
Access to proper medical care
saves lives.

No Images? [Click here](#)



Learning Good Lessons

Healing is a matter of time, but it is sometimes also a
matter of opportunity.
– Hippocrates

Hi there,

The kids are in the middle of their school year and, as all kids do, are growing up quickly!

At Karunya Mane, our children's home, two of our young women are in college, four teenagers are in 11th grade, and a large chunk of the rest of our kids are becoming teenagers. We find ourselves facing new and exciting challenges and opportunities to ensure that they all get what they need to grow up to be the best that they can be.

We continually meet destitute HIV+ individuals who, for various reasons, lack access to the medical care they need. Your financial support truly goes a long way as it pays for surgeries and medical treatments that literally keep people alive and improve the quality of their lives.

Thank you and we hope that you enjoy our Winter 2017 newsletter.

Ganesh Festival for the Parents

Each year during the Ganesh Festival holiday season – one of the most celebrated Hindu festivals in India -- the kids at Karunya Mane go all out and plan a big day for their parents. They get dressed up, perform their choreographed skits and dances, and serve snacks to their guests.



The annual Karunya Mane Ganesh Festival is a fun time for all and gives the parents a chance to watch their kids show off their talents!



Pavan, Sowmya, and Krutika

Three children from destitute backgrounds in our Project Street program have grown up nicely!

We started supporting **Pavan Yadav** in 2008 when he was in 3rd grade. Pavan is now focusing on engineering in 12th grade, after completing 11th grade with a "first class with distinction" performance.

After this year, Pavan plans to apply to engineering college. Pavan lives with his single mother, Padma, who is illiterate and works as a housekeeper at a local medical clinic, earning minimal monthly wages.

Sowmya D. came to us in 2013 for assistance with her final year of high school and her college expenses. She was determined to get an engineering degree and had good grades in high school.

Sowmya's father cannot work consistently because of lingering back pain and her mother has a chronic heart condition. While caring for her parents, both illiterate, Sowmya maintained a high grade point average in college and recently graduated in the "first class." She's now searching for employment in Mysore.

Krutika is from a very poor family in the Chamrajnagar area (about an hour from Mysore) and has Type 1 diabetes. She takes insulin every day, and came to us because her father, who earns less than 5,000 rupees (\$75) a month, could not afford the insulin, which is 700 rupees (\$11) a month. We've been helping Krutika since 2012. Krutika is now in college studying commerce, and is doing well with a "first class" performance in her second semester.





Our Athletes!

One of our kids -- Nanjunda -- has demonstrated outstanding athletic skills. He was selected to compete in the taluk (regional) level school sports competition, and he won! He then competed in the state-level competition and came in 4th place. Not bad, we think!

It's nice to see kids like Nanjunda -- who has no parents and only one grandmother -- doing well with their given talent. Nanjunda came to us from another home, which he left because they stopped supporting boys over the age of 12 years. When he came to us, he could barely read and write. Now, he reads and writes at his grade level (7th)

and, of course, gets to compete in sports -- all because of your support.



On a similar note, three more kids at Karunya Mane -- Pavan, Prajwal, and Netravathi -- are taking the black belt test in December. If they pass, they'll join our other black belt holders: Prema, Divya, Pooja, and Surya.



Our kids started karate lessons in 2008 and, nine years later, they're on their way to black belts!

2018 Calendars!

Time flies. If you're thinking about your holiday shopping list and looking for stocking stuffers, consider our calendars!

Make a donation of \$25 (Rs.1,500) or more to Operation

Shanti and get our 2018 Calendar featuring some really fun stuff by our kids at our children's home!

To donate, see our [donation page](#).





