



## How You Helped in 2018

As we come to the end of a tumultuous year (globally), we want to highlight the stability of our charity work and the steady progress being made by our kids. Our accomplishments are the results of your continued support of our work with destitute women and children in India.



Follow our more frequent updates on our work on Facebook [@operationshantikids](#) and Instagram [@operationshanti](#).



## Continuing to Excel in School

In 2018, we employed 18 teachers for our 52 kids. We know of no other childcare institution that employs such a high number of quality teachers for daily after-school tutoring sessions, and we've maintained a 4:1 average student:teacher ratio for years.

Our teachers have been with us for a long time and are integral to the kids' learning and development.

Results in 2018 of our intense focus on quality educational support for our kids include:

- Suma and Manjula, two former homeless girls, are now in college; Suma will graduate this year and pursue her master's degree.
- Prema, Mamatha, Pavan, and Prajwal are outstanding 12 graders and look forward to college next year.
- Thirteen of our young achievers are in a top quality English medium private school in kindergarten to ninth grades.
- Four of our other kids are ranked #1 in their respective classes.

## We Need Your Help

We'd like to ask for your help as 2018 draws to a close. Our donations for the year are down a bit, and your gifts make a real difference in the lives of the women and children we help every year, particularly given the long-term nature of our work with our kids.

In this video, a few of our kids explain how their lives have changed over the years.

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## Young Lives Full of Productive Activities

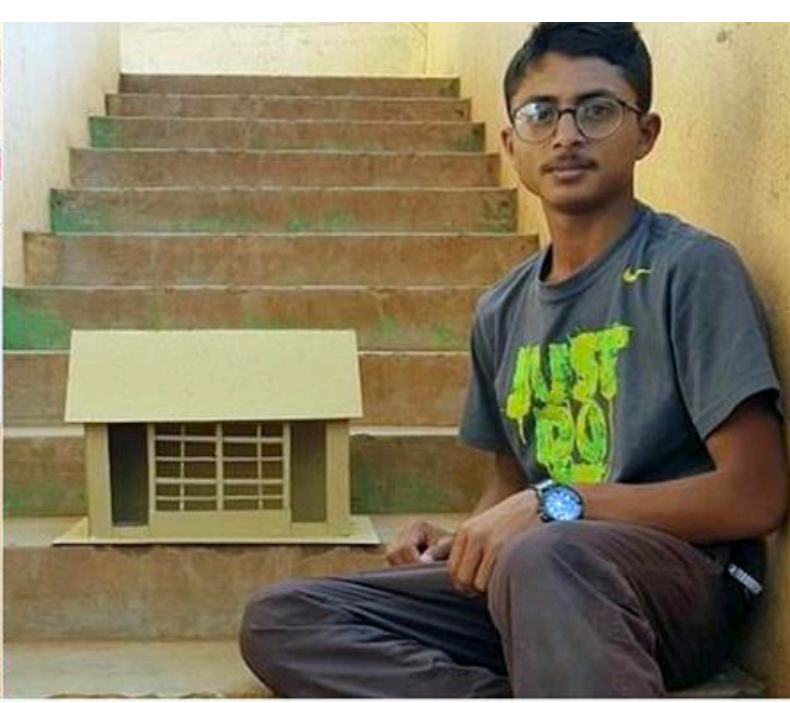
Extracurricular activities are as important as our educational efforts because they help shape our children and teenagers into well-rounded individuals.

In addition to their normal activities (karate, fitness, dance, drama, yoga), throughout 2018, the kids participated in:

- photography classes during six fun-filled sessions
- football (soccer) training
- designing their own kites and model houses and
- learning about empathy



At the end of the photography classes, each child got to present his or her best photograph at an exhibit showcasing their talent!



This summer, the kids learned architectural concepts, including perspective, the basics of technical drawing, and building model homes.

In this video, our counselor and a friend of the kids - a teacher with 20+ years of experience working with at-risk youth - together explain the concept of empathy. JD and Bhuvan engaged in "role play" during one of the weekend sessions of the special empathy project held in July/August of this year.



## Two New Ambassadors

Joseph Armstrong

We're happy to have Joseph Armstrong on board! Joseph is an ashtanga yoga teacher in the United States and Central America who frequently visits our kids when he is in Mysore to practice yoga with his teacher, Paramaguru Sharath Jois. Joseph is a kind-hearted individual who has grown personally through his yoga practice and teaching, and he offers that same strength and guidance to others in need.

Amy Santos and Steven Ferrara

Amy and Steve have been long-time friends of Operation Shanti and visit the kids whenever they are in Mysore. Amy is a KPJAYI level 2 authorized ashtanga yoga teacher in New York and Steve is a professional musician, and both have been traveling to Mysore for years. Back in 2004, Amy was a captive witness to the initial planting of the seeds that would become Operation Shanti. Steve first learned of Operation Shanti through his beloved teacher, Swami Jamanagiri, who taught Steve that selfless work in the benefit of others is always more personally beneficial than any other work. It is in this spirit that Steve has worked with Operation Shanti on all of his extended trips to Mysore.

We're very grateful to have Joseph, Amy, and Steve as Operation Shanti Ambassadors!

See our [website](#) for more on our ambassadors.



Donate between now and the end of the year and receive a 2019 Operation Shanti Calendar featuring photographs taken this past summer by our kids.

Happy holidays to you and your loved ones!

The Operation Shanti Team

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