a bathing place and a shed to dry clothes. We have come a long way – from nothing to something. Every year the number of students is increasing. Our service is appreciated. The sisters and the students are adjusting to many inconveniences but there is one scarcity which is affecting the day-to-day functioning of the hostel. There is no kitchen for the hostel. At present the sisters have given up their one bedroom which is being utilized as a kitchen but as the number of the girls increases, the kitchen ends up being too small. Our helper has her own share of difficulties. She cooks for 35 people. Since the kitchen is small, she uses two different rooms for cooking. There is no storeroom and vegetables and food items are kept in another place. There is no room for the students (who help with chopping vegetables) to sit, clean, and cut vegetables. They move from one place to another according to the weather and season.

Our requirement is for a room with a proper roof which can serve as a kitchen to cook for fifty people and a place to store vegetables and groceries with a space to sit and cut vegetables.

I request Mr. Ray, Director, Children are Angels from Heaven to help us with this project which will benefit the present children and many to come in future. Thank you.

Sr. Mary

OLD KITCHEN PHOTOS



Children sit outside and cut vegetables when the weather permits.

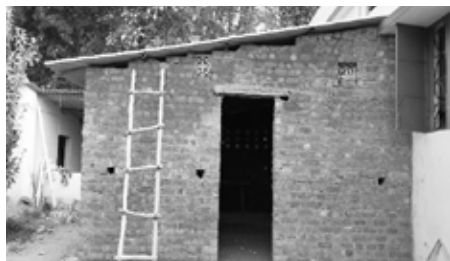


The cook has to use a different room to cook another dish since the kitchen is so small. Vegetables are purchased for only a day or two due to lack of space to store them.

NEW KITCHEN PHOTOS (THE NEW KITCHEN WAS BUILT BRICK BY BRICK)



NEW KITCHEN PHOTOS
(THE NEW KITCHEN WAS BUILT BRICK BY BRICK)



THE NEW KITCHEN IS IN USE



THE NEW KITCHEN IS IN USE



THANK YOU LETTER FROM SR. MARY

Dear Mr. Ray and the Members of *Children are Angels from Heaven*,

I write this on behalf of the children of the hostel, St. Paul's Girls' Hostel, Jashpur, to thank you for your generous help to build a decent kitchen where meals for 50 persons can be easily cooked. As mentioned in my project, there was a great deal of inconvenience to function in an effective way because there was no proper kitchen.

But after we got the help from *Children are Angels from Heaven*, there has been a great change in the management and organizing the work in the kitchen. The lady who prepares food for the children and the hostel is very grateful and happy about the new kitchen. She finds the work easy as she is provided with her requirements in the kitchen itself – water, fridge, gas stove, provisions etc. There is also enough space for the sisters to dine which makes it easier for all involved.

The hostel girls have a space and place to chop vegetables which was our basic requirement.

For making all these possible, we thank you, Ray and *Children are Angels from Heaven*.

God bless you.

Sr. Mary

A SEWING MACHINE FOR WOMEN UNITED AROUND THE WORLD

In late September of 2024, I got an email from an *Angels from Heaven* supporter named Kathy, asking me if I would like about 35-like-new Beanie Babies to send to the children of Nepal. I told her sure that would be fantastic and the kids would love them. A few days later, I drove to Kathy's house to pick them up.

The beanies were all great, small, lightweight, and in great shape. After a nice chat with Kathy, it was time to leave. When we walked to the door and she handed me the big bag of Beanies, Kathy asked me if I knew anyone who would want a sewing machine. I had answered I wasn't sure.

Kathy explained at one time her older son was interested in tailoring and was learning how to sew. But as things often happen, he got married and now has two children so his tailoring hobby is on hold. Her son had asked her to help him find a home for his brand new sewing machine.

Kathy picked up the sewing machine for me to see. It was in the original box with all the instructions to go with it. I responded to Kathy that this is very nice and somebody would love to have it. I told Kathy this someone would have to be very special and I did not know of anyone right now and I could not send it to India or Nepal as the electric current is different there and the sewing machine would not work. Also if it was shipped, there would be huge duty charges, so I would have to find a special home within the USA and I did not know how long it would take to find this home. Kathy understood, but told me to take it with me and see what I could do with it.

After about two weeks of searching all over the place, I did find a few places that have sewing classes but what I did not like was they were all for-profit sewing classes and charged the students a fee to attend each class. They all looked to be very good classes but I was looking for something better where no money was involved. Another two more weeks of searching Google all over the USA and still I was not 100% sure but I may have found the right place for the sewing machine from Kathy and her son.

I found a place two hours from Boston in Portland, Maine that looked interesting, and I decided to call them and check it out. I called and spoke to the Director, Adele Ngoy. Adele was very friendly and answered every one of my questions about her Non-Profit Organization. The name of the Non-Profit is *Women United Around the World*.

After I finished talking to Adele, I knew in my heart this would be a great place for Kathy and her son's sewing machine. If there is one thing most of you know about me, Ray O'Brien, I make sure our donations go to the right places in need. So I called Adele back a few days later with just a few more questions and set a date and time I could drive from Boston, MA to Portland, ME to meet her and see the students in her class. Adele was great. We set a date and time and the next day off I went for the long ride to Portland, Maine with Kathy and her son's sewing machine.

I arrived in the downtown area of Portland, Maine and found our way to the *Women United Around the World*. My wife and I and my handicapped boy, Raymond, met Adele Ngoy and teachers Bijou Leseke and Liliane Bakonda in the middle of their sewing class with many students.

These women are immigrants who are new to Maine and they are training to learn how to sew to be able to get a job. The machines they are using in the classroom are commercial sewing machines but Adele explained the women need to practice at home with smaller sewing machines to learn different patterns of stitching and how to sew different fabrics together. It is a skill you just do not learn overnight. It takes practice to sharpen your skills. After visiting everyone for over an hour, I knew Kathy and her boy's sewing machine had found a good home.

Because of the many people who send *Children are Angels from Heaven* donations, I was also able to leave a small donation check with Adele for the sewing class *Women United Around the World*. I found it to be a very good program to help people. After taking a few photos, Patty and I said goodbye to everyone and made our way home again. It was a very long day, but a very good day, finding the sewing machine its forever home in Portland, Maine with the non-profit *Women United Around the World Sewing Class*.

Before I end my story, I want to say to all of you, you do not have to be like me and travel halfway around the world to help people in need.

Help is needed someplace right out your front door. The key to all of it is knowing where your donations are going and what they will do to help someone.

"Thank You Kathy" and her son along with Adele and the *Women United Around the World* sewing class.



HALLOWEEN CANDY USA & INDIA - 2024



My next story is about the donation of Halloween candy in November, 2024 from St. John's School in Wellesley, MA, along with the St. John's School in Boston, MA.

These **great** schools have been part of our Angels Candy Program for many years. Katy McDonagh of Natick, MA is the person from *Children are Angels from Heaven* that coordinates with the Principals of both schools in Boston's North End, Principal Ms. Ann Marie Quezada, and in Wellesley, Principal Siobhan Mahoney, for the date of the Halloween candy collections and the pickup times by Katy.

After working with each school for many years, much of the work has become routine. The children donate their Halloween candy and the school staff puts it all in big boxes. Then the candy is picked up and delivered to Patty O'Brien at her home in Medford, MA by Katy. Patty sorts out every piece of candy and then it is put into USPS mailing boxes to ship. Each box weighs approximately 10 to 12 pounds.

From here the candy is brought to the US Post Office and sent to many places all around the USA. Some of the Halloween candy is distributed to Children, Seniors, Soldiers and Homeless people at Thanksgiving and some of it is used at Christmas for a wonderful Youth Project in Pittsfield, NH.

Twenty-five pounds of the candy was saved this year for me to bring to India in November, 2024 to take to local schools and children in India. The candy was extended to many places in need during the Holiday Season and it takes many people to complete the candy process from Principals, Teachers, and Volunteers in the USA, as well as Principals, Teachers, Volunteers, and Sisters in India. Both sides of the world work to make it happen and to be beautiful, one smile at a time.

I can tell you this first hand. Every piece of the candy from the school students of both of the St. John's Schools made thousands of people smile. It is a wonderful program and I give a huge **Thank You** to everyone connected with this small program. The Halloween Candy project was started in 2004 and continues to this day. Below you will see a list of where the candy was sent to this year..

