

"Start where you are, use what you have, do what you can." --Arthur Ashe



# Remember When...

Hi there,

During these disruptive times, we remain hopeful for better days, and we offer you a few of our "then and now" stories to brighten your day.

Any child can grow and change, if given the chance and if we pay a little more attention to those who need help. Many of you have paid attention, and our kids benefit from your generosity. 🙏

We also highlight a couple of new ventures that have remembered Operation Shanti through their work.

Finally, at the end of this newsletter is a link to a 5-minute questionnaire. One of our sponsors is working on an exciting nonprofit idea that has direct relevance for our kids in Mysore, India. If you're a parent/guardian of a teen (age 13-19), please fill out (and share with your friends) the questionnaire on "cultural and peer-to-peer exchanges for global youth."

Stay safe! 😊

## Pallavi and Vishnu

This is Pallavi, her young brother Vishnu, and their mother Sushila -- in 2005 when we met them, and then in 2019, after 11 years at our home, Karunya Mane. Before, they were homeless and mom begged. This year, Pallavi graduated from 10th grade and Vishnu is in 9th grade. Currently, Mom sells flower leis (malas), and they're no longer homeless!



Over the years, Jyothi's family situation has been challenging, but she has maintained her focus on doing what she can to improve her own life.

## The Alums

The kids we met in 2005 who came to live at our home are now fully grown adults. Some are married, and all have decent jobs and are living independent, good lives.

It seems like just yesterday when we visited them daily on the streets. Back then, they begged. Now, they show up for work every day, have educations, and no longer live on the streets.



## Shantha

Back then, Shantha and her mother, a beggar, struggled to get by.

Shantha came to live with us in 2009, and she and grew up healthy and happy. But she also struggled in school for years.

A couple of years ago, we took her out of the regular school system, which just wasn't working for her, and enrolled her in a nursing program at the nearby hospital.

Today, Shantha is fully enjoying her nursing education and is one of the school's best nurse trainees.

We'll be sharing more "then and now" stories on our social media pages on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram!](#)

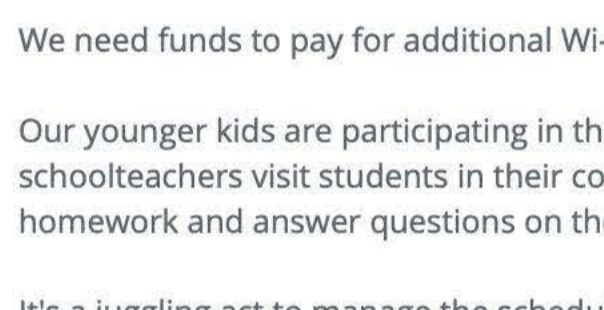


## Final grades from last year!

Before the lockdown in March, three of our kids were able to complete their 10th grade and 12th grade public exams. Their scores were published in July and they got outstanding marks!

Surya was #1 🏆 among his fellow students at school and in the **first class** for the CBSE SSLC exam. He's started online classes for 11th grade at one of the best engineering schools in Mysore.

Both Vijayalakshmi and Divya scored in the **first class** ❤️ for their 12th grade exam and have been enrolled in a good private college in Mysore, which starts online classes soon.



## Online education efforts

Kids everywhere face challenges continuing their education during the Covid-19 pandemic. We are doing our best to keep our kids educated through these difficult times.

