

FRIENDS OF INDIA NEWSLETTER

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President's Message

I have been thinking about the history of the Friends of India (FOI), which was started 1970s and going strong today. We started with printed newsletters and then added a website (<https://ganga633.squarespace.com>). We are now considering sending the Newsletter via email to those who are able to receive them in this manner. George Nepert, who coordinates our newsletter and FOI charities, will be contacting everyone on the FOI mailing list to see who would be able and willing to receive the FOI Newsletter by email.

In October I attended the India 42 50th reunion in Las Vegas. Though I worked with Tom Carter on the development and placement of the Volunteers in this program, I had a hard time recognizing everyone after attending their last reunion 20 years ago. Oh how we have changed!! Everyone knew me but without name tags I was lost. After an evening libation and a trip to Mount Charleston, all was well. It was a great reunion with lots of stories about the old days.

While there, I talked about the support of FOI Returned Volunteers and others for our five FOI charities. Since the 1970s, FOI has received over \$300,000 to support and help many in India to improve and maintain a better quality of life. Thank you all for sustaining these programs.

Finally, when you get a chance, please visit the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) website (<http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/cpages/home>). The FOI website (<https://ganga633.squarespace.com>) was recently featured. There is some **very interesting and useful** information on it, including what Peace Corps is doing today. For example I found this very helpful in my mentoring of mentees at the University of North Carolina in Wilmington NC.

With all the best holiday wishes,

Jack Slattery

Friends of India charity #4 “Lucky Dozen” Story
Coordinator of Sponsor Disbursement (South India). Presentation Sister Mary Therese
Coordinator of Sponsor collections (USA), George Nepert

Lucky Dozen Charity was started in 2008 to financially help deserving poor students continue studies in the high school or college level in South India. The number of students that have benefited has now reached more than 200.

There are two types of sponsors for “George’s Lucky Dozen”:

1. Take on a student who has completed school education and goes into the college level studies. This sponsorship is required for two to four years of commitment. The 12th standard (17 yrs) will start college in the month of June. The needy students are chosen to avail the kind help from sponsors. The range of sponsorship is \$400 - \$2,000 per college year.
2. The second type of sponsors who come forward to help any students in need for a particular time. This is not time bound. They just share some amount for the welfare of a needy student. There are many students who could not afford to pay for their uniform, notebooks, school needs even though the amount required is less than \$50 to \$100 per year.

Lucky Dozen works at the grassroots level touching a specific deserving girl student (boys also) to provide hope for a better future through education. A life can be change with relatively tiny amount of financial help from all of us. The first Lucky Dozen in 2008, helped eight poor deserving girls to do college level studies. They now have jobs and some are married and are able to help their family financially. Lucky Dozen, now going on nine years, has touched over 200 students. Amazing. Most of the girls do not pursue college education because of financial restraints. This also results in early marriage.

Lucky Dozen was successful in doing a special project this year. Sr. Mary Therese presented a need to have the marginalized elementary students that come a long distance to school by walk up and down hills to be transported by bus to encourage them to go to school and arrive safely. Enough sponsor interest was generated to purchase a new 20 plus passenger bus (Swaraj Mazda Limited) good for hill travel. Amazing. The funding needed came in.

Lucky Dozen is operated with no overhead costs. Sr. Mary Therese gives of her time to coordinate with the needy students on the ground in Tamil Nadu. George Nepert gives of his time on the state side to collect from the sponsors , send IRS tax deduction receipt, and electronically transfer funds to Lucky Dozen account in Tamil Nadu.

Sponsorship donation can be sent anytime. The bulk of donations are collected in March – June. Donation check payable to : Friends of India . Under memo write Lucky Dozen. FOI is a non profit 501(C)(3) and its tax ID number is 52-1496391. Mailing address: George Nepert, FOI treasurer. 34915 Gordy Road, Laurel, DE 19956.

Lucky Dozen Photos



Photos

1. Sr. Mary Therese (Coordinator – Lucky Dozen) with a thankful heart for the primary children's new school bus purchased by Lucky Dozen sponsors.
2. Closeup of school bus.
3. School bus
4. Primary children on bus
5. Primary school children benefiting from the school bus
6. The first Lucky Dozen student, 2008. Asha Geona now has her Bachelor's Nursing degree and pursuing her Masters in psychology.