1. Soldiers Angels – San Antonio, TX
2. Pine Street Inn – Boston, MA
3. Mother Teresa Shelter – Corpus Christi, TX
4. For The Troops – Simi Valley, CA
5. Bedford VA Hospital – Bedford, MA
6. Pittsfield, NH Youth Workshop – Pittsfield, NH
7. Pine Haven Boys Center – Allentown, NH
8. Operation Shoe Box for the Troops – Belleview, FL
9. Pittsfield NH Seniors Center – Pittsfield, NH
10. Suncook Valley Seniors Center – Allentown, NH
11. Many Children in India

YOUR LETTER FROM ZACH POWERS, PITTSFIELD, NH

Before I end this story, I will tell you about a small town in New Hampshire and what they do with our candy at Christmas.

The Pittsfield Gingerbread House Contest is an annual event the youth look forward to each year. We've been doing it for close to 25 years, and it has become quite the tradition and can be quite competitive.

All of the supplies are donated by local groups and grocery stores (Hannaford, Shaw's, etc.), and we sell raffle tickets to raise funds for our program. We display the gingerbread houses at the Annual Tree Lighting event that takes place here at the Pittsfield Youth Workshop on the first Saturday of December. This community event includes photos with Santa, a potluck dinner, cookies and cocoa, along with hayrides before the trees are lit in Dustin Park. Along with the decorated gingerbread houses, we also raffle off kits that families can put together and decorate for themselves. Winners of the raffle get to take one of the houses home, although we often get one or two given back to us for the kids to enjoy!

The youth sign up ahead of time in teams of 3-4 and we generally have 6-8 gingerbread houses created each year. We also award prizes to the teams who show the most creativity, teamwork, and commitment. This past year, the Friendly Diner donated gift certificates which were awarded to these teams.

I also forgot to mention the gingerbread houses are completely handmade, and take three full days to create. Day one is baking (making the dough, rolling it out, and cutting out the templates), day two is assembly, and day three is decorating.

Thanks again for your support and for helping to promote our work.

- Zach

Below you will find photos of the Gingerbread House Contest of the Pittsfield Youth Workshop and then photos of the Halloween Candy in Kolkata and Rourkela, Orissa, India.



Halloween Candy in Kolkata and Rourkela Orissa, India



NEPAL AT CHRISTMAS

In October 2024, I sent two big boxes of school supplies and donations to Sister Shanti in Nepal for children at her school as well as local people of the community.

In the boxes were lined paper, colored pencils, flash cards, Beanie Babies, Holy items as well as frisbees and a few toys. I worked very hard to gather everything and pack it in two large boxes and have them shipped to arrive in a very small village in Nepal before Christmas 2024. With God's help everything arrived in time. Sister Shanti got the boxes and the Sisters opened them to see what was in them.

I will copy Sister Shanti's letter to me so you can understand how happy everyone was with our Christmas donations to the people of Nepal and see a few photos of the Christmas project.

Greetings from Sr. Shanti,

Thank you very much for the two gift boxes. I was so excited to hear the news about the 2nd arrival, I myself went to Deonia while returning from India and managed to bring back the boxes. On

behalf of the children and sisters, I sincerely thank you and the donors for all the trouble you took to collect such lovely items to give to our children. The postal charges also are very costly as I read the amount on the box. The duty was minimum here.

Today we opened the boxes. Our joy had no bounds especially when we saw the special sweets, candies, snickers, pops, Ha ha. How did you manage to keep it secret!! It was a real thrilling experience to open the box and see the colourful, delightful and useful items both for children and adults. The Holy Articles really lift our hearts to God. Sending you some pictures taken while opening. Not yet given to anybody. Just now I am busy preparing questions for the exam. After that we have school sports. So I may need time to arrange and distribute. Holy articles will be given at Christmas time.

God bless you and the members of those connected with the Children are Angels from Heaven. Really, God has given a huge heart for you all filled with generosity and compassion. The booklets and the art seemed very creative. May God be praised and your friends be blessed. We promise to pray for you all.

The Sisters and I were delighted to see the items. Thank you for the toys (36), color sets (26 packets), big crayons, lovely bags (10), Frisbees (13) hair bands (5), glasses, skipping rolls (61), calculators (37), different sized clock-models (29), balls (39), Flash cards (21), eraser, sharpener, small dolls in packets, Holy articles, sweet packets (4) etc.

Yes, little children will soon be excited to see these things.

Once again, I thank you dear Mr. Ray and your friends of good will. May God pour his spirit on you all and may you receive all the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit. I do not have words to thank you all. Your Faith is great CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS dear Mr. Ray.

Hope you are fine. Thank God once again. Please thank all the donors for us. A lot of money is spent this time both for postage and for items. But, we spent a little more than a thousand rupees for both the gifts. God bless you and all those who are connected with your good work.

*Regards,
SR Shanti*

NEPAL AT CHRISTMAS (CONT.)



CHRISTMAS TREE FOR A SCHOOL IN RANCHI, INDIA - 2024

With the help of Anwesha Bhattacharya, our beautiful Christmas Tree was specially ordered in Southern India and shipped far north to a school in Ranchi, Jharkhand, India. The name of the school is the Prabhat Tara School and the Principal is Sister Punam.

Sister Punam had sent me a nice letter and some photos to show all of you of the beautiful Christmas Tree at Christmas at their school. It was a very happy time for everyone to see.

Mr. Ray,

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year 2025. May the Almighty fill you with His love, joy, and peace.

I would like to thank you for the beautiful Christmas tree. We were excited to see this big and wonderful Christmas tree. Really, our students are grateful to you for being generous to us by gifting this Christmas tree. Every year they see a small Christmas tree which is one-fourth of what you have given us. Happily they opened the box and decorated it. We have all three parts and it is fixed. Students and teachers gather near the tree and touch it and they appreciate it very much. Thank you very much.

Photo's attached when we opened the box.

Thank you very much.

Sr. Punam



NEPAL AT CHRISTMAS (CONT.)



CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR FOR CHARITIES IN THE USA

Children are Angels from Heaven this past Christmas worked hard to look after two great charities in the USA with gifts for children. Toys for Tots managed by the US Marine Corps Reserve and also Christmas in the City where the donation of children's backpacks was made and overseen by Joanna O'Brien. The U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is directed by the Commander, Marine Forces Reserve, with the assistance of his staff.

The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation is responsible for the day-to-day operations

of the Marine Toys for Tots Program. An IRS recognized 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charity, it serves as the authorized fundraising and support organization for the Toys for Tots



Program. The Foundation provides the leadership, funding, and support needed for successful annual toy collection and-

distribution campaigns. This year for the Toys for Tots program, I went shopping and brought home many toys for the children and put them in the collection box from all of us. The Foundation staff is headquartered in the Cooper Center located just outside the Main Gate of Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Virginia, about 35 miles south of Washington, DC.

The other charity *Children are Angels* helped this year was **Christmas in the City**. We are a 100% volunteer organization devoted to helping Boston-area families experiencing homelessness and poverty, with an enduring commitment to make sure that **ALL** children can experience some magic around the holidays, regardless of their families' financial circumstances.



For the **Christmas in the City Charity** at Christmas, Joanna O'Brien bought many backpacks that were all distributed to the children. Because of your generosity this year, I was able to send a monetary check to help a few other places. Special

Olympics, St. Jude Hospital, Boys and Girls Clubs, just to name a few of them.

The end of the year is always very busy for me, especially with me going back to India this year. In the last few Angels' emails you have seen, we helped Children in Nepal, India and the USA at Christmas. It is more work than you might think and it takes many hands to get it done.

For everyone who donated funds or helped with the labor to distribute everything, I Thank You from my Heart.



MY LAST TRIP TO INDIA IN LATE 2024 AND SOME OF THE STORIES

MY VISIT WITH MOTHER TERESA AT HER TOMB

Today my Friend Dibyendu Bhattacharya and I visited Mother Teresa's Missionary of Charity Mother House at 54A AJC Bose Road, Kolkata, India. This is **ALWAYS** a special visit to show my highest respect to a wonderful woman.

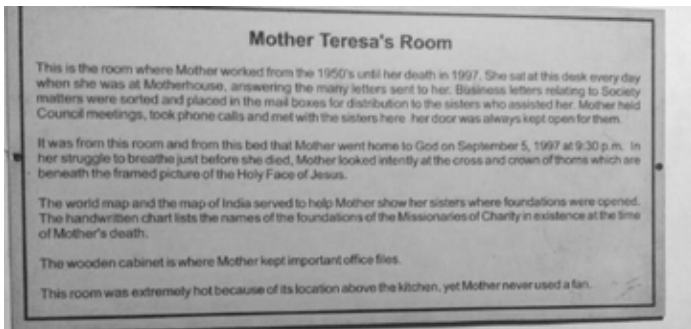
As many of you know, I met Mother Teresa in 1996 on my very first visit to Kolkata. After a nice long talk with Mother Teresa, she taught me how to fold my hands in prayer saying these words. You did it to me, I can make it better, while touching the tips of my fingers, and making me cross my thumbs when finished.

