

# CHIT CHAT OCT 2010

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## Building Futures for Children



As CHIT approaches its fifth anniversary, Chairman of Trustees, George, and his wife Angela, have just celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. President, **Rev. Canon Roger Turner**, and his wife **Laurie**, (with shoulder bag) friends for 26 years, were present.

CHIT's income has held steady, which in the current economic climate is admirable, but with costs rising in India, we ask supporters to increase their banker's orders, and sponsors to give at least £20 a month. In India we have postponed plans for further capital expenditure. The need now is for better nutrition, more teacher-training, and improved staff salaries.

Some of our recent arrivals are as young as six years old and have been recently orphaned or abandoned and hence are in a vulnerable state. They are not just desperately sad but often suffering from malnutrition and with some other malady. Many who have never been away from home, squalid though it may be, find the experience intimidating.

Our staff are wonderful - caring, patient, and dedicated.

Here are our two newly-recruited house-mothers.



**Bhagyamma and Sampoorna**

There have been more leavers than usual this year, which means we have been able to take in a large number of new needy children: 35 at the Bapatla Home and 21 at Nidamarru, bringing our total head-count to 260. More boys than girls this time.



**New intake: Bapatla above and Nidamarru below.**



Most of the new children will be taught from the start in English-medium. English words soon creep into their normal conversation. The Telugu-speaking staff in the homes struggle to keep up with the children! In the holidays the school staff all went on a 45-day course to improve their spoken English and brush up their teaching skills, a very welcome development.

On arrival the boys and girls are weighed, measured and medically examined, given a chest X-ray and a sight test. The water table is high in the Bapatla area, and with rainfall up by 67%, conditions are damp. The House-mothers and Nurse Mary are on constant alert for chest complaints. There have been many.

**Thank God and all those kind supporters who financed the building of our two sick-bays.**



It is a truly wonderful encouragement to the staff and the children when some of the older ones successfully clamber up the ladder of higher education; Not a hint of jealousy to be seen.

Here are two of them: **Sundar Singh**, has been at the Bapatla home for ten years. He has been spurred on by a call into the Ministry. Studying English

at University, he will go on to study at the Salvation Army College. For many years he was faithfully sponsored by the **Sidmouth Lions Club**.

The young man on the right is **Bala Krishna**. He comes from our Nidamaru Home. The State School across the road has done him proud. Always top in his exams he was unlucky not to get a place at Medical School (only 2,000 were accepted from 160,000 applicants!) However, he did secure a place reading pharmacy. He has worked hard and happily is doing well, having completed his second year of study. How proud his mother must be. A lady about 4' 6" whose husband deserted her after her son was born, she lives in a tiny palm-roofed shack. Bala Krishna writes lovely letters to his sponsor. Good Lad.



This charming picture of **Santha Kumari** holding **Estharla Rajani** safely in her arms at the annual outing to the seaside, illustrates the family feeling in our homes, so good for orphans.



*What a privilege it is to generate such joy!*

This year there have been some splendid fund-raising efforts: At **Kenilworth**, **Kal Rai** gave a fascinating account of his recent experiences at our homes in India.. At **Barston**, **Debbie Kirrkham** did her bit.

Then there was a fabulous money-spinning dance and novelty raffle at **Ratley**, organised by **Claire Brown**, **Vera Leeke** and **Ailsa Craddock**, which brought in £1600. Next up was a big party in **Luxembourg**, where George and Angela's son **Jim Kent**, celebrated his 40th birthday and raised £2,000 for CHIT. Finally, **Pauline and Maurice Stanton-Saringer** ran a super Indian Evening in the cafe at **St.Michael's Spencer's Wood**, at which George spoke, raising £1700.

Even with these great efforts we have not quite filled the gap in our budget for the 14% food inflation in India. Last Year we had the benefit of a £10k legacy

So what happens this year? How can you be more involved? 101 children have sponsors. Nineteen generous people sponsor groups. It is very rewarding to know that one is not only meeting a child's physical needs for food and shelter, but also enabling them to reach their potential through education. Many go on to become useful contributing members of society. Could you join this group of special regular donors?

As usual a team from the UK visits India in January. Volunteers with skills are always welcome. T.E.F.L-trained teachers staying 3-6 weeks are needed. Help with **computing skills**, music, drama, First Aid, accounting, and photography, would also be useful. Hopefully, all visitors are potential fund-raisers.

**Trustee, Dr Kal Rai** provided the following report, which illustrates the way sick children are supported: **Mani Kumari** lived in the Bapatla home from age 11-16 . Her father has TB and is regularly in hospital. Her mother is an itinerant coolie. Mani Kumari has a floppy heart valve and has to attend the hospital at Chirala every month.

*"I have seen her cardiac reports. She is getting very good care with the same drugs we would use in UK. Her cardiac function has been stable for 3 years. In 2009 her medical costs were 7,700 Rupees (£100) "* CHIT continues to cover these costs.



*Your money goes a long way in India! Thank you.*