

FRIENDS OF INDIA Newsletter

Vol. 29 No. 1 December 2015

Website: [ganga633](http://ganga633.com)

President's Message: More on Legacy and Archives Fall 2015

Dear India RPCVs, our families here and in India and others who share our love for India.

Yes, this message is similar to the one of last year, Fall 2014 message but with an urgency and plea to get your stories and experiences. None of us are getting any younger. What would you prefer: your story in an obituary or in an archive on FOI website that you have written?

Here we are in 2015 marking 39 years since Peace Corps left India. I would like to see us welcome the 40th year by reconnecting ourselves with our stories and memories of India. We are an ageing group of RPCVs with still so much to share with families, friends and the Peace Corps community at large. Our experiences are important not just to ourselves but all those with whom we meet. Most recently I see this as a mentor in discussions with students at the University of North Carolina Wilmington Business School. They are searching their way, trying to decide a professional path to follow in this world which is always changing. I personally found that we still have a wonderful opportunity to share with others our experiences of working with and learning from the people of India and wherever else we may have worked. For many of us we use this experience in our work in other countries, including right back here in the United States.

Now, for many of us it has been 50 years or more, since we worked in India. We are now "old goats" and need to get our stories and experiences out, in writing and photos. **May I suggest you do this now in your words and include it on the FOI website archives with your own words and thoughts rather than a loved one trying to put it into an obituary for you or worse yet your story is not told at all.**

But wait there are other stories out there: From our Indian counterparts, spouses, our families. These stories can be especially precious. They can be their stories about their experience with Peace Corps India such as counterparts, spouses, children...anyone!!! Please enrich the archives and obituaries with them.

As I said last year, I believe it is time that we revisit what we did in India as Volunteers and how that influenced our lives, careers, and families. I believe we have a rich legacy of experiences and a place to share it....**our website Archive**

Here are some thoughts and a Reminders from Last Year:

For all of us RPCVs and those who knew us:

- (1) Let's have *your memories and stories* of India.
- (2) Let's add more *India groups* which number 1-123 (maybe its 125) on the our website [Ganga633](http://Ganga633.com). Or, If you already have a group website elsewhere, it can be hyperlinked to [Ganga633](http://Ganga633.com)). All group websites will have a link on the FOI home page. So far only India 3, 13 and 14, 20B, 26 and 102 are there now. Set it up any way you wish through our webmaster Maureen Nichols (mnichols@austin.rr.com).
- (3) **Photos:** Keep them coming they are a fun part of the record on the website, especially trying to recognize ourselves 50 years later.
- (4) **Obituaries:** Keep these coming as they are precious and tell so much about what India RPCVs, their counterparts and friends have done.

-- (5) **Establish an archival home**, for digital, electronic and hard copy of relevant books, manuals, etc. We actually have a possibility (more in next newsletter). We will expand **Ganga633** website to accommodate all these changes and further suggestions that you may have. Finally, PLEASE email your thoughts and suggestions about the website to (FOISlattery@aol.com) and (mnichols@austin.rr.com). MANY THANKS.

Namaste and Shukaria,

Jack Slattery, President FOI

Paint nite fundraiser for Lucky Dozen FOI charity

Thank you Archana for gathering friends for a paint nite in Cary, N.C. The amount raised was \$140 which will provide schooling assistance for 3 deserving girls in south India. Archana comes from Theni, Tamil Nadu.





HOMES OF HOPE *India*

Homes of Hope India-US, a 501c3 registered charity, works in 33 orphanages, schools, junior colleges and social empowerment centres throughout India to:

- *rescue, shelter and educate orphaned and at-risk girls*
 - *educate the poorest of the poor, both girls and boys*
 - *empower women and improve the lives of poor families*
- All gifts are tax-deductible.*



June 23, 2015

Friends of India
George Nepert
34915 Gordy Road
Laurel, DE 19956

Dear George and all of our Friends of India,

Thank you for responding to our Summer 2015 newsletter, 100 Points of Light, with your gift of \$850.00 donated to Homes of Hope India-US. Your continued, sustained contributions accurately represent the family we have created together for these girls—stable, ever-present, and supportive.

The girls you see pictured below will live in our 6th Home of Hope in Tangla,



Assam, India, where ethnic clashes, AIDS, and extreme poverty render families helpless. Already, the Salesian Sisters have reached into the community to provide education and safe housing for needy children from the surrounding villages (pictured here). Now, we will build an orphanage and training center, dedicated to the safety, wellness, and education of thousands of children for years to come.