Mother passed away in 1997, but her work for the world still lives on today, with the work of her Missionary of Charity Sisters. Mother Teresa's tomb is located within the building of the Mother House and bus loads of people come to the house each day from all over the world to kneel in front of the tomb and say prayers.

Mother Teresa was special! She worked hard to help EVERYONE with no exceptions.

If you are old like me, you can look back at the years since Mother Teresa has passed away and you can clearly see the world is not the same. It has become a very angry world. Mother Teresa did her work from her tiny room within the Missionaries of Charity Mother House and she connected with world leaders to make it a better place for everyone. She had no big fancy office or lots of money. Mother did her work with what she had and she found a way to help millions of people with very little.

May Mother Teresa Rest In Love & Peace. Below you will see photos of my visit. Please read the sign that has been put up just outside Mother's room. That sign says it all.



A VISIT TO THE LORETO SCHOOL, SEALDAH

After our visit at the Mother House of Mother Teresa, Dibyendu and I made our way up AJC Bose Road to a wonderful school named the Loreto Day School, Sealdah.

This is a great all girl school. Because the Sealdah railroad is very close by, this end of AJC Bose Road is a very busy place with people walking and a high volume of traffic. I have visited this school many times over the years and the school staff in the office knows me very well.

I was drawn to this school long ago by a Principal named Sister Cyril. She was the Sister in charge for what seems like a thousand years. She loved the regular school students but she also started a program long ago for children she called Rainbows. Rainbow Children are very poor children, most with no homes and little education. They come and go like Rainbows. Sister Cyril opened the doors of her school to the Rainbow Children to ensure they were safe, given food and shelter along with basic schooling. In short, Sister Cyril made sure the Loreto School was home for many very poor children as well as a top notch school for her regular school students.



Sister Cyril was an Irish Sister and worked for over 50 years helping the children of Kolkata. She was very strict to ensure her school was one of the best in Kolkata. She always wanted the **BEST** for everyone.

I was very sad to learn a few years ago that she retired and had passed away.

On this year's visit, I met with the new Principal of the school Sister Baishakhi Mondal. We talked about some of the programs at the regular school and the Rainbow Children that still continue today. When my visit finished with Sister Mondal, I gave her an *Angels* newsletter to read and I thanked her for the nice visit.

After saying goodbye to everyone, I met Dibyendu in the school yard talking to some of the students. I was taking a photo of him with the students when a young girl came up to me with a friend and said I know you. I said to myself no way does this little girl know me. It's been five years since I have been to Kolkata. Then the little girl said it to me again, Uncle I really know you. I asked her how do you know me? She said my older brother goes to Don Bosco and he has a photo of you in our house from a few years ago. I was shocked!

After Dibyendu and I took a few more photos, we said goodbye to everyone. The little girl and her friend waved to us as we exited the school to the street on AJC Bose Road again. It was another nice visit for everyone and I thought about that little girl all the way home.



A VISIT TO THE ADARSHA HINDI VIDYALAYA HIGH SCHOOL

Today Dibyendu and I met early at his house to pack the school supplies, colored pencils, pencil boxes and lined exercise writing books he had ordered for a local school today. After five years, I have made my way back to the Adarsha Hindi Vidyalaya High School located in the Alipore section of Kolkata. Principal Ashok Tewari greeted Dibyendu and I right at the front door of the school. He sent a few older boys to the car to carry all the heavy boxes into the school.

The first thing Ashok said was to welcome me to the school. It's been five years since I have visited. We had a nice chat for a few minutes and then I went to each classroom to visit the students. As I entered each classroom I was given a very pretty red rose by one of the students. In each class, I did my very best to tell the students school is very important and they do not understand it now because they are all young, but a good education is a key to a good life. They are now going to school every day to learn, and I know the school work is hard. I told them learn all you can as someday you are going to leave the school for your last time and what you take with you are the skills you have learned in this building. Life can be very hard when school is finished. Don't be foolish, learn all you can and work hard to be at the top of your class.

I like this school very much and have visited on every trip to India. The older students along with the staff remembered me from past visits. One thing I found in one of the bigger classrooms was on all four walls were photos of famous people from the past who helped contribute to India being a great country such as Mahatma Gandhi and Mother Teresa. I found it very interesting to look at.

When it was time to say goodbye, I felt bad talking to the 12th grade students as I most likely will never see them again. I had watched them go through all the grades at this school and grow up since they were small. I told the students if you ever see me walking the streets in Kolkata to be sure to say hello. For now, I can only wish you *The Best of Luck* when you graduate school this year.



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CEREBRAL PALSY

Today's visit is with the Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy. It's very close to where I am staying so it's a short ride by Uber. When I arrive at the front door the security guard asks with who do I wish to see? I said Mausumi Halder, who is my friend and the head Social Worker at IICP. When Mausumi sees me she is surprised! I am surprised to see her in a wheelchair. I ask, what happened Mausumi? She says that she hurt her leg a while back and it is on the mend for a few more weeks.

We had a nice visit for a few minutes and Mausumi let me know it is now IICP's Birthday. It's been 50 years this year of helping children with all kinds of disabilities and all of us at IICP are very proud of that 1974 – 2024.

After our talk Mausumi and some of her co-workers took me for a short visit to some of the classrooms. In every classroom I visited the children and saw they had many classroom activities given out by the teachers. You can tell the kids love IICP.

I honestly can't help but love all the kids and look at their happy smiles as I walk from classroom to classroom. I can tell you first hand, the children may be handicapped, but the teachers and staff work around the handicaps and get the most out of each student to learn and be happy. IICP is a wonderful place for handicapped children to learn and grow.

I am very proud *Children are Angels from Heaven* has been a very small part of IICP over the years and the work that IICP does for the children. It's just a great place and I hope that it continues for another great 50 years.

Happy Birthday IICP!



SABERA HOME FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

Today's visit brings us to Sabera. It is a little more than a one hour drive from where I'm staying in Kolkata. Dibyendu and I will bring school supplies for the children as well as two big chocolate cakes that we bought last night at a bakery with us on this trip for all the children and staff. Dibyendu orders



an Uber for six hours to take us far away on a busy road to the Sabera home. Along the way we stopped at Ashim Gayen's house to meet him and his beautiful family.

Ashim is a computer expert and put our *Children are Angels* website back in order after everything on it was erased a few years ago. Because of our work to help the poor, Ashim only charged us very little and he became part of our *Angels* family helping us with the website ever since to be sure it's running properly and all the legal certificates are in order to keep it running smoothly. Ashim does GREAT work at a low price. If anyone needs web work done his email address is asim.gayen@gmail.com

After Dibyendu and I had a short visit with Ashim, his wife, baby boy, his sister and nurse who are caring for his sick mother, Dibyendu, Ashim and I continued our ride to Sabera to meet the children who call it home.

When we arrived at Sabera, I could not wait to get out of the car to see the children but first I met with Amit Auddy who is the manager in charge in his office, to talk for a few minutes and introduce everyone and visit with each other.



It was now time to go upstairs to visit the children. I have waited five years for this moment. Many of these handicapped children were International Mission of Hope (IMH) children from long ago. When IMH closed its doors, the handicapped children were transferred here and Sabera has looked after everyone of

those children since that day.

I have known many of these handicapped children since my very first visit to India in 1996. So I am unbelievably happy to see them all again. When I walk through the door, I see all of the children, some of the children are in beds or sitting in chairs or sitting in a line on the floor. They all looked good but much older. What made me very sad was seeing a few beds that were occupied on my last visit that are now empty. I don't have to ask. I already know it means the child has passed away.

I understand these children are all handicapped, some severely handicapped, and many times their life on earth is cut short by medical problems but the memories I have of all the children now gone leaves a hole in my heart. It takes a few minutes for me to adjust to the sadness and wipe the tears from my face. I now meet all the children who can walk and those now sitting on the floor waiting to see me again.

They are such happy kids. I have visited each one of them many, many, times before. I pray for all of them every night when I go to bed as they are all special to me. If my Raymond had stayed in India, this is where he would be. I sat with the kids on the floor while Dibyendu and Ashim, along with Amit, brought in all the school supplies we had brought for the small school. We passed it out to these children. They were so happy with colored pencils and lined paper and a box to put the pencils in. While we were doing this, a man named Simpson came into the room. He comes to Sabera to give Physical Therapy to the children. I have known him for many years. He is a very good man and good at his work.

The next thing I know, Amit brought a table into the room and Ashim put the two chocolate cakes on it and Simpson got a cutting knife and was cutting the cake into small pieces to give to each child. It was so much fun watching those kids eat the cake. For the children who were not able to hold and eat the cake, the Massies fed it to them with a spoon. I am very proud to tell you every single child in the building, along with the Staff, had a piece of those chocolate cakes.

