

FRIENDS OF INDIA NEWSLETTER

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President's Message- September 16, 2017

First some sad news: David Elliott former Peace Corps Director in India died on at home on April 16, 2017 at the age of 87. He was a businessman who joined Peace Corps staff in the 1960s and directed two of the largest Peace Corps programs overseas, first in Nigeria and then in India. Many of us fondly remember him for his encouragement and support of us as Volunteers in the field as well as supporting the growth of Peace Corps projects in India in its early years. His full obituary can be found on the FOI website (<http://ganga633.squarespace.com>)

I have just returned from an India 3 group reunion held in St Paul MN where we received our language, cross-cultural and technical training at the University of Minnesota. Given the age of the group we had a good turnout of about 10 former volunteers and several spouses. We are all in or 70s (or a bit older) and had a wonderful opportunity to reminisce and to plan our next reunion in early 2019 in Puerto Rico where we had received our initial outward-bound training in the early 1960s.

I know other India Peace Corps groups have had similar reunions but would like to encourage those who have not to do so. In a real way it is a wonderful support group.

I would also encourage all India groups, if not done so already, to get your group on the FOI website. If your group is already on a different website, Maureen Nichols (FOI webmaster) can put a link to that site on the FOI India website front page. A few other India groups have already done this. Maureen can be contacted by email at mnichols@austin.rr.com.

With warm regards and good health,

Jack Slattery

Friends of India

Memory Lane

By George Nepert (I-26), editor/treasurer

Friends of India group formed in 1986 with a small group of Peace Corps Volunteers who served in India from 1962-75. The group's initial members were Steve Thompson, Katie Fiskin, Kay Stone, Suzanne Zapasodi, Sylvia Morrison, Reid Melton, Randy Baxter and others. Steve Thompson printed the first FOI Newsletter in 1987. Today, the newsletter is sent electronically via e-mail yearly. Also, FOI has a website: <http://ganga633.squarespace.com>

Friends of India Presidents began with Steve Thompson, then Brian Herson, Ed Willett, Jack Slattery. Treasurer/editor, George Nepert. Data-base, Merele Kinsey.

In 1988, FOI became 501(C)(3) tax exempt status with the IRS.

From 1988 – 2013 Friends of India had annual gatherings to reunite and talk about our India memories as a PCV in the 60's -70's. Now, with "Father Time" catching us, the focus is on FOI's support of five India Charities started by previous India Peace Corps Volunteers. The next to last page of the newsletter will tell about them.

Also, Friends of India has given one time donations to:

1. 2001 Gujarat earthquake disaster relief efforts, CARE \$1,000
2. 2004 Community building project for the poor in Bhavor, Gujarat \$500
3. 2005 Tsunami Relief Efforts to fishing villages on the south India coastline \$11,500
4. 2010 Haiti earthquake relief efforts \$500

From 1995 to 2017 present, over \$400,000 has been donated by FOI for charity work.

FOI Charity “South Asia Pure Water Initiative” (SAPWII) Report

Dear Friends of India,

I have very good news to report to our Friends of India readers and patrons. Your generosity and support from the general fund and from the India 42 volunteer group has recently placed 36 BioSand water filters in the needy village of Anne Katte in the forests of Mysore. Each filter supplies a household of 10 people with potable water for 30 years. Friends of India has given clean water to over 360 families in India over the past generation. Well done Friends of India!

I have read editorials and articles in this Newsletter about our advanced age and potential inability to carry on with our humanitarian efforts in India. Here is more good news. Young people in grammar schools, high schools and colleges are taking up the mantle for community service.

We have been working with several groups who are energized by our cause and have created fundraising projects to raise money for our clean water efforts in India. The Guilford Connecticut Interact Club, a Rotary based youth group, has donated funds each year since 2009, totaling more than \$10,000 to date which has provided clean water to 4 villages in India.

The Hamden High School Interact Club has raised more than \$1,500 in the past year for village water projects. Over the past three years the Notre Dame High School Interact Club in Connecticut has raised more than \$3,000 to support our efforts. Saint Martin De Porres, an inner city grammar school in New Haven Connecticut has raised more than \$1,100 for clean water.

