

Revathi's story

Revathi entered the Bapatla home in 2000, the older of two children of a widowed mother, who worked as a coolie. The three lived in a simple, one-roomed, thatched hut. Sympathetic and hard-working, Revathi secured a place at university to study pharmacy, from which she graduated in 2015.



Revathi in 2005



Revathi today

During her studies, which CHIT supported, Revathi gave English lessons to raise additional cash for her mother and brother.

2015 Reunion

In January 2015, we staged a reunion for former students. As well as those mentioned, we had nurses, a post-man, a fabric dye operator, a computer manager for a motorcycle dealership, teachers, and a few still in training including one studying at the Lutheran seminary in Chennai. Some had



found marriage: so important in the Indian culture. It was an excellent snapshot of the impact CHIT is making to otherwise unpromising futures.

Small is beautiful

A small charity like CHIT can keep things personal, keep in touch with its supporters, and keep expenses low. The homes in India are equipped with broadband, so it is easy to receive immediate updates, as when the 2014 storms damaged some buildings. We send out three newsletters a year. All the money you give goes to India: the office is run by volunteers. Effective governance is achieved through an annual visit by the CHIT trustees to India, staying in the Bapatla home and working closely with the Indian management.

We happily take benefactors with us to India and would welcome anyone seeking to develop a closer relationship with the project with a view to helping us raise awareness and support.

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India has made much peaceful progress since CHIT started in 2005, but according to the World Bank is still home to one third of the world's poorest people. In 2014 the UN reported 1.4 million children in India die before the age of 5. CHIT seeks to bring compassionate care to some of the most disadvantaged by providing care and education in the name of Jesus Christ to 250 children in Andhra Pradesh.

Our base in India is in Bapatla, Andhra Pradesh, the location of the larger of our homes, and the all-age high school the children attend. The other home is in the village of Nidamaru.



Loving care

All the children in the homes are from very poor families, unable to cope, and about 25% are “complete orphans”, who without our help are left to fend for themselves on the streets. In many cases there is only one parent, often in ill health, and struggling to bring up a family. Some of the children have lost parents to HIV/AIDS. Where screening shows children to be carrying the virus, different strategies are used depending on circumstances: with a view to full integration in the homes in future.

Care is given by a home staff of 20, led by Director Rani, Assistant Director Benji and Wardens Bhagyamma (Bapatla) and Shoba (Nidamaru). Safety and security, a balanced diet and clean water are the first essentials provided. Medical care (staff include a full-time nurse), personal encouragement, and development of social skills are also important elements of home life.



Rani



Benji



Bhagyamma



Shoba

Opportunity

CHIT sees education as the key to breaking the cycle of poverty, and as far as resources permit, encourages all children to reach their potential. It starts in primary and secondary school, where the opportunity to learn in English has greatly widened the horizons of the more able children. CHIT has supported this and other improvements in education, partly with resources, and partly with advice and the support of volunteers from the UK.



Over the last 5 years, CHIT has consistently maintained 80 children in vocational, further and higher education. The life stories summarised below show the impact that the comprehensive support they have received from a young age is giving opportunities beyond their dreams. The stories are not exceptional.

Henna's Story

Henna was three years old when she was found crawling on the beach with severe burns on her body. The hospital doubted she

would survive and refused to accept her. For 3 months she was nursed at the home, and has been in our care since then. Now with a good command of English, in 2015 she completed an MSc in chemistry and started training as a high school teacher.



Jagan's Story



In 2002, Jagan was brought into the Bapatla home. His parents, both coolies, had two other children. Times were hard and Jagan would normally have been helping his parents make ends meet, but

they saw a different life for him. Taken into the home, he did well at school, and went on to college. He briefly lost his way, but recognised it and secured an apprenticeship as a film animator. At 24 he is on the payroll of a major Indian film-maker, and it was especially nice to hear that he gave his first month's pay to the home in recognition.