If you have been following my stories over the years, you will remember there once was a challenged child at Sabera who had a cleft lip and was unable to eat. The food would just fall out of the hole in her mouth. The Sabera staff worked with me to have her mouth repaired at a hospital long, long ago. She is still alive because she can now eat. Her health is not the best but she too was in the room and had a piece of the chocolate cake that the Massie fed to her on a spoon. It was truly a wonderful visit at Sabera. I give Amit and his staff a lot of credit. They do fantastic work looking after these handicapped children every day. My only wish is that God would not call for these children as often as he does.

It was sad waving goodbye to Amit and his staff out the car window because I know it will be a long time before I see him and the children again. It was a happy visit with everyone.



SCHOOL SPONSORSHIPS FOR 2024

For a student to go to a very good school every day in India is a dream for every Indian family. It costs money and that is one thing many people do not have. So through our Sponsorship Program it works to provide for many children.

In December 2024 while in Rourkela, India, I met all the students from grades KG to Grade 12 in the Convent Hall. There were 19 as one boy had testing in a far away village and was unable to attend. The Sisters set up the program to include a professional photographer to take all the photos for me to take home on a USB to make prints for the School Sponsors back home. The Sisters also included sweets to eat and something to drink during our meeting. The photos that you see today are what I took to give you a general idea of how it all went.

I had with me all your letters to give to the children. Sister Flora, who is the Head Provincial Sister, called each name and the children walked to her to receive your letters and have their photo taken. The students were also given a special writing pen that was donated to Angels. I told the kids if you can learn to write with this pen you can go a long way in life.

When the school students received your letters, I watched the smiles on their faces as they read them and shared them with the other students. I noticed that many of you sent photos for the kids to look at. **EVERYONE HAD HAPPY SMILES!** When it was time to say goodbye, all the students came to me and said "Thank You for everything."



ZOO TRIP

November 29, 2024 - Today is Zoo Day for a local primary school named St. Joseph Girls Primary School sponsored by *Children are Angels from Heaven*.

I had spoken to Sister Anna Mary about the trip as I had gone there a long time ago with other small children in one classroom of the school and it was a fun time for everyone. I told Sister Anna Mary this year I wanted to do it again but this time with the entire school. She looked at me and she said, Mr. Ray it would cost a lot of money. I said to her Sister, forget about the money, let's just plan a nice day for the kids to always remember. I asked her to get a school bus and whatever is needed for the day trip with all the kids. Let's make it a great time for everyone and let me worry about the funding.

With that, Sister Anna Mary made all the plans to get a big bus for all of us to travel to the Zoo and have a nice snack there of pizza rolls and drink and then come back to the school and have a nice lunch and jump rope in the School Hall with new jump ropes we bought at Ruby Sports a few days earlier.

With the teachers, Sisters, and children, there were about 120 people.



A VISIT AT THE HAMIRPUR HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

I am now off with Sister Anna Mary to visit Dinesh at the Hamirpur High School for Boys. The school is very close to where I am staying and is right on the other side of the Sacred Heart Cathedral in front of the boys playing field. Sister Anna Mary and I walked over carrying everything we bought yesterday at the Ruby Sports Shop. When we arrive at the school, every single boy in the school is there to welcome me, all in their school uniforms. Father Raj Kumar Minz who is in charge of the school, introduces me to the boys, 352 of them who gave me a big round of applause.

I say to the boys that I'd like to call my friend and your classmate Dinesh up to the front of everyone to be next to me. The kids all clap their hands and Dinesh makes his way to stand with me. When he gets there I give him a hug and shake his hand. I tell the students I have come to Rourkela from America to visit my friend Dinesh and all his classmates at the school. I have been to Rourkela many times and I have seen all the boys playing in the playing field. When Dinesh came to your school this past year, the Sisters told me how well he was doing, how much he liked the school, and how nice everyone was to him, it made me very proud.

I told the boys school is not forever so learn all you can every single day. **HAVE FUN BUT LEARN!**

I see you boys playing in the field every day running all over the place. Now that Dinesh has become a part of your school, I too have become a part of your school. I have learned a lot about all of you and your school from the Sisters. And I am very, very proud of all of you. From this point forward, every single time I visit Rourkela, I will bring you some sports equipment to play with. Today, I have with me cricket bats, balls, and pins along with footballs as you call it (soccer balls) and other items to play with in the field. My hope is you enjoy all of it and have a great time with everything.

It is an Honor for me to visit all of you today at your school and also to be with my friend Dinesh.

God Bless all of you.

After my talk was translated to everyone, the boys could not get enough of me to shake my hand. It was a wonderful visit.



16 Children Are Angels from Heaven

ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, HAMIRPUR

Later in the afternoon, it was time to meet more children with Sister Anna Mary at another school close by named St. Joseph High School for Girls. This is a school I call big blue because the children are older and the uniform of the school is a pretty blue color.

This is an all girls school with around 400 students. The children are all lined up in the school yard waiting to see me. Once I walk around the corner of the building, the children see me and they start clapping and singing welcome songs. Principal Sister Rosalia gave me a warm welcome on the school stage and asked me to say a few words to the students. When I looked from the stage to see everyone, there were many more students here than my last visit five years ago. The entire school yard was packed with students.

I spoke to them for a few minutes telling them to always try to be the best, not second best but the very best. I said I have known many of you for a long time. I do not want you to be just good in life, I want you to be **GREAT** in life, wherever life takes you. Some of you may become doctors or nurses others maybe teachers and many of you will become mothers. I want you to become the Best of the Best to make me and your teachers proud. The only way you can do that is to study hard and go to school every day. Today because your school is so very special to me, I have brought you some badminton sets and paddle ball sets that you like to play at school with your friends. There is a time to play and there is a time to study. A smart person knows the difference.

God Bless all of you, have fun at school, but study hard.

The kids were very happy and everyone came to me to say hello or shake my hand before they all left school for the day as it's now late afternoon.



When everyone was gone I asked to see the John Barrett computer room in the school. Sister Rosalia took me to the room and unlocked the door for me.

All the computers were covered up as school had ended for the day. The room looked great. Sister Rosalia and another Sister took the John Barrett plaque off the wall where it hangs to show it to me. I said a quick prayer for John as I walked out the classroom door that Sister Rosalia locked behind all of us.

It's been a very interesting day with most of the sports items distributed to two schools with many happy children. Thank You for all your help to make this possible.



ST. JOSEPH'S HOSTEL DINNER

After a quiet morning, I make my way to the St. Joseph Girl's Hostel Hall where *Children Are Angels from Heaven* sponsors a nice dinner with the hostel students of St. Joseph School. It's only a short walk to the hall as it is located next to the Daughters of the Cross Sisters Convent. Many of these children, who are all girls, come from villages and are very happy children. They love to sing and dance as well as go to this very nice school. When I arrived at the Hall, all the children had formed two long lines to the entrance to the Hostel Hall and were clapping their hands and singing, leaving room for the Sisters and myself to walk in the middle of the girls. At the head of the lines are young girls playing big drums.

As I start walking forward, the kids are all smiling while singing and giving me high 5's. The Sisters now follow me through the long line of children. As we pass, the girls with the drums join us from behind and then students follow. It was like a happy parade walking to the entrance of the Hostel Hall with the Sisters and myself being first.

Once in the large hall, the children sit bunched together on the floor, with the girls playing the drums seated at the front of the room.

I was honestly taken back by the warm welcome I received. I felt like a special VIP and I was only, little old Ray O'Brien from Boston, USA

When everyone was seated and the room was quiet. One girl got up and spoke directly to me as a representative from all the hostel students and told me how special it was to have me visit their school and Hostel for so many years and the girls wanted to put on a little program for me tonight. When the young girl finished her speech, I was given a nice bouquet of flowers and all the kids gave me a nice round of applause.

It was then some of the students of the Hostel came to the front of the room right in front of the Sisters and myself to perform special dances for everyone in the Hall to see. The children were all dressed up to represent the dance. The show went on for about 25 to 30 minutes and I enjoyed it very much.

After the dancing was over I took the microphone and stood in front of all the children and gave them a little talk about school and life. I asked them if school was hard for them and many said yes through Sister Sneha interpreting for me. I said to all of the children that is good. School is hard. Do you know why? Life can be very hard and you have to know how to find your way through this crazy world when your schooling is over. A good school teaches you the proper skills to deal with the many problems life may bring to you in the future. That's why it is important to go to school every day and learn all you can.