Photos of the First 100 Lucky Dozen Students



Students from 2008 to 2016

Year	No. of Students Admitted to Sponsorship	Professional Courses		School Education	
		Completed	At study	Completed	At Study
2008	8	8	-	-	-
2012	16	13	-	1	2
2013	39	27	6	2	4
2014	31	2	6	16	7
2015	136	16	12	16	92
2016	5	-	5	-	-
Total	235	66	29	35	105

Report on the Work of The Father Fleming Fund for 2016

All money raised by The Father Fleming Fund goes to the charity in Orissa India called “Vikas Deepti”. Here is an update on the work of Vikas Deepti for 2016:

1. Institution based Rehabilitation (IBR):

We added 8 new disabled children for rehabilitation. We have about 80 total. Cerebral Palsy and Mental Retardation in children is on the increase. Our prime focus continues to be children of 5-14 ages and their holistic growth. We provide physiotherapy, education, tuition, and extracurricular activities such as drawing classes and so on. We try to have as many as possible attend public schools. Here is a photo of handicapped children riding their special hand-powered tricycles to class.



The children celebrate holidays of Christian, Hindu, & Muslim origin such as Vikas Deepti day, Deepawali, Rakhi, Holi, Eid, Christmas etc. These are occasions for exhibiting their talents, sharing their friendliness and cherishing one another’s company and helping them feel that they are part of normal society.

2. Orthoticworkshop: The Orthotic and Prosthetic workshop at Vikas Deepti manufactures various leg and knee braces, hand splints, arm and leg prostheses, crutches, etc. These are distributed to the disabled in the institution, disabled in the villages and leprosy patients. Here’s a photo of kids using our walkers & braces.



3. Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR):

This is an outreach program for raising awareness on disability, health, prevention and care for the disabled. Parents along with the disabled children in villages are taken into our programs. We have programs in 236 villages including: schools for disabled, vocational trades (mobile repairs, dish TV repairs, tailoring, and grocery shops), health awareness programs (For adolescent girls, pregnant women, children, etc), and supply of Aids and Appliances (braces, crutches, etc.).

4. Leprosy patients and their dependents:

It is a great joy that our leprosy patients are much better placed in the society today than in years past. Your care, initiatives and generosity have made their lives a joyful one. We currently are providing educational help, medical attention, housing, care of old age people, and medical clinics to three leper colonies.

Here is a photo of housing we have provided:



And here are leper children in front of the Father Fleming School:



Thank you so much for you continued support of this wonderful work!

Tom Brayak & Gerry Nelson, I-125



HOMES OF HOPE

India

Homes of Hope India-US, a 501(c)3 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.*

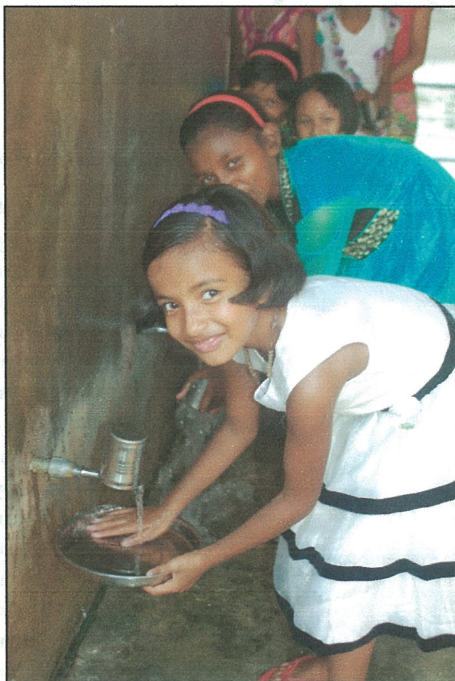


July 27, 2016

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

Dear George and Friends of India,

Thank you so much for your continued support and for the recent, generous donation of \$1,000.00. This will contribute to building our #7 orphanage. Can you believe it—a 7th orphanage? We can only do this with the support of generous friends like you.



To commemorate your gift—and ongoing support over the years—we will add a stone to our Path of Prayers at the 7th Home of Hope in Bangalore. Along both our virtual path (<http://www.homeofhopeindia.org/100stepstohome/>), and the path that leads to the door of our 7th Home of Hope, a stone will read:

**Friends of India
Laurel, Delaware, USA**

YOU are the difference in the lives of our girls. Thanks to your generosity, you are with them, every day. In return, you are in their prayers, 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.*

*Thanks
George - The contribution
for help!*

FOI Charity "Homes of Hope"

SINCE 2012, Friends of India has supported Homes of Hope India, based in Wilmington NC, to rescue, shelter and educate orphaned, neglected and abandoned girls.

