



MIRACLE FOUNDATION

Bringing life-changing care
TO THE WORLD'S ORPHANS

www.MiracleFoundation.org



MAY 2016 NEWSLETTER

Letter from the Founder



You don't know what you've got until it's gone. It's one of those sayings that I used to toss around without ever letting it sink in. But not anymore. After spending time in orphanages, this saying now penetrates me to the core and makes me sad and grateful. I can't help but think about the loss these children have suffered. No mother, no father, often no grandparents.

How different would my life be, had I not had these key people? Who would I be without them? Who would they be without me?

The kids we support grieve the loss of their parents every day. Some say they feel guilty because their mother died in childbirth, and they feel like they killed her. Some wonder aloud what they did to deserve this awful fate. Some are so hurt they can't communicate their pain, and they withdraw or refuse to eat or talk. The loss they have experienced is tragic and incomprehensible. Sometimes my heart feels heavy to know their stories. It's hard to think about the pain and loss they feel.

I like to bring you optimistic, uplifting stories and tell you how well things are going in the orphanages – because they are. But every once in a while, it's important to let you know that behind the beautiful smiles and happy faces, there is an ineffable loss in each child we support. Not one of them is where they are without some trauma or tragedy. Every single one of them has a story of loss, sadness, and grief.

The food, education, clothes, beds, and clean water we provide are important. These things bring them life, security, and dignity. **But it is the stable, loving, nurturing housemothers and social workers who provide the powerful ear of listening and soothing voice of understanding that heals them.**

This Mother's Day, be grateful if you have a mom or mom-like figure. Appreciate your grandmother for passing on important lessons about how to love, listen, and care. And consider supporting a (house)mother for orphaned children in honor of the moms in your life, so she can love children the way we all want to be loved.

Thank you for being willing to feel for them,

Charlene Boudreau

Learn more at MiracleFoundation.org/mothers.



Meet (House)mother Selvi

Selvi is one of the incredible housemothers caring for the children at Anbarasi orphanage. This Mother's Day, we're celebrating Selvi and all the moms at the homes we support.

Selvi is 38 years old and used to work as a salesperson near Anbarasi. Before joining as a housemother, Selvi felt like she and her children had been orphaned by the community. This sentiment made her extremely empathetic to orphans, and she decided to commit her life to helping care for and love orphans.

Since 2014, Selvi has been 'Ma' to 14 girls and 5 boys.

Selvi takes pride in the fact that her family gets along well. The older girls and boys are loving toward the littles ones, helping them get washed and with their homework.

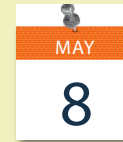
Selvi says, "Children should be allowed to be children. Sometimes they are messy and mischievous and silly, and that is OK. Loving children unconditionally and guiding them as they grow up is a mother's calling and the best feeling in the world."

This Mother's Day, honor your mom by helping us fund Selvi and all the housemothers who provide the children secure, stable, loving childhoods. Make a donation in your mom's name. You'll receive a special Mother's Day certificate for your honoree and a profile of a housemother like Selvi.

Visit MiracleFoundation.org/mothers to honor a mom today!



Mark your calendar
with these
**IMPORTANT
DATES**



NOW-MAY 8, 2016

**Mother's Day
Campaign**

Give Mom a gift that will really touch her heart.

Learn more at

MiracleFoundation.org/mothers.



JULY 20-30, 2016

**Ambassador
Trip**

Experience the miraculous work we do at Aarambh orphanage in India.

Email Heather@MiracleFoundation.org to secure your spot today!



Orphanage
LOCATIONS



Meet **Miracle Maker**, Amy Brees

Amy is a long-time sponsor and Ambassador for the Miracle Foundation. She is a pillar of the organization. Amy and her husband Chip met Founder Caroline Boudreaux in 2006 and have been incredible supporters since, even inviting their friends and family to join in making miracles for orphans.

I never had any desire to go to India. It just wasn't on my list of places I wanted to travel. But I believe that God put Caroline in my life for a reason. My first Ambassador trip to India with the Miracle Foundation in March of 2010 was one of the best experiences of my life. Now, I've been to India three times and will be taking my fourth trip this July.

My husband Chip and I met Caroline at a birthday party in 2006. I can still picture our first interaction vividly. Caroline had set up a display with pictures of Indian orphans, so Chip and I went over to check it out. Caroline talked to us about what the Miracle Foundation does and then asked us to become sponsors.

I was skeptical at first, but after talking to Caroline more and more, we agreed. It was obvious that if anyone here in Austin could ensure orphaned children in India all of their rights, it was Caroline. Her passion and commitment to the children was incredible... and contagious!

Over the years, Caroline – who quickly became one of our close friends – kept telling me that I needed to go to India to see the impact of our sponsorship first-hand. I remained unconvinced.

But then, one Wednesday evening a couple of years later, I had Caroline come speak at my church about the work the Miracle Foundation was doing. As she spoke, I was overcome with a very strong feeling that I needed to go.

In March of 2010, I embarked on a trip that would change my life forever. I met a young girl named Alsama, and I instantly fell in love with her. She stole my heart.

The housemothers at Alsama's home worked so hard, and she was a leader and big help to them.

I saw so much love and happiness at the home, even though, to my American eyes, it looked like they had so little. During that first trip to India, I learned so much about happiness. These kids had next to nothing, and yet they were the happiest people I had ever met. They taught me a lot about gratitude. Since that first trip to India, I try to not take anything for granted.

Every time I start to complain about anything, I think back to Alsama and her home. Thinking about her makes my heart feel happy and full and puts everything in perspective.

I can't wait to go to India this July, meet the children at Cornerstone orphanage, and be with the amazing housemothers who make that orphanage a home.

Want to visit the kids in July? There are still limited spots available. Call or email Heather today at [512.329.8635](tel:512.329.8635) or Heather@MiracleFoundation.org to secure your spot!



Thank you to our new sponsors!

Karen Carney
Rakesh Bhalla
Ronald Artiles
Dr. James Stubbs
Buck Drew
Moo Kaskel
Mother Huggers
Caroline Brooks
Rupal Patel



1506 West Sixth Street, Austin TX 78703
512.329.8635 • Info@MiracleFoundation.org
www.MiracleFoundation.org

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A Meaningful Mother's Day Gift

This Mother's Day, give your mom a gift that will really touch her heart. Honor your mother by providing the love & care of a mom to children who don't have one. Make a donation in her honor to ensure stable, happy childhoods for orphaned children. Your gift will help fund all of the loving (house)mothers at our orphanages.

You'll receive a special Mother's Day certificate to share with your honoree, along with a profile of one of the amazing, selfless housemothers you are helping fund.

Each housemother at a Miracle Foundation orphanage acts as mom to the 20 orphaned children in her care, creating an environment in which they can truly thrive. These incredible women raise the boys & girls we support into smart, strong, compassionate, independent men & women.

Making a Mother's Day donation in honor of mom will engage both of you in the lives of less fortunate children. It will be her favorite Mother's Day gift ever.

Go to MiracleFoundation.org/mothers today to make your tax-deductible Mother's Day donation in support of the amazing housemothers who make miracles happen for their children every day.



Photos by Ambassador Lynne Dobson