



# MIRACLE FOUNDATION

*Bringing life-changing care  
TO THE WORLD'S ORPHANS*

[www.MiracleFoundation.org](http://www.MiracleFoundation.org)



AUGUST 2016 NEWSLETTER

*Photo by Ambassador Lynne Dobson*

## Letter from the Founder



They're in college. Can you believe it? Orphaned children attending and thriving in universities throughout India. The children who are lucky enough to get the support of people like you get everything they need to enjoy a childhood and become independent, successful adults.

Meera, a young lady at Anbarasi orphanage, told me she used to only think about her stomach. Being hungry every day consumed her thoughts and her energy. Once your donations were used to provide her with delicious, nutritious meals, her thoughts and attention immediately went to her studies. Today, she's in college studying to be a Social Worker so she can give back to kids like herself.

Some kids dream about going to Harvard, Yale or Oxford. Orphans dream about going to elementary school.

Supporting over 50 higher education scholarship recipients is a huge success for us. Each of the scholarship recipients fills out an application, with information about the school they want to attend and their future academic, professional and personal goals. Then, they keep us informed of their grades throughout the year. Their applications are inspiring, and their hopes for their futures are boundless. These kids want to have a good life and they're willing to work for it.

Generous people ask me every day, "How can I help?" Well, here it is folks: The most powerful way to help these children is to make a long-term commitment to them. A monthly donation from you means we can plan and budget and know how many kids like Meera we can say YES to. Knowing that your donation is going to come in every month is a game changer for us.

Here is how you can make a difference:

**\$500/month:** Provides healthcare for 100 children

**\$250/month:** Funds English lessons for 50 kids

**\$100/month:** Provides college tuition, room and board

**\$50/month:** Gives a loving housemother to 20 orphans

**\$25/month:** Gives food certainty to a child

If you're donating monthly or annually already, THANK YOU! If you think you can stretch and do a little more, I'd love for you to consider that. If you're not yet supporting us monthly, please think about doing so either online at [Give.MiracleFoundation.org/YouRock](http://Give.MiracleFoundation.org/YouRock) or in the envelope provided. You can make miracles for an orphaned child who truly needs one.

*Carolee Bandrup*



## Orphanage Update

This month, we are celebrating Cornerstone orphanage, which has graduated to become a **Partner Home**. This happens when an orphanage reaches and maintains 90%+ on the Miracle Foundation progress tracker, which measures how well a home is providing the children their rights. We are so proud of Cornerstone and its dedicated leader, Isaac!

Miracle Foundation Program Coordinator Christina, who visits Cornerstone every month to provide mentoring and support, sat down with Isaac, who was raised in a sub-standard orphanage and decided to create a loving home for orphans, to discuss what this amazing achievement means to him and the children.

**Christina:** How has your life changed since Miracle Foundation began working with Cornerstone?

**Isaac:** Wow, there has been a lot of change. The living conditions are so much better for the children. Their health has improved so much and they are going to much better schools. It's fun to have Cornerstone be admired by the community. Cornerstone is now known as the best home in the district. We're #1, and that feels so good!

**Christina:** What changes have you seen in the children at your home?

**Isaac:** The children have started to enjoy their lives. They have a real childhood now. I've seen family bonds develop as the housemothers take better and better care of "their" children.

**Christina:** What is the area where your home has improved the most?

**Isaac:** Education has dramatically improved. The tutors you provide are so helpful and loving to the children.

**Christina:** What is your dream for the children at your home?

**Isaac:** My dream is for all of the children to achieve their dreams and secure good jobs. With Miracle Foundation's support, Cornerstone will continue to help orphans reach their full potential.

Congratulations to Isaac and Cornerstone for this incredible achievement!



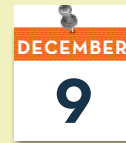
Mark your calendar  
with these  
**IMPORTANT  
DATES**



**OCTOBER 3-5, 2016**

International  
Alternative Care  
Conference

Miracle Foundation is sending three team members to Geneva for this conference that brings together professionals from around the world working to ensure the needs of children without parental care are addressed. Contact us if you're interested in learning more or attending the conference!



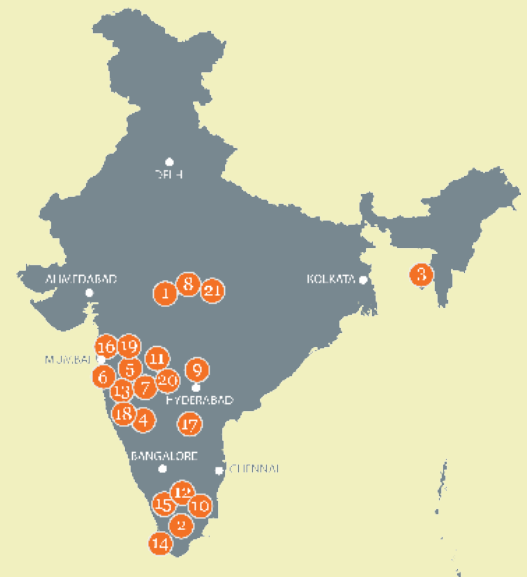
**DECEMBER 9, 2016**

Holiday Open House

Save the date for our annual Holiday Open House at our Austin office. As always, there will be food, drinks, fun, and plenty of holiday cheer for you & your little ones.