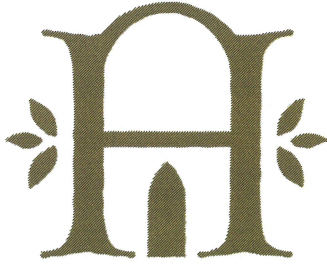
Hamden High School's club of marketing students (DECA) and the School's Interact Club have a goal to raise \$10,000 for SAPWII. They have a very creative social media program called “Pop the Drop” with a tag line “Be a Drop in the Ocean of Change”. They have raised over \$2,500 in the first six weeks of their campaign. You can find them in social media under the tag PoptheDrop.

As you can see, the children today are devoting time and energy to community service projects. We are just one of the charitable organizations that these youth support. As part of their curriculum, students are often required to devote time to community service projects. When I went to school there was no such thing as community service projects built into the curriculum at all.

I feel good about the contribution we have all made to the world, specifically India. I also feel good about our example in serving humanity. Our efforts have inspired the tremendous support we are getting from the youth of America; the good works will continue unabated. We are heartened by the support of these idealistic young people. I can still remember when I was one of them and I bet that you can too!

Thank you for your continued support.

Mike Lipman, President, SAPWII (India 89)



HOMES OF HOPE

India

Homes of Hope India-US, a 501(c)3 registered charity, works in over 40 orphanages, schools, junior colleges and social empowerment centers 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.



FOI Charity #5 : Hassan Homes of Hope

Board of Directors

Miles Daniels
Documentary Film Maker

Robert "Bob" Davis
Business Owner

Jemila Ericson
WHQR FM Host

Jim Fienup
University Professor/Scientist

Glen Gaidos
CEO 3R Technology

Rupa Gronmon
Critical Care Nurse

Brenda Marcoux
Elementary School Teacher

Glenn Marmkessel
General Electric Manager

Pat Marriot
Retired- General Electric

Janice O'Neill
Realty Talent Manager

Vicky Smith
UNCW Instructor/Ceramic Artist

Vince Smith
Retired Dentist

Joseph Tallarico
Retired Unilever Executive

Paul Wilkes
Founder/Executive Director

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

Dear Friends of India,

Thank you for your continued support of Homes of Hope India over the years. Your generosity has helped us to continue our work and to help write the newest chapters in the Homes of Hope story—2nd homes for children orphaned by HIV/AIDS.

Right now we are wrapping up all the building work at our # 6 Home of Hope at Tangla. We are in the middle of building our #7 Home of Hope at Bangalore, the site for the new building is on old vineyard acreage. We are excited for the children to live in the fresh air just outside the ever growing city of Bangalore. We hope to have this building completed by mid to late 2018.

Currently, we are raising funds to break ground our #8 & #9 building projects in Churachanpur, Manipur, and Dimapur, Nagaland India. Each of these projects will be new homes for children orphaned or effected by the HIV/Aids epidemic in their area. Furthermore, we hope to have the details outlining our next two projects, including a house to be built for differently abled children over the coming months.

Friends, thank you for being part of our Home of Hope family. Donors like you have helped to set us firmly on our path to building as many Homes as we can for our girls. Your generosity is an answer to my prayers and the loving prayers of our precious girls in India.

Many thanks,

Paul Wilkes, Founder & Executive Director
Homes of Hope India-US EIN 42-1731241
1413 Hawthorne Road * Wilmington NC 28403
(910) 815-0694 * Email: paulwilkes1234@gmail.com

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

Homes of Hope India Building Projects

H HASSAN

k-10 school

1 KOCHI

orphanage

2 SECUNDERABAD

orphanage

3 MARADIYUR

orphanage, hostel, rural empowerment center

4 SOLABASTI

orphanage, hostel, rural empowerment center

5 KOKRAJHAR

orphanage

6 TANGLA

orphanage, hostel

7 BANGALORE

orphanage

8 IMPHAL

HIV/AIDS Orphanage

9 DIMAPUR

HIV/AIDS Orphanage



...AND SO MUCH MORE...

