



## AUGUST 2017



Dear Friends,

Yet again, we thank God for his goodness and protection through the sunny hot summer months and the monsoons. The kids seem to be growing faster than the grass on the hills and the plants around us this monsoon season. It is the time of the year when we had to let the older children leave the nest to pursue further education or have happy reunions with their families, by God's grace. We strongly believe that God will use our COF children wherever they go, as they live for Him.

The hardest thing in all of this is selecting new kids. With over 200 children wanting to join COF this summer, and very limited availability, it was a strenuous job to decide who gets the silver spoon. With a lot of prayers and learning about each child, we took in our new children this year. It's amazing how instantly someone can become "family." The moment they walk through the gates of COF, they are one of us. It is a great joy to see the children mingle and adapt so quickly.

Rosie thoroughly enjoyed her visits to many of our donors in the SF Bay Area, Chicago and London in May and early June. Rosie is looking forward to again being in the US this year starting in mid-September. Thank you for your ongoing support and prayers for all the children. We love you all.

Blessings,

Rosie and Anand

### COF KIDS IN THE COMMUNITY

We have been able to distribute Kid's Against Hunger food packets to many children from the local villages. The COF children, who also occasionally get to enjoy these meals, are sharing joyfully and are praying for those children. We plan on continuing to distribute food to the villages from which our children come.

Kid's Against Hunger's packaged food contains highquality long grain rice, vitamin fortified, crushed soy, dehydrated blend of six vegetables, Vitamin and Mineral powder.



## **OFF TO JUNIOR COLLEGE**

The 10th graders have performed outstandingly. They have received record scores and thus been approached by many colleges for further studies. A couple of our children have received scholarships as well. Manohar, Vijay, Sarat, Prem and Shanti have enrolled in junior colleges. They are doing well and are being used as God's witnesses, even in their colleges.



College Boys Sarat, Prem, Vasu, Manohar, Vijay

## HOPE ACADEMY UPDATE

The Hope Academy school project is making a lot of progress. Some key highlights:

- We received our FCRA. See Praises to learn more.
- Major donor fundraising team is underway on their efforts to raise Phase 1 building funds.
- We have several foundations and corporations currently considering providing funding.
- Another foundation has expressed a willingness to fund key educational improvements for the current COF school which we are using to pilot various education tools and methods.
- WCPC Fundraiser was a success. See article.
- We have Engineering Ministries Intl. on board and working on construction plans for site improvements and with engineering contractor to finalize Phase 1 building construction package. Planning to begin site preparation in November.

To learn more, https://www.hopeacademyindia.com.

## WCPC HOPE/COF FUNDRAISER

While Rosie was visiting the SF Bay Area in May, Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church hosted a Celebration Dinner and Fundraiser to raise funds for the Hope Academy property site preparation that needs to occur before building construction can start. Over \$40,000 was raised for site grading, stream bed erosion protection, boundary wall construction, and water well and electrical service installations. It was a fun-filled evening of celebrating, sharing a meal together and learning the latest news on COF and Hope Academy. Big thanks to the over 50 donors who made a contribution to this effort.

Haley Lewis, a LOPC college age youth, also sold cookie mix to support the COF kids and she sold out.



## CHILD HIGHLIGHT-SHANTI



Shanti says she wouldn't have been able to pursue studies if she wasn't here at COF due to the poor living conditions and limited educational opportunities at home. She has been living at COF for the past 8 years.

Shanti says, "Going to college every day is a reminder of God's grace and love towards me. I am

enjoying making new friends who are always curious about COF and often ask the reason for my happiness. I find college mathematics to be hard. Please pray that I do well."

#### **PRAISES**

- Hope Academy received its FCRA Certificate, making it easier to receive finds from outside of India. This is a huge miracle as the government hasn't been issuing many new FCRAs lately.
- Hired two new Christian teachers.
- The 10th graders are now in junior college and are doing well.
- The LOPC High School mission trip was a huge blessing to the COF children and the LOPC students as well. Everyone remained healthy.
- Completion of the third floor of the boys' dorm and cement pavement outside the girls' dorm.

# PRAYER REQUESTS

- Two male staff members are needed.
- An administrative assistant is needed.
- Rosie's visit in mid-September to raise funds for Hope Academy building construction.
- For the children's health during monsoon season.

#### **CEMENT PAVEMENT PROJECT**

The children are typically sent home for a couple of weeks to their villages during early summer to spend time with any extended family. This time was chosen for completion of the Cement Pavement Project, repairing and extending the cement in the vicinity of

the girls' dorm. This project was made possible by targeted gifts from a couple long-time donors.



It took a lot of laborers who rushed to finish the work before the children returned. With a 100 plus pairs of feet normally around COF, it would have been impossible to keep everyone off of it during construction. The older boys and staff did a great job helping during the hot summer weeks with triple digit temperatures and the humidity over 90%. Now there is a lot of space to be used to play and study outside, and it will eliminate a lot of dirt and dust that would otherwise come into the rooms.

## LOPC YOUTH MISSION TRIP

In July, **63** high school youth and advisors from Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church visited COF for two weeks. Despite hot humid weather and occasional rain, it was a fantastic trip. The youth worked in the classrooms, teaching phonics, hosting a Science Day, Math Day and an Arts & Crafts Day. They read books aloud, taught the children to blow bubbles with bubble gum and much more! The COF children shared the craft of henna with the US youth.



In addition, the LOPC youth also did a number of projects, including reorganizing the library, working on a new chicken coop and garden improvements, and installing a "shade sail" over part of the new pavement area. In addition they painted lines on the new cement for volleyball, basketball and tennis.

Every day the youth led a Vacation Bible School program that included Bible stories, songs and crafts. They also visited the land that has been purchased for Hope Academy and did a prayer walk.



Highlights for the high school students were worshipping with the COF children at their local church, play time each day with the children, a beach trip with the COF kids, and a final celebration where dancing, music and skits were shared by all. Everyone who went on the trip agrees that they learned so much more from the COF children than they taught. The LOPC group is grateful to everyone for their prayers and support.



#### Youth Quotes:

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Olivia—All of the kids that I got to know are really into education and have dreams of being police officers, engineers, doctors, and teachers, so I want to do something to help them achieve those goals!

Jenna-You know how people ask who your hero is and you don't really have an answer? I have an answer now, Rosie!

## **BOYS' DORM ADDITION FINISHED**



The third floor addition to the boys' dorm has been completed with the LOPC youth finished it off by painting inside and out. There is plenty of space now available with two staff rooms, storage room, TV room and a big room for the older boys. The boys have helped out a lot during the construction and are very happy about the additional space they now have.

Official commissioning with a ribbon cutting ceremony, with long-time Board Member, Ginny Ross doing the honors.





## SURPRISE GIFT-NEW TVS

The children were ecstatic when they found out they were getting two new 42-inch smart television sets. All 120 kids were watching a 24-inch TV in a single room and often disagreed on what to watch. Now the girls and boys have separate TVs. Thanks to the LOPC high school students for this surprise gift.

## COME HEAR ROSIE AT LOPC

During Rosie's upcoming visit, on October 15<sup>th</sup>, she will be at Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox drive, Lafayette. At 10:15am, she will be speaking on "Growing the Impact of Children of Faith." This will be an update on current activities at COF and a presentation of future plans for Hope Academy. All are welcome.



## ROSIE VISITS A FRIEND OF COF

It was a joy to visit Lucille Brooks at her home and show her the latest pictures of COF and share what the Lord has been doing. Lucille has been a supporter of us since the beginning and is now unable to attend COF events due to health reasons. The children love praying for all their sponsors and supporters, and are thankful for each one.



## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Please let us know your suggestions and feedback on our newsletter. We would love to hear from you. Also, if you have prayer requests, please send them to us; the children would love to pray for you. Send them to Rosie at <a href="mailto:rosie.anand@gmail.com">rosie.anand@gmail.com</a>.





To make a monetary donation, please make your check payable to

"Children of Faith Missions" and mail it to

"Children of Faith Missions,
P.O. Box 3453, Walnut Creek, CA, 94598."

You can also donate online at

www.childrenoffaithmissions.org

Our email address is: rosie.anand@gmail.com.