FOI has contributed to the building of orphanages --- Homes of Hope has six so far -- as well as providing school supplies, a healthy diet, computers, wells and water purification systems. The orphanages are in Kochi, Secunderabad and Hassan in the South and Kokrajhar, Solabasti and Tangla in the Northeast.

Homes of Hope has a pretty interesting history. In 2006, Paul and Tracy Wilkes of Wilmington visited an orphanage in Kochi, India. The 70 girls there had suffered from abandonment, abuse, malnutrition—but it was six year-old Reena's story that profoundly moved them. Reena had been begging on the streets and was kidnapped (just as the movie "Slumdog Millionaire" portrayed beggar mafia's cruelty to children). Her captors held her down, and, with a darning needle, gouged out her eye—to make her a "better" and more pitiable beggar.

The Wilkes looked down at Reena, a look of horror on their faces. Reena looked back with the most beautiful, trusting smile they had ever seen in their lives. They knew they couldn't just make a donation and move on. They didn't know how they would do it, but they vowed to help create a better life for Reena and her friends. Homes of Hope India was born on that day, with that trusting smile.

FOI found out about Homes of Hope through Jack Slattery of Wilmington, who later went back to India and visited some of the Homes of Hope.

“FOI knows the situation so well,” says Wilkes. “Street girls are brought to us with ragged clothes and sadness in their eyes. Some are as young as three or four and some have lived on the streets their entire lives. For orphan girls and poor children in India, there is only ONE way to escape poverty: education. Girls and young women are especially vulnerable.

“That is why our primary focus is girls and young women, aged 4–21—the poor, orphaned, marginalized, abused, abandoned and victims of sex trafficking. We serve all in need, regardless of religious tradition.

“Our girls are given not only an academic education, but a moral and spiritual education as well. We are forming intelligent, self-sufficient and independent young women, ready to face 21st Century challenges and opportunities—New Women for the New India! And we are so lucky to have the support of FOI.”

Learn more about Homes of Hope at www.homesofhopeindia.org

Monday

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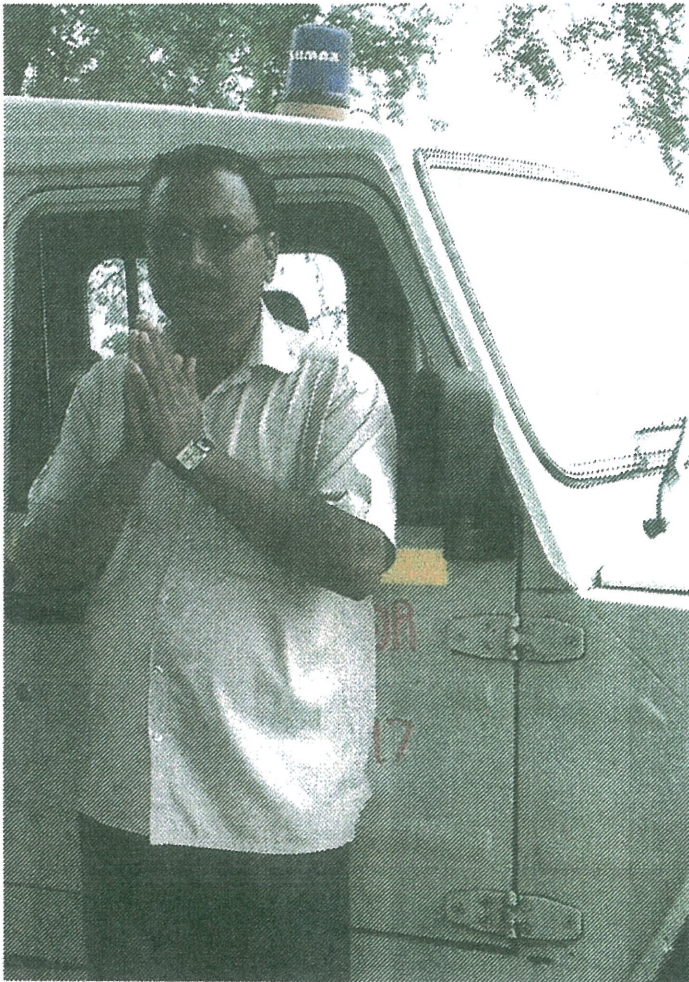
Gnanmithra Jettappa of Sanjeevini Trust honored as a Public Hero of the Year

Monday, August 8, 2016 at 05:17PM

A Indian TV news channel, Public News, that covers all of Karnataka, has selected Gnanmithra Jettappa, Director of our Sanjeevini Trust, as the Public Hero of the year.

