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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 - Fall / Winter 2016



Dear WFF Sponsors and Friends,

As the months fly by, the children of WFF continue to grow and thrive, all because of your generous support and loving commitment. Here are some recent photos and stories... enjoy!

Construction Update

After a break for the monsoon rains, construction has begun again on the new classrooms for PIS, our day school for WFF sponsored children and for the children of poor local village families. Now that the foundation is in place, your generous



support has made it possible to begin building the super-structure of pillars, walls, roof and floors. Watch over the coming months as the building begins to take shape!

But we still need your help!

The new classrooms must be completed in time for the 2017-18 school year (April) for our PIS kids to begin seventh grade. ONLY FOUR MONTHS TO GO...

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](#)

Prashanti School (Boarding School), Puri, India

Odisha Culture and Traditions

As well as learning English and studying hard, it is important for our PS children to learn about their own culture. Children who come from extreme poverty, from marginalized backgrounds, even living on the streets at times, often do not have anyone to teach them about the traditions of their own culture. This lack of understanding further isolates them and makes it more difficult for them to cross social boundaries and break the cycle of poverty that has defined their families for generations. To lift a child out of deep poverty, a well-rounded education must include culture, art, music, dance and public speaking, in addition to academics!



Maa Mangala Puja

On four successive Sunday nights in September, the girls do their own puja (prayers) to the Divine Mother Maa Mangala (her name means Auspicious Blessings). This puja is made for young girls to learn and understand traditional worship of the Divine Mother to bring blessings for their home and all family members. On the final Sunday night they all put on saris and new bangles and perform the puja themselves. They do not even look like little girls on this last night but look like daughters of the Divine Mother Mangala herself!



After the girls have finished their schooling, whether graduating high school or college, they may choose to marry and they will be wonderful wives and mothers for their families. Understanding their own culture helps these children to participate fully in their communities.



Yoga Classes

Part of the cultural program for the children at Prashanti School is the study of hatha yoga. Fortunately a wonderful yoga instructor has a studio directly across the street from PS, and he comes on a regular basis to teach. Yoga helps develop strength, flexibility, balance, focus and concentration. His classes are a favorite with the kids!



Ras Purnima

Ras Purnima is a special time to celebrate and remember Lord Krishna. It is said that it was at this time in the fall that the little boy Krishna and the gopis (milkmaids) danced together in Ras Lila dance. Every gopi danced with her own little Sri Krishna and all rode on a boat together on this full moon night in November. So little children remember this wonderful time by floating little boats on ponds, rivers or the ocean. All the PS children created boats, decorated them with flowers, and floated them on our little pond that has a statue of Krishna in the middle. Some of the older boys created a motorized boat!





Special Events

Free Eye Check-Up and Glasses

A free eye check up for the children and staff of Prashanti School was held on November 8 at the school. It was sponsored by the S.M Foundation, Saroj Mahapatra, founder, and performed by the Vision Care Eye Hospital of Bhubaneswar and Dr. Srimant Ku. Mishra with team members Jalandhar Adhikari, optomologist, Jayendra Nayak and Nirmal Ch. Mishra.



All received eye tests for vision, and it was found that 11 kids and staff members needed glasses! Some also needed eye drops for Vitamin A deficiency, itchy eyes, dry eyes and tearing eyes. On November 28, Saroj and Gayatri Mohapatra came to visit and distribute the new glasses. The eye camp was a great success, and everyone was very happy. Heartfelt thanks to everyone involved for such a valuable and loving service to the children and staff!





Special Visits November, 2016

In their own words:

From Valerie Levett, California

"Elizabeth Cleveland and I have had a glorious time visiting the precious children at Prashanti School. We were treated to a tour of the school, a yoga demonstration and the children's sweet bhajans. We wish the very best for all the children and trust that with the help of many hands the school's great expansion will be completed soon. Nov. 5, 2016"

From Elizabeth Cleveland, Hawaii

"Our family started sponsoring Gulu when he was only 5 or 6 years old. He is now 24! This was even before the Super Cyclone of 1999. Gulu surprised me by visiting the school when I was there! What a delightful surprise! He is now a chartered accountant with his own office in Puri and his marriage is set for next year. What surprised me most was that he has kept the Forest Service medallion my husband Len had given him and all of our family letters for all of these years! We had no idea how deeply our family has influenced him. Gulu admired so much my husband Len, who was a Forest Ranger in California. The visit was wonderful and deeply fulfilling to know what a simple helping hand can do for a child. To this day Gulu wishes to see my husband Len! We are so grateful to God for letting our little family be a part of this beautiful service to His needy children."



From Kasture Mohapatra, California

"It was a great pleasure to visit Prashanti School again this year. The kids are so well-cared for and happy. God bless them all!! Nov. 7, 2017"



From Carrie Hudnall, California

"I am so happy to finally be able to visit this school and the beautiful children here! As I am a teacher of sign language for deaf children in USA, I taught the kids one sign, 'I LOVE YOU!'"



I



LOVE



YOU!!!

From Toni Vaughn, Hawaii

"I am feeling so blessed to be here at Prashanti School in Puri with Elizabeth and all the lovely and beautiful souls of these young children. Their happiness and joy is contagious! They are so open and thirsty for learning and for meeting and interacting with their guests. They are given a good balance of structure and discipline, coupled with freedom to be their joyous selves, a time for play as well as for bhajans and the arts, including yoga! I'm sitting here in the shade of the green foliage, watching the young students playing in their Thursday white uniforms, replete with golden yellow ties and red sweaters.

I have met each and every fatherless child in the school hostel yesterday. There is one set of twins and many sibling groups. Each child is so special and ALL are endearing! I had to restrain myself from hugging them all!!!!!! They are so respectful, polite and eager to talk to this strange lady from America.

I visited the classrooms and witnessed the dedication of the teachers and their perseverance to correct the children at all times, their character as well as their academics. The teachers are all striving to encourage these kids to do good and be good, in spite of their difficult backgrounds before coming to Prashanti School. They are recognizing the gifts each one of these destitute kids has brought into this world.

I feel so fortunate and grateful for the chance to be here. Come and see for yourselves!!!! Namaste, Toni Vaughn"



Prashanti International School (PIS)

Children's Day Celebration

November 14 is Children's Day in India. All the children in all schools celebrate the birthday of Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India from 1947 to 1964. We celebrated with a Fancy Dress (costume) competition, an art Competition and a quiz competition. Then awards were given for Best Neat & Clean, Best Seva (Selfless Service) and Most Improved Students (academics and character improvement).





Our Tae Kwon Do Champion

This is Jyoti Ranjan Padhi, a student at PIS. Jyoti received the state gold medal in his division of Tae Kwon Do. He will soon go on to participate in the national Tae Kwon Do competition in Maharashtra State. Jyoti is a very good student and a sweet boy. His father is the printer for the school.



Partnerships of Love

Rotary Club of Srikshetra, Puri

Thank you to the Rotary Club of Shrikshetra for their continued loving support of these dear children at the holiday season. Under the new President for this year, Shree Ajit Kumar Panda, they have just given new sweatshirts for sleeping in for all the fatherless and destitute children at PS! They did not know that the old ragged sleeping sweaters were more than five years old and were passed down from child to child every year. They just came with what was so badly needed! The Rotary Club in the past year gave the children new bed sheets and blankets (twice!) and doors and windows for an urgently needed classroom. And now they have given warm sleeping sweaters to all the children. These children may be without a father or mother but they have a world family with great love for them all.





Vicky & Smart Charitable Trust, Puri

Members of the local non-profit Vicky & Smart came to PS to visit the children. They are all young people who decided to help to help needy people last year when two of their friends were killed in a traffic accident. Their NGO is named for their friends who were killed, Vicky and Smart. They brought Mahaprasad (a special meal) from the Jagannath Temple today for all the kids and staff and will help more in the future. Thank you!



HELP THE KIDS THROUGH AMAZON SMILE!

Holiday shopping? If so, when you place your orders through AmazonSmile and choose World Family Foundation as your charity of choice, Amazon will donate .5% of every order to WFF AT NO COST TO YOU!

It's very easy to sign up - just go to Smile.Amazon.com and choose World Family Foundation, Ojai, CA as your favorite charity.

From then on, just go to Smile.Amazon.com to order instead of the regular Amazon.com, and .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://AmazonSmile.com).





From all of us at WFF and from all the children of Prashanti School, we wish you a Holiday Season full of love - and a bright, healthy, peaceful New Year!

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

Visit us at [WORLD FAMILY FOUNDATION \(USA\)](http://WORLD FAMILY FOUNDATION (USA))

WORLD FAMILY FOUNDATION

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