

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Bangalore and Home of Hope. As promised, here is the September edition of the newsletter to bring you up to date on what has been happening at our end.

We continue to be at around **170 residents** at the Home. This number includes roughly 15 residents who form the permanent staff at the facility. Raja and his family besides the staff. So things are still tight from an accommodation perspective.

The month of September has been a mixture of good news and not so good news which we can share with you. The good news first ofcourse! ☺

Website

Though progress has been slower than anticipated, much of the content for the revised website has been put together.



Raja has been spending time with Danny Christopher who has taken on this task through his company. We are hopeful that the site will be operational in the next couple of weeks. By the time the next version of this Newsletter is ready to be published we hope that many of you would have already visited the website. The address is given at the bottom of this newsletter. Check it out! We hope to do routine updates as things change so visit the site often!

Water Supply

We have great news to report!!! ☺ This news forms the highlight of this month. It was reported in last months newsletter that the process was two going to be in 2 parts and involves getting water from a neighbours borewell. Since then we have

experienced a miracle. A friend of the Home **Mr. H.T. Rao** has blessed us with the funds to dig a borewell on our own site. He had this done on behalf of his daughter who is also a friend of the Home and is living in the US. This activity was completed towards the early part of the month and we are delighted to report that we are now self sufficient as far as water is concerned. What a relief it is to not have to send out a Tractor every day, stand in queues to get water. We are most grateful for this most valuable gift.

Wedding

The month of September saw one of our residents Lakshmi get married !!! Hers is an amazing story. About 4 years ago, Lakshmi arrived at HOH with just the clothes on her body and bleeding from the head. She had been both physically and mentally abused and was really at the end of herself. Her mother had passed away and her father had remarried. Lakshmi was treated very badly by her stepmother and was made to feel that she was worthless. Her employers at the house she was working also mistreated her and beat her up. It was in this condition that she ended up at HOH.

Lakshmi has gone through a complete transformation at HOH and finally on 11 Sep 2006, Mohan (a close relative of Auto Raja) who is also part of the Staff at HOH got married to Lakshmi. Now Mohan and Lakshmi together serve at HOH and they have a bright future to look forward to. The wedding was conducted by Auto Raja and Pastor Ranjan in Tamilnadu. Lakshmi is like an adopted daughter to Raja.

Check out the wedding pictures at the end of this newsletter. Join us in congratulating the Happy Couple.

Sponsorship Opportunities

For those of you that may be interested in sponsoring the costs of residents of Home of Hope, here are some details. It costs us approximately **Rs. 500** per person per month for food, clothing, medicines, utilities and miscellaneous expenses. Please keep in mind that this applies to people that are generally "healthy". If they are sick the costs are significantly higher. If you are considering sponsorship on a regular basis, this should give you some general idea of what you need to take into account. Eventually we shall put up information on the website for sponsorship for those of you that may be interested. We can send out an information packet to you.

Gifts in Kind

Since this is only the 2nd newsletter, this list is being repeated from last month. Some examples of items that we can always use are as follows...

Food – Rice, Sugar, Salt, Wheat, Flour, Dhal, Biscuits, Snacks etc.

Cleaning Products – Soap, Laundry Detergent, Dettol, Air Fresheners, Disinfectant Spray, Mops, Buckets, etc.

Clothing – Used clothes in practically all sizes, male or female

Long Term Plans

Please keep in mind our need for a larger piece of land where we can build a facility that will be more adequate for our needs and allow the possibility for some expansion. We are still waiting on the request that has been placed with the Chief Minister of Karnataka (Mr. H.D. Kumaraswamy) and other senior government officials.

Motorcycle accident ☹

The week of 11 SEP, Raja was involved in a motorcycle accident while in town. By the grace of God, it was not major. However, he did end up getting badly bruised in two places on his leg as a result of the fall. He is in a bit of pain as this heals. Bangalore traffic is getting more chaotic by the day and it is a miracle that such incidents don't happen more often.

Family News

Both Raja and his wife Devi have not been feeling well. Devi has been unwell for a few weeks now and has had a couple of visits to the doctor. They are yet to diagnose what exactly the problem is but she may have to spend some time in the hospital to have the problem taken care of permanently. Please keep Devi in your thoughts as she tries to recover and they seek medical counsel.

Raja has been feeling tired and ill in the 2nd half of the month. The combination of work, the motorbike accident and catching a cold and some fever has made him weak with a lot of body aches and pains.

We would love to hear from you. We trust that God has been keeping you safe and in the center of His loving care. Thank you for standing with us. Our contact details are given here below.

*On behalf of Auto Raja, for
Home of Hope*