450,000 BOOKS / 7 PLAYGROUNDS / 6 LANGUAGE LABS / 8 BUSES AND JEEPS / 6 BIOFUEL SYSTEMS
 5 DIESEL-GENERATORS / 20 SMOKELESS STOVES 17 BORE WELLS & STORAGE TANKS / 350 COMPUTERS & LCD
 PROJECTORS / 3 SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER SYSTEMS / 2 COMPLETE MARCHING BANDS & UNIFORMS
 / 10 COWS, WATER BUFFALOES & COW SHEDS / 30 SOLAR-POWERED & CONVENTIONAL WATER PURIFIERS
 / THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN VITAMINS & MEDICINES / THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN MICROLOAN
 FUNDS / HEALTHY DIET FUNDS FOR ALL ORPHANAGES / 40 MEDICAL GRANTS FOR CRITICAL SURGERIES
 COMPLETE DENTAL CLINIC / 650 EDUCATION SPONSORSHIPS/SCHOLARSHIPS / WORKING VISITS BY OVER
 300 VOLUNTEERS CREATED THINKING SCHOOLS ACADEMY & TRAINED 800 TEACHERS / ACHIEVED LEED
 CERTIFICATION: FIRST ORPHANAGE IN THE WORLD TO DO SO

For more information please visit our website:

www.homeofhopeindia.org

You can also follow us on social media:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/homeofhopeindia/

Instagram: [@homesofhopeindia](https://www.instagram.com/homesofhopeindia)

MERCY HOME, CARE CENTRE

Welcome

MISSION STATEMENT
To provide a safe and secure environment for women and children who are victims of violence and to help them rebuild their lives.

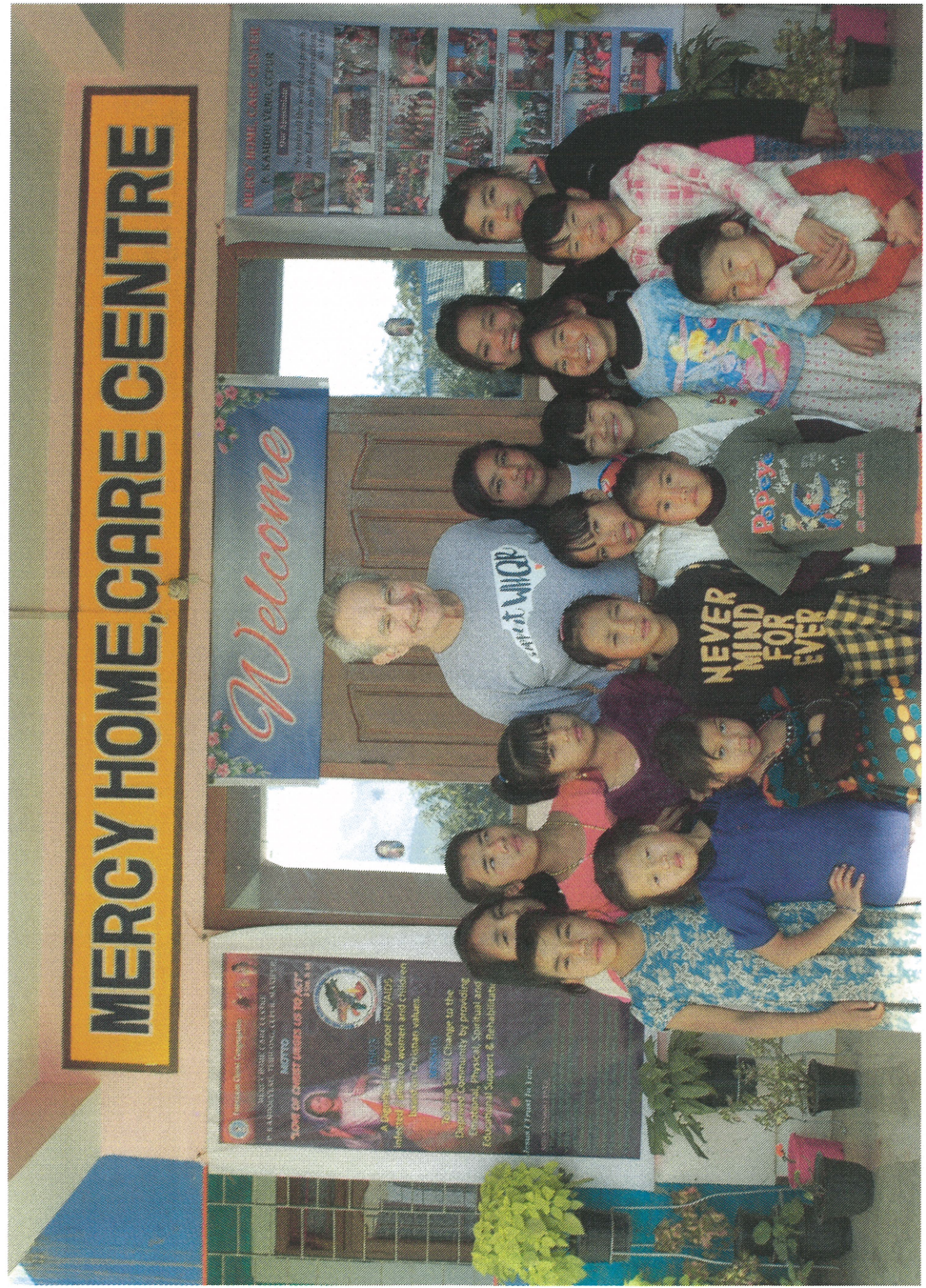
VISION
To be a leading organization in providing support and care to women and children who are victims of violence.