Medical Care for Destitute HIV+

Individuals

Thank you for supporting our efforts to assist HIV+ individuals who need life-saving medical treatments.*

- **Eshwanth** has very bad hearing, a side effect of his health status, and needed powerful hearing aids. His mother and grandmother work as housekeepers and his father ran away a long time ago. Your donations helped Eshwanth get a pair of good quality hearing aids.
- **Venkatesh**, the father of two of our girls at Karunya Mane, had suffered for months. Recently, he needed several painful and delicate surgeries to preserve functioning in his genital area. His recovery will be extended, but he is determined to get better and is doing well so far.
- **Suresh**, one of the men in our Project Food and More, was the victim of a scooter-hits-man hit-and-run and needed surgery to fix his broken femur and mandible. The surgery was not something that he or his mother-in-law, who works as a housekeeper, could afford. Suresh has a long recovery ahead of him, but is doing well and goes to weekly checkups with his orthopedic surgeon.
- **Jayamma**, age 62, was diagnosed with stage III vulvar cancer after having seen several neglectful doctors over three years. She lived with her blind son, and was shunned by her family after her husband died. Jayamma was relieved to finally get treatment for her condition and she fought hard. Sadly, she succumbed to the side effects of her radiation treatment in October.

See here for additional information on [Project Food and More](#).

* Names changed to protect their privacy.

HPV Vaccinations

What we learned from Jayamma's situation is that the human papillomavirus (HPV), which causes cervical and vulvar cancers, is a silent killer of women in India, with more than 60,000 deaths per year. We want to prevent cervical cancer in our girls by providing life-saving HPV vaccinations.

The HPV vaccine, 95% effective, is approved in India for girls from 9 years of age. The girls in our programs have been with us for a long time, are getting a good education, and are very healthy, but they need to be protected from HPV and cervical, vulvar, vaginal, and throat cancers when they grow up.



We are getting a discounted price of 1750 rupees (\$27.00) per dose, and our doctor friends will supervise the vaccinations for the 59 age-appropriate girls in our Project Home and Project Food and More programs.

As we talked about in our last newsletter, Shashikala got lucky. As a poor HIV+ woman, early cancer screening showed pre-cancerous cells in her cervix. She was treated and is cancer-free and healthy.

But few women in India are screened for cancers that can be cured if caught early. We want to take things one step further and do what we can to prevent cervical and other cancers caused by HPV in as many girls as possible, with your support.

Jayamma was not so lucky and got cancer caused by HPV. She suffered incredibly painful side effects from her chemoradiation treatments – it is not an experience that any woman should endure.

To help, here's the link to [donate](#).

Our New Ambassador

Svetlana

Svetlana met Operation Shanti during a trip to Mysore to study yoga at KPJAY. A friend told her about our work helping the most vulnerable in Mysore. After returning home, Svetlana thought that the best way to help was to raise funds. As a yoga studio owner in Toronto, Canada, Svetlana dedicates the funds earned in her Karma classes to Operation Shanti! Her students benefit from getting together and from knowing they are giving back to those in need in Mysore – the birthplace of Ashtanga yoga, a practice from which they benefit immensely. Thank you, Svetlana!

For more on our ambassadors, click [here](#).



A New Home

We continue to search for a site for our new home and will keep you updated on our progress.

To donate to this effort or to any of our other programs and activities, see our [donation page](#).

In the spirit of the upcoming holiday season and considering the natural and human-made challenges facing our world today, we leave you with the following thought:

"I think everybody should ... make a decision about

how they want to live their life, and how they can have the most impact on other people while they're here ... The great thing about being a human being is that at any moment you can do something different--and you can use a lot of things that you've learned, and skills that you have, and wealth that you've accumulated, and do a great deal of good to really change our society. And what we need is a whole movement of people doing that. Because there's a tremendous amount of suffering in the world ... that would easily be alleviated with a broader movement of people really caring about it." --*Alec Karakatsanis*

Have a festive and safe holiday season and thank you again for your support!

Peace,

The Operation Shanti Team

To keep the body in good health is a duty... otherwise we shall not be able to keep our mind strong and clear.
-- *Buddha*



Operation Shanti
125 Gilbert Street Unit 3
San Francisco, CA 94103



[Unsubscribe](#)