



Namaste, India Calling

July 2009

Welcome to the Namaste India Children's Fund (NICF) Newsletter.

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



School time!

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 6 years. They have created Udayan, a children's village, where 55+ 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, recreational and vocational areas including: carpentry, tailoring, dairy, baking, jewelry-making and more.

A Special Appeal

Everyone knows these are difficult times. As talked about in our last newsletter this remains especially true in India. Food costs have skyrocketed. Vatsalya struggles to keep up with rising costs. So many non-profits and NGOs are experiencing donor fatigue. Vatsalya made a difficult, but deeply honorable, decision last year to stop child sponsorships. While there were many wonderful benefits, some of the children who weren't sponsored felt rejected and left out.

Even though Vatsalya has been fortunate in maintaining the majority of its donor base, recognizing the possibility of losing donors in these economic times, Vatsalya came up with the idea of the \$100 Campaign. It is a simple, but wonderful, idea and NICF is pleased to partner with Vatsalya in this campaign. Acknowledging that the global recession is likely to have far reaching impact for years to come, the goal of the \$100 Campaign is to lighten the load on donors while increasing the global network of partners supporting Vatsalya. Here's how it works☺

Members in the \$100 Campaign commit to long-term support of Vatsalya for \$100 a year. Each donor is encouraged to bring in other donors as well. Obtaining 250-350 members

would meet almost 80% of Vatsalya's entire child oriented programs, including Udayan; the village for orphaned and abandoned children. Donors who make this commitment will become a **Friend of Vatsalya**. They will be listed in the Annual Report and will receive a financial statement and activity report each quarter.

NICF encourages you to join in this campaign and become a **Friend of Vatsalya**. Perhaps you know others who are looking for a way to make a difference – a church group, a women's network, a group of school friends, your golfing buddy? Remember, for US citizens, these donations are tax-deductible. \$ 100 really can make a difference! Please contact NICF if you have any questions or if we can provide additional information.



Lunch at Vatsalya's Udayan

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

- ❖ NICF raised nearly \$30,000 for Vatsalya in the first half of 2009
- ❖ NICF was featured on a Denver college radio show called *Engaging the Ostrich*. This show highlights organizations committed to social justice and change. To listen to the interview, please see the website (www.NICFund.org\press)
- ❖ Neil Brander and Jean-Marie Antoine, two professional photographers, traveled to India and photographed Vatsalya's many extraordinary projects. Not only did they fully fund their trip, but they have granted NICF and Vatsalya the right to use their

photos. To learn more about their work please visit www.neilbrander.com. Note: All of the photos in this newsletter are Neil's beautiful work. Thank you Neil!

- ❖ Delta Donohue, Vice President of NICF, has become a contributing editor to Wandering Educators (www.wanderingeducators.com). She will contribute a monthly column, partnering with Jaimala Gupta, Vatsalya founder, called Voices from India. Another opportunity to spread the news about NICF and Vatsalya☺



Chores – Keeping Track of Feeding the Animals

NICF (www.nicfund.org) is a 501(c)(3) 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

*We can't solve problems using the same
kind of thinking we used to create them.*

Albert Einstein



Some of Vatsalya's Children