After my talk it was time to eat dinner and what was good about the meal was that chicken was a part of it along with rice and curry with sweets afterwards. It was all sponsored by all of you back home. I always enjoy my time visiting these Hostel girls. After being with the children for a few hours I always feel happy seeing their big bright smiles and how respectful the children are to everyone. In short, the girls make me proud and they give me hope for the world all of us live in. I walked around and said goodbye to everyone as the night came to an end and EVERYONE said Thank You Uncle.



A VISIT TO THE INDO GERMAN KINDERGARTEN

No matter how early that I get up each morning, most of the Sisters have already had breakfast and are now out of the Convent doing their work. Tonight is going to be a very special night at the Daughters of the Cross Convent in Rourkela for Sister Rita who is the Sister who escorted me on the train from Kolkata to Rourkela earlier in the week. The Sisters are working hard to prepare a nice meal and church service for her tonight.

Sister Anna Mary had helped me order a big cake at the best bakery in Rourkela called Super Max for the special time tonight and it is now ready to be picked up. So with all that after breakfast, I look out the rear door of the kitchen and I see Sister Mariam outside cooking on the outside kitchen stove with wood and other Sisters sitting near her cutting vegetables for tonight's meal.

After a short talk with the Sisters, I am off in a car to revisit Sister Reshma and the INDO German Kindergarten and also go to the bakery.

On my first visit I did not have any candy for the children of Sister Reshma's School and I felt bad about that, so I asked Sister Anna Mary if we could stop by again. When we arrived at the school everyone was Happy to see me again. I had a huge bag of American candy to give the children. It was a nice short sweet visit with everyone with lots of smiles. From here we went to the Super Max Bakery to pick up the ordered cake for Sister Rita.

You never know what you might see during the 20 minute ride. It could be a person making a living making a delivery on a bicycle or a cow walking up the sidewalk in the middle of the town square. We get our goods from the bakery and return to the Convent to say goodbye to Sister Rita later that night.



GOOD BYE TO SISTER RITA



Sister Rita who escorted me to Rourkela on the train is being transferred to Belgium and tomorrow morning she will leave behind all the Sisters and her family

in India and travel to her new home to do God's work. So a special Mass was said for her along with a nice meal and cake for everyone in her honor.





MY LAST DAY IN ROURKELA

My story in Rourkela begins on the last full day here before going back to Kolkata. After I get up and go to the Convent kitchen, my breakfast is waiting for me along with a few Sisters waiting to sit with me. I want you to know that not only on this trip but as well as every other trip I have made to Rourkela, the Daughters of the Cross Sisters look after me like I am part of their family with no exceptions and is with everything I do in Rourkela.

One thing for sure! I am never allowed to eat alone. Today when I sit down to eat, there are three other Sisters sitting with me at the table. The funny part is... I am the only one eating as the Sisters have eaten hours ago. They just sit with me and make sure everything is ok. I may be part of their family this past week but I am also their guest. In India being a guest means you always come first and always get the best of whatever there is while others may go without.

When I sit at the table, one Sister may be talking to me while another Sister may be getting me some hot toast while the Sister next to me is taking the cover off the bowl of my food. When the cover comes off the bowl, the Sisters look at me and smile. It's again three eggs! Something they cannot have as regular, let alone three eggs. The Sisters put the eggs on the hot toast, and I have dropped eggs on toast along with my packaged oatmeal with bananas in it. I'm telling you it was not just good, It was very, very, good.

After breakfast I meet Sister Floria, the head Sister of the Provincial, outside saying a prayer at the big Crucifix just outside the Convent front door to the side of the building. It's a very pretty area with flowers that will all bloom in the springtime. I too say a prayer and tell Sister this all looks beautiful. Someone has done a nice job. It looks attractive at night with many lights. She said yes, it is beautiful....

Today I will make three visits with all the sweets and drinks Sister Anna Mary and I had bought yesterday at the Super Max Bakery.

Our first stop is to say goodbye to the Didi's of St. Joseph Convent and Schools. You must be wondering what Didi means? Think of it like this. In India I am called Uncle by everyone out of respect for me being an older man. An older woman would be called Auntie by everyone. So now we come to Didi. A Didi is an affectionate term meaning "Older Sister" and it is often used to show respect to an elder female sibling or a close female friend.

The Didi's at St. Joseph assist the Sisters and the school with any help that is needed. They all work hard and do a great job. I am very proud to say I have known some of the Didi's for many years and we have become friends. When I send boxes of donations, it is the Didi's and the Sisters who always help me unpack everything and get it to the proper places. So at the end of each visit I like to sponsor a nice dinner for everyone to say a big Thank You to all the Didi's. Everyone was very happy and full of smiles.

My second stop is to my friend Sister Prava Mom's and Dad's house. Sister Prava grew up in Rourkela and now she is a Daughter of the Cross Sister here in Rourkela. I could never pass a Sister's house without stopping by to say hello. Sister Prava is a very hard working Sister. This year she helped me at the Hostel dinner for the children serving the meal.

When Sister Anna Mary and I arrived at Sister Prava's family home, her Mom and Dad were happy to see us. Our visit was short, but I got to meet Sister Prava's brother, his wife, and their little boys along with her Mom and Dad. We brought everyone a nice chocolate cake from Super Max Bakery. It was a very nice visit seeing everyone again just to catch up and say hello.

The third and last visit was to visit Sister Anna Mary's family. Sister's niece, Anupama has the same birth date that I have October 19th, and we always celebrate together with her entire family when I am in Rourkela no matter what the date may be. It's been five long years since our last celebration. Sister Anna Mary's family, just like all of us here, has had their ups and downs since the last time I had visited them in 2019. Since that time the world, along with both our families have gone through a lot. More so than I even want to think about let alone write about today. So today, I will only write about the good news with Sister Anna Mary's family in the last five years.

This is the good news... In five years there are two additions to Sister Anna Mary's family, two beautiful little girls, Anaya & Aryana. What *BEAUTIFUL* children they are. Anaya was born July 20, 2020 and Aryana was born on August 15, 2023 on India's Independence Day. So when I met them this year, they were 4 1/2 and 1 1/2 years old. When Sister Anna Mary and I arrived at the house everyone was very happy to see me again and I was very happy to see them. It makes me laugh as I write this; the two little girls just looked at me and get next to their Mother Anupama as they were a little afraid of me. After I sat down, in a few minutes the children warmed up to me.

Anupama always stays with the Indian custom of washing and drying my hands to welcome me to her home, only this year she had help with little Anaya helping her. It was just beautiful! After I am officially welcomed to the home we sit and talk for a few minutes. Then Anupama goes to the hallway and brings the bicycle and tricycle into the living room that Sister Anna Mary and I had bought just the other day for the two children at the Tata Bicycle and Rickshaw Company in Rourkela. At first the children needed a little help getting on the bikes as this was all new to them. But after a few minutes they could not stop sitting on them and trying to pedal the bikes. Anaya loved the bell on her bike. She would just sit on the bike and ring the bell over and over again. She loved hearing it so much! Aryana would sit on her bike and just smile at everyone in the room, like

she was the coolest girl in the world. Everyone in the room loved watching both of the children on the bicycles. I do not know who had the biggest smiles, kids on the bikes or the adults watching them.

After talking and watching both children, it was time to cut the Anupama and Ray birthday cake. Anupama did the honors this year with the help of both of her girls. Everyone had a piece of birthday cake with a nice drink along with chips. It was a nice time with Anupama and her family for a few hours, on the last night of my trip to Rourkela.

When it was time to say goodbye to everyone because it was late, Sister Anna Mary called her friend Rajendra to come and pick us up with his Atul (auto rickshaw).

When we arrive back at the Convent it's very dark outside and the lights are on at the pretty Crucifix. It was a beautiful night in Rourkela, everyone had a nice time.



SUMAIYA

Today I slept a little late because I was very tired from being in Rourkela with all the work we did, and also the long train trip yesterday back to Kolkata. Being back in Kolkata, I have to visit my last few places and wrap up the 2024 India trip this year in a few short days. I have a lot to do so I have to make every minute of my time count.

I call Dibyendu and tell him I plan to walk to his house around noon to meet with Sumaiya, a *Children are Angels from Heaven* sponsored student. I will meet Sumaiya and her Mother with Dibyendu and his wife Priti at his house.

Dibyendu has looked after this particular sponsorship for us in every detail for many years now and has done a great job with it. I know the sponsoring person here

in the USA is very happy with the sponsorship and very very proud of Sumaiya. As I have said, many times, schooling in India is not easy, it is very serious. Lots of hard work by the student is expected everyday by the school.

When I arrived at Dibyendu's house, Symaiya and her Mother had already arrived. We had a very nice meeting. Dibyendu translated every word I said to Sumaiya and her Mother. I told her we are very proud of her and want the very best for her. I also told her I expect her to go to school every day with very limited absent days.

She understood everything very well. Sumaiya is a very smart girl and she along with her family understand how important schooling is. I wanted to buy her something small, maybe a watch or a bicycle. I then asked her what she would like. Sumaiya's Mother said not a bicycle as we are afraid she might get hurt with all the cars on the street.

Then I came up with the idea of a nice watch. Sumaiya talked to Dibyendu and he told me what she really wants and needs is help paying for cell phone service for her homework at school. So Sumaiya now has a phone but the service will run out soon.

Dibyendu said Symaiya wants to know, can you prepay for the local service for one year for her? This way she has a clock on the phone to tell time and she can look up things for her school work. I said to Dibyendu to tell her yes it can be arranged for her, and it was the very next day this was done.

Sumaiya and her Mother were very happy and so was Dibyendu and his wife Priti.



THANK YOU'S WALKING ALONG DIAMOND HARBOUR ROAD

After our meeting with Sumaiya, I asked Dibyendu to get me an Uber to go to St. Vincent's Convent on Diamond Harbor Road. When I arrived at St. Vincent's, Sister Sini



answered the door with Sister Catherine. After a nice visit with Sister Sini and talking about old times, and thanking her for helping me on this trip when I was in need, after a nice chat, I say good bye to her and make my way to the front gate at St. Vincents. I have known Sister Sini for a long, long time. She always works hard for everyone.

Once back on Diamond Harbour Road, I made my way to the sewing machine man. Every trip I have made to Kolkata (26) he has been in the same spot on the sidewalk doing his work. He would often sew the small



holes in my Army duffle bags for me. It has become a custom for me to bring him a Hershey Chocolate bar every year and give it to him. After a big smile and a handshake, I say Thank You and wave good bye to him.

I continue walking down Diamond Harbour Road to St. Teresa's School where I go into the school office to meet a very special office worker named Charlotte.

This is another one of my stops on my trips where I say Thank You to someone in Kolkata who has helped me in a past trip when I was in need. Charlotte is the school secretary at St Teresa's School who works in the school office.

On an India trip long, long, ago, I had visited the afternoon children at her school. I had a problem. I didn't plan it right and only had a 500 Rupee note in my wallet to pay for the taxi fee that would only be 100 Rupees. In India when you take a taxi you never get change from the driver and I felt giving 500 Rupees for a 100 Rupee was a huge waste



of money, and I would rather give the money away to a poor person, than lose it on a taxi fee. I walked back into the school office and told the women there my problem, and asked the two or three people there if they could change my money. I said even if you are short of the full 500 Rupees it's ok. I'd rather give the extra funds to you for your help.

Charolette was first to open her pocket-book and start counting out money. She had the full 500 Rupees in small bills for me so I could now take the taxi to New Market and only pay what was required. I never forgot Charlotte's kindness to me and from that point forward, anytime I am in Kolkata, I always bring her a big Chocolate Hershey candy bar say to say Thank You to her. She always has a big smile when she sees me.

A VISIT TO DON BOSCO ASHALAYAM IN HOWRAH

I'm now in an Uber car and on my way to Don Bosco in Howrah. Howrah is a very densely populated area on the other side of the Hooghly River with lots of shops and very small streets. I was very surprised how the driver finds his way perfectly. When I walked through the front gate of Don Bosco many of the boys came to me and to say Hello Uncle. These children are very poor their only home is Don Bosco.

I went to the office first and met with Father George. We had a nice chat together. I told him I have visited here many times and know all about the children being abandoned and how the staff at Don Bosco helps all of them. I said I was very proud to revisit here again to see everyone. We had a great talk together. It was then Father George called staff member Frank Louis into the room. I have known Frank for many years and was happy to see him again. I said goodbye to Father George and asked Frank to take me for a short tour of the small vocational shops to meet some of the children. We went to the print shop, card shop and a new shop, a girls hair salon where young girls learn how to cut women's hair. It was very interesting to see the students and the teachers in the hair salon. The girls first start out with basic classes and work their way up. I was happy to meet everyone in all the shops.

I had some balls and frisbees to give the kids in the school yard and it only took one minute after a photo was taken for them to start playing with everything. After saying goodbye, Frank walked me to the street to get another Uber to go to New Market. Because this area of Howrah is so congested the Uber drivers would cancel the rides. This went on for 45 minutes. Finally Frank saw a car drop someone off close by. He went over to talk to the driver then pointed to me to get in. I waved goodbye to him as the car started to drive away.





**MUMPHY
BHATTACHARYA**



I came to Ashalayam in the year 2005 from Howrah railway station through Childline. I was staying with my aunt. She didn't like me very much or care for me; so I had to leave the place. I was roaming in Howrah Station when I was rescued and sent to DBA. While in DBA, I completed Madhyamik in 2014 in first division and Class XII in 2016 also in first division. Thereafter I was admitted to graduate nursing course in St Augustine Medical College, Assam. I successfully completed my nursing in 2019 and presently working in a reputed hospital as a nurse. While I was in DBA I learnt many things apart from school subjects; had plenty of opportunities for games, dance and life skills. I will always remember these throughout my life. I am in admiration and appreciation of all the Fathers, Sisters, Sponsors and Staffs for helping me to become an independent and responsible person.

MY VISIT CURIO COTTAGE

Because of very heavy traffic it takes about 30 – 40 minutes or more to get to New Market. When we arrive at Lindsay St. in the New Market area, I get out of the car and pay the driver 300 Rupees. That's \$3.50 USD. Today is the last time I will visit my friends at Curio Cottage.

If you have followed all my mails, Curio Cottage in New Market is the shop where I buy all my very small gifts to send with my Thank You mails to all of you when a donation is made to *Children are Angels from Heaven*. The gifts are always very small and Jeet the owner knows the charity work that we do, and charges us very little for everything. I always like sending something small from India to the people who reach out to help me do this work. I consider it a special gift from India to you.

Just for the record I am not the kind of person who takes in donations and
22 Children Are Angels from Heaven



mails you a form letter to say thank you and then the next week you find a solicitation in your mailbox from me asking for another donation. That's how many charities's work nowadays. I take a very different approach with Angels and NEVER ask anyone for anything. I feel our work has to speak for itself and you have to want to donate, not be asked to donate.

I had a great visit with the workers at Curio Cottage. Everyone is friendly and all of the workers help me year after year. For me it's the best place to shop in all of Kolkata. After a really nice visit at Curio Cottage, I have my goods to bring back home to the USA. The workers take extra care to package everything up good for the long airplane ride home. I am always sorry to say Good Bye to everyone who works at this store. For me, all of them are not store clerks or salesmen, they are my friends. Jeet and his workers are the Best of the Best. After shaking everyone's hand they help me get an Uber to load my goods into the car and I wave out the car window good bye as the Uber starts moving and I make my way back to my Guest House in New Alipore.

TODAY I WILL WRITE ABOUT MY LAST DAY IN KOLKATA VISITING PLACES

The start of the day was like any other day but the end of the day was very emotional for me...

I met Dibyendu at his house early in the morning to get started with the day. After I talked to Dibyendu about the plans for the day, his wife Priti made me a nice breakfast with an egg omelet and fruit to eat.

Dibyendu and I now gather all the donations that we will bring with us today. We have colored pencils, pencil boxes, lined paper booklets, balls and toys, pretty dresses, boys shirts, scarves along with candy for the children.

When Dibyendu and I are sure we have everything, he calls for an Uber to bring us to the KMCP School to revisit the teachers and children at the school. After the car is loaded it takes us 15 minutes and then we are at the KMCP School.

A VISIT TO THE KMCP SCHOOL MORNING CLASS

After a very short ride with no traffic, we arrive at the school. I always enjoy visiting this small school. The teachers are so friendly and the kids, like all kids in India, are always beautiful with very happy smiles. The smallest gift to them makes them so happy.

Everyone is excited to see us again. After some of the donations are brought into the school classroom and put on the teachers' desk in the front of the room, I look up at the children and I see each one of them with big bright eyes and very happy smiles.

I give a very short talk to the children and the Principal translates it to them. These are all small children. In short, I tell them I love visiting their school and seeing all of them.

Dibyendu and I help with the sorting of everything then let the teachers pass everything out to the children, one item at a time, with the dresses and scarves saved for last. The children are ecstatic with everything that has been given to them. You can see the smiles on their faces.

The dresses I brought for the girls came from a woman back in the USA named Margie. The only problem was Covid came in 2020 and my trips to India were canceled (not allowed) so she saved all the dresses for five years until this trip.

This year the school has added four boys to the school so along with the girls there are now boys. I had to make sure I had a piece of clothing for everyone in the school, so

I had to buy the boys four nice warm shirts or jackets in New Market for the boys of this school. My Friends at Curio Cottage helped me shop for the items .

When the dresses and shirts were passed out to each girl or boy, they went to the front of the class and the teachers put a new dress or shirt up to them to measure the dresses or shirts to fit and gave it to the students while Dibyendu and myself stood to the side of the room and watched. It was truly beautiful to see.

Those kids were so happy! It made the teachers, Dibyendu and myself very happy too. I hope in my heart that the photos you see in this story also make you happy seeing them and you understand everything.



PROVINCENCE SISTERS HOME (CONT.)

and candy for the children.

What I will always remember about this visit besides the kids and Sisters being so nice was it was my last visit this year to see children, and my candy supply was very low.

Before Dibyendu and myself even got to the home I said a short prayer to God and asked please make my limited supply of candy last for this one last visit with everyone.

I am relieved to tell all of you God answered my prayers. I had enough candy to give to the Sisters and the children.



PROVINCENCE SISTERS HOME

This is a special home for girls. Each year I visit here, the Sisters change and so do many of the children. So when Dibyendu and I get out of the car and ring the bell at the front gate I know the Sisters will not know who I am.



When the gate is opened Dibyendu and I are welcomed in. I explain who I am and a little about *Children are Angels from Heaven* and then tell them I have visited this home many times before and give the Sisters one of our Angels Newsletters to read. My visit with everyone is short but nice. I have brought with me some frisbees, balls

What was very strange about the candy distribution was we collected about 150 pounds of candy this year from the children and teachers of St John's School

in Wellesley, MA and St. John's School in Boston, MA at Halloween. Much of it was shipped to many places in need all over the USA over the holidays and I took with me as part of my luggage over 35 pounds of candy. Thirty five pounds of candy is a lot of candy, much of it chocolate.



Here is the strange part... I passed out the candy to everyone. When I got to the very last child and handed her a piece of chocolate, my candy bag was now empty. From all the big pile of candy when I started the trip, it lasted to the very last person. How could that ever happen? It was just another time during this trip and many other past trips I knew God was with me and helping me do this Angels work.

A VISIT TO THE OUTSIDE OF IMH ORPHANGE

Before I begin this story to all of you, I want you to understand this small story is one of the hardest stories I have ever written at any time in my 26 trips to India.

The story itself is my story not anyone else's. It is my personal feelings and my personal emotions only. In short it is my story but it's also related to the end of this trip. I do not want to offend anyone with this story. But I do want you to understand there are poor people everywhere I go.

A family may live in a doorway or in a tent on the side of the road. A little kid, all dirty dressed in rags may come to you, reach out his or hand for a few Rupees, an old lady may be sitting on the sidewalk with a small cup or basket asking for a little money. Or you may visit a slum area with makeshift housing for families and people with no running water.

It all makes me very sad to see and you know it would be disrespectful to take photos and write about any of it, as

all these people are just poor. My family was poor a long time ago, but not this kind of poor. This is heartbreaking.

Yes, we have poor here in the USA too but we have help for the poor here with programs by the State and Federal government. It may not be much but it is something for the people who are truly poor to give hope that they will make it to the next day like my Mother did with her family long ago. India does not have many of the programs that the USA has for the poor. So living in India and being poor, you never know what the next day will bring. As I have written in almost every email and told every child I met on this trip, education is the key to a good life.

As you have learned in my emails over the years, I never take photos of poor people no matter the situation. I do not lower myself to a level with the need to show people in one of their darkest moments of life being poor.

I remember my family was once very poor when I was about seven years old. My Mother, sister, and I were living in the Mystic Ave. Projects in Somerville, MA, 2 River Road, Apt #22. Although I never understood anything because I was so small, I never forgot those days. Two times I remember my Mother going to the Rectory of St. Polycarp Church telling the local priest, Fr. Sigdelhi, we had no food. He gave us a paper slip for a \$15 food order at a local supermarket market on Broadway, Somerville, in Winter Hill just up the street. This time in my Mother's life was not a proud moment and I remember how grateful she was for the priest's help. She was alone with two small kids and my father was never the same when he came home from World War II and was nowhere to be found. It was a very hard time for my Mother then, like so many Mothers even now.

So to get back to my story in India.

It is my last afternoon in Kolkata and I ask Dibyendu to hire a car and take me back to a place I had visited many, many, times in my early trips to Kolkata long ago.

The place was the International Mission of Hope, (IMH) , an orphanage at 2 Nimak Mahal Road. It is located down by the waterfront shipping docks in Ekbalpore in Kolkata at the Marine Quarters.

When Dibyendu and I arrived in the car to the Ekbalpore area at the docks, I told Dibyendu the building we are looking for is about three stories tall, yellow, and on each window there is a ship's anchor made as part of the steel bars on each window. The building also has a big gate at the front near the street. After 15 minutes of driving from street to street I say to Dibyendu, that's it! We just drove past it on the left side.

I jump out of the car and start walking back to the front gate of IMH with a big smile on my face, while the driver parks the Uber car off the roadway to the side of the road and then Dibyendu joins me walking to the front gate.

When we arrive at the front gate, my emotions started to run away with me. It was at this very gate that all three of my children (Joanna, Melissa and Raymond) were carried into the upstairs of this orphanage and given proper medical care, warm food, a crib with warm blankets and a place to call home for over a year's time with wonderful Massies looking after them day and night. This was long before any one of my children was assigned to the O'Brien family in Boston for adoption. This all came much later after my children first arrived at IMH.

Because IMH had closed many years ago, I visited the front gate of IMH about 10 years ago. I had stopped and just stood across the street and looked at the building and front gate at that time and said a prayer for every child who went in and out of the front gate about 2,500 babies. When IMH closed around 2002, I was told the building was turned into a Nursing Home but I never knew for sure about that. I did not want to bother anyone to go inside because I thought older people lived there now.

I always loved visiting IMH and the children and Massies many times during my early trips to India and still hold those visits very close to my heart. The Massies worked very hard and truly LOVED every child in their care. I saw it time and time again with my own eyes. Each Massie looked after two children. When the Massies were feeding one baby, they would be rocking the other with their foot as the baby was in an infant chair placed on the floor at the Massie's foot.

So here Dibyendu and I are standing right at the front gate of IMH. For the life of me I could not believe the small sign installed on the front gate. It said Mission of Mercy School of Nursing.

This is where my emotions took over.

For the life of me I could not believe IMH has been a School for Nursing Student's, not a nursing home for Seniors Care. I could not believe it.

My youngest girl, Melissa, was brought into IMH in 1993 before she came home to us in Boston. She has always been a very smart girl and a very hard working, caring girl. Can you guess what profession she has chosen in life?

Melissa is a Registered Nurse in the Boston area and very soon she will have her Masters Degree in Nursing. To think her life started here where I stand is now a nursing school and she has become a registered nurse is just over the top for me. Tears start to run down my face. Poor Dibyendu has no idea what is going on but he knows I am upset.

It was then I started to walk across the street to take a better photo of the old IMH building when I saw a young girl a little bit away from me sitting at the side of the road looking up at me. I thought this might be her home. It was then I got even more upset. I am not ashamed to say I was openly crying for this little girl thinking if IMH was not here long ago this could have been my Melissa or my Joanna or my Raymond. I was very upset. Dibyendu came to me and opened his arms and gave me a big hug to help me calm down. Dibyendu then explained to me and said Ray, she is getting water to bring home. She is ok.

The young girl then stood up and just looked at me as she had no idea what was going on. I wanted to help this little girl or give her something nice but my trip was over and this was the very last place to visit. I had nothing to give her except money. I gave Dibyendu my camera and said please take a photo with me and the little girl.

Tears still running from my eyes, I walked up slowly to the little girl and gave her three 500 Rs notes. One bill for each of my three children. After the photo was taken, I walked back to Dibyendu, 30 feet away and when I turned around the girl's Mother was standing with her looking at us. I put my hands together and bowed my head to her and she smiled back to me.

I'm telling you to this day I still cannot get over that last stop at IMH to take a few photos of the building to show people the anchors in the windows and say a prayer for all the children and Massies who once lived and worked there. I never knew it would be so emotional for me.

A woman named Catherine said it right a few weeks ago to me after reading one of my stories of this trip. She said God was with me on this trip. She was 100% right. At IMH there were five of us, Dibyendu and me, with God in the middle and the little girl and her Mother across the street.

What a way to end this trip. The photo I took of the Mother and the little girl was the last photo taken of this trip. It will be a photo I will never forget for the rest of my life.

Why is it that IMH became a School of Nursing? Why is my Melissa a Nurse? Why did Melissa come to us and have every opportunity in the world where this poor little girls' opportunities will be very limited and I am sure her life will not be easy.

I am sorry to say I now have more questions than answers. I plan to work until my last breath on this earth helping poor children as best I can and this story is one reason why.

I can't forget my other two children. Joanna, IMH 1989, a teacher and my Raymond IMH 1997, is handicapped. All three of my kids are the best thing as each one of them has their own story of how they all came home to us, one at a time, from India.

Thanks for following this long story at IMH. I hope you understand it and can read in between the lines of what I was trying to write.

To End: My entire trip writings day by day, and photos are on the Home Page of the Children are Angels Web Site listed under Ray's 2024 Trip to India if you want to read about everything in detail. www.childrenareangels.org



MEDFORD, MA KIWANIS CLUB

If ever there was a Civic Club that supported *Children are Angels from Heaven* every single year since we started this charity work, it would be the Medford, MA Kiwanis Club. Every single year in the summer I get an invitation to join the Kiwanis Club and meet all the members, have a nice meal and then talk about our Angels work that was done the previous year and what we hope to do in the future. It really hits me in my heart that the Medford, MA Kiwanis Club members remember me each year. The Kiwanis Clubs all over the world help children, and I might add they all do a wonderful job. Thank You Medford, MA Kiwanis Club for all you do every year with all your programs helping children.



Rita Cornelio introduced Ray O'Brien who joined us tonight with his wife Patty to accept our annual donation of \$500 and to talk about *Children are Angels of Heaven* which he founded back in 1996 after a trip to Calcutta and actually meeting Mother Teresa. After that trip, Ray realized the need in that part of the world and ultimately adopted three children from India and started his foundation to improve the lives of these children with the help of donors like the Medford Kiwanis. See this site for Ray's amazing accomplishments.....childrenareangels.org

President Paul had to leave for an important meeting, leaving VP John Falco in charge, but first taking a photo presenting our annual donation to Rita Cornelio's guest Ray O'Brien of *Children are Angels from Heaven*.



CHILDREN ARE ANGELS FROM HEAVEN AND OTHER CHARITIES

Each year Children are Angels from Heaven reaches out to support as many projects as it can, not only in India but also in the United States. We were happy to be a part of these special charities this year.

1. Toys for Tots Drive at Christmas
2. Guide Dogs of America providing Guide Dogs to the Blind at no cost
3. St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
4. Aleppo Shriners Children's Transportation Fund
5. The American Cancer Society
6. The Special Olympics
8. The American Red Cross
9. American Heart Association
10. Women United Around the World
11. Christmas in the City
12. Muscular Dystrophy Association

It is directly because of your generosity, that *Children are Angels from Heaven* can reach out to help these worthwhile charities each year.



CAN TABS

The total of can tabs collected this year 2024 was nine pounds. Our grand total for the past few years is now 324 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 out 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. To find out more information regarding the Shriners or the Can Tabs, check out this web site: <https://alepposhriners.com/childrens-transportation-fund/>

DEPOSIT CANS

Here are the totals of the deposit cans for the year 2024 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 2024 was 4,600 for a cash total of \$230.00.

Our Grand total since we started this program are as follows

A total of 228,880 cans and bottles have been collected for a Grand Cash Total of \$11,444.01.

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 help you.

A FEW LETTERS

Ray,
We always enjoy reading your news-
letter! We are honored to continue to
support the work that you do, to help so
many.
Maura

Ray,
Thanks for all you do, please use the
extra dollars for whatever is needed.
Karen

Ray,
Thank You for all your hard work for the
children.
Mindy

Dear Ray,
I follow all your emails but feel you must
be much, much too busy to do anything
else. Thank You for all the wonderful
work.
Lindsay

Dear Ray,
Here is my annual contribution to sup-
port your work in India. Use it where it
is needed. I am glad that you got back to
India this year.
Debbie

Ray,
Enclosed is a small year end contribution
for your good work.
Phyllis

Hi Ray,
I hope this helps you with this year's
trip and supplies. Thank You for always
remembering Jack.
Carol

Dear Raymond and Patty,
Enclosed is a donation to Children are
Angels from Heaven. May God Bless you
for all the good that you do.
Gerry

Ray & Patty,
Thank You for all the Prayers, Metals and
Leafs of Mother Teresa & her Statue.
Geri

Keep up the Good work Ray!
Jim and Sandy

Hi Ray,
Here is a donation for the children. I'm
Happy you got to go to India this year,
you do a lot of Great work. It's an Honor
to call you my friend.
Dan

Ray,
May God Bless you and all who support
you.
Carol

Ray & Patty,
Thank You for your tireless efforts with
Children are Angels from Heaven.
Bill & Sara

Ray,
I am sure you will put the enclosed to
good use. Many thanks for all you man-
age to do each year. I get exhausted just
reading about all that you have done.
Joe

Hi Ray,
Love all the work that you are doing.
Ellen

Dear Ray,
Please accept this donation to Angels, I
know the money will help those in need.
Sonal

To Ray and Patti,
I am glad that I have a friend like you. I
sent you a little check for the children.
Rekha

Hi Ray,
Please find a donation for Children are
Angels from Heaven. Thank You for help-
ing us come together to make a differ-
ence for children in need.
Jennifer

Hi Ray,
Here is a donation for the children Your
work in India is a Blessing to us all.
Toni & Kent

Ray & Patty,
Thank You for all you do for Children are
Angels from Heaven
Eileen

Hi Ray,
Here is our Sponsorship fee. We are
glad we could help another Angel from
Heaven.
Liz & Bob

Ray,
Be assured of my prayers
Fr. Flynn

Dear Ray,
This is to say THANKS to you for the won-
derful and great work you are doing for
the children and their education.
Sr. Punam FC

Hello Ray,
Happy Easter here is a donation for the
children
Fred

Ray,
Thanks for all you do
Patty and Nick

Ray,
This donation is for Children are Angels
from Heaven run by Ray OBrien who
brought Jemma home to us.
Lauren, Jemma and Patrick

In Closing

I consider it the Highest Honor to have so many of you reach out to help me with OUR Angels work. I do not do this work alone, we do this work together. Without all of you helping me, Children are Angels from Heaven would be nothing, just words on paper. I always try to follow Mother Teresa's example and do what we can to help people in need with whatever we have available to do it. This year's trip was fantastic and as you have read in this newsletter we did many projects some small and some large. All of them take a lot of effort to accomplish starting with you helping me here and ending with people of the other side of the world helping me. It is not easy to do with different monetary currency's and exchange rates and language barriers along with plenty of rules . But with all hands on deck we get the job done!

At this time because so many people reach out to help Children are Angels from Heaven starting with you who are reading this newsletter I would like to thank everyone for your help The Board of Directors, The donors, The Vendors, The Sisters, The Teachers, The airlines, The travel agents, The Civic Clubs, The Printing Shops, The Accountant, The Web site and Facebook Managers, The Priests, The Newsletter Editor and all the common people who want to help me along with so many more.

I would like to give special credit and Say a special Thank You to two very special people in India who looked after all my needs every day in Kolkata and Rourkela India on this year's trip, Sister Anna Mary and Mr. Dibyendu Bhattacharya. They both worked very hard long before I ever even arrived in India to help set up this year's trip to India and they both did a wonderful job doing it along with looking after me every day when I was there.

Thank You and Bless All of You,
Ray O'Brien, President
Children Are Angels From Heaven



Sr Anna Mary FC

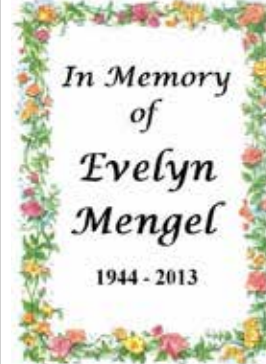
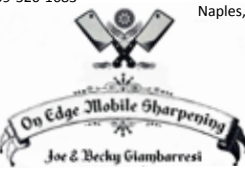
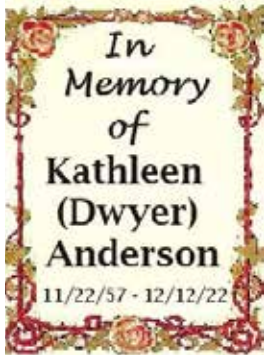
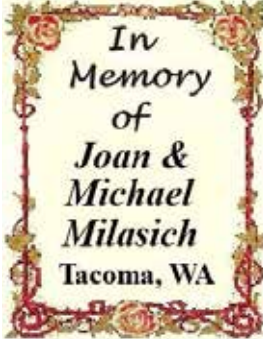
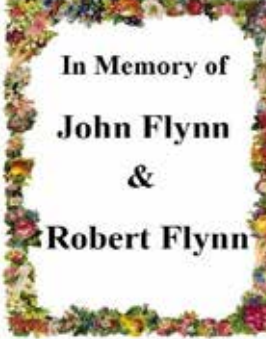


Mr. Dibyendu Bhattacharya



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