

Dear Friends of Operation Shanti,

Our 43 kids at Karunya Mane continue to show improvement and progress. We even got back three of our “runaways” from last year, and for this we are very grateful. Project Food and More now supports 46 kids, up from 30 six months ago, and we continue to help the street kids and homeless women living on the streets of Mysore. See our website (www.operation-shanti.org) and blog (operationshanti.blogspot.com) for more on our work. And, as always, heartfelt thanks for your continued support.

Karunya Mane: The New Kids

We’re now in the middle of the school year, and our kids are busy with their studies and after-school tutoring. We took in the following new kids this year, including (thankfully) the three boys who were removed from our care last year by their moms who live on the streets.

Our new kids this year include: baby Adarsh, Anand and Arvind (siblings), Anusha, Darshan, Gautham, Lalitha, Mohan, Saumya, Suma, Tunmai, small Nanjunda, and Vijayalakshmi and Vinuta (siblings).

... a day in the life of our new kids ...



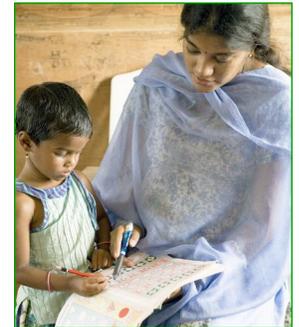
Little Adarsh was brought to us by a social worker. Her mother had several kids, all of whom she sold. Since the social worker did not know Adarsh’s name, we gave him his name, which means “perfection.”



We found Suma on the streets of Mysore. She endured severe hardship as a young girl on the streets and now receives counseling and tutoring at Karunya Mane.



Mohan attends pre-nursery school and an hour of tutoring each day with his teacher Vaibhav and his little pals, Darshan, Lalitha, and Gautham.



Saumya arrived at Karunya Mane this year and studies after school with her teacher Pranita. Saumya is a good student and has excellent handwriting.



Vijayalakshmi and Vinuta are six and four. Dad committed suicide and mom has a manual labor job in a factory, and there was nobody at home to take care of the girls.



Anand is back in school after missing five months last year when mom failed to return him to KM after a home visit.



After-school teacher Kumar (new this year) with the III and IV graders---and little Vishnu, who was placed with Kumar because he can’t sit still!



Little Tunmai, a sweet, happy girl, was brought to us by a social worker. Her mom is unable to care for her and often sleeps at the bus stand. Tunmai has been in and out of institutions, even at her young age of four.



Anusha (left, with her friend Jyothi) lost her mom at birth. Dad married another woman and hasn’t been seen in years. Anusha lived in a slum with her grannie in a single room with a dirt floor before coming to KM.



Arvind found his way back to Karunya Mane after mom asked us to take him and his brother Anand---after she failed to return them last year. They have no father and mom lives and works on the streets of Mysore.

At Karunya Mane, we are fortunate to have a wonderful person taking care of the kids, Mahesh, and a kind, loving, and hard-working cook named Sundaramma. She prepares healthy, nourishing, and very tasty meals that the kids love. Mahesh and “Aunty” come to us from a nearby town called Bannur, where they were trained by the founder of a well-run private school for poor village children.

If you are in Mysore, we welcome you to call us to schedule a visit to meet our kids at Karunya Mane.

Project Food and More (all names have been changed for privacy reasons)

Project Food and More now supports **46** destitute kids and their guardians with **monthly care packages**. Our newest additions include little Kavana, who lost dad to HIV two years ago. Mom and Kavana live in a village three hours from Mysore, and are alone. Mom doesn't work often because she has to take care of Kavana, who is three years old but appears more like a one-year-old. Kavana is being treated for AIDS and tuberculosis. Also new to the PFM program are:



- **Jayanth**, a happy and sweet eight-year-old boy who lives in a grass shack with his grannie and dad; dad is too ill to work consistently and mom died in 2004;
- **Madhu** (girl) and Chinanna, who live with their mom in a slum; dad died in 2004;
- **Anusha** and her mom Shoba, who live in a slum; Anusha's father is an alcoholic, refuses to seek treatment for his HIV, and provides no support to his family;
- **Sreenevasa**, a thin, shy four-year-old boy who lives in a slum area with his grandparents; mom died in 2005, dad drives an autorickshaw and refuses to seek treatment for his HIV.

Street People Program



New arrivals to our street program include little **Raju**, baby brother **Lakshman**, and his mom **Sushila**; **Ameena** and her mom **Katija**; **Banu** and baby **Venkatesh**; and **Shivanna** and his son **Kartik**. We helped admit Raju and Ameena to a pre-nursery school in their village so they would not roam the streets while their moms and dads begged. After about a month of sporadic attendance and lots of crying, Ameena and Raju now go to school daily and really enjoy their teacher!

Sushila's husband has two wives (not uncommon in India) and is inconsistent with his support of Raju. Mom begs on the streets every day for money for food. Our Street People Program now supports Sushila with a weekly stipend.

Banu, a quiet, illiterate girl who came to the street about a year ago, seems about 16 years old. We do not know where she came from. She recently had a little baby boy, Venkatesh, and they are now in our Street People Program. The baby's father, also about 16 years old, helps out sporadically but is often unreliable and unresponsive.

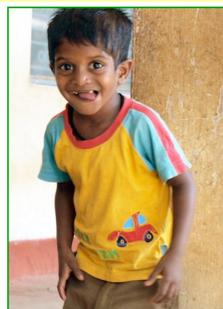


Shivanna, dad of Kartik (age 9), is a street vendor. He earns between 60 and 100 rupees (\$1.20 to \$2.00) a day, and often has to work late in the city. Mom was hit by a bus and died a few years ago, and nobody is around to take care of Kartik at night until dad gets home. We visited Kartik's house, which is really not a house; it is a cow shed attached to a house, and Kartik and dad sleep in a small side room with a dirt floor and no toilet or kitchen. After this school year is over, Kartik will be admitted to Karunya Mane.

We continue our presence on the street to assist those without homes and resources with their basic needs. The street women whom we have known and worked with for a long time refer many of our newcomers to us.

Ways to Help

- At Karunya Mane, **18** of our kids are sponsored; that leaves **25** kids waiting for someone to partner up with. For more on our sponsor program, please click here: [Sponsor a Karunya Mane Kid!](#)
- For \$25.00 (Rs.1200) per month, you can provide a child in our Project Food and More program with a monthly care package. 100% of your funds are distributed through this care package. For more information, please click here: [Sponsor a Project Food and More Kid!](#)



Cute Vishnu!

- To donate online if you live in India, please see our listing on GiveIndia [here](#).
- If you are in India and want to make an in-kind donation, we would appreciate rice, dhal, ragi, milk, vegetables, and fruit, as well as items we use daily, like bath and laundry soap, pencils, pens, and shampoo.
- We are looking for volunteers with experience **teaching English** to kids.

Make a Difference. Donate Today.

Many thanks to Janea Wiedmann for the wonderful photographs.

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Operation Shanti * 125 Gilbert Street Unit 3 * San Francisco * CA * USA * 94103
Akhanda Seva for Int'l Shanti * Cave Shiva Temple * Mysore * India * 570010