At the end, they ask Gnanmithra what his overall purpose was and he responded, "To bring first class medical care to all the district hospitals in Karnataka and make it available to the poor".

Gnanmithra was highly praised by doctors all over the state and people of all castes in Sirwar are feeling proud because Gnanmithra has brought positive fame to Sirwar. Your support over the years has allowed for Gnanmithra's success in helping the poor. He is truly a saint.



2015 Friends of India Charity Donations Report

Friends of India contributors gave **\$43,094** to its five sponsored charities in 2015. 1995 was the beginning of Friends of India charity giving. FOI has contributed a total of \$326,767 to charity work.

Charity #1: Sanjeevini Trust. Founded by Joe Emerson, India 38, is located in Sirwar, Karnataka. It is managed by Gamithra Jettapa promoting AIDs education, preventive health care, free dental & eye clinics, medical treatment cost assistance, promotes ecological agriculture, pre school lunch program, and has an ambulance for remote areas to transport the sick and injured to the hospital in Raichur. FOI has donated a total of \$31,141 since 1995.

Charity #2: Father Fleming Foundation. Founded by PCV's Tom Brayak & Gerry Nelson is helping 3 leper colonies in the Bargarth area of Odisha (Orissa). The goal is to empower the lepers to be self reliant. FFF operates a revolving loan program, a handicap children's training center, water wells and pump program, operates commercial fish ponds, and constructs new leper housing. FOI has donated a total of \$23,345 since 2005.

Charity #3: South Asia Pure Water Initiative (SAPWII). Founded by Mike Lipman, India 89, and Cathy Forsberg. It is managed by Mr. Rama Chandra in Kolar, Karnataka. SAPWII makes low cost home bio-sand filter water systems at \$50 per unit. Which supplies clean, safe drinking water in the family home. The goal is to provide thousands of units supplying a potential 225,000 people with clean drinking water. FOI has donated a total of \$19,149 since 2007.

Charity #4: George's "Lucky Dozen" student sponsorships. Founded by George Nepert, India 26. The goal is to provide opportunities via education for very poor deserving girls, touching a life one girl at a time. Lucky Dozen has now touched over 125 deserving poor girls in school and college level studies. The Lucky Dozen site coordinator is Sister Mary Therese, Head Mistress of Presentation Convent higher secondary school in Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu. 100% of the funds are used for educational needs of the sponsored students. There is no operating cost. FOI has donated \$179,018 since 2008.

Charity #5: Hassan Homes of Hope. Founded by Jack Slattery, India 3, and Paul Wilkes. Located in Hassan, Karnataka, it is a boarding school for 90 girls who come from broken homes with financial problems and unsafe places for young 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 and benches, matriculation fees & uniforms. FOI has donated \$7,756 since 2012.

FOI 2015 Report of Deposits and Expenditures

Income: \$42,991 donations

1,555 NPCA rebates to FOI

Expenses: \$1408 Charity #1

2600 Charity #2

3273 Charity #3

34,285 Charity #4

1528 Charity #5

\$80 NPCA affiliation fee

525 NPCA memberships from FOI

879 newsletter/postage, 800 pieces

100 bank money wire fees

Friends of India Donation Form

Note: all donations received are given directly to the five FOI charities listed. Please note the Treasurer's Report page for details. For specific charity, please check.

Charity #1 Sanjeevini Trust in Sirwar, Karnataka provides medical care, ambulance service, AIDS care, and self help projects.

Charity #2 Father Fleming Foundation in Bargarth, Odisha helps Leper Colonies and self help projects.

Charity #3 Pure Water Initiative in Kolar, Karnataka produces affordable drinking water filter units for needy households.

Charity #4 Lucky Dozen in south India provides education scholarships for bright impoverished girls.

Charity #5 Hassan Home of Hope in Hassan, Karnataka assists very poor orphan girls at the boarding school home, ages 6-16.

FOI Contribution amount: \$ _____ optional () \$35 NPCA dues included

- Mail check payable to FOI
- Mailing address: George Nepert, FOI treasurer, 34915 Gordy Road, Laurel, DE 19956

Your name:

Email address:

PCV India Group Number:

Location: