



Anathi (center) joined our family this year!

# Building for the Future

MID-YEAR IMPACT REPORT





## CEO LETTER

**Have you ever had a dream, one that you have worked towards for years and years, finally come to fruition?** That's what our team has been experiencing these past several months as our new children's care campus—Sparrows Nest—is being constructed with plans to open this summer. Over 10 years ago, God put the vision for Sparrows

Nest on my heart and I truly am in awe at all that has happened to bring us this far in our journey as a family!

At Sparrows Nest, we'll be able to provide customized care for each daughter by meeting their individual needs in a family environment that is safe and secure as well as providing them the best English education available through CISCE programming (which only 1 percent of Indians receive). Plus we will be able to host guests and other care experts to invest in the lives of our staff as well as those interested in learning from our care model so that our mission can spread to other organizations, locally and around the world. This campus truly is going to revolutionize the way we operate, the quality of care our daughters receive, and set a new standard for best-in-class residential care for the most vulnerable children.

In addition to launching Sparrows Nest, our holistic care program is making a deep impact in the lives of our staff. Through the training they are receiving from the Child Development Institute at Hope College, which offers a Master's Degree in Child Development (the first of its kind in India), each student is equipped with the tools necessary to provide the best care possible for children with severe trauma and coming from extreme situations. The result—our daughters are thriving and our staff feels empowered to navigate each need that arises as they pour into our daughters' lives.

As many of you know, my heart's desire and life's mission is to bring a new level of excellence to the world of orphan care so that every vulnerable child may reach their full potential. By God's grace, through the care staff and the facilities of this campus, I know that is possible. We truly believe we are raising the next generation of doctors, engineers, teachers, nurses, police, social workers, lawyers, and counselors who will live lives full of purpose as adults. Their future is incredibly bright!

Absolutely none of our work would be possible if not for your faithful support! You have been incredible champions for our daughters as you have come alongside us and encouraged us throughout this journey. I look forward to us all rejoicing as we see our daughters stand strong as women of great courage and wisdom serving as champions for the vulnerable themselves!

Thank you again for all you do to transform their lives!

Ralph Borde, CEO

P.S. Enclosed is an article highlighting some of the challenges facing public education in India. For me it reinforced the importance of building Sparrows Nest with a high-quality, private, English education school so that our daughters can really thrive. Hope it is educational for you as well.



### Vision

Transform the way the world cares for vulnerable children.

### Mission

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



## Training

### Isaac Uses CDI Training to Teach Forgiveness

Any parent knows there are times when siblings get upset with one another. As you can imagine, this happens in our family of more than 80 daughters as well. Thankfully, our staff knows just how to handle it thanks to their training through the Child Development Institute (CDI). One of our father-figures, Isaac, shared a story with us recently about how he guided our daughters to reconciliation.

*"Every Saturday we have a family time when we play games and chat. One Saturday I noticed two of my daughters, Gajra and Swara, not talking with each other. After listening to them, I realized they were carrying some bitterness towards one another. In my coursework at the CDI, I learned about how as a parent we need to be a detective to uncover the root cause of outward actions. I used the teaching we had received to counsel both of them and explain how forgiveness and forgiving others plays a vital role in our life and how an unforgiving heart impacts our relationships with others.*

*"After our talk they both began to cry as they realized their mistake, so they asked one another for forgiveness. I was thankful for what I learned at the CDI about forgiveness!"*

We all experienced joy as our daughters were reunited as sisters and friends! Not only did Isaac's guidance repair this relationship, but he talked to them about the importance of forgiveness throughout their lives. We hope this moment and this friendship restored will be a reminder for many years about the importance of forgiveness. Isaac is great example of how the CDI equips our parents to step in and guide each child with wisdom.



Isaac parenting daughters Gajra and Swara

### Experts Provide Training During CDI's Fourth Semester

Did you know we have a group of expert international teachers who train our staff through the Child Development Institute at Hope College?

In its fourth semester of operation, the Child Development Institute offers a Master's Degree in Child Development (the first of its kind in India). The teaching staff has many experts in various fields, including:

- » a registered nurse who taught physical health and well-being
- » a Director of Clinical Training and Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology with a PhD who taught stress management
- » a teacher, M.A. from Wheaton College, with 20 years of experience who led pre-marital counseling

We're blessed with 14 teachers this year, all pouring out their wisdom and experience into our staff so that they may be wise counselors for our daughters in every aspect of life!

### Teaching Virtues

One really amazing component of our family that has taken shape in the past year has been a focus on a "virtue of the month." Our Child Development Director trains our caregiving staff and leadership on the virtue each month and then each parent figures out ways to incorporate it into their activities, lessons, and daily teachable moments.

So far this year we've focused on forgiveness and hope. This summer and fall should be particularly impactful as we'll be focusing on patience, honesty, and perseverance. It is such a blessing to shape the moral character of our daughters so they see the world through the right lens.



29 in-home training sessions in Q1



14 experts provide lectures via video conference



1,000 hours of classroom training for staff

## Bimala Ranks 1st on NELTAS English Exam

In India, English is the common language used in business and academia. In fact, the #1 business newspaper in India, *the Economic Times*, is the second most popular English business newspaper in the entire world, behind the *Wall Street Journal*! What's more, most competitive colleges in India look for English mastery as a part of one's application, and English is a key component of the standardized tests taken for college admission. So teaching our daughters English to a level of fluency is critical to their long-term success.

Recently, Bimala, a 4th grade student in our family, was selected to compete in the Neltas English Exam Competition. This is a standardized test that provides quantitative scores so students can see how they're performing against students of their grade level. Schools throughout India compete against one another to see whose students receive the highest marks. Students with the highest marks advance to later rounds of competition.



Bimala (far left) studying with her sisters

Our daughter Bimala ranked 1st out of her class of 48 students on the initial exam! As a result, she was selected to compete in the 2nd Level Exam to represent her class and school. She told us about the opportunity:

"When my teacher announced my name for the next level I was so glad. . . . I couldn't wait for the lunch

break to tell the good news to my sisters! Before the next level I will solve all the practice books up through 4th grade and make practice questions before I attempt the real exam. I remember on the 1st level of the exam my tutor from Faith Home helped and guided me! I'm so thankful to the family at Faith Home for allowing us to take the exam and to succeed!"

**"When my teacher announced my name for the next level I was so glad. . . . I couldn't wait for the lunch break to tell the good news to my sisters!" —Bimala**

**695**  
years of cumulative  
staff experience

**81%**  
caregiving staff have  
a bachelor's degree or higher



## Sayuri Learns to Write and Has Top Grades



Sayuri joined our family three years ago after her father passed away and her mother was too ill to care for her. She had difficult circumstances as a child. She shared, "Before coming to Grace Home, education was not a regular part of my routine. I had to skip school to help my mom. I was not even able to write my name." So when Sayuri joined our

family, we provided her with special tutoring, and a good school to attend so she could catch up on what she had missed the prior years. Of course reading and writing were critical building blocks that we had to build.

At first it was a challenge for her, "When I came to Grace Home I was in the 3rd grade. I went to school but at first I did not understand what was taught. . . . I was really scared and was worried about my future." We provided her with special tutoring from an on-staff tutor and practice opportunities to help her catch up with her classmates. She says, "I would get my practice assignments 15 days before the exams. From that day on—15 days ahead—I started studying. I read the chapters and practice exams and would write out the answers."

After this past semester we asked her how she was doing. "Within a few days of the unit exams the teachers gave us our results. I got good grades in all of my exams and passed all my classes!"

We are so proud of Sayuri and her achievements. Her life was forever transformed the day she joined our family. Reading and writing were just the start, and now she has big dreams. "I want to become an engineer. With that education and income I want to help the community!"

## Anathi Joins Our Family and Begins Pre-Kindergarten



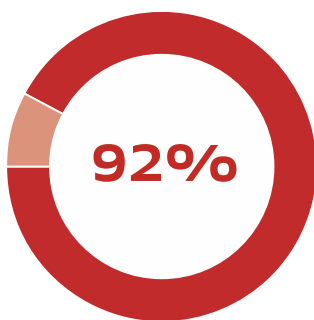
Earlier this year Anathi, 4 1/2 years old, joined our family. We were so glad to make her our daughter for life! As part of our academic program, our daughters are enrolled in early education programs to help

them learn the building blocks for elementary school. She shared with us how it's going so far:

"Everything was very new for me as I had never attended school before. I was really happy to go to school. . . . The first day of school was really memorable for me. My teacher is really good. She teaches me slowly and nicely. At home some of my elder sisters help me with my homework and teach me again and again. I love being here at Grace Home because everyone loves me a lot and takes care of me."

We're so glad Anathi is in our family and that we can call her our daughter!

**"I had never attended school before. I was really happy to go to school!"**



participation in an after school activity or sport

1  
"Best Athlete"  
school-wide recognition



15 competition champions

1 life-saving appendectomy



# Sparrows Nest

## Construction Update

Late last March, on Good Friday, we broke ground on Sparrows Nest. After more than 300,00 man hours we're closing in on completion of Phase 1, likely to occur in July. We were able to build a state-of-the-art facility for best-in-class education and care. Truly this campus will bring a new era of excellence to everything we do by allowing us to elevate the quality of care, academics, and safety of our daughters to new levels.

### Pre-K-6th Grade School with Best-in-Class Curriculum

This 15,000 square foot building contains classrooms for our daughters to attend pre-kindergarten through 6th grade as well as administrative offices for key staff and teachers. Through this school we'll be able to provide private English education based on India's prestigious CISCE curriculum. Less than 1 percent of Indian students attend this caliber of school. Ours will be on-site, with guaranteed admission to our daughters, and with special programming to help meet their individual needs. We're in the midst of hiring our teachers and administration for the coming school year.

### Two Girls' Homes with Family-Style Housing

Moving to family-style housing will be such an amazing opportunity for our daughters and staff to bond. Additionally there is separate space for sleeping, studying, cooking together, and family meals. With 12 daughters per home, a house mother, and two "aunties" to help, each daughter can bond with mom, and have a tight-knit family to call her own.

### Leadership Center for Training and Guests

The Leadership Center brings us the opportunity to enhance our training for both our staff and partner orphanages. Here we can train our staff, host and conduct guest lecturers, provide space for conference meetings, and host overnight guests in comfortable accommodations.



Pre-K-6 School building under construction



Girls' home with the first coat of paint



Partitions and windows installed at the school



Leadership Center



**300,000**

man hours  
of construction

**100+**

construction people  
on-site daily

**15+**

pieces of heavy  
machinery on-site daily



## OUR MOST URGENT NEEDS

### REMAINING SPARROWS NEST PROJECTS TO COMPLETE IN 2017

While we have much to celebrate with all that we've already funded and built at the site, there are some outstanding projects that ideally would be completed during this phase of construction which are not yet funded. If you know someone who may be able to help us meet these needs, would you prayerfully consider introducing us or asking them to help?

Remaining projects include:



Security Wall..... \$116,000



Back-up Power/Generators.....\$40,000



Water Filtration.....\$20,000



Leadership Center..... \$75,000  
Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment



2 Girls Homes ..... \$44,000  
Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment  
(\$22,000/home)



3 Classrooms + Library ..... \$50,000  
Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment  
(\$12,500/class)



Internet & Phone..... \$5,000  
Communication



Roads..... \$45,000



Campus Lighting.....\$5,000



Security/CCTV..... \$15,000

#### OPERATIONAL NEEDS

18 children need to be sponsored

**\$6,138**

1 child for 1 year

**\$111,126**

Total Need



# Replication

## Maahir Stands 1st in His Class!

As a young boy Maahir's mother couldn't care for him, so he was raised by his grandmother. Then 12 years ago, at age 10, his grandmother passed away and he went to an orphanage for boys.

He was very smart and did well on his exams in high school, but neither he, nor the home he lived in, could afford to pay for college. It seemed as though it was the end of the line for him with no way to pursue college.

Thankfully As Our Own was able to help. We financially and administratively support the boys' home he lives in, so we offered to cover all the costs of his room, board, tuition, and expenses. Maahir is in his second year at the university studying business. At the end of this latest semester he stood first in his class in all five of his subjects! We are so thankful to be able to help Maahir achieve his dreams thanks to your generous support!

29

sons benefitting

13,962

meals for sons

4

sons attending college

## Please join us:

### Get involved:

- » Pray for our staff, sons and daughters, and financial supporters on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis.
- » Pray for the architects, project managers, contractors, and crew who are building Sparrows Nest.
- » Think about and pray for friends and family who you could introduce to our organization.
- » Introduce us to your missions pastor or senior pastor so we can discuss partnership opportunities.
- » Host an event such as a fundraising dinner or women's lunch to spread the word about our work.
- » Volunteer by using your talents and skills. Whether you're a CPA, architect, nurse, teacher, psychologist, or something else,

we may have ways for you to use your professional talents to help us achieve our mission. Contact us and we'll find the right opportunity for you.

### Pray for:

- » Final approvals from the government to open our school in time for the next school year
- » Peace of mind for our staff and daughters before, during, and after the move
- » The hiring of key teaching and care staff for Sparrows Nest
- » Admission and visas for our daughters to attend college in the U.S.
- » Provision of funds for outstanding projects and additional daughters needing annual financial support

## AWARENESS & FUNDRAISING

Our Most Successful Fall Ever!

174

first time donors in October-December

\$200K

in first time donor gifts in October-December

37

first time donors gave \$1,000+ in October-December

## Projected Efficiency for FY 2016-17