Orphanage  
**LOCATIONS**



# Meet **Miracle Maker**, Leslie Canter

*Leslie Canter is a long-time friend and Ambassador to the Miracle Foundation. In 2011, she traveled to India with her family to meet the children at Bethel orphanage. Today, Leslie continues to share her experience with friends and family, encouraging them to get involved and create their own miracles for orphans.*



One of the greatest gifts my parents have given me is the opportunity to give of myself.

In 2011, my mom, brother, baby sister and I ventured outside of traditional tourist zones to visit one of the Miracle Foundation's orphanages. A few hours outside of Chennai, the roads turned to dust and the air smelled like a mixture of tobacco and burning wood. It was incredibly hot. When we arrived in the village, it looked like most other towns we'd seen since arriving on the subcontinent: Cinder block shelters, brightly colored saris contrasting with brilliant blue tarps and open stalls filled with labels in a script

I couldn't read. Tuk tuks and Tata trucks honked and "beep beeped!" over the sound of the afternoon hubbub.

As we turned into Bethel orphanage, nuns in habits pulled open the gates while children danced around the sisters and sang songs of welcome. My family sat with our faces pressed against the van windows until Sister Lily, the head nun and our gracious host, whisked us away for a tour. Thrilled to meet a guest their age, some of the younger children at the home led my baby sister by the hand to show her their bunk beds. When we returned to the front porch and were seated, the children started to sing.

Their performance was beautiful. The girls wore saris in vibrant colors: Turquoise, magenta, gold. The boys wore their best pants and buttoned their tiny shirts to the top. When the children sang, the yard filled with joy. When they danced, the patio was transformed into the most wonderful stage.

All week we played with the children. I couldn't keep up in a game of chase and my brother was pitiful at cricket. It was one of the most wonderful, fulfilling weeks of my life.

On our last day at Bethel, we said our sad goodbyes. As the van pulled out of the yard, the children chased the car, waving furiously and singing another song. We waved back, bumping along the rocky dirt drive, each of us feeling a little different than when we'd arrived. Each in our own ways, we'd been reminded that the love of a family is something special, and through the songs, dances and smiles of the children, we'd learned more about ours.

The experiences of traveling and giving alongside those we love bring us closer, and leave us profoundly changed. The trip with the Miracle Foundation provided my family the setting to learn, grow and give together.



**Thank you to our new sponsors!**

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TRAVEL PLANNING EXPERTS

Booking any travel soon? Check out Departure Lounge, a coffee/wine bar & innovative travel agency.

Gretchen Canter (mom of Miracle Maker Leslie Canter, from page 3) is a long-time supporter of the Miracle Foundation and travel agent at Departure Lounge. With years of experience, Gretchen can help you find the best deals for your next trip.

Gretchen generously donates 100% of her commission to the Miracle Foundation, so you can help orphans while planning the vacation of your dreams.

Email Gretchen at [GretchenCanter@me.com](mailto:GretchenCanter@me.com) to plan your next trip today!

## Meet Saravana Kumar

Saravana Kumar is a 19-year-old Miracle Foundation scholarship recipient from Anbarasi orphanage. He is in his second year of college, studying Mechanical Engineering.

Like all of our scholarship recipients, Saravana fills out the application every year with information about his school, his engineering program and courses, and future academic and professional goals.

When asked about his college experience, Saravana says, "I love my computer science classes. I also love to spend time with my friends, sharing food and chatting with them. Also, my professors are great! They are caring and help me in many ways."

Saravana has an older brother, who he is staying with while he completes his studies. Saravana enjoys staying with his older brother and riding the bus to his college classes.

Upon graduation, Saravana plans to become a Mechanical Engineer. He's excited to become an independent adult and begin his career. We'll continue to guide him on his journey, even checking in on him after he graduates from college! Our commitment is to orphaned children from the day they arrive at an orphanage until they become independent, thriving adults.



Miracle Foundation supports more than 50 students like Saravana pursuing higher education. You can provide them their right to a quality education. Help us send an orphan to college with a \$1,200 donation today at [Give.MiracleFoundation.org/ManyThanks](http://Give.MiracleFoundation.org/ManyThanks).