



Letter from the President

Enterprise Mentors has awarded Padma Venkataraman their 2009 Humanitarian of the Year award.

Page 1

Postcard from the Field:

A Glimpse into the morning of Ron and Joyce Hanson.

Page 1

Sponsorship Corner

Young sponsor Jenna Lizerbraum recently gave a speech at her Bat Mitzvah.

Page 2

Volunteer Story

This story was recounted by Andy Taylor, a volunteer in this June. Andy is a Senior Pastor a Lutheran Church in Texas.

Page 2

President's Letter



I have such exciting news! Enterprise Mentors has awarded our very own Padma Venkataraman their 2009 Humanitarian of the Year award. Previously awarded to Laura Bush and Guatemalan First Lady Wendy Widmann de Berger, the honor is an acknowledgement of Padma's tremendous impact on thousands of families affected by leprosy throughout India. She will receive the award in Utah on October 9, so all throughout late September and early October Padma and I

will be traveling throughout the United States to speak in national forums and universities about the work of Rising Star Outreach. We would love to have you join us at any of the open venues. Please bring along your family and friends for this incredible opportunity to meet Padma. She would love to know you, and I promise your life will be better for knowing her. See you there!

For dates and locations, please log on to our website at www.risingstaroutreach.org and mark your calendars accordingly!

With Love,
Becky

*Postcard from the Field:
A Glimpse into the morning of
Ron and Joyce Hanson*

I like the mornings. Our cooks, Padmini and her husband, Govendanraj, are in the kitchen before dawn. The security guards open the hostels just as the first light comes. It is cool, especially after a thunderstorm like two nights ago. By six am the boys are awake above us and noisily moving through their morning chores. The hallways are swept and mopped, toilets are cleaned, clothes are washed and hung outside to dry, and the outside flower-beds and walkways are tended.

The children are gone to school before eight-thirty after their morning prayers, songs, and breakfast in their rooms. Then, the quiet period starts. It is peaceful to hear the soft voices of the cleaning ladies and kitchen help as they walk in from the village. Their happy chattering goes on all morning. I have





which is counted cannot lose its identity. I am counted, and therefore make a difference. Likewise, I am counted on". I am living by Torah and this idea through my mitzvah project.

There is an 8-year old boy in India named Dellibabu who needs my help in preserving the integrity of his ancestry. His parents have leprosy, so he has been taken from the Leper Colony and placed in a home called Rising Star Outreach where, rather than living a life of begging, sickness and hopelessness, he is being given

the chance for a healthy life.

I am sponsoring his stay at Rising Star and providing money for his food, shelter, health, and education. He now knows he is loved, and he "counts". He can carry on his family line, and has now, found a place in mine."

Volunteer Story: Andy Taylor

This story was recounted by Andy Taylor, a volunteer in this June. Andy is a Senior Pastor a Lutheran Church in Texas.

time to plan and think at my apartment desk until Selvi comes in for the daily sweeping and mopping of the floors and I have to find somewhere else to work.

The volunteers have met at eight-thirty for their daily assignments. The colony groups meet their drivers and vehicles and head out for building, painting, or simply talking with the leprosy patients. The tutoring group takes their straw mats to the mango groves for one-on-one sessions with the children. A driver loads the Mobile Medical Van with the day's supplies and then it too leaves - usually with the back full of eager volunteers.

When a driver brings in the office staff from their homes or their local bus stops at nine-thirty, my work-time changes to meetings with our manager Thirumaran and other employees. Once every two weeks, the entire remaining morning is consumed with a staff meeting. I was impressed again this last Tuesday about the quality and dedication of our Indian managers and staff. They are always well prepared. I sent the agenda for the meeting out a day before and each had a thoughtful report.

I am happy to see the exuberance and happiness of the children as they come running back from school at noon for their lunch, but the morning cool air has gone and there is a whole different feeling as we prepare for the rest of the school day and the noise and confusion of after-school play and evening activities.

Sponsorship Corner:

Young sponsor Jenna Lizerbraum recently gave a speech at her Bat Mitzvah in which she described her experience as the sponsor of Delibabu. We loved it enough to ask her if we could share it with you, and she graciously agreed.