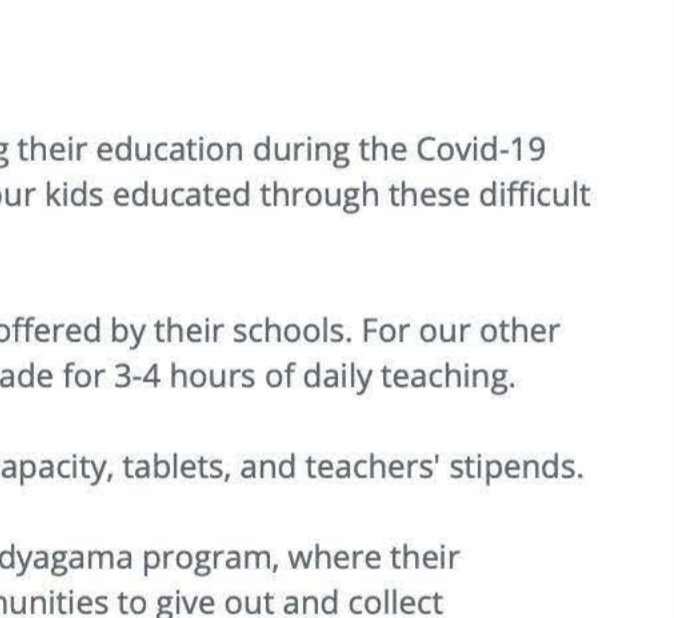
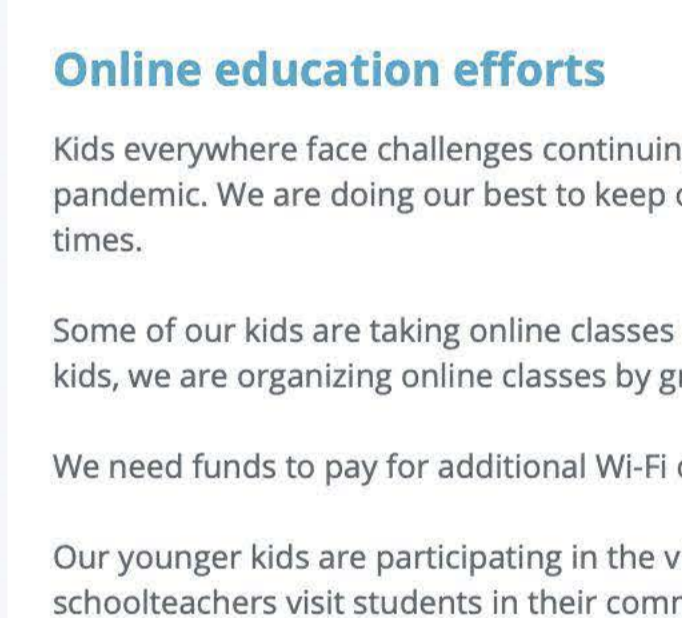
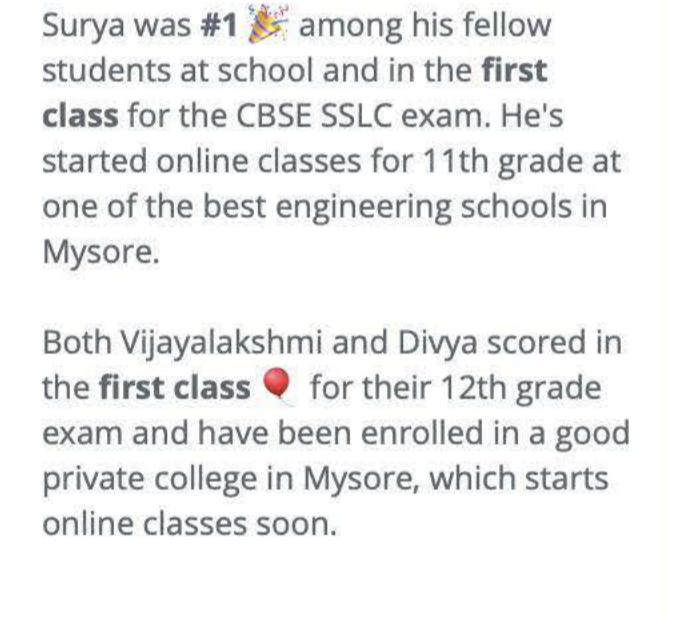
Some of our kids are taking online classes offered by their schools. For our other kids, we are organizing online classes by grade for 3-4 hours of daily teaching.

We need funds to pay for additional Wi-Fi capacity, tablets, and teachers' stipends.

Our younger kids are participating in the vidyagama program, where their schoolteachers visit students in their communities to give out and collect homework and answer questions on the materials.

It's a juggling act to manage the schedules and different learning approaches for 40+ kids, but they are all continuing to learn!

[Donate](#)

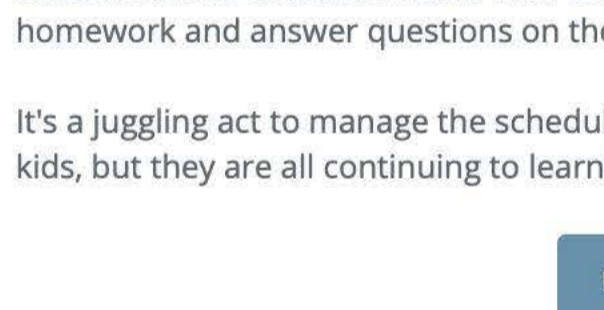
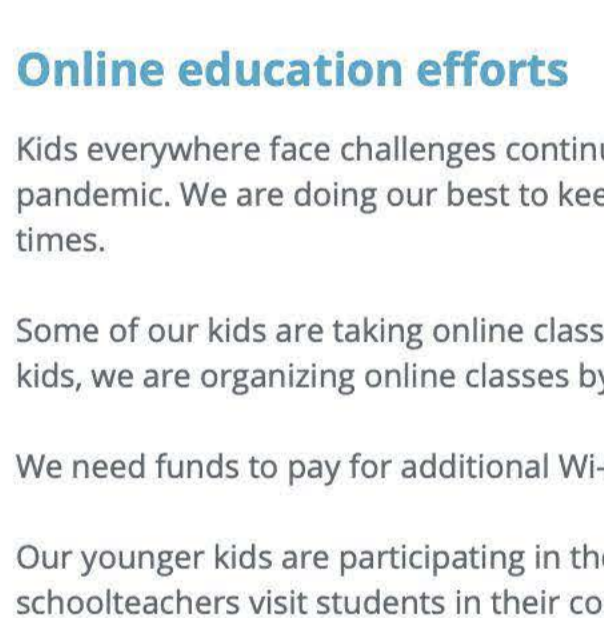


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## Soundmoves Yoga

We're grateful to have been selected by Soundmoves Yoga as a recipient of proceeds that they're donating to charity from their online yoga teacher training program.