VALUES
Integrity, Respect, Compassion, and Empowerment.

GOALS
To provide a safe and secure environment for women and children who are victims of violence.

OBJECTIVES
To provide a safe and secure environment for women and children who are victims of violence.

MERCY HOME CARE CENTRE
A PLACE OF HOPE AND HEALING
We believe in the power of love and compassion to transform lives. We are committed to providing a safe and secure environment for women and children who are victims of violence.



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.

2016 Friends of India Donations report

George Nepert, FOI treasurer

Friends of India contributors gave **\$44,595** to its five sponsored charities in 2016. The beginning of Friends of India charity giving started in 1995. **The total given since 1995 is \$373,588 to charity work.**

Charity #1: Sanjeevini Trust. Founded by Joe Emerson, India 38 group, is located in Sirwar, Karnataka. Managed by Mr. Gamitra Jettapa, it promotes AIDS education, preventive health care, free dental and eye clinics, medical treatment cost assistance, promotes ecological agriculture, pre school lunch program, AND has an ambulance service to transport the sick and injured to Raichur hospital. FOI has donated a total of **\$32,066** since 1995.

Charity #2: Father Fleming Foundation. Founded by RPCV's Tom Brayak and Gerry Nelson, is located in Bargarth, Odisha (formally Orissa). The goal is to empower the three leper colonies to become self reliant. FFF operates a revolving loan program, has a handicap children's training center, has a water well and pump program, has commercial fish ponds, and constructs new leper housing. FOI has donated a total of **\$24,295** since 2005.

Charity #3: South Asia Pure Water Initiative (SAPWII). Founded by Mike Lipman, India 89, and Cathy Forsberg. It is managed by Mr. RamaChandra in Kolar, Karnataka. SAPWII makes low cost home bio-sand filter water units below \$50. The unit supplies clean, safe drinking water for the family. The goal is to provide thousands of water filter units, supplying a quarter million people with safe drinking water. FOI has donated a total Of **\$21,204** since 2007.

Charity #4: George's Lucky Dozen. Founded by George Nepert, India 26. The goal is to provide educational opportunities for the very poor giving hope for the marginalized students. Lucky Dozen has helped more than 225 students in elementary/high school and in college studies. It is coordinated by Sister Mary Therese, principal of St. Xavier's School in Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu. All money is for the students, Sr. Mary Therese receives no monetary compensation from Lucky Dozen donations. FOI has donated **\$217,658** since 2008.

Charity #5: Hassan Homes of Hope. Founded by Paul Wilkes, India 3, and introduced to FOI by Jack Slattery. Located in Hassan, Karnataka. It is a boarding school for 90 girls, ages 6 to 16, living together and receiving academic opportunities. The girls are from broken homes with financial problems and unsafe places for young girls. The Selesian Sisters of Don Bosco and lay teachers provide education and life skills. The funds go for school supplies, desks and benches, matriculation fees and uniforms. FOI has donated **\$9,481** since 2012.

FOI 2016 Report of Donations and Expenditures

Income: \$45,871 in donations
\$950 in rebates from NPCA

Total Income: \$46,821

Expenses: \$925 Charity #1, \$925 Charity #2 , \$2055 Charity #3, \$38,940 Charity #4, \$1725 Charity #5,
\$140 NPCA memberships from FOI

Total Expenses: \$44,595

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 Bargarh, 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: \$ _____

- 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: