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April 2014



Dear Tracy,

We've been busy over at [Operation Shanti!](#)

The kids at [Karunya Mane](#) finished their final exams for the year at the end of March and are well into a summer vacation full of activities.

[Project Food & More](#) continues to provide HIV+ kids and women with monthly care packages and urgent medical-related financial assistance.

The women in [Project Street](#) continue to do well; they are living more independent lives and are taking better care of themselves.

Please read on for more updates. Happy Easter, happy springtime, and thank you again for your continued support!

## SCHOOL'S OUT FOR THE SUMMER!

The Operation Shanti kids were relieved to be done with their exams at the end of March, as it meant a quick visit home and then a summer full of fun!

Karunya Mane's 44 kids all attend private school, and this year we applaud our five third-graders and their final scores:

- Shilpa -- 99% (198 out of 200 points)
- Jyothi -- 99% (198 out of 200 points)

## OPERATION SHANTI AMBASSADORS

[They Get Involved!](#)

Consistency and selfless support of our children and women -- that's what describes an Operation Shanti Ambassador.

- Thanmaye -- 98% (195 out of 200 points)
- Swarana -- 96% (191 out of 200 points)
- Lalitha -- 93% (186 out of 200 points)



On average, our girls improved their scores to 82% this year from 78% last year. The boys' average dipped slightly from 82% to 81%.

English is a favorite subject to study at Karunya Mane and is the focus for the summer. In addition to their regular daily tutoring, the kids are learning new words in preparation for a spelling bee contest at the end of May.

Some of our kids who just finished 6th and 7th grade didn't do very well in mathematics, so they're receiving extra tutoring in math each day during the summer.

But summer vacation is not all about work! This summer, the kids are also engaged in lots of fun activities, such as arts and crafts and organic gardening lessons with Kalpana Miss, and productive time on the iPads, in addition to their six-mornings-a-week karate and yoga classes. extra daily tutoring in the subject this summer to prepare them for the upcoming year.

Rebecca Burgum  
Chris Ebbe  
Adeline Lum  
Shirly Oh  
Matt Ryan  
Tarik Thami

For more on our Operation Shanti Ambassadors, [please click here.](#)

## YUM!

Adding some raw nutrition to the daily diet.



## PROJECT STREET: KAMALA'S STORY

Kamala is mother to three of our kids at Karunya Mane. When we met Kamala and her family in 2010, they lived in a slum and she and her husband collected papers and cardboard to sell for weight or did odd jobs when they could get them. Kamala's husband died in late 2012, leaving her alone. Fortunately, her kids were already at Karunya Mane.



Kamala's shack was made out of tall, thick grass, some bricks, and pieces of wood, a common structure in her neighborhood. Four years ago, the government began the process of providing housing for her community, which meant that she and her neighbors were given the opportunity to purchase a government housing unit at a very low cost and become homeowners. Recently, the housing units were completed and Kamala wanted to purchase one but she didn't have the Rs.25,000 (about \$420) that she needed.

The kids have added raw mung bean ("hesaru kaalu" in Kannada) sprouts to their daily diet. They take turns each month washing and sprouting the mung beans, and everyone gets a daily serving of some raw nutrition at breakfast.

The kids love eating the raw sprouts, which provide some much needed vitamins and minerals since most Indian dishes are served cooked.

Here's Razak showing off a plate full of hesaru kaalu sprouts for the boys!



A generous donor helped us help Kamala purchase a house, and she's now a happy and proud homeowner! The new house is a small, two-room unit, but it is practical and comfortable -- and is a dramatic improvement over her old house, which leaked during the rains, had a dirt floor and a makeshift electrical connection, and had no running water.



We have applied for similar housing units for eight of our other street moms, and we'll know whether they'll also get to buy houses after the April/May elections in India are complete.

Interested in donating to assist our women in Project Street? [Please click here.](#)

## UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR EXPENSES

Operation Shanti focuses on providing our kids with a good education to help them reach their full potential in life.

As you know, all of our kids are in private schools, and we're planning for the upcoming school year's expenses for shoes and socks, uniforms, school bags, school bus fees, textbooks and notebooks, and school tuition (fees). Some of these items have been covered by generous donors, and the remaining expenses for the upcoming 2014/2015 school year for our 44 kids are as follows:



School tuition (fees) - \$4,800 (Rs.288,000)  
Textbooks and notebooks - \$800 (Rs.48,000)  
School bus - \$1,500 (Rs.90,000)  
School bags - \$200 (Rs.12,000)

If you'd like to help with a portion of these expenses, [please click here.](#)

## UPDATE FROM PROJECT FOOD & MORE

In addition to distributing monthly care packages to HIV+ kids orphaned by the disease, this past year, Project Food & More provided financial assistance to the following poverty-stricken HIV+ individuals\* to cover medical expenses:

- Rukki, who had severe anemia as a side effect of her antiretroviral therapy

- Nagaraju, who had tuberculosis and pneumonia, and required several days of hospitalization

- Baghya, who suffered from fat buildup as a side effect of her antiretroviral therapy and required minor surgery

- Saraswati, who passed away from PML

- Jayanth, who passed away from respiratory failure

- Meena, who had tuberculosis and suffered severe side effects from her second-line antiretroviral therapy; she needed a few days of hospitalization



In dollar terms, the hospital stays and treatment for these patients ranged from \$50 to \$500, but remain unaffordable for the poor we help.

The stigma associated with HIV is daunting for anyone, and is magnified for the poor in India given the lack of education and understanding about the disease. Thank you for helping us help our orphaned kids and destitute adults extend their lifespans.

To read more or donate to PFM, [please click here](#).

*\*Names have been changed to protect their privacy. The majority of the funds are paid directly to the healthcare/medical care providers and to the pharmacies.*

## DID YOU KNOW?

With 44 kids at Karunya Mane, it's no surprise that we are constantly going through school supplies. During one year, the kids at Karunya Mane use:

- 1,000+ notebooks (4 to 6 subjects, school and tutoring)
- 250 pens
- 150 pencils
- 100 erasers
- 100 pairs of school shoes
- 88 pairs of socks

Interested in donating for school supplies? [Please click here](#).

### Our Mission

To directly improve the lives of exploited, at-risk, destitute children and the forgotten, suffering elderly, enabling them to become "beacons of light" and share the same gifts of peace, goodwill, and generosity with others for the rest of their lifetimes.

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Stay In Touch



Thank you for reading our newsletter! Please send any questions, concerns or feedback to [info@operation-shanti.org](mailto:info@operation-shanti.org)

Peace,  
Operation Shanti

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