

Help the Helpless



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JMJ

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Dear loving Benefactors and Friends,

Greetings from Fr. Antony and all in the schools, orphanages, colleges, students, staff of all departments including the kitchens.

I am presently in the U.S. for medical treatment which started in late July and will conclude in the month of Sept, if all goes as planned. The doctors at Mayo Clinic of Rochester Minnesota have been able to resolve my many health issues and I will be returning back to India in October. I feel very good and walk one hour each morning which gives me time to say all the 4 rosaries. Thank you all for your prayers and support that made this possible. A special thanks to all the benefactors who of their generosity contributed for my health care. Thank You

My trip to the USA takes 30 hours of travel. I am allowed a break in the trip without additional airfare cost, so I stopped in Spain to attend the Sacred ceremony where Sr. Kelly Jo of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (Youngest daughter of our treasurers Joe & Kay Foht) took her vows as a Servant Sister of the Home of the Mother. Sister Kelly Jo visited our orphanage when she was 12 and our children remember her very dearly and were happy that I attended this Holy event. She is a very good Nun and will be a great Apostle like the little Flower. This order is 25 years old and received their approval from the Holy Father on June 23rd 2010, they also have an order of young men that become priests. You can see what a beautiful order this is on their web site at <http://www.homeofthemothor.org/>.

As you know, June is the start of our new school year. We admitted 37 new handicapped, 28 deaf children and also have added 51 poor children. This is the number of new children for this year's admission that we can handle as we must add teachers to support the education and we are very particular in hiring highly qualified teachers so it takes time to staff properly. For the deaf children we must have 1 special teacher for each group of 12 children. For handicapped children we normally have 1 teacher for a group of 30 children. As you can see, the deaf require many more teachers due to their special needs.

Many of our handicapped children come to us without basic skills even though they may have attended public schools. In the public schools the children are just passed from one grade to the next without any real learning. This is particularly true with deaf children as the public school teachers do not have any special teacher training programs and they do not know sign language. When we receive these children we put them in what we call a zero class where we teach them lessons and determine which grade they should be placed. You will see that sometimes we have a child that is 13 or 14 years old and we place them in 1st grade or whatever grade that they have the capacity to handle. In some case we have children that are in their late 20's that are still in our schools. Some students even discontinue their studies for 2 or 3 years, again they return to the school with their parents and finish their studies even at the age of 28. This is the reason that some of our benefactors are sponsoring children that would be normally graduated from a school in the U.S.A.

All of our students continue to pass government public exams 100%. This year one of our handicapped boys with only one hand passed the 12th grade public exam with the highest marks in the whole state of Tamil Nadu. The children's names and pictures were carried in all of our newspapers.

Our children study very hard and our teachers also work hard and are very dedicated to the children. Because of their high exam grades, the physically handicapped children will now attend the teacher training schools and after two years of training, they will get good job as primary school teachers. Teachers in our country are paid a decent salary. Our matriculation school is doing very well and all courses are taught in English. These students are also doing very well in the state public exams and pass 100%. At the present time we have over 900 children in our Matriculation school. The students in this school are a mix of poor children and normal children from the surrounding villages and get along very well.

Please come visit us and see how happy and joyful the children are that you are supporting

I am happy to inform you that we have received permission from the Central Government of India to run a college of nursing course and a school of nursing course. College of nursing is a 4-year degree program and the school of Nursing is a 3 1/2 year program. We have taken up this nursing program, as we need qualified nurses in India and other countries. The demand for nurses is very great worldwide. This will give our children another way to make a good living. We also will open these courses to the young adults of the surrounding villages and cities on a tuition basis so we can support the programs. This is another effort to make the Schools and Orphanage of St. Mary's self sufficient

As this is a new program, we are contracting with local hospitals for the hands on nursing student's **practical training** with patients. The fees charged by **the hospital are very high and the quality of the practical training given there is not up to our expectation.** The government will allow us to operate this way for 2 years and then we must have our own hospital. Our own hospital will provide the needed practical part of the nurses training as well as provide quality health care to the poor and paying patients. Hospitals in India normally earn a profit but our aim is to be able to break even and run the Hospital as a nonprofit.

Building a hospital is a Himalayan task as the funds required to build a hospital and equip it is very great. The hospital project is separate from our support of handicapped and poor children and will not be connected in any way so as not to jeopardize our work with the children. We own the land where the hospital is to be built in downtown Kubakonam . The location is in the heart of the city and close to the railroad and bus stations so people will have easy access to the quality health care that we are going to provide. Many Doctors also have offices in this part of town.

Help the helpless has agreed to be the U.S. contact for this project and will maintain any funds involved with this project as a separate account, and there will be no commingling of any funds thus ensuring that the primary support for the children is not touched by the hospital project. Since the amount of money required to build and operate a hospital is so great we will be contacting foundations and seeing if they will be willing to help us by pledging to support the project. If any of you know of any individuals or organizations that can help us, please let us know at the above address or telephone numbers. Also if any of you have skills in this area and would be available to come to India and help us, please let us know. We will not be able to pay a salary but would provide you with lodging and food. Your prayers are requested to guide us in this project.

Since I am a 71-year-old Priest in India, I must put all of my efforts to this project and this will be my last big effort. The Doctors at Mayo tell me I am good for another 20 years of work but I am ready to go to my lord when he calls, we shall see. I think I have made my intentions clear to you. You know better ways and means of different people and foundations, etc., so I stop here on this point and leave you to act freely.

In the past we received 50 donated brass **Crucifixes** that we used in our classrooms. they were about 12 or 15 inches high, light in weight and shine like gold. These are not available in India and if anyone knows where we can find these, please let us know. If you have some you would like to donate, please send them to the above address or to Joe Foht at 4536 Bramblewood ave, Vadnais Heights, Mn 55127. I will take them with me on my return to India. We are need of about 200.

We also welcome donations of any DVD video that are the lives of the saints or faith based DVDs that the children can watch and learn from.

We pray for you continuously, Please remember us in your prayers. With heartfelt thanks, love, and prayers.

Fr. Antony Savarimuthu

Fr. Antony Xavier Savarimuthu and all the others.