



A Monthly Newsletter

January 2012

Letter from the President

Becky and her family spend part of their Christmas holiday in India and experience the growth of Rising Star.

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Volunteer Project

Penny Wars raged in Pleasant Grove, Utah as students raised money for items at our school in India.

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School Update

The children ended the semester in song as the choir put on a show for the school.

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Letter from the President

I am writing this president's letter from India. I brought my family to India so that we could serve as volunteers together over part of the Christmas holiday. It has been an incredible experience for my family.

Yesterday we had an experience that in many ways defines what Rising Star Outreach has become. We were working with the medical clinic at the Bharathapuram Colony. We were so pleased to see so many people healing up, due to



the diligence they are giving to the wound self-care program. Many people's ulcers were completely healed. Other wounds were obviously healing up, even though it was clearly evident that they had originally been much larger. Every person had protective shoes (thanks to our new program), so we saw almost no new ulcers. To see this kind of progress was so encouraging.

Then we were shocked as a man I had never seen before sat down to have his bandages cut off. When the bandages were removed, his foot was blackened and nearly rotted off. I wasn't sure that it didn't have gangrene. We called for Dr. Susan to guide this



treatment personally. She explained that he had come from Chennai, where he had heard of Rising Star. When his foot became so infected he could no longer walk on it, he had managed to make it to the medical clinic at Bharathapuram (more than an hours' drive from Chennai). How he got there, I have no idea. This was his first visit.

Seeing this foot took me back to the time when nearly all of our patients had ulcers similar to this. It brought tears to my eyes to

realize how much progress had been made, how much relief of human suffering had been effected in the past few years. Every day our clinic works colonies where we are seeing this same progress. This past year our clinic provided more than 13,000 services to patients. So much relief brought to so many people!

As one woman came to the clinic, recognizing me, she came, took my face in both of her deformed hands, and kissed me gently on both cheeks. With halting English she said, "God bless you and give you long life. You have given us our lives back." By now the tears were falling freely.

None of this would have been possible without the incredible support of our sponsors, our volunteers, Padma's guidance, and our staff. With all of this, we also humbly acknowledge God's tender blessings on our efforts.

This was a very memorable Christmas for our family. What a joy to be able to share Rising Star's work with some of our children. We'd love to see you and your family in India next Christmas!

Becky Douglas

Penny Wars at Manila Elementary A Fun Fundraiser for Rising Star

The excitement to win the Penny Wars game had moms of the students at Manila Elementary School in Pleasant Grove, Utah, heading to the bank to get rolls of



pennies to support their children in the fundraiser to help the Rising Star Project in India. Two different years the students have raised over \$2500 for the children of leprosy affected people in India. Three years ago they helped buy beds for the children at the school and recently they raised money to buy books for the school.

What is a Penny War? Each class has a milk jug for the money. Pennies give the class positive points. Other coins and bills are minus points for the class. Students bring pennies for their own jug and other money to "bomb" the jugs in other classrooms. For 10 minutes at the beginning of the day and 10 minutes at the end of the day, during Penny Wars Week, students can go all over the school building "bombing" the jugs in the other classroom with dollars, quarters, dimes and nickels. Each afternoon, the student council

counted the money so there was a current score for each classroom on a big chart in the hall. This chart fueled the desire to bring more money to play the game. It was great because everyone could participate, even if it was with only one penny.

While "war" and "bombing" sound a little bazaar to be doing at school, this game really built enthusiasm for donating money for Rising Star. At the end, the class with the most positive points received ice cream bars and every other student received a Kudos bar for their effort. Actually, the biggest moneymaker was the class with the most minus points. We emphasized that we were all winners because we had helped the children in India.

Principal Nancy Sorensen has volunteered in India with Rising Star for two summers. She has been able to share her experiences

in assemblies with her students and in her school newsletter. This has personalized the fundraising effort for the children and their parents. Dr. Sorensen has also taken letters written by her



students to the students in India. This has added a personal connection with the kids on both sides of the world.

School Update
Celina Charles

December was an exciting month for us at the Perry Matriculation School. Our second term ended and the children went home to visit their families for Christmas holidays. We sent the children off in style, with a choir and dance presentation for their parents. All of the students had been practicing for several months, and the parents were proud to see what their children had accomplished.

The choir, consisting of sixteen children and directed by Pam Gates, had improved dramatically since its inception only a few months previous. Children

who had not been able to hold a simple tune were now entertaining their audience with a full program, including solos and a cappella renditions.

The choir was following by dance presentations by each of the classes and by our LifeDance troupe. By this point it was standing room only, and parents craned their necks to catch a glimpse of their swaying and twirling child. Thank you to those who prepared and organized this event, especially Anne Driggs and Diana Carlson. The children miss you!

Update from India
Jim & Pam Gates

December was the debut performance of the Rising Star Chorus. They performed for the Marriott Christmas Party and then the following day for all the families of Rising Star students prior to the Christmas holiday. They sang seven selections including two Christmas songs.

Four of the choir members sang in either a very small group or a solo during the concert - their very



first ever public performance. They sang so well that the audience cheered for them and they deserved all the applause. We will be expanding the choir in 2012 to give more children an opportunity to express themselves through music. It has been a challenge but the children are learning and gaining confidence in their abilities. It was fun to walk through the hostel and hear the choir members singing the songs at the top of their voices as they practiced for their performances.



Letter from a Sponsor

“Dear Rising Star,
Our daughter, Ivy Darger, had a wonderful experience with you this summer. For her Christmas gift this year, she asked to sponsor a child that she fell in love with, Harini. When I was telling to woman who runs the local dry cleaners that we go to, she immediately pulled \$50 from her wallet and asked that I pass it along. Ivy has also received a check donation to Rising Star as a gift this Christmas.”



Sathish Kumar R

05/07/2005

Sathish Kumar's family lives in the Mallavati-Thennaru leprosy colony. His father and mother raise cows. Both his father and grandmother have leprosy. Sathish loves to play hide and seek, kho kho, and loves to draw parrots and butterflies. He is very intense in everything he does. We love having Sathish Kumar at Rising Star!
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