

INSAF Newsletter

INSAF Newsletter

November 2004
Volume 29 Issue 2

Inside this issue:

Child Sponsorship	3
INSAF Job Open	3
India Heritage	4
Samanway	5
OSDAV	5
Little Angels	5
Helping Education	6

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CHILDREN IN THREE INDIAN STATES BENEFIT FROM INSAF PROJECTS

HYDERABAD, AP

The Little Angels School, located opposite Gurudwara Charmahal, in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh aims to offer high quality education to its multi-ethnic, male and female students. The school has gone through substantial improvements over the last few years. A run-down, old, shed-like structure has been replaced by newer, more secure buildings, and the class rooms are now better equipped. The school principal is Anjanesh K. Varma, a young cousin of our **Dr. Ashok and Hema Varma**, of Columbus, OH.

Dr. Ashok and Hema Varma have followed up their \$5,000 contribution from the last year with \$10,000 for the Little Angels School this year (Copy of acknowledgement letter from the school on Page 5) to bring high quality computer education to the children. Such sustained support is what it takes to transform schools like the Little Angels, whose students now look sharp in their white school uniforms along with sky-blue, striped, neck-ties.

BANGALORE, KARNATKA

A somewhat similar situation exists at a school in Bangalore where the school infrastructure needs much improvement. Our **Dr. Harshavardhana** and his wife **Shakunthala** have taken on the challenge of helping improve the school. This year, the school is improving its existing school building and adding a sports room thanks to a contribution of \$1,015 sent on behalf of Harsha and Shakunthala, which included a \$165 contribution from INSAF general project funds as well. The school intends to dedicate the sports room to INSAF.

DEHRADUN, UTTARANCHAL (formerly U.P.)

The Integral Education Mission in Dehradun (originally in U.P. but now in the new state of Uttaranchal) was established by Shri P.L. Trehan, a retired Captain from the Indian Army Medical Corps and uncle of our Ashok K. Mehan of Union City, CA. The Integral Education Mission selects bright but underprivileged students and awards them scholarship funds without any kind of favoritism. This year our **Joginder and Meera Kundra** have sent a contribution of \$250 to support the work at the Integral Education Mission. INSAF has also received funds from **Ashok and Darshan Mehan** for an additional \$250 for the Dehradun organization.

INSAF PROJECTS

The following list is an important snapshot of INSAF activities for both INSAF outsiders and insiders. Therefore, kindly let the Editor know of any errors and omissions. Also please verify the contact information.

