

February 2016

THE MIRACLE FOUNDATION

Empowering Orphans to Reach Their Full Potential

message from Caroline

Dear friends,

Can you believe it is 2016? Where does the time go? It seems like yesterday I was wondering how on earth I was going to truly make a difference for children without parents. Today, 15 years later, those children have YOU! Together, we are bringing life-changing care to the world's orphans, starting in India. We focus on strengthening existing institutions and giving purposeful employment to local people in need of work. We transform institutional orphanages into homes, train displaced women to become cherished mothers and fund scholarships for education. Our goal is to have each orphan become a healthy, happy, income-producing person—and break out of the cycle of poverty. And, it's working!

The miracles we created together in 2015 are too many to list, but here are a few:

- We gave almost 1,000 children the ability to reach their full potential
- We added 8 more orphanages — full of angels — to our Miracle family
- We began hosting workshops for orphanages that need our help and trainings, but don't meet our rigorous standards for support
- We supported 37 more children entering higher education

I'm in India now, and I'll be here for two months. I'll get to spend time with the children, and I've got a group coming over from the US to visit the kids with me. But mostly, I'm here to launch fundraising in India. I'm here to find dedicated people who want to step into their greatness. I'll need some luck, prayers and some contacts, so if you have any of those, send them my way.

2016 is set to be our best year yet. We're set to take on 8 more homes and support 24 by the end of the year. We're also partnering with the Government of Maharashtra to get to some of the neediest children, and we're helping more orphanages than ever raise their standards of care. Our new website and video tell you all about it, so check that out when you can... www.MiracleFoundation.org.

I always say that we're appropriately named. Together, we can continue to be the miracle that each of these children hopes for; we're everything they need.

Let's go help some more orphans, shall we? It is going to be a great year.

Caroline Baudouin



*Photos taken at Aarambh Children's Home
by James and Jackie Reed*

Important Dates

Summer Internship Application Deadline

March 21, 2016

*Help us create miracles for orphans
by volunteering your time.*

Ambassador Trip

July 20-29, 2016

*Experience the miraculous work we
do at Aarambh Children's Home.*

www.MiracleFoundation.org

India Leadership ORPHANAGE UPDATE in Austin

At the beginning of each year, our Board and staff come together to form our annual strategy. This year, the three leaders of our India team joined us for 10 days in Austin.

While our India team was here, we hosted an intimate open house. And we wanted to give those of you outside of Austin (and Austinites who couldn't make it) a chance to get to know the incredible heroes working on the ground for the children.

Nivedita DasGupta, India Country Head

"I love to be in the driver's seat and lead the India team. My favorite thing about my job is helping Caroline and Elizabeth build the organization in India, for a cause very close to my heart."



Sandhya Mishra, Senior Program Manager

"The best part of my job is getting to help people deal with their problems. I love the collaboration the Miracle team in India has.

Together, we celebrate our wins, and strategize on our challenges. It's great to see all this work make a difference to the children.



Somnath Dutta, Senior Finance Manager

"The most fulfilling part of my job is the happiness we provide to the kids. To bring smiles to their faces makes me feel good about myself and encourages me to do even more for their well-being."



Cornerstone Moves into Partnership!

Isaac, leader of Cornerstone, has a unique perspective when it comes to running his home. That's because Isaac himself has no parents and was raised in an orphanage.



Because of his experiences there, Isaac understands how important it is to provide a stable, loving, nurturing environment to children, as well as focus on education. In 2005, Isaac founded Cornerstone orphanage with a mission to give children without parents the kind of childhood he was denied. He and his wife started with only five children. Today, Cornerstone is home to 81 sweet, fun-loving, smart kids!

The Hard Work of Transformation

Miracle Foundation began supporting Cornerstone just over two years ago. While Cornerstone was doing a good job educating their kids, they needed help with the fundamentals: Providing consistent nutritious meals, healthcare, training staff and keeping excellent records. With our guidance and encouragement, Isaac and his team have done an amazing job of creating the family that Isaac dreamed of.