"I have learned from our Torah portion that by being counted as a member of my family and Jewish community, I have a sense of belonging and a knowledge of who I am. That



I attended the first summer session with Rising Star this June. It was an amazing, wonderful experience. There were so many fascinating and life-changing encounters, from washing and preparing for bandaging the feet of those affected with leprosy to tutoring the precious children of the leprosy-affected at the boarding school. It would be difficult to pick out just one moment that was most memorable, but I wanted to relate something simple that had a profound impact on me. I share this memory because some supporters of Rising Star may not think that their small gift makes much of a difference.

The children at Rising Star are like little sponges. They soak up any knowledge or love that we give them -- gifts that we can all give. We are all capable of giving love to these children, even if it is a simple smile. My experience with pouring love into these little

sponges came through the simplicity of the times tables.

I am definitely not a math person, not by any stretch - but God used my basic knowledge of the times tables to minister to the children at Rising Star. As we were tutoring one night, I saw that some of the boys always looked at their charts rather than really memorizing the times tables. I knew this would limit them down the line, so I started "quizzing" them and asking them times tables off the top of my head.

They enjoyed this game, and we started practicing the times tables in the evenings. It was a joy to see them using and developing their minds and having fun at the same time. I don't know what the result of all this will be. I don't know if they will keep "quizzing" each other. It was such a small thing, but it bonded us and brought joy, knowledge and fun into all our lives. Their smiles were truly glorious when they would get an answer right.

Something as simple as the times tables transform into a thing of beauty in the warm nights of India when they are practiced with love. You have something you can give as well. It may seem small or insignificant to you, but when given with God's love, He can multiply it to affect many. The feeding of the 5,000 comes to mind, as does the Matthew 10:42 "Whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward." What does God want to pour out through you? If it is poured out with love, be it into a spongy child or a cast off leprosy patient, realize that you both will never be the same. Thank you, Rising Star, for being a vessel where love is poured forth.

Donor Updates: Dental Program

David Archuleta fans have the kindest hearts! One of his biggest fans happens to be



his dentist. Dr. Scott McGavin heard about Rising Star Outreach and instantly knew he wanted to help. He called the home office in GA and spoke with Becky about assisting the leprosy patients and the children attending the school with dental needs. Becky was thrilled with the idea. He would be the first dentist some of the colonists and their children had ever seen. He worked tirelessly to pull together donated supplies and the help of two more dentists, Dr. Aste and Dr. VanDen-Berghe, but knew that some of the equipment would need to be funded and they would also need to raise money to cover the cost of the trip. Dr. McGavin spoke with David about Rising Star and David wanted to help too. Soon, there was support coming from all directions. David's fans put together fundraisers and fan sites competed against each other to raise \$15,000 needed to purchase the dental

equipment. Fans from all over the world began sending in donations and soon met the challenge ... and then some! We were able to purchase the dental equipment and install a much needed sewage system.

Dr. McGavin's Dental team was able to work on every child at the school and help countless others in the colonies during their two-week visit. He commented that even though they were not able to solve every dental problem during this visit, there would be fewer sleepless nights due to toothaches or

lingering infections. Before he left the Rising Star Campus, Dr. McGavin taught the children a David Archuleta song, "Somebody Out There". An outpouring of gratitude was captured in a heartfelt video put together by Lance McGavin as the children sang the well-matched lyrics with all of the feeling they could convey. In the last few weeks since the video was posted on YouTube, there have been nearly 34,000 hits! We would like to thank the McGavin Dental team and their families for their kind service to so many in need.

Pathway of Hope

Archuleta fans keep on giving! As if clean teeth and healthy mouths are not enough, now they want to give the children of Rising Star and their families, HOPE. David Archuleta has a new goal for his fans to raise another \$20,000 to furnish the newly completed Secondary School with classroom sup-



plies and furnishings. Rising Star Outreach has partnered with AngelsforaCause.com, one of his fan sites dedicated to charitable work, to create a "Pathway of Hope" for the children and their families to enjoy when they visit the school. Bricks can be donated inscribed with the donors name or a personal message to create a pathway winding through a beautiful garden next to the school. The Pathway of Hope fundraiser was launched June 1 and has already raised nearly \$10,000! This gift will last through many generations of children who attend the Rising Star schools and will continue to lift and inspire them each year with added hope for a brighter future.





Priya A.

Priya is such a loving child, and it shows in all that she does. She is always among the first to give hugs, and let you know that she loves you. You will rarely find Priya without a smile on her beautiful face. She loves to help her teacher by pointing out words and numbers on the blackboard. Priya is from the Paranur leprosy colony. Leprosy has left her father with severe deformities.