Contact	Project
Brij & Shail Agarwal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> D. N. Inter College, Gulaothi, UP (Scholarship)
Ram Chaudhari	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural Center for Science Culture, Bhulpur, U.P
Manju Chexal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OSDAV Public School, Kaithal, Haryana (Late Sh. Milkhi Ram & Shmt. Kesra Devi Gulla Awards) S.O.S. Children's Association, Panchkula, Haryana (Late Sh. Des Raj & Shmt. Parkash Vati Soni Award)
Awtar Singh Dhaliwal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Govt. Degree College, Udhampur, Jammu & Kashmir
Santosh Chokhani, Ramesh & Pratibha Paliwal, Bhav & Kaye Sharma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SODHANA Charitable Trust, Chipurupalli, AP; Bal Niketan, Panchkula
Shakunthala & Harshavardhana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India Heritage Project (with Kapurs, Paliwals, Malhotras, Chokhani, Sharmas) B. N. A. Government High School, Murugamale, Karnataka
Om and Veena Garg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A.S.D. High School, Narnaul, Haryana
Keshyap & Abhilasha Joshi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blood Donor Council, Nawanshahar, Punjab
Kumar & Sudesh Kapur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AWB Food Bank, Albertson, NY
Joginder Kundra & Arju Bhojwani	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Samanway (Adivasi Development Project), Lathakhamhan, Jharkhand
Aruna Marathé, Raj & Padmashri Lad, Bhav & Kaye Sharma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Aid & Sponsorship Program, Pune, Maharashtra
Ash and Darshan Mehan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integral Education Mission, Dehradun (Uttaranchal), with the Kun-
Ram & Meera Murthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Koushika Sankethi Association, Bangalore, Karnataka (Scholarship)
Soma & Parvathi Murthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gov. Pre-Univ. College Batlahally, Karnataka (Scholarship) Institute of Speech & Hearing, Bangalore (Library)
Rajeev & Saloni Paliwal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gujarat Earthquake Reconstruction (SRISTI)
Ramesh & Pratibha Paliwal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shiksha Bharati Project, Hapud, UP (Education)
Ashok & Usha Sachdev, Manju Chexal, Bhav & Kaye Sharma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bal Niketan, Panchkula, Haryana
Bhav & Kaye Sharma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary & Middle Schools, Village Ramgarh (Patiala), Punjab D.D. Girls High School, Navsari, Gujarat Trees for Life, Wichita, Kansas Balabhavan Orphanage, Paduapuram, Kerala; Bal Niketan, Panchkula S. R. Arya High School, Patiala, Punjab (with Jeet and Sushma Sodhi)
Chem E Class of 1969 c/o Bhav Sharma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chem Eng Dept. Panjab Univ. Chandigarh (Scholarships)
Ashok & Sanjeevan Soni	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lions Club Eye Clinics, Midtown Jagraon and Raikot, Punjab
Vijay & Laxmi Varma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sri Satya Sai Seva Samiti Public School, Alwar, Rajasthan
Ashok & Hema, Sriraj & Pushpa Varma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ramnath Inter College, Unnao, UP Little Angels School, Hyderabad, AP

NEW CHILD SPONSORED; TOTAL SPONSORSHIPS AT 9

Another young child in Pune, Maharashtra now joins the INSAF family of sponsored children. Ten year old **Shaikh Raisa Khurshid**, a student at the Baburao Sans Kanyashala in Pune, has been selected with the help of the Community Aid & Sponsorship Programme (CASP), an NGO based in Pune and several other cities in India. The updated list is as follows (all are from disadvantaged families and our goal is to help them become educated and financially secure individuals):

1. **Mohit Kumar Gupta, 19**, Panchkula, Haryana. Manju and the Late Bindi Chexal sponsorship during '99-'03. Success story —Mohit is now an Engineering student and has graduated out of INSAF help.
2. **Ram Parvesh, 19**, Panchkula, Haryana. Manju and the Late Bindi Chexal sponsorship during '99-'03. Now a Culinary School student with further sponsorship of Manju and several other INSAF friends in Bindi's name — on his way to being a successful chef by the end of 2005.
3. **Sonali Kothawale, 17**, Pune, Maharashtra. Aruna Marathé sponsorship since '01. Sonali, now a 12th grade student and a soccer player, is now in a critical phase regarding her future.
4. **Amalapushpam, 15**, Paduapuram, Kerala. Bhav & Kaye Sharma sponsorship since '01. Amala is a 9th grade student, lives at a children's home run by the Sisters of Nazareth, and is said to be a good dancer and a singer.
5. **Amandeep, 12**, Panchkula, Haryana. Ashok & Usha Sachdev sponsorship since '02. Thanks to the sponsorship, Amandeep is a 6th grade student at a private school named Holy Child in Panchkula.
6. **Shailesh Shinde, 12**, Pune, Maharashtra. Raj & Padmashri Lad and Bhav & Kaye Sharma sponsorship since '02. Shailesh is now a 7th grade student and likes to play cricket.
7. **Rutuja Khade, 11**, Pune, Maharashtra. Aruna Marathé sponsorship since '03. Rutuja is now a 6th grade student and a bright student.
8. **Arti Waikar, 10**, Pune, Maharashtra. Raj & Padmashri Lad and Bhav & Kaye Sharma sponsorship since '02. Arti is a 5th grade student in the Marathi medium school Sevasadan.
9. **Raisa Khurshid, 10**, Pune, Maharashtra. Raj & Padmashri Lad and Bhav & Kaye Sharma new sponsorship in '04.

