



Namaste, India Calling

December 31, 2008

Welcome to Namaste India Children's Fund (NICF).
It is our hope to *engage, educate*, and, ultimately, *inspire* to action.



Vatsalya's Little Ones

Going Back

I couldn't believe it had been almost a year since I had visited Udayan - the wonderful village for orphaned and abandoned children run by Vatsalya. A new housing unit had been built and Aradhana, the meditation/meeting center was being expanded to more comfortably seat the growing population of Udayan. Devesh, Divyansh and Himanshu had joined the

energetic group of boys along with Taslima and her beautiful 2 year old girl Shabnam. Staff changes included a new carpenter, Rajendra, and an additional teacher, Santosh.

The campus was green and lush. The hundreds of trees were growing well and providing shade and beauty to the children and staff. A veritable oasis in the desert! Udayan has also had great success with their crops – growing potatoes, onion, spinach, bajara (a local millet), and wheat. For milk production they have added 2 new water buffaloes and one cow.

However, the very best part of returning to Udayan was the chance to spend time with the kids again. I marveled at how they had grown, some had mellowed, some seemed more mischievous but all were still filled with the endless capacity to laugh and love. They welcomed me with hugs and grins as if I had only been gone for a couple of days instead of almost a year. Within no time we were singing songs and playing the games.

Vatsalya, in managing Udayan, continues to provide a loving home for these children, most of whom would have nowhere else to go except the streets. Here they are able to grow, dream and reach for the stars. Imagine an evening, sitting outside in the cooling desert air, watching the older children prepare a local dance for the upcoming festival. A five-year old is sprawled out on your lap, not bothered in the slightest that we share only 5 or 6 phrases of common spoken language, content just to be all the while sipping a cup of Karan Uncle's incredible chai. What could possibly be better?

Delta Donohue
Vice President



*****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 54 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.

*****Recent Success Stories*****

- ❖ A church in Wichita, Kansas took their tax-incentive checks and donated them to two charities. NICF received over \$4000!
- ❖ NICF was the beneficiary of a photography exhibit: "*India Calling - A Reflection*" that was displayed in Denver, Colorado during the month of November. Several photos were sold and 100% of the profits went to NICF.
 - o Little India, a wonderful restaurant in Denver, graciously donated appetizers for the event. For those of you that live in Denver, feel free to drop by, eat some of their wonderful food and say hello from NICF.
- ❖ NICF sent over \$40,000 to benefit the children of Vatsalya in 2008.

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

We all know these are difficult economic times. This is equally true in India. Food costs are soaring. Lentils have gone up 425% in a year. Vegetables, not grown on site at Udayan, have increased 400%. The price of wheat has almost doubled. As you can imagine, Vatsalya struggles to keep up with these rising costs. We noted some building projects in Delta's story of returning to Udayan. These building projects are the result of donations and grants specifically tagged for capital expansion. These monies cannot be applied to the day to day costs of feeding, clothing and educating children that Vatsalya cares for. If you are able to, we invite you to send something extra to 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 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.

We wish you a Happy New Year!



Some of Vatsalya's Children



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