



Namaste, India Calling

July 2008

Welcome to the first newsletter for Namaste India Children's Fund (NICF).

It is our hope to *engage, educate*, and, ultimately, *inspire* to action.

We'll share statistics and stories..... successes and challenges....

hopes and dreams.....

as we strive to provide a childhood for the street children of India.

Notes from the Founder

It's a privilege and a humbling feeling to share with you the accomplishments of **Namaste India Children's Fund**. NICF continues to grow in importance for the support of the Udayan Children's Home administered by Vatsalya in Jaipur, India. The newsletter is being sent to each of you because of your interest and support.

Delta Donohue's decision to join me in the leadership of NICF has been an incredible experience for me. She brings so much energy and an expanded vision for NICF's mission. We partner with Indian organizations working to provide street children in India with opportunities to regain their childhood and grow up in healthy and loving environments. All of our funding comes from US donors and grants.

In February, I traveled to Jaipur and spent time with Jaimala and Hitesh Gupta, founders and visionaries of Vatsalya. It was a joy to visit Vatsalya's Udayan and see the smiling faces of the

children. They are thriving and growing in a safe and nurturing environment. Even though the resources for caring for the children are limited, Vatsalya has been able to provide for the needs of the children. Whether it's nutritious meals, quality education, fun activities, vocational discernment, or the gentle presence of a loving hug, the children are well cared for.

NICF will continue to be a support and a source of hope for street children of India. Vatsalya's Udayan allows children to experience a childhood and childhood experiences they wouldn't have on the streets. Continue to remember the needs of these children. There are so many children in need of care and it is gratifying to be able to make a difference in those that have found a home at Vatsalya's Udayan.

Thank you for your interest and support.

Dan Eigsti, President and Founder



Udayan bigger girls singing

*****Did You Know*****

- There are approximately 18 million children living on the streets of India. That equals the total population of Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Wyoming, Utah and Idaho! (Hitesh, J., 18 Million Question Marks; www.quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states)
- Over 100 million Indian children work as labor in industries to add to the family income (Weiner, M., The Child and the State in India)

'We are the ones we have been waiting for.'

June Jordan

How NICF Helps

NICF partners with Indian Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) serving the street children population. Jointly we are committed to providing a safe and loving environment for children to grow up in; a place where education and nurturing are valued.

Currently we are raising awareness and funding for Vatsalya (www.vatsalya.org).



This Indian-run NGO has been actively involved in helping children for over 5 years. They have created Udayan, a children's village, where 64 orphaned and abandoned children reside. Built on 10 acres of land, this beautiful campus features residential units, K-8 school facilities, a kitchen and dining hall, a meditation center, an on-site health clinic, sports and recreational areas and vocational areas including: carpentry, tailoring, dairy, baking, jewelry-making and more.

Vatsalya's success is becoming known around the world. Recently the founders, Jaimala and Hitesh Gupta, traveled to Scotland where Jaimala was a keynote speaker at a global conference! Also, volunteers now come from all over the world to help at Vatsalya's Udayan.



Volunteers from US, Norway, Ireland and Germany.

*****Success Stories*****

- ❖ At June events in Denver, CO, NICF raised over \$1200 in support of Vatsalya's Udayan. A dedicated team worked diligently to make the event a success!
- ❖ A church in Wichita, Kansas is taking their tax-incentive checks and donating them to two charities. NICF was selected as one of these charities!!!!
- ❖ To date, this year, NICF has sent over \$35,000 to Vatsalya.
- ❖ Denver author, Carolyn Betts has just completed writing: My Brother, Lee and Me. A wonderful story for people of all ages dealing with the challenges of having an autistic brother. Carolyn is graciously donating a portion of the profits to Vatsalya to help sponsor children at Vatsalya's Udayan. Contact Delta at deltadonohue@gmail.com for information on ordering.

*****How You Can Help*****

- ✚ NICF (www.nicfund.org) is a 501c3 non-profit that operates entirely by donations and grants. Please send donations to:

NICF

719 Grandview

Newton, Kansas 67114

*****Together we really can make a difference!

- ✚ Remember it is only \$750 to fully sponsor a child for a year. This covers EVERYTHING: food, housing, school expenses, medical expenses, outings, etc.
- ✚ Start a savings account and put in \$1.00/day or skip the latte and bank that money. At the end of a quarter, consider writing a check to NICF or another charity of your choice. Check out www.seedsofexchange.org for more powerful ideas. This is a great way to involve your children in giving back and paying it forward!

- ✚ Volunteer! Vatsalya welcomes volunteers at Udayan. Cost is very minimal... \$12/day for room and board and the experience of a lifetime. NICF does not act as a placement agency but we would be happy to put you in touch with Vatsalya and function as a liaison to help enhance your experience. As we have been to Vatsalya's Udayan, our firsthand experiences can be very useful!
- ✚ Help us get the word out. Do you have contacts that might be beneficial to NICF? Do you know someone who is eager to make a difference but doesn't know how to begin? Send them our way!!
- ✚ Delta Donohue and Sarah Simms (another previous Vatsalya volunteer!!) are selling original photography depicting life at Vatsalya's Udayan and local villages in India. All proceeds go to NICF in support of Udayan. If you are interested in learning more and/or ordering prints, please email Delta at deltadonohue@gmail.com.

*When indeed shall we learn that
we are all related one to the other,
that we are all members of one
body?"
Helen Keller*



Some of Vatsalya's Children