

# WORLD FAMILY FOUNDATION

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



## World Family Foundation Staying in Touch - Summer 2015



### Dear WFF Sponsors and Friends,

As the year moves gently through the summer months, we are ever inspired by the growth we see in our sponsored children of World Family Foundation – and we know that these children are responding to the love and support they are receiving from you! It gives us great joy to share with you their stories.

### Fundraising Raffle - A Great Success!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2015 Fundraising Raffle, and to everyone who donated prizes for making our Raffle a great success. We raised \$6700 which will help support programs that directly impact the wellbeing and futures of the children, such as tutoring, computers, medical care, music, art and dance instruction, sports, etc.

We have had so many winners!

Congratulations to: Joshua B - CA, Wanda M - CA, Larry H - CA, Robert B - CA, LeeAnn L - CA, Karen C - CA, Judy N - AZ, Yesenia A - CA, Bonnie S - CA, Angelica L - CA, John H - CA, Donna C - CA, Norm H - CA, Julie H - CA, Julia D - NY, Cathy B - CA, Joann P - CA, and Ren A - CA.



*WFF Board President Therese picking winning Raffle tickets!*

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

The summer months were very hot in Puri this year, so after summer break Elizabeth arranged a very special treat for everyone. The ice cream man was called, and all the children and staff enjoyed ice cream cones!



### **Attention Sponsors: Letters Are Coming in the Mail**

Letters and drawings from your sponsored children are coming in the mail very soon. Keep an eye out for them and ENJOY! Remember, you can email your child directly at [Prashanti School](mailto:Prashanti School). Just put the child's name in the subject line - and don't forget to send photos - the kids LOVE photos!

### **Earth Day - Raja Sankranti Celebration**

Raja Sankranti is a 3 day holiday to honor Mother Earth before planting begins. The little girls dressed in new clothes and traditional make up, ate special cakes and played on the swings to represent mother Earth before she is fertile with plants....a lovely holiday. The boys enjoyed it too! They ate special treats and they had lots of fun planting the school garden.





Also In honor of Raja Sankranti, the girls decorated their arms and hands with creative Mehendi designs by applying henna paste. They are very good at this art and it is used in all ceremonies here in India. It has also become very popular in other countries now, and kids all over the world love it.

## Visit to Prashanti School by Sponsor Seema Choudhury and Family

Seema Choudhury, her sister Rashmi who lives in Delhi and sponsors on the Indian side, their older brother Manoj, his wife and daughter



came to visit the children at Prashanti School. What a wonderful family! Manoj has offered much needed help with official government business for the school. PS has applied for a government subsidy in rice, wheat and kerosene, but unless someone follows up daily nothing happens. Seema and the family brought pencils, erasers and sweets for all the kids.

Seema says, "*I visited Prasanti school on June 11th. I had wonderful time. I am so proud of Elizabeth. The way she is managing every thing just amazed me. The kids were really happy and content. They were enjoying their Summer. The place was neat and clean. They have a nice computer lab. Three or four teachers were there for summer tutoring. It is a big undertaking and I think Elizabeth needs more helping hands for management! In the future please, please let me know if I can help you with anything... Thanks for making a difference in the world. \_*  
Seema" \_



*Art teacher with the girls.*

## Updates on Prashanti School Kids

Our oldest girls, **Liza, Durga and Prabhakari**, are having a unique schooling opportunity. Although they were old enough for high school classes, they were kept in classes at our day school, Prashanti International School, along with daily tutoring so that they could advance academically and get a very strong foundation in English. They would not have received this if they had gone to the local government high schools. They have been simultaneously progressing rapidly through high school level classes via Open Schooling (online study), and taking 5th grade classes at PIS. They will be taking their high school graduation exams in

March 2016. Recently, a professional artist was added to the tutoring staff, so that the girls will be prepared for the Drawing and Painting portion of their final Open Schooling exam. The girls plan to go on to college: Durga loves little children and wants to be a preschool teacher, Prabhakari plans to be an eye doctor because so many people in the villages have eye problems, and Liza wants to become a doctor and discover medicines to cure people.



*Liza*



*Durga*



*Prabhakari*

**Subham** graduated high school this year with very high marks, and in March was given a wonderful opportunity. He was offered a full scholarship at an excellent institution for his Plus 2 college arts program (11th and 12th grades) and 4 years of BED (Bachelors of Education) teacher training. This is an outstanding achievement. When he finishes his teacher training, Subham will return to Puri and teach at Prashanti School for at least 3 years!

Subham grew up in the Puri leper colony and sees beyond the outer disabilities of the community there. His mother is very poor but loving and supportive. The values-based program at PS helped mold Subham's strong and loving character, and he has always tutored and been a big brother for the younger children at PS. He won the best selfless service volunteer award at his high school every year (out of over 1200 students) and he was active in Scouts. Subham is very happy at college now. He has joined the singing and tabla group and gets up early every morning (4 am!!) to practice with other singers. He was awarded a full scholarship because of his excellent grades and impoverished background, but most of all because of his beautiful character.



*Subham in his Scout uniform with Prashanti School boys.*



*Subham leading the children in prayers.*

## **Singithi Sevana Children's Home, Kandy, Sri Lanka**

## Updates on Singithi Sevana Girls

**Udayangani** will begin a 4 year degree programme at the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL) in July. The classes are on the weekends, which will allow her to have an internship at a school where she will get more exposure in an English-learning environment. The classes are all in English at OUSL, so this is very important for her success in college. Udayangani completed a 4 month IT certification course, so she now has a good grasp of basic computer skills. She would like a career in radio broadcasting, so her major in college will be Mass Communication. In addition to studying English, all students also study a second National Language, either Sinhala or Tamil - since Udayangani is from a Sinhala speaking family, she will be learning Tamil. This new policy in Sri Lanka is so important for developing a peaceful, integrated Sri Lanka for the future.

**Dinesha** participated with her high school music group at the National Schools Oriental Music & Dance Competition held in the city of Colombo after her group won their events at the District & Provincial levels. They won first place in two events, flute playing and singing. Dinesha played a sitar-like instrument to accompany the flutes. This was a great achievement for her, but now she has to focus on her December state high school exams!

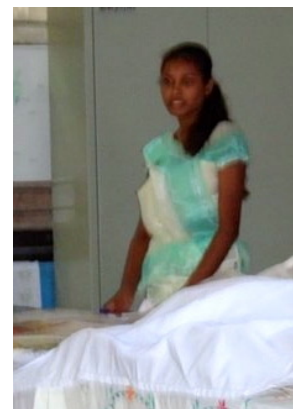
**Asanthi** is following the Open University Preschool education certification course which is a one year course with a term project. She also is an Assistant teacher to a Down's syndrome child attending Grade 1 in a state school in the mornings. The mother of the child told Dr. Manel, the director of Singithi Sevana, that they are very happy with Asanthi and both the class teacher in charge and the school Principal are impressed with Asanthi! She has found a career path that suits her well.



*Udayangani*



*Dinesha*



*Asanthi*

# Prashanti International School (PIS) Puri, India

## Starting the New School Year

Early July, the new little students at PIS had their OM ceremony for the beginning of the new school year. The OM ceremony is a traditional prayer ritual in India for very young children just starting school. It is a blessing for their first formal writing. The children offered flower petals to God, cracked a coconut (for an auspicious beginning) and sang a song honoring Lord Ganesha (who overcomes obstacles and is special to students). Then they recited a Sanskrit verse as they each wrote their first letter O's on a small chalk board. The children loved it and ate special traditional sweets afterwards.



## The PIS Building Project

### ***We Need To Build More Classrooms!***

The photo to the right may not seem to be very interesting or inspiring, but to us it is a thing of beauty because it means that **building has begun!** The photo shows the borewell that was dug very deep to bring up fresh water for making concrete. This is the first step in the construction of more PIS classrooms for the WFF children at Prashanti School and for the kids from the surrounding villages. The plan is to build 1/2 of the ground floor first, with four desperately needed new classrooms.



To date, we have raised nearly \$19,000 for the building fund, but the total needed is \$150,000! Every contribution takes us closer to our goal...education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty...please help!

For more information about the building project, click [HERE](#).

To read the PIS Construction Information Document click [HERE](#).



*Elizabeth Burnett and PIS students.*

## Pilgrims for Prashanti

To help raise more funds for the PIS Building Project, three of our WFF Board members, one of our sponsors, plus other supporters of WFF are going on a pilgrimage! Beginning in late August, they will walk 100 kilometers of the famed Camino de Santiago pilgrimage trail in Spain while making it a Pledge Drive to help build new classrooms for the children of WFF.

To make a [PLEDGE](#), to read more about the Camino de Santiago and the WFF Pilgrims, and to follow their Pilgrimage Blogs click [HERE](#).



## We Thank You!

It is because of your loving and dedicated commitment through your donations and sponsorships, that the lives of so many children have been positively affected. Sometimes it is hard to realize just how much your contributions change the lives of these destitute children. The

impact of your giving will affect not only these children but other lives for years to come. Just like the ripples in a pond, the changes radiate out from the children to their families, their communities, and the future. Education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty!

We hope you have enjoyed this newsletter - please know that we will never sell or share your contact information with anyone!

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

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

WORLD FAMILY FOUNDATION

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