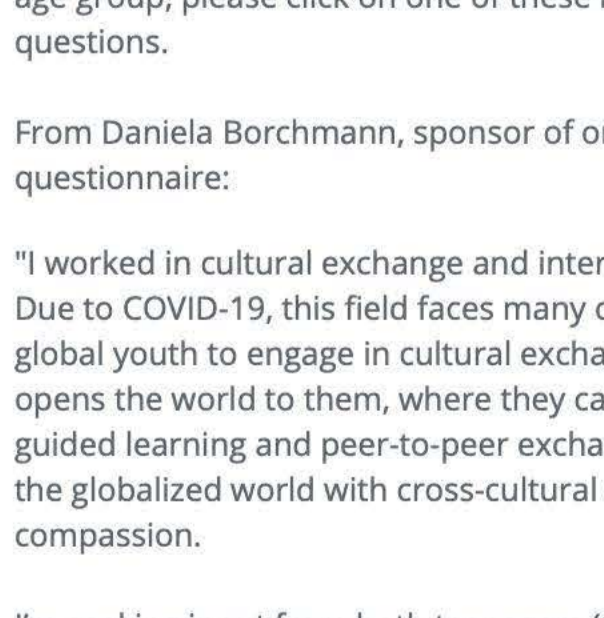
"Ten percent of all student payment goes to our designated charity, Operation Shanti, which helps orphans and single mothers in Mysore, India, the home of modern Yoga."

<https://www.soundmoves.yoga/?ref=23be17>

## Anokhi Green

Anokhi Green sells handcrafted jewelry inspired by a Chicago woman's travels in India. Her designs merge the healing qualities of natural stones with the spiritual traditions of ancient Asian cultures, and Operation Shanti has benefitted over the years from her generosity.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Anokhi Green has re-opened its online shop, at [www.etsy.com/shop/anokhigreen](http://www.etsy.com/shop/anokhigreen)



## Questionnaire on "cultural and peer-to-peer exchanges for global youth"

If you're a parent/guardian of a teenager (age 13-19), or if you are a teenager in this age group, please click on one of these links and take 5 minutes to answer a few questions.

From Daniela Borchmann, sponsor of one of our kids and author of the questionnaire:

"I worked in cultural exchange and international education for the past few years. Due to COVID-19, this field faces many challenges. My idea is to provide a way for global youth to engage in cultural exchange in a virtual space through a platform that opens the world to them, where they can learn about different cultures through guided learning and peer-to-peer exchanges. The platform will help them navigate the globalized world with cross-cultural competency, communication, empathy, and compassion.

I'm seeking input from both teenagers (13-19 years old) and parents (of teenagers) through a 5-minute survey to ensure that the platform reflects teens' actual needs:

For parent/legal guardians of teenagers: <https://forms.gle/WG2b1SG5MTsjXCh56>

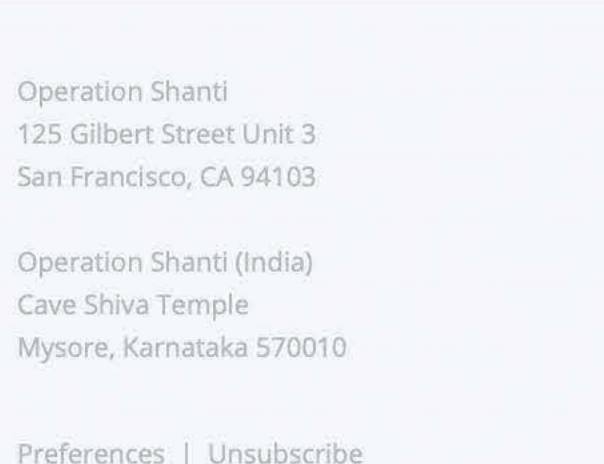
For teenagers: <https://forms.gle/fkzKG2H7MrBsZMpC7>

Please also share these links with other people in your communities (around the world) that fit the criteria. Thank you."

## Don't forget...

Our Amazon.in wishlist is at [https://www.amazon.in/hz/wishlist/lz/131MBDSXETHZ?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.in/hz/wishlist/lz/131MBDSXETHZ?ref=wl_share)

It's a super-easy way to donate items that we need, like rice, toothpaste, soap, and cleaning items. Whatever you purchase is delivered directly to us in Mysore.



Thank you and please stay safe! 😊

The Operation Shanti Team

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