



A Monthly Newsletter October 2010

Letter from the President

From Mozambique to India, this has been a busy month full of exciting events and even more wonderful experiences.

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Notes From the Field

The Hendershots get a visit from the Hansons, a dinner with Marriott and a lesson in PE activities as the volunteer season ends.

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Volunteer Experience

Cameron DeLange describes his first month as a volunteer as he looks forward to two more months of service.

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Letter from the President

Together with the leadership of Care for Life, a charity serving the poor in Mozambique, the leadership of Rising Star visited both India and Mozambique. We were exploring the possibility of incorporating some of the aspects of Care for Life's Family Preservation Program (FPP), into our work in the leprosy colonies. FPP is a remarkable program designed to help create meaningful local leaders, as well as increase community and family bonds.

We look forward in the next few months, to working together to see how some of the principles of FPP can help raise the standard of living in the leprosy colony families.

The children are thrilled to have the dance program created through our partnership with Promethean Spark, now running year round, instead of just the

summertime. They're dancing their little hearts out as part of the regular PE classes. The energy they create is affecting the entire campus! Soon they'll be taking a dance program, to nearby



LtoR: Linda Harper, President of Care for Life; Becky Douglas, President of Rising Star Outreach; Amy Anotonelli, Exec Dir Rising Star Outreach; Juao Bueno, Exec Dir Care for Life; Steve Samuelian, Board of Directors (RSO & CFL)

villages, as our kids get Hands On in educating India about leprosy!

In other news, The Lizerbram family has done it again! As sponsors of Dellibabu, they continue to find new ways to support our work. Last year, Jenna raised extra money for Rising Star at her Bat Mitzvah. This year, the whole family

joined together to sponsor a YouthJams concert at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. Four bands performed while fans listened, swayed, and danced. Everyone had a ball! More than \$1,000 was raised.

Thanks to the great success, the Lizerbram family is already talking about making this an annual event.

After hearing a presentation about Rising Star, Zachary Konecki came up afterwards and handed his new Oakley Sunglasses (complete with case) to a stunned Becky. The sunglasses had been purchased as his birthday present for his fourteenth birthday. All of his friends and family, instead of giving him gifts, had donated money for him to make the

purchase. Now he insisted he wanted to give them to Rising Star. They were sold. With the money, many children at the Rising Star Campus who were shoeless now have new shoes.

Becky Douglas

Notes From the Field



The volunteer summer session officially ended August 28th, so September was a month spent refocusing on the day-to-day operations of Rising Star. We were excited to have Ron and Joyce Hanson in

A week after the Hansons departed, the Courtyard Marriott in India held a private dinner party fundraiser for Rising Star Outreach Marriott Children's Homes, where a significant amount of money was raised for our campus here in India. We were thrilled with the outpouring of Indian support! It is so exciting to see the Indian people beginning to help us achieve our goal of self-sufficiency for the leprosy community.

We have a great PE teacher who has set up an after-school sports activity every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The children all look forward to the Indian games such as chupardy, coco, soccer, cricket, badminton, and even Yoga in the coconut grove. Our family loves these days because we feel like we are watching our children at the local park in their organized city sports games.

The school is doing awesome because of the energy that Celina Charles, our new principal, brings to India every day. She has worked hard to get to know the students individually, and to understand their strengths and weaknesses. She is determined to make sure each child is



sponsor and support this work: you are doing something wonderful.

With Love,

Steele and Sarah Hendershot



*Sponsorship Corner
Grandma Nicki*

Nicki Shurtleff, aka "Grandma Nicki", is one of dear Kanmani Devan's sponsors. Although she has never been to India, part of her heart is there. Her daughter spent the summer as a volunteer at Rising Star and set her up to be Kanmani's sponsor. Every day, she would send messages, hugs, and kisses to her special boy through her daughter. We encourage our sponsors to send books if they decide they want to give their child a birthday gift and Kanmani especially loved the book that Nicki sent him with a note and picture attached to the inside cover. She loves receiving cards and letters from him



town for a week for the Annual Indian Board meeting and School Committee meeting. Having Ron and Joyce and their experience and wisdom even for a week adds so much!

reading at or above grade level. The children are all doing well and we are excited to see what they are going to do and become in the future thanks to all of these combined efforts! To all of you who



and says, "I hope to someday go to India and meet my Kanmani and see his captivating smile and happy face."



and then I had to start taking away points. Her behavior persisted until she had lost all three of the positive points that she had.

After a little while the classroom settled down and Rosy went back to her seat. It was then that another girl, Poongavanam, raised her hand and asked me if she could do something. She asked if she could give 1 of her 4 points to her friend Rosy so that she could have a point because she was sad that her friend didn't have any left.

It was quite remarkable for me to see this. When I consider the backgrounds and trials that many of these kids have

had to face, and yet see the unveiled compassion, caring, and love that they show toward one another – well, the entire operation is something that you just have to experience for yourself. It is somewhat hard to explain. It just makes you take a step back and really look at how much we all have been given and wonder if we have this selfless attitude that shows so often among these children.

Rising Star Outreach and India are remarkable places and I am excited for the remaining two months of my stay here.

Cameron DeLange



Volunteer Experience

Rising Star truly is an amazing work and place. I have been here a little over a month and have already learned a great deal. Four days a week I teach school, primarily English to kids who are behind and struggling with the language. On the other days, I work with the medical clinics in the leprosy colonies.

The incentive points program in my classroom provides positive motivation for good behavior by allowing me to reward points. It also helps me maintain discipline by allowing me to subtract points for misbehavior. This week, one of my students, Rosy, was - lets just say - going her own way. I warned her twice



Karthik Raja

February 12, 2004

Karthik Raja is full of curiosity and adventure. You can never find him in the same place at playtime. He doesn't speak much English, but his eyes and smile say millions of words. You can't help but pinch his cheeks as he gives you that devious smile.

