



Amidst the storm sails the steady boat
Anchored by divine grace
Directed towards Freedom
Taking people to the shore of hope

NAMI NEWS

OCT 2006

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Bangalore and Home of Hope. The month of October marks the beginning of the Festival season in India. While this can be a joyous time for those among us with greater access to means, for those at the Home, it may not mean anything different from the regular daily routine. We are however doing our best to provide them a roof over their heads, 3 decent meals a day and a hope for the future.

This month we undertook a systematic count of the total number at the Home. The total strength is now up to 200 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 the accommodations are very cramped. Ofcourse this puts increased demands on the infrastructure, sleeping quarters, bathrooms, cleaning and hygiene, etc. etc. Needless to say our monthly maintenance costs as well need to go up proportionally.

Our Website
www.newarkmission.org



We are happy to report that as of the time of publishing of this Newsletter the new website will be up and running. Please take a few minutes to go online and visit our new website and provide us feedback! We are excited at the new professional look and feel to it. Our sincere thanks to Danny Christopher of Rich Artworks who has blessed us with this gift. Danny and his team have worked many long hours and gone through several revisions before the version you see has been uploaded onto the web.

The new website will be more informative and contains short video clips and several stories of

transformation of lives that have happened as a result of the work of Home of Hope. Keep visiting often as we intend to make frequent updates to keep the content fresh. Copies of this Newsletter are also available for downloading from the web. Older versions of the Newsletter for reference on the website.

Please note Raja has a new email address now (raja@newarkmission.org). Also mentioned in the "footer" of this newsletter. The old (freebie) email addresses will be phased out over a period of time.

80G Status Approval

We have been waiting to inform you of this approval for about 2 months now. It always seemed like it was only a week away, but we are happy to say that the 80G Charity status of Home of Hope has at last been renewed. So any contributions that you make will be tax deductible as per laws applicable in India. The approval is valid until March 2009.



Sponsorship Opportunities and other ways to help

Now that we have the website up and running, we can point you to it for ways you can get involved. We can use gifts both in cash and kind. We also have details of how to make contributions, where to send the cheque etc. listed on the website.

Long Term Plans

The request for obtaining a larger portion of land in order to build a bigger facility seems to be moving. Raja has been doing regular follow up of this with the government authorities including meeting personally with the Chief Minister Mr. HD. Kumaraswamy. The intended site is about 3 acres of land and is located about 4 kms from the current site by road (by foot it is

only about 1 km) In the next couple of months, this matter will be brought up in committee meetings for approval to move forward. Please keep this in your thoughts. If any of you has influence in these governmental circles we could most certainly use your help as this is going through the crucial approval phase now.

Solar Water Heater

The month of October witnessed another blessing. Koramangala Methodist Church has donated the funds to put in a 1000 Litre capacity Solar Water Heater. So far the Home did not have heated water. We now hope to have the benefit of hot water for bathing, cooking, cleaning etc. We are so grateful for this most practical gift to the Home.

When we went to purchase the Water Heater we found that for the 200 residents that we have, we really need 2 units of 1000 Litre capacity each. Raja was able to talk to company and they have been generous to give us an additional unit for free! So the gift from Koramangala Methodist Church has just multiplied and work will be done on the installation as in the next couple of weeks.

Family News

Raja's wife Devi continues to struggle with medical problems. In general she feels weak and is not able to function normally. The doctors have advised surgery as the only option. Once the mental barriers are overcome, we will need to schedule this and have it taken care of.

Raja is recovering well after his Motorcycle accident from last month. The scars remain but the pain has gone.

Raja is feeling overwhelmed by the many management issues that are thrown at him. There are numerous disputes that break out on a daily basis (with 200 people living in such close quarters, we are bound to rub each other the wrong way). In the majority of the cases, Raja is called upon to act as the arbitrator to set right matters, so things can function smoothly. This is really draining on Raja. Long term, he needs to have a second level of leaders among the staff. People that have the maturity and credibility to ensure everyone gets along and things function smoothly.

Stories of the Pictures on the next page

- The eyes of Residents that pass away at HoH are donated to others in need. The first 4 pictures show representatives from a local Eye Bank that conduct the procedure of removing the Eye Lens.
- The second set of pictures show the Police dropping off a woman that came to us in a mentally ill condition and her body was badly bruised and swollen in many places. We had no idea she was pregnant. Within 2 days of her arriving at HoH she was found dead on the morning of 10 Oct with her dead baby next to her. Apparently she must have died in childbirth. Please excuse us, the pictures may be too graphic for some of you.

As is typical of life, this month has been a mix of some good and some not so good. We press on in service. Thank you for standing with us. Our contact details are given here below.

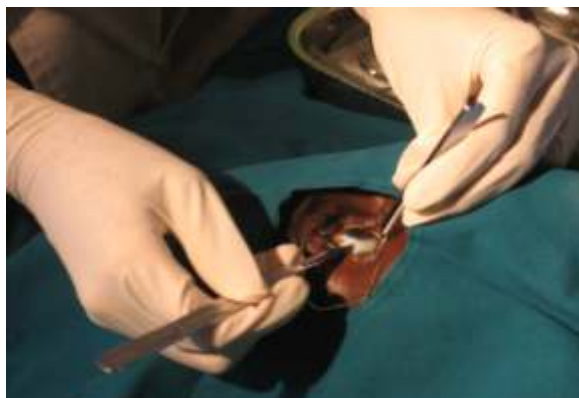
On behalf of Auto Raja, for Home of Hope



Representatives from Eye Bank



Unidentified woman dropped off by Police



Removal of Lens in process



Lady dies in childbirth at HoH



Eye Lens will be used for others in need



Delivered a near full term baby



The Donor who passed away at HoH



Raja holding the dead baby