Currently, efforts are underway for 2-3 additional sponsorships. Further details will be available in a

THANKS FOR REMEMBERING

Many thanks to the following who remembered their membership dues in 2004.

Yuvraj & Minwatti Ramsaroop, Highland Park, NJ

Ram Mishra, Montville, NJ

Surinder & Nirmal Maheshwary, Richardson, TX

Please use the last page of this Newsletter and send in your membership this weekend (unless of course, you have signed-up for a Life Membership once and for all — which earns you freedom from having to remember whether that part has been taken care of. Of course, it still is very important to send your contributions to support the project of your choice .

The following who have become Life Members since the April 2004 Newsletter:

Bhimsen & Hemlata Bhakoo, Williamsville, NY

Ashok & Neelam Jain, Ocean, NJ

Aruna Marathé, Palo Alto, CA

Soma & Parvathi Murthy, West Windsor, NJ

Satish & Uma Sharma, Houston, TX

Laxmi & Vijay Varma, Piscataway, NJ

Sangya & Sanjay Varma, Piscataway, NJ

A very warm welcome to each of the above. We'll look forward to your continued involvement with the project(s) of your choice. We'll look forward to your comments or updates for the Newsletter as well.

The above names have been added to the Life Members

2005-2007 EXEC NOMINATIONS INVITED

Hard to believe the two year term of the 2003-2005 Executive is almost over. Typically, a new Exec is decided around the end of the Year to early January. January is supposed to be the month of transition from the previous Exec to the new Exec and the New Exec is supposed to take over effective Feb 1.

Therefore, this is the official announcement requesting nominations. Some of the current Exec members have requested to take a break and we'd love to have at least one person who has never before served on the Exec. Any member can nominate himself/herself. If you nominate someone else, you need to first get their OK. If you can afford a few hours per month, or have any questions about the process or the responsibilities of the Executive Team,

INSAF LIFE MEMBERS

- *Sh. Bishan and Ms. Shail Agrawal*
- *Dr. Brij N. Agarwal*
- *Sh. Pritinder & Ms. Mani Arora*
- *Dr. Prem & Ms. Raj Bajaj*
- *Sh. Bhimsen & Ms. Hem Lata Bhakoo*
- *Sh. Romel Singh Bhullar*
- *Dr. Amrit and Ms. Shashi Chadha*
- *Dr. Ram & Ms. Raj Chaudhari*
- *Sh. Ved & Ms. Rajni Chaudhary*
- *Ms. Manju Chexal*
- *Dr. Santosh Chokhani*
- *Sh. Amarjit & Ms. Rajesh Dandona*
- *Dr. Baljit & Ms. Gursaran Gambhir*
- *Sh. Om & Ms. Veena Garg*
- *Sh. P. & Ms. Shakunthala Harshavardhana*
- *Sh. Ashok & Ms. Neelam Jain*
- *Sh. Keshyap & Ms. Abhilasha Joshi*
- *Dr. Pawan & Ms. Lalita Kahol*
- *Sh. Kumar & Ms. Sudesh Kapur*
- *Sh. Joginder & Ms. Meera Kundra*
- *Dr. Pushkraj & Ms. Padmashri Lad*
- *Sh. P.K. and Ms. Suresh Malhotra*
- *Ms. Aruna Marathé*
- *Sh. Balbir & Ms. Treeva Mathur*
- *Sh. Ash & Ms. Darshan Mehan*
- *Dr. Soma & Ms. Parvathi Murthy*
- *Dr. Ramesh & Ms. Pratibha Paliwal*
- *Sh. Rajiv & Ms. Saloni Paliwal*
- *Dr. Rakesh Saini*
- *Dr. Bhav & Ms. Kaye Sharma*
- *Sh. Satish & Ms. Uma Sharma*
- *Sh. Shiam Sunder & Ms. Manju Sharma*
- *Sh. Ashok & Ms. Sanju Soni*
- *Dr. Ashok & Ms. Hema Varma*
- *Sh. Vijay & Ms. Laxmi Varma*
- *Dr. Sanjay & Dr. Sangya Varma*
- *Sh. Sriraj & Ms. Pushpa Varma*