YOU continue to be the difference in the lives of so many Indian girls. Thanks to your generosity, you are there with them, every day.

Paul Wilkes, Founder & Executive Director
1413 Hawthorne Road * Wilmington NC 28403
(910) 815-0694 * Email: paulwilkes1234@gmail.com

**No goods or services were received in return for this gift.*

You folks are so generous! Thanks for your continued support!
Paul

2014 Friends of India – Charity Donations Report

Friends of India “givers” in 2014 gave a total of \$41,616 for FOI charity work. Since 1995, when it began charity work, FOI has given a total of \$283,673.

Charity #1 : Sanjeevini Trust. Founded by Joe Emerson, India 38. Located in Sirwar, Karnataka. The Trust is managed by Gamithra Jettappa where there is promotion of AIDS education, preventive health care, free dental & eye clinics, medical treatment cost assistance, promotes ecological agriculture, pre school hot lunch program, and operates a medical transport vehicle to remote areas to Raichur hospital. FOI has donated a total of \$29,733 since 1995.

Charity #2 : Father Fleming Foundation. Founded by PCV’s Tom Brayak & Gerry Nelson. Helping 3 leper colonies in the Bargarth area of Orrissa. The goal is to empower the lepers to become self reliant. FFF operates a revolving loan program, a handicap children’s training center, has water wells and pump program, operates commercial fish ponds, and constructs new leper housing. FOI has donated a total of \$20,745 since 2005.

Charity #3 : South Asia Pure Water Initiative (SAPWII). Founded by Michael Lipman, India 89, and Kathy Forsberg. Managed by Rama Chandra in Kolar, Karnataka. It successfully produces low cost home bio-sand filter systems at a low cost of \$35/unit, supplying clean, safe water in the family unit. Immediate goal is to place 15,000 water filter systems in the area, supplying a potential of 225,000 people with clean drinking water. FOI has donated a total of \$15,876 since 2007.

Charity #4 : George’s “Lucky Dozen” Student Sponsorship. Founded by George Nepert, India 26. The goal is to change a life by getting sponsorships for very poor deserving girls, touching a life one girl at a time. Luck Dozen has now provided 75 deserving students being sponsored for high school and college level studies. The program is run under strict guidance by Sr. Mary Therese, Headmistress of Presentation Convent higher secondary school in Theni, Tamil Nadu. About 60% of her students come from extremely poor families. FOI has donated a total of \$144,733 since 2008.

Charity #5 : Hassan Homes of Hope. Founded by Jack Slattery, India 3, & Paul Wilkes. Located in Hassan, Karnataka, it is a boarding school of 90 girls who come from broken homes with financial problems and from places that are unsafe for girls. The ages are 6 to 16 living together receiving academic opportunities. The Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco and lay teachers provide education and life skills. The funds go for school supplies, desks & benches, matriculation fees & uniforms. FOI donated \$6,228 since 2012.

2014 FOI Report of Deposits and Expenditures

<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	
\$40,286 donations	\$ 705 charity #1	\$250 webmaster
1,330 NPCA Rebates	930 charity #2	80 NPCA affiliation fee
<u>\$41,756 total income</u>	2,405 charity #3	595 NPCA memberships forwarded
	33,450 charity #4	836 newsletters & postage
	2,585 charity #5	140 bank money wire fees
	<u>\$41,976 total expenses</u>	

Contribution: \$

optional: () \$35 NPCA dues included

FOI's five India charities. Check your preference when you give

1. **Sanjeevini Trust** in Sirwar, Karnataka: provides medical care, ambulance, AIDS care, self help projects
2. **Father Fleming Foundation** in Bargarth Orissa: helps 3 leper colonies, self help projects
3. **Pure Water Initiative** in Karnataka: making affordable drinking water filter units for the needy
4. **Lucky Dozen** in south India: education scholarships for deserving bright impoverished girls
5. **Hassan Home of Hope** in Hassan, Karnataka: Assist very poor orphan girls at boarding school, ages 6-16

*mail check payable to Friends of India address: George Nepert, treasurer
34915 Gordy Road, Laurel, DE 19956

Email: _____ PCV India group no. _____ site: _____
Editor: gnepert@hotmail.com

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c/o George Nepert, treasurer
34915 Gordy Road
Laurel, DE 19956

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**"Lucky Dozen"
Fund Raiser
Paint Night**