

Friends of India Newsletter
Website: ganga633

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Greetings as the holiday season is upon us. A time of thankfulness and reflection of the bounties we received this year. I am very thankful for the financial support of Friends of India's five charities. FOI Charity giving was started in 1995. An amazing total now of \$458,608 since 1995. I urge you to take a minute and respond the donation form below. Remember, FOI has no overhead, what is given goes directly to your indicated charity.

George Nepert, FOI editor and treasurer

FOI Donation Form

Friends of India is a non profit 501(C)(3) tax deductible

The Five Charities:

1. *Sanjeevini Trust* in Karnataka: medical care, ambulance service, AIDS care, self help projects for the very poor in Raichur District. Founded by RPCV Joe Emerson
2. *Father Fleming Foundation* in Odisha: assistance to three Leper Colonies, self help projects. Founded by RPCV'S Gerald Nelson and Tom Brayak.
3. *Pure Water Initiative* in Karnataka: making affordable house drinking water filter units for the needy. Founded by PRCV'S Michael Lipman and Cathy Forsberg.
4. *George's Lucky Dozen* in Tamil Nadu: education sponsorships for deserving poor children and young people. Founded by RPCV George Nepert.
5. *Homes of Hope* in Karnataka: assist very poor orphan girls attending boarding school, ages 6-16. Founded by RPCV Paul Wilkes.

Contribute by check, payable: Friends of India
Memo: your charity preference
Address: George Nepert, FOI treas.
34915 Gordy Road
Laurel, DE 19956

2018 Friends of India Treasurer's Report and Sponsored Charities Report

FOI donors gave \$37,711 to its five sponsored charities in 2018. FOI has zero overhead expense. FOI charity giving started in 1995 and has now reached \$458,608 to charity work.

Charity #1: Sanjeevini Trust. Founded by Joe Emerson, PCV India 38. Located in Sirwar, Karnataka and managed by Mr. Gamitra Jettapa. It provides medical treatment for the poor, free eye and dental clinics, preventive health screenings and education on cancer, heart disease and diabetes, tailoring classes, group marriages for the poor. Runs a free ambulance service to transport the sick and injured. FOI has donated \$33,666 since 1995.

Charity #2: Father Fleming Foundation. Founded by PCV's Tom Brayak and Gerry Nelson. Located in Bargarth, Odisha. Sponsors three Leper colonies to become self reliant. Operates a revolving loan program, a handicap children's training center, a water well and pump program, commercial fish ponds, and constructs new housing. FOI has donated \$28,395 since 2005.

Charity #3: South Asia Pure Water Initiative (SAPWII). Founded by Mike Lipman, PCV India 89, and Cathy Forsberg. Located in Kolar, Karnataka and managed by Ramachandra. It makes low cost home bio-sand filter water units and supplies a quarter million people with clean, safe drinking water for the families. FOI has donated \$22,854 since 2007.

Charity #4: George's Lucky Dozen. Founded by George Nepert, PCV India 26. Located Chennai, Tamil Nadu and managed by Sister Mary Therese of Presentation Convent. It provides educational opportunities for marginalized very poor students. Lucky Dozen has helped nearly 300 in elementary/high school and in college degree studies. All donations go directly for the student educational needs. FOI has donated \$291,352 since 2008.

Charity #5: Homes of Hope. Founded by Paul Wilkes, PCV India 3. It has several homes throughout India and the newest Home of Hope in Bangalore, Karnataka. It is a boarding school for hundreds of girls, ages 6 to 16, living together and receiving academic opportunities. The girls are from broken homes and unsafe places for young girls, The Selesian Sisters of Don Bosco and lay teachers provide education and life skills. The donations go for school supplies, desks and benches, matriculation fees and uniforms. FOI has donated \$12,957 since 2012.

FOI 2018 Report of Donations and Expenditures

Donations: \$39,102

Expenditures: \$37,711 (#1 charity \$550, #2 charity \$550, #3 charity \$550, #4 charity \$35,211, #5 charity \$850)

George Nepert, FOI treasurer

A Visit to see Lucky Dozen students in Tamil Nadu by George Nepert

October 9-28th, 2019

Brenda and I took a flight from Dulles airport to Frankfurt to Chennai on the 9th Oct. with the purpose of seeing as many Lucky Dozen students as possible in a short time. Of the more than 300 LD students helped since 2008, we managed to see around 90 students. Sr. Mary Therese accompanied us which made the trip so pleasant.

The trip was fantastic! Our hearts were warmed by the LD students happy faces to see us. Really, it is a very humbling experience for us to witness the deep gratitude of the students for sponsorship help (thank you sponsors!). Without all 42 LD sponsors, it would not be as successful as it is today. Thank you.

A big thank you to all the Presentation Convents we stayed in for lodging and meals. The Presentation Sister's kindness to us was overwhelming. We are all God's instruments to help those in need the most, but the Sisters show God's love to the needy every day. I'm so very thankful that Lucky Dozen works through these Sisters, assuring that all the sponsored money goes entirely for the LD students.

