

# A NEW ERA *of* EXCELLENCE

2018 PROGRAM PLAN





*Ralph Borde with several daughters at our new PreK-6 school*

## **CEO Letter**

**2017 was a year where we experienced God's miraculous provision through answered prayers** of the past 10 years as well as watching the fulfillment of dreams of our daughters. This past year was one where Ephesians 3:20 became incredibly real for me as we've seen God do immeasurably more than we have asked or imagined.

I saw this come to life in two very powerful ways—the launch of Sparrows Nest (our new children's campus) as well as the acceptance and visa approvals for two of our daughters to attend college in the U.S.

As you know, by God's grace, we broke ground on our new children's campus—Sparrows Nest—in March 2016 and this past year we were able to complete phase 1 of that site's construction and see it come to life. We had children move in during the summer, we hired a principal, and classes began in the fall!

For a bit of context, this facility is located in rural India surrounded by farmland a few miles from the nearest village. We had to bring in all the infrastructure—water wells had to be dug, rock excavated, waste and electrical service added, trucks and tractors brought in from other cities, and more, not to mention the challenge of hiring skilled workers and an excellent principal and teachers. But God provided an exceptional team that He has used to make our dreams a reality. It truly is a world-class facility that will equip us to provide the best care and education to our daughters both now and for years to come.

Our daughters live in small family-style homes on-campus and are studying one of India's best curriculums, which is available to less than 1% of India and is the same education God provided me as a child. Our daughters will be empowered to become warrior daughters with a purpose who are equipped and ready to make a lasting impact on India and beyond!

Another incredible highlight for me was seeing two of our daughters realize lifelong dreams of attending college in the U.S. They've both completed college degrees in India and now are pursuing Master's Degrees at Houston Baptist University. The

education and experiences they will gain as they study in the U.S. will no doubt elevate their personal knowledge and level of expertise in a transformative way, but it also sets the bar high for their sisters back home in India.

As you may know this was the same path I took after receiving my Bachelor's in India by coming to the U.S. to get my Master's Degree. That path is one that is highly regarded by employers in India, and by God's grace, puts each daughter on a path towards true empowerment. As they achieve leadership positions it will shatter stigmas and cultural perceptions regarding vulnerable children's aptitude, potential, and capacity to learn and make a lasting impact.

I'm extremely proud of them, their courage and how hard they worked to achieve this dream of coming to America, but what makes it even more exciting is that they want to use their education to help others from similar backgrounds as theirs. We want to see every daughter do well, but even more importantly we want to see every daughter do good, for the glory of God. To see them embrace their personal testimony and God's amazing redemption in their own lives, and then to pair that with advanced education degrees so they may skillfully and wisely help other vulnerable children is 'immeasurably more than I have asked or imagined'.

It is a privilege to have been entrusted with this incredible vision by God and to provide the opportunities to empower each of our daughters to press beyond

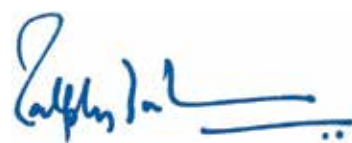
*We want to see every daughter do well, but even more importantly we want to see every daughter do good.*

the bounds of what is expected to do something truly extraordinary. You continue to play an important role in the lives of our daughters by partnering with us and making sure the mission of God to revolutionize the way the world cares for the vulnerable is achieved!

There is much work that remains to be done, many vulnerable children are still in need of rescuing and the stories we hear of abuse, exploitation and enslavement, spur us on to persevere trusting that the Lord will provide the army necessary to stand in the gap on their behalf. We are ready, willing, and expectant for all that God has in store for you, our daughters, our staff and those He has yet to bring into our family in 2018! This is just the beginning!

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support! These achievements are not our own, but are only achievable through your support and God's goodness. Thank you for partnering with us on His plan and for how you care for our family!

With many blessings,



Ralph

# Prevailing Darkness

**13M**

There are more than 13 million child laborers under age 14 in India. Many work in extremely dangerous and hazardous conditions.

**1M**

The horror of child prostitution is destroying the lives of more than 1 million children right now, some as young as 7 years old.

## These are some of the stories we learned about this year impacting vulnerable children:

**A 16-year-old girl** had something slipped into her drink. She woke up in a building with small rooms and no windows—a brothel. She was locked in the room most of the day, only unlocked when she was to entertain customers. On some days she had 15–20 customers.

**A group of 152 children** rescued from bonded labor was visited by a council for vulnerable children to see how they were doing a few months after their rescue. Of the 152 children, 50 were not attending school and 50 were unaccounted for and/or no longer living in the same state (speculation is that they had been trafficked again). Just 1 in 3 was attending school.

**Two sisters, age 13 and 15**, who suffered from mental disabilities, were raped by the director of their care facility. While we would hope it is an isolated incident, a report by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in India found that 47% of children in institutional care will experience at least one form of sexual abuse and 56% will experience physical abuse by staff members.

The challenges for vulnerable children in India are real, and ongoing. This is why our vision is to transform the way the world cares for vulnerable children. We focus on high-risk slums and the red light district where there is the greatest need. **Rescue alone isn't enough. Care alone isn't enough.** A holistic approach incorporating transformation-minded staff, best-in-class education, best-in-class care, and a family structure provides each daughter with the opportunity to reach her full potential. That way each child not only escapes the darkness, but they are empowered to live a life with purpose and to experience the fulfillment of making a lasting impact on the world.

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### **A Story of Hope: Meet Tahna**

Tahna grew up in an impoverished family and when her father fell ill, they were unable to care for her. His chronic illness left him bedridden for years. Oftentimes she would be left alone all day, trying to fend for herself. It was so difficult that she spent her days trying to get food rather than attending school, leaving her vulnerable to predators in the high-risk area she lived. By God's grace we were able to step in and protect, bringing her into our family in June 2017.

Tahna shares, "I was struggling to get my basic needs and because of that I wasn't able to attend school or learn. It was a really hard life. My life was going on in poverty and pain. I am thankful to God for giving me a family like Grace Home and bringing me into such a lovely family. The day I became a part of this family my life totally changed!"

We recently celebrated Christmas at Grace Home and this is what Tahna had to share: "Before Grace Home I never used to realize when Christmas came and went. It was just a normal day. I never knew the real joy of Christmas. After coming to Grace Home was my first Christmas. From the 1st of December we started singing Christmas carols, we enjoyed decorating the homes, making stars, having a candle light service, and celebrating Christmas eve and day. Christmas was a really joyful moment, which I will never forget. After coming to Grace Home I realized the importance of Christmas and the infinite love of the Heavenly Father."

We are so thankful God brought Tahna into our family and that we were able help show her the love of the heavenly father through our loving staff. What's more, she dreams of becoming a doctor one day and through the education she is receiving that dream could be a reality. She told us, "I want to become a doctor to treat the sicknesses of the people living in poverty who are not able to pay due to their poor financial condition. I want to help the people who cannot help themselves."

Let us hope and pray she does just that, all to the glory of God.



The Leadership Training Center at Sparrows Nest

# The Dawn of a New Era

With new world-class facilities, we are poised to set a new standard for excellence in caring for the vulnerable.



## **QUALITY STAFF OFFICES & MEETING SPACE**

In our Leadership Training Center, with new quality office space, conference rooms, and reliable Wi-Fi, we're better able to train our staff and the staff at partner orphanages whether in-person or through video-conferencing. Plus a library with in-depth resources and comfortable overnight accommodations for guests allow us to use the site to share our vision with others.

**10 staffers are pursuing Master's Degrees in Child Development and will care for our daughters and train others!**







## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

In June 2017 we opened our new PreK-6 school! Utilizing an English curriculum, our school offers best-in-class academics to our daughters. Teachers are focused on developing each student's unique gifting to help equip each daughter to attend competitive colleges both in India and the U.S. With programs including science, math, literature, language, drama, art, music, athletics, and more, each student is well-rounded to pursue careers in a multitude of fields. In this initial phase we've built half of the school. Our desire is to expand to add grades 7-12 as we add more students.

<1%

of Indian children attend this caliber of school

100%

of our daughters were accepted to college!

English-language curriculum prepares students for international colleges and professional careers.

## FAMILY-STYLE HOMES

Family-bonding and private study space were key elements we wanted to make sure we included when designing our new family-style homes. Four girls per bedroom and 12 children per home create a small family unit for close-knit companionship, healthy attachment, and quiet study space. Plus, our campus site has space for additional homes to be built in future years as our family grows.

1:4

caretaker-to-child ratio in each home!



Each daughter has her own desk to study!



Game night in the living room bonds daughters as a family.



Family-style meals allow for intimate conversation and laughs!

1. New girls' homes at our Sparrows Nest campus, 2. Our new PreK-6 school and library, 3. Each home has a living room for family-time, 4. Family dining tables in each home, 5. Our new classrooms are in use, 6. Girls studying in the library

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# THE YEAR AHEAD

The year ahead is one poised for excellence, with wonderful facilities and caring staff to help meet our daughters' holistic needs. But while we continue to have great achievements within our family—daughters on the honor roll, receiving special recognitions, high school graduations, college acceptances and more, outside our family in India there is great darkness seeking to destroy many vulnerable children. So while we have family celebrations and many great blessings to enjoy, we know there are millions of children whose lives are on the verge of destruction who don't have hope and whose future looks dim. They need a family like ours to step in and intervene on their behalf and care for them as our own.

Which is why we need you! We've never been in a better position to care for children with world-class education, facilities, and care than we are today. But we need to care for more children, and we can't do that without expanding our operating budget and adding to our facilities to add more children's homes on our campus. Can you help us reach more children so that they can reach their full potential? It is our prayer that the Lord will provide for this expansion through our supporters, including (and specifically) you!

What would be more exciting than an update a year from now saying we are building more girls' homes, that we've added children to our family, and knowing that you were a key part of making it happen? Whether you can give a lot or a little, **please prayerfully consider if 2018 could be a year for you to go deeper in your partnership with us** so we can reach more children in the years to come.

- 1 A generous donor provided orchestra instruments for our daughters.
- 2 Each daughter has her own study desk.



You can be the change agent setting a new direction for a child's life. You can help rescue them from darkness and give them a life and future that is full of hope! We look forward to partnering with you in 2018!



Daughters enjoying their new bedrooms at Sparrows Nest



**Our Vision** :: Transform the way the world cares for vulnerable children.

**Our Mission** :: Fulfill the sovereign purpose God has for vulnerable children in India, caring for them as our own, for life.

As Our Own

1717 St. James Place, Suite 220 :: Houston, Texas 77056

[www.AsOurOwn.org](http://www.AsOurOwn.org) :: 713.936.5758