Cornerstone has achieved 90% toward providing the children with all of their rights, which means they have the ability to reach their full potential. Congratulations to Isaac and the rest of the staff and children at Cornerstone. You are why we exist!



Lots of fun and smiles while the India leadership was here.





L to R: St. Michael's students dressed in Indian garb; The boys at Dreamland love their new colorful walls; Zoe with two sweet girls at HMM.

Ambassador Journal: Zoe Littlepage & Jordan Littlepage Penchas

Ambassador (n): A diplomat of the highest rank who has the authority to speak and act on someone else's behalf.

Zoe and her son Jordan have traveled with us to India twice: For the first time in March 2015 and again just last month in January 2016. Below are brief journals from mom and son, describing their favorite moments from their recent trip to HMM and Dreamland orphanages.



For the month of January, some schools suspend regular classes and encourage a project or service-based curriculum. In 2016, the Miracle Foundation partnered with Austin's St. Michael's Catholic Academy and arranged for a group of students to travel to India and volunteer at two Miracle Foundation orphanages for several weeks.

Zoe says: "Our trip in January 2016 was my second time taking a group of teens to volunteer at Miracle Foundation orphanages. So many American teens crave the opportunity to be of service, and the teens I've taken to India have all come home feeling fulfilled and confident they made a difference."

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On this recent trip, the girls at HMM orphanage worked side-by-side with American teens, painting and decorating their walls to make them more colorful and child-friendly. What could be a better way to demonstrate global citizenship & comradery?

Before our trip, we bought several used laptops and loaded them with English language learning programs. The kids were so excited when we brought the computers to their home! A group of 5-10 kids would crowd around each laptop, conferring and discussing (as a team) the best answer for every question. This team effort generated results above 90% on each round. Smart kids! We left the computers with the kids and hope they will continue to use them to improve their English."

Jordan says: "In the second half of our trip, we visited Dreamland orphanage, which is so remote that we had to live at the orphanage with the kids. It was great. We even got to dress up in traditional Indian clothes for a ceremony. The kids really liked seeing us immersing ourselves into their culture."

You and your family can join us for a life-changing trip to India this July! Before back-to-school season, journey together to meet the family at Aarambh orphanage. Email Heather at Heather@MiracleFoundation.org to learn more today.



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Welcome to our newest Board member, Jessica Jackley!

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Meet New Board Member Jessica Jackley

We are thrilled to welcome Jessica Jackley to our Board! Jessica was a pioneer in the field of microloans and is best known for co-founding Kiva, an organization that allows people to lend money to low-income entrepreneurs. Jessica's passion for children, social justice and social innovation make her an ideal addition to our incredible Board. Welcome Jessica!



You can help other children make it to college. A monthly donation of \$100 gives a child a quality education and everything they need to break out of the cycle of poverty.

Empower an orphan today! Sign up at Give.MiracleFoundation.org/YouRock or email Heather@MiracleFoundation.org for more information.

Bhurelal: Off to College

Meet Bhurelal, a 19-year-old college student from Sparc orphanage. Bhurelal is one of the many orphans who have made it into college, and he's well on his way to being an independent adult!

Bhurelal has called Sparc home for 13 years. As one of the oldest boys at the orphanage, he is a great role model for the younger children at the home. Bhurelal is helpful to his housemother, studies hard and plays games like soccer and cricket with the younger boys. (He even lets them win sometimes!)

Last year, Bhurelal received career counselling to discuss his academic interests and career goals. When asked what he wanted to study in college, here's what he said:

"I'd like to study social work. Getting a Master's in Social Work will help me learn how to give back to my community and help young children who have no one else."

Bhurelal is now studying social work at a college near Sparc. He says his classes are difficult sometimes, but he is motivated to work hard and learn a lot so he can be a great social worker upon graduation. We are so proud of Bhurelal for his commitment to making his community and the world a better place!