INDIA HERITAGE PROJECT

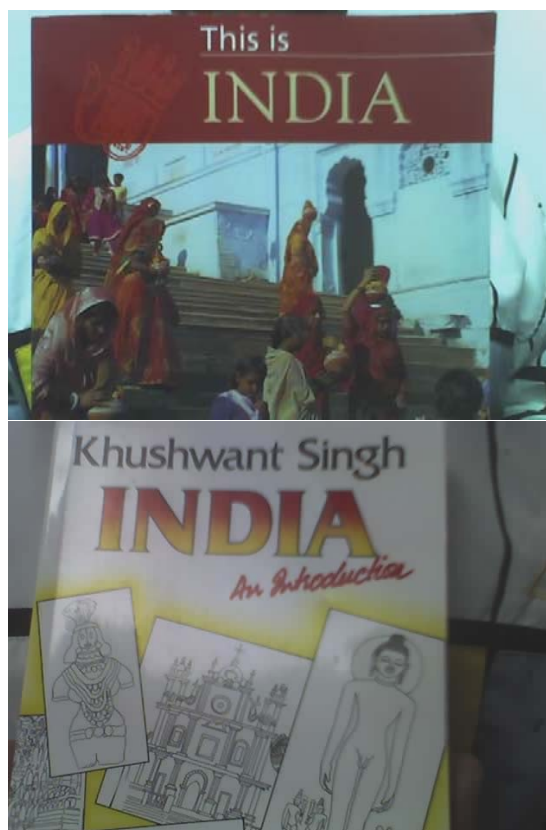
Under this project, INSAF members have donated the \$150, 7-volume Encyclopedia Britannica on India to 5 different libraries in the United States. The project team decided to move on from the 2001 encyclopedia as we are almost on to 2005.

Thanks to the efforts by former Exec Sant Chokhani, the following two books which cost under \$30 have been identified for the next wave of donations:

THIS IS INDIA by Shobhita Punja

INDIA — An Introduction by Khushwant Singh

We need INSAF volunteers to coordinate the donation of these books — at no cost to you. If you would like to give these to your local school or library, or have a question, please send an e-mail to the INSAF Editor.



TWO MORE REACH SILVER LEVEL

A few years back, as a way of encouraging members to contribute to projects, the Exec designated “Gold Level” to represent those who have contributed over \$20,000 towards projects (**Prof. Ram and Raj Chaudhari, and Jo and Meera Kundra**), and “silver level” to designate contributors above \$5,000. Joining **Sunder & Vinod Bhatla, Manju & the Late Bindu Chexal, and Drs. Ashok & Hema Varma** are two families: **Ashok & Darshan Mehan** and **Bhav & Kaye Sharma**.

PROJECT UPDATES

SAMANWAY ASHRAM, Bihar, India
ARYA SAMAJ, TELCO, Jharkhand, India

Joginder and Meera Kundra have been instrumental in supporting several educational initiatives in the Bihar and Jharkhand states. The Kundras and their friend Dr. Subhash Chandra, a physics Ph.D. who "retired" a few years ago to dedicate himself to such efforts, have been working through Samanway Ashram. The most recent project spans 36 villages in the famous Bodh Gaya region of Bihar. About 1,100 children have been admitted to a program under which groups of 25 children will:

- ◆ learn reading and writing from a teacher
- ◆ clean the drinking water of the village
- ◆ make compost from organic waste of the village

The schools involved were shut down earlier when the state government funds dried up due to corruption. Under this project, the Kundras have sent about \$3,000 during this year. In addition, they have sent \$150 to support a bonus to teachers at the Arya Samaja Telco school. The bonus will be equal to 1 month's salary for every year of service.

Dr. Ashok and Dr. Hema Varma's latest contribution to support computer education at a Hyderabad, AP school is acknowledged below by the school.

LITTLE ANGELS SCHOOL

H. No. 21-4-991, Opposite Gurudwara
 Charmahal, Hyderabad-264, A.P. INDIA

Hyderabad.
 Date: January 22, 2004

To,
 Mr. K. Kumar Kapur,
 INSAF, Financial Secretary,
 West Orange, NJ 07052 U.S.A.


Dear Mr. Kapur,

Thank you very much for sending us the cheque in the amount of \$10,000 = 00 towards the contribution made by Dr. A. B. Varma of Columbus OH. U.S.A. for the school project.

Please also express our hearty thanks to Dr. A. B. Varma towards contribution for our school project. By his valuable contribution, we are able to start computers education in our school. We appreciate his kindness for helping us for the noble cause and in the improvement of the school.

With my kindest regards and all good wishes.

Yours Sincerely,


 ANJANESH K. VARMA
 Principal, Little Angels School



॥ ओ३म् ॥

Phone : 01746 - 232899
 Fax : 01746 - 230799
 Nay. Wing : 01746 - 235315
 Resi.: 225899, 222130



O.S.D.A.V. PUBLIC SCHOOL

(Senior Secondary)
 (Affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education, New Delhi)
 (Under D.A.V. College Managing Committee, New Delhi)
KAITHAL-136 027

Ref. No.: DPK/old-05/341

Dated. 06.08.2004

To

Sh. Bhavender Paul Sharma, Ph.D.
 For Indian Schools Alumni & Friends (INSAF)
 3005, Del Ray Street,
 Sam Mateo, CA 94403 USA

Sir,


With grace your good self is informed that a committee of nine members was constituted to select the mostly needy students for awarding fee concession on Merit cum means - basis.

Enclosed please find the proceedings of the Fee Concession Committee held on 22.07.04.

Once again I extend my gratitude to your INSAF for sending this amount for helping the needy students.

With profound regards.

Yours sincerely


 (Mrs. Suman Nijhawan)
 Principal

Copy to:-

Mrs. Manju Chexal
 Imperia Avenue.

Manju and the late Bindi Chexal had contributed \$1,500 in late 2000 to the OSDAV school, Kaithal, Haryana to support deserving students who need help with their tuition. The June '04 letter above explains that Ashima Gandhi, Poonam, and Amit Dhiman received full exemption from fees.

Where People Work in India

Agriculture -----	191 million
Manufacturing -----	41 million
Trade, Hotels, Restaurants -----	38 million
Community & Personal Services -----	31 million
Construction-----	15 million
Transport & Communication -----	14 million
Finance, Real Estate, Bus. Services-----	5 million
Mining-----	2 million
Utilities-----	1 million

(The above adds up to 338 million). Unemployment rate has gone up from about 7% to about 8% in the last 5 years. The poverty rate "exceeds" 20%. Much of the economic growth came from increasing the productivity of existing workers through investments in machinery and technology. The next national job survey is set to begin in late 2004 and finish in 2005.

Derived from an article by Joanna Slater
 "In India, a Job Paradox"
 Wall Street Journal
 May 5, 2004

VILLAGE SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

The letter below acknowledges the \$1,015 contribution (\$165 from INSAF) of our Shakunthala and Harshavardhana to the Government Primary School, Sane Guruvanahalli, North Village Vidhana Sabha District, Basaveshwara Nagar, North Division,

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣದ ಸಲಹೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನೆ

ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಮಾದರಿ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಶಾಲೆ, ಸಾಣೇ ಗುರುವನಹಳ್ಳಿ
 ಉತ್ತರವಳ್ಳಿ ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ
 ಬಸವೇಶ್ವರನಗರ, ಉತ್ತರ ವಲಯ - 1, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

ಪಿ. ನಾರಾಯಣಪ್ಪ B.A., B.Ed., Dip-in-D & D Edn. ಕಡತ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 52/2003-04
 ಸಹಾಯಕ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17-03-04

To,
 The President
 Indian Schools Alumni & Friends (INSAF)
 33, Waddington Avenue
 West Orange, NJ 07052
 USA.

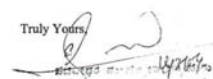
Respected Sir,

Subject : Acknowledgment of valuable cheque and gratefulness to kind contribution.

With reference to above subject, I am very happy for having received with thanks from your valuable cheque of \$1015-00, bearing no. 121122676 (by Dr. Harsha Vardhana \$850-00 and INSAF, \$165-00) towards improvement to our existing school building for which act of your kind consideration and contribution that we are very grateful to you in all respects.

Further, we have decided to invest the above amount to construct a sports room in memory of your charitable organization and oblige.

Thanking you, sir

Truly Yours,


ELEMENTARY EDUCATION IS KEY TO FURTHER PROGRESS

Our country has made much progress over the past decades, of which we are rightly proud. Yet, why do we rank 127 out of 175 countries on the Human Development Index? Why do we lack a sense of discipline, whether we are required to stand in queue, or wait for a green signal? Why are we obliged to tolerate corruption on a daily basis in every walk of life? Why, after half a century of independence, have we not achieved a modicum of social justice and equitability..?

I strongly believe answers to most of these questions lie in the kind of education system and learning processes we expose our children to at the elementary level. ... It is here that the citizen of tomorrow is formed. Here in fact, that the destiny of our country is determined.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The Integral Education Mission in Uttaranchal state of India awards scholarships to poor students regardless of their caste or religion. The letter below acknowledges a \$250 contribution from Jo and Meera Kundra. An

INTEGRAL EDUCATION MISSION (Regd.) Regd. Office - 35/1, Subhash Road, Dehradun - 248 001

To, INSAF
 33-Waddington Ave,
 West Orange,
 N.J. 07052 (U.S.A.)

From :-
 Dr. Indu Chhabra
 President
 Integral Education Mission
 35/1, Subhash Road,
 Dehradun - 248 001
 (Uttaranchal)
 INDIA.

My Dear K. Kumar Kapur.

Dated : April 28, 2004

Sir,

With regards to you and Mr. Joginder and Mrs. Meera Kundra, I want I pay my gratitude towards this pious gesture of donating money for this society to help the brilliant but unprivileged student of our country. I am enclosing the receipt herewith.

Sir, please continue to support our hands for the good cause of Integral Education Mission (Regd.). I am working with the Mission since 1980 from when it has taken its shape. I can assure that a single penny of your donation will not be wasted. I am sending the list of students to whom we have given the Scholarship in our 24th Annual Function held on 2nd November 2003 of the Financial Year 2003-04.

Thanking You.

Truly yours,

Indu Chhabra
 [Dr. (Mrs.) Indu Chhabra]
 INTEGRAL EDUCATION MISSION

WANT TO SEE SOME POSITIVE NEWS ABOUT INDIA?

Here's a website that aims to provide news of "positive action, steely endeavor and quiet triumphs ~ news that is little known":

<http://www.goodnewsindia.com>

A recent visitor to the website found stories on child activists who are factory workers in Karnataka, an NRI who has built and

INSAF MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY UPDATE

INSAF President PK Malhotra and a small team of volunteers will be updating the INSAF Membership Directory during 2005. Please be expecting to be contacted by the Directory Team during 2005 requesting you to help update your information so that the directory will have as accurate an information as practical. Thanks in advance for your

Now is a great time to become an INSAF Life Member.