Sr. Mary Therese has been managing Lucky Dozen in Tamil Nadu since its beginning in 2008. I will miss her, because of November 17th she will be going to Dominica (in the Caribbean) to do Presentation Sisters missions. We wish her all the best in her new assignment. Sr. Mary Therese is such a great person. Sr. Mary Therese has provided transition for LD management in Tamil Nadu with three Sisters: Sr. Bindhu, Sr. Margot and Sr. Shanta. I've personally met with two of them and I have 100% confidence in the three of them.

Just a note about Lucky Dozen DAF goal of reaching 25K by December 31st, \$20,000 has been received at this point and more is coming in. This will provide continuity of LD after our time here is over.

As you view the pics, notice the last page where you see me with two deaf boys. They need help. They are in Madurai, Leonard school for hearing impaired. The cost for each boy is \$250/year...full care (food, lodging, tuition fees). I said to Sr. Mary, the school principle, that I will find a donor or donors for these two boys. Please send me an email: gnepert@hotmail.com.

Explanation of numbered pictures

- 1. Asha (the 1st Lucky Dozen student for nursing in 2008). Now married, 4 month son, she now has her BSN, MSN. Sponsored by George and Brenda**
- 2. Mano (foreground) now has her BSN and working. Starting to do her Masters. Sponsored by Dale. Nisha (in the middle) is now a nurse working in Madurai.**

- Sponsored by John G. L to R.: Sr.Bindhu (replacement for Sr. Mary Therese), Brenda, George, Sr. Mary Therese
3. Nandhini. Has her BSN, working as a nurse. Sponsored by Jerrell. Murugeswari, working as a teacher in Coimbatore. Anitha is a nurse. Sponsored by Tom Roshke. Anija is in 4th year of nursing school for BSN. Sponsored by Tom Roschke
 4. Sr. Cecilia. Presentation sister in Chennai who takes care of the LD financial bookkeeping.
 5. Sponsored LD school students in Kodaikanal. Sponsored by Matt
 6. Jansi. Nurse in Madurai. Sponsored by Matt. P. Latha has a B. ED., teaching in Madurai. Sponsored by Matt.
 7. Sneka "Catherine". First year B. Com.
 8. Abi Juliet, first yr nursing student at Dindigul. Sponsored by Jerrell. Victoria, nurse in Dindigul, she now totally supports another LD student! Sponsored by Judy. P. Divya, nurse in Dindigul. Sponsored by Claudia, Dhanalakshmi, nurse in Dindigul. Sponsored by Matt. Sneka, B.Com.
 9. LD student dancers
 10. Praveena & Sangeetha, ITI 1st yr, computer course. Sponsored by Michele
 11. LD school bus, Purchased in 2016. Makes 6 runs/day (three times in am & 3 times in pm. Bought by sponsors.
 12. Fravith, degree in Fire and Safety. Works in Qatar & U.A.E. Sponsored by Matt.
 13. Radhika, 3rd yr. in Leonard Nursing School in Batlagundu. Sponsored by Roger's Group. Gowri, 1st in her class, 3rd yr. at Leonard Nursing School. Sponsored by Roger's Group. Jenitha Mary, nurse at Leonard Hospital in Batlagundu. Sponsored by Roger's Group.
 14. Ramya. She is doing a one year computer and video editing course in Trichy. She is from near Chennai. Sponsored by John G.
 15. Jenitha Mary, nurse.
 16. Radhika, nursing student
 17. B. Snega, is in her second year of four years Agriculture degree. She is from Theni. Her place of study is near Trichy. Sponsored by Dale.
 18. Gowri, nursing student
 19. Joseph Celine, who completed her nursing B.Sc. near Dindigul and now working as a nurse in Trichy. Sponsored by John G.
 20. Mano, nurse in Pondicherry. Sponsored by Dale
 21. Fravith
 22. Meena, 1st yr. student in Rural Development Science. Sponsored by Susan
 23. Anandhi, 3rd yr. B.Sc. nursing. No Parents. Sponsored by Roger's Group
 24. Leonard School for the Hearing Impaired in Madurai – 90 students.
 25. Samayan and Kannan are deaf children at this school and both need a sponsor at \$250/yr./student, all inclusive: board, lodging, tuition fees, clothing. If you can provide sponsorship, send me an email: gneperth@hotmail.com
 26. Mano (nurse), Monica, Rakshtha and Aaron, the three deaf children sponsored by Matt













Notes:

No real news has come to me this year to insert in the FOI annual newsletter. Any late items can be mentioned on FOI website. Contact me and I'll send it to Maureen our webmaster.

Interest item from Tom Carter: "I'm writing to mention a book. *The Adventures of Shetan and Ram*, written by John Chardavoyne, an India 107 volunteer. John wrote the book as lessons for a volunteer English class he teaches annually in Jaipur. Each lesson (now chapter) is a lesson that is grounded in adventures in different parts of the world. The stories are entertaining, funny. And for students, a window into the world. Even though it was written for students, I enjoyed all the stories."