

# WORLD FAMILY FOUNDATION

*Providing a safe place where needy children of the world can learn and grow in a loving environment.*



*Your love in action!*

## World Family Foundation Staying in Touch - Summer 2016



### Dear WFF Sponsors and Friends,

The monsoon rains have come to India - a time of joy and celebration. After this year's record breaking hot summer months, the rains brought the relief of cooler temperatures to Puri. The new school year started a month later than usual because of the extreme heat, and now all the children have settled into life at Prashanti School. Here are some stories and updates! See your love in action!

### Construction Update

We are working hard to build new classrooms for PIS, our day school for WFF sponsored children and for the children of poor local village families. Because of your generous donations, the concrete and steel foundation has been completed, and we are on the way to having 4 more desperately needed classrooms for PIS! But we still have further to go... walls, roof, windows, doors, plumbing, electrical wiring, and so on!



*New classroom building foundation!*

**Please help the kids by donating to finish these new classrooms!**

For more information and photos go to [PIS School Building Project](#).

[Donate to the Building Fund](#)



*Children inspecting the construction site - "V" for victory!*

## Prashanti School (Residential Children's Home), Puri, India

### Student Updates

With the new school year, we have seen some changes! Four of our older students have graduated. Pratap completed his Plus 2 junior college courses and is now at university in South India for teacher training. Liza and Jhumeri are at a girls' college in South India pursuing their Plus 2 course, after which they will also go on to university for teacher training. All three will be returning to Prashanti International School to teach once they receive their B.Ed teaching credentials! They continue to be supported through college by WFF sponsors. Durga has returned to her mother's home to pursue vocational training and to learn cooking. She plans to marry and will be a wonderful loving mother. It is because of the support of loving sponsors that these kids have been able to graduate and have bright futures. All of them are very excited about their pathways forward into adulthood!



*Liza, Durga and Jhumeri*



*Pratap*

### **And now we have new children who also need your help!**

Here are photos and bio's of 3 bright, deserving little boys who come from very impoverished backgrounds and are in need of sponsors! Perhaps you know of someone who would love to help a destitute child have a real chance in life...

Rahul, age 6, and his younger brother Hemant, age 5, came to PS through the mother of one of our students. Their father was injured five years ago in a construction accident and is permanently disabled. He cannot use his right arm, and his right leg is also permanently damaged.



*Rahul and Hemant with their parents.*

They live in a hut on government land. Father is unable to work and has a handicap certificate from the government. Mother carries lights for marriage processions at night and does some daily labour at construction sites.



*Santosh and his mother.*

Santosh, age 6, and his mother live in a rented hut in a village outside of Puri . His mother works cleaning pots at a local village restaurant. She has only her son Santosh, with no relatives on either her husband's side or her own to help them. Santosh's father abandoned the family 5 years ago. He provides no support, and has no contact with them.

## Celebrations

### Rajasankranti - Honoring Mother Earth

Rajasankranti is a traditional Odishi celebration to honor Mother Earth and the beginning of the rice planting season with the return of the monsoon rains. It is celebrated by a 3 day puja (ritual). Unmarried girls are treated as representatives of Mother Earth. At PS the girls got new dresses, played on the swings, and made sweet pitha cakes for all the kids and staff. The boys enjoyed planting the school vegetable garden!



*Playing on the swings.*



*Planting the vegetable garden.*

## Rath Yatra - The Car Festival

Rath Yatra is a huge and very famous 9 day festival that draws pilgrims and spectators by the hundreds of thousands to Puri every year. Huge 45 foot high wooden chariots carrying the deities Lord Jagannath, Balabadra and Subadra, are pulled by worshippers 3 km down Grand Road from the Jagannath Temple to another temple, and then back again 9 days later. At PS the kids love to celebrate this festival. They pull their own "kid-sized" chariot down the road from PS to PIS, complete with singing, drumming, throwing marigold petals, and blowing conch shells. It is very joyful and fun!



*Rosey with Lord Jagannath statue in the Rath Yatra Car.*



*A joyful noise of drums and conch shell!*



*Flower petals to offer to God.*



*So much fun to pull the Rath Yatra car!*

## Birthdays

The children of Prashanti School take care of each other like a big family of brothers and sisters. And when it comes to birthdays, everyone celebrates each month's birthday boys and girls together with cake and a party. This July and August, 11 kids had birthdays, and everyone celebrated with a 4 pound chocolate cake and lots of love! Smiles all around!



*Eleven birthdays to celebrate!*



*Chocolate cake for everyone!*

## A Special Visit

Earlier this Spring, the children had a special visit by Joseph Sponsler, the grandson of 2 of our original WFF sponsors, Kent and Susan Hathaway. The Hathaways sponsored several children in the early years of Prashanti School. Joe was on a round-the-world tour and came to Puri to visit the kids, traveling from Bali and Thailand, then on to China, Russia, Eastern and Western Europe, and home to the US. The children adore him! Joe is the third generation of a sponsor family... and so the love continues!



*Cricket - the kids' favorite sport!*



*Having fun together!*

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# Prashanti International School (PIS)

## Activities

The new school year is marked by the Aum Ceremony for little children entering school for the first time. The pujari (priest) performs a blessing ceremony to begin the children's school career auspiciously. This is considered a very important rite of passage in a child's life. A fire puja is performed, then prayers, and then the little ones each crack a coconut and offer it to God. They each receive a slate and chalk on which, with the help of the priest, a teacher, their parent or guardian, they write 3 Oms (actually 3 circles) on their slates. Then they offer flowers to God and receive vibhutti (holy ash) on their foreheads and prasad (special treats). What a lovely way to begin life as a student, and to show these children how precious the gift of education is!



*Prayers for the children's first day of school.*



*Writing OM on their slates.*

## Partnerships of Love

### **THE ROTARY CLUB OF SRIKSHETRA, PURI**

Construction delays on the new building meant that PIS was short one classroom for the new Grade 6 that began this school year. The only space left available was an open veranda upstairs in the boys' dorm at the PS Children's Home... but it was completely open to the elements, and monsoon was fast approaching. With only days left before the opening of school, the Rotary Club of Srikshetra, Puri, rushed in and saved the day! They arranged for the installation of windows and a door and created a true, functioning classroom out of the space. In India, every space is creatively used! The very next day, here are our sixth graders enjoying their new classroom!

**Thank you Rotary Club of Srikshetra, Puri!**



*Workmen installing windows and door.*



*Visiting Rotary members on the veranda.*



*The veranda transformed into a new classroom for grade six!*

## **THE ROTARY CLUB OF OJAI, CALIFORNIA**

The children and teachers at PIS had a wonderful surprise in July. The Rotary Club of Ojai, California, funded the purchase of 7 Dell Inspiron laptop computers, a printer, peripherals and supplies, plus 7 metal Almirah storage closets for the school! This brings a laptop into each classroom with access to updated educational materials for the teachers to use, and for the children to begin becoming computer literate.

None of these children could dream of having a laptop at home. But now they have an online world class library at their fingertips at PIS! Having up-to-date computers has upgraded PIS to an international level and narrowed the gap between these disadvantaged students and the upper and middle class students at expensive private schools in India.

**Thank you Rotary Club of Ojai!**



*New laptops for PIS students from Rotary of Ojai!*



*Metal storage closets - in bright colors too!*



*The children can't wait to get their fingers on those keyboards!*

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## STEP UP TO AMAZON SMILE!

Do you order items through Amazon? If so, when you place your orders through AmazonSmile and choose World Family Foundation as your charity of choice, **at no cost to you**, Amazon will donate .5% of every order to WFF!

It's very easy to sign up - just go to [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and choose World Family Foundation, Ojai, CA as your favorite charity. From then on, just go to [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) to order instead of the regular Amazon.com.



IMAGINE! .5% will automatically be donated to WFF on your behalf! What a wonderful and easy way to support the children who need your help. For more information go to [AmazonSmile](https://www.amazon.com/smile).



## You are changing the world, one child at a time!

Visit us at [WORLD FAMILY FOUNDATION \(USA\)](https://www.worldfamilyfnd.org)

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