



## 2005-2006 School Year Report

Dear Friends of KHEL,

Another year has gone by and KHEL continues to aid those who need it most. Because we work closely with the people we help, we are able to tailor our programs to suit the diverse needs of the community. This has led to many changes over the years, the most significant being the gradual phasing out of our milk and meals program for Shiv Puri Colony. There are other neighborhoods that need our help, but Shiv Puri is where we started. It's amazing to see that families, and communities, can work towards self-sufficiency. Also new this year, our Annual Report contains updates written by KHEL's staff and students. We are very happy to have them contributing their opinions and thoughts and hope that this gives KHEL's friends and donors a better insight into the lives of the people we help.

As we gathered information for this Report, India's child labour laws were being tightened. This has impacted Dehradun directly: there are now about 200 children begging in the streets. Although KHEL fully supports the intentions behind these laws, we wish they were enforced in a more humane manner. Most of these working children lived with their employers and have simply been cast out. Their families may still be in a distant village; the children now have nowhere to sleep, no money for food, and no way to get home. They are vulnerable. KHEL is trying to find a way to help.

Also in Indian news, a new law seeks to punish husbands and in-laws for domestic violence against women. 70% of women in India have experienced some form of domestic violence. This is not a problem only for poor women, but they are especially vulnerable. An appalling statistic shows that 56% of Indian women believe that being beaten by their husbands is justified in some cases, such as going out without his permission or cooking a bad meal. The benefits of an education go beyond knowing how to read and write to knowing one's rights.

### KINDNESS

**KHEL EVENT:** Don't miss the annual KHEL gathering in Minneapolis! This year's theme is "Peace in the Real World", November 16<sup>th</sup> at the Meditation Center in Minneapolis, MN, USA.

Despite living in a country often fraught with religious tension, the KHEL community in India rejects hatred and embraces diversity and tolerance. Ammaji and Stomy will be speaking about the challenges and triumphs of working in a culturally rich but materially impoverished community. There will also be a sale of handiwork items crafted by local women; **shop early for the Holidays!** All proceeds directly benefit the members of the KHEL community.

**PHOTO ARCHIVE REQUEST:** KHEL would like to compile a photo archive. If there are any old photos of the early KHEL years out there, please email them to Saumy at [saum@khelcharities.org](mailto:saum@khelcharities.org). In the text of the email, please include your name, the year the photo was taken and anyone in the photo you are able to identify. Let us know if you would like to be acknowledged on the website. Or, bring copies of your photos to Ammaji on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

**WEB NEWS FOR THE 2006 HOLIDAY SEASON!** We need \$500 to update our office equipment! We are currently expanding our website to feature articles, reports, art and poetry from the KHEL community. Understand the contribution you are making by reading the reports, essays, and life stories from our staff, at [www.khelcharities.org](http://www.khelcharities.org). Coming in January 2007.

### **ADMINISTRATION/HR NEWS:**

Report by Rajeev Chauhan, Assistant to the Manager - *I am Rajeev Chauhan. KHEL sponsored me through high school. On graduating 12<sup>th</sup> class I felt very inexperienced and did not know if I should get a job or go to college.*



*Mataji suggested I work for KHEL as a paid intern. The six years I worked there improved my working skills, communication, my mind views, ideas, and personality. While I worked for KHEL I also studied and received my Bachelor of Commerce degree. At KHEL, I worked with the management staff on many projects. I helped supervise construction during the building of homes in Indresh colony starting in 2000 and reported to Mataji (Mrs. Arya) each day. I was also responsible for keeping up with the residents of the leprosy colonies on their medical and rations needs. At LDA, I helped with medical camps, collected fees, worked with parents, kept track of office and school supplies and assisted in the library. I also helped distribute grants to the scholarship students and, as a peer leader, organized our twice-yearly meetings so we could take advice from each other. Last year Mataji encouraged me to do MBA. I finally got admission at Uttaranchal Institute of Management, Dehradun, to do my MBA. In the time I spent working with KHEL I gained experience in many different areas, but I still have many things to learn. I am excited to continue in school. Working at KHEL has helped me feel more experienced and confident this time.*

Rajeev also assisted with the sale of KHEL products at **Swami Rama Sadhaka Gram (SRSG)**, Swami Veda's ashram in Rishikesh during the busy winter season, when many foreign students are in residence. We wish Rajeev best of luck in his new endeavors!

One of our scholarship students, Shahzad A. just completed his B. Com. and has joined the KHEL team as a paid intern/trainee. Our students find great benefits in the practical skills and confidence that working with KHEL's international donor base and other projects can provide them and KHEL benefits by having access to the particular perspective of the young adult in India. **Cost for a paid intern for one year: \$1100.**

**STAFF COMPENSATION:** Due to rising costs in the Dehradun area, we have been able to give the hardworking KHEL staff only a cost of living increase. **Total salaries and other compensation to KHEL staff: \$8990. Pension Fund distributions by KHEL: \$1079.**

**ARTISAN PROJECT UPDATE:** Report by Mrs. Kamli Bhatt, translated from Hindi by Ammaji - *The project to teach impoverished women sewing was started by KHEL in 2001. After the training, the women become more self confident and often experience improvement in their economic lives by opening their own boutiques and sewing centers. So far, seventy students in six batches have been trained in sewing and embroidery skills by Ms. Shanti Subramaniam, who is responsible for introducing new ideas and training them in the skills of tailoring, and Ms. Rekha Rawat, who teaches embroidery. As Coordinator of the Sewing Project, some of my duties are to oversee the purchase of product materials, review new designs as fashion trends change and to keep in contact with the Director of KHEL.*

Ammaji met with the Sewing Project women to discuss production for the Holiday season. Please contact Stomy at [stomy@khelcharities.org](mailto:stomy@khelcharities.org) if you are interested in purchasing any products. **Cost of Artisan Project: \$1688.**

**OTHER KHEL FUNDED ACTIVITIES:** KHEL and Ammaji provided a new bicycle to Ravinder R., to help him get to school. **\$72.**

**IN THE US:** KHEL has begun to reach out to the local Minneapolis/St. Paul community, with the same mission to support those in need of education and health care. We offered a partial scholarship to **Minneapolis Community Technical College (MCTC)** [www.minneapolis.edu](http://www.minneapolis.edu) a two-year college in downtown Minneapolis serving a diverse student population. Saumy offers seminars at MCTC in Gender and South Asian Studies. In addition to her work at KHEL, Stomy serves on the Diversity Leadership Council at The Blake School, [www.blakeschool.org](http://www.blakeschool.org) contributing to equality in education. **Cost to run KHEL in the USA: \$2100.**

#### **Kindness Wish List:**

We need more sewing machines and an embroidery machine! \$1,000.

Boundary wall at LDA: repair \$500.

Repair, maintenance and painting of LDA: \$4,000.

Technology and Office expenses for KHEL in the USA: \$1,000.



## HEALTH

**MN AIDS WALK:** As part of our goal to reach out to our local community in Minnesota, KHEL was happy to match Ammaji's contribution to "Tiffany's Troop" the team representing Tiffany Behler, KHEL's logo designer, at the 2006 MN AIDS Walk, benefiting The MN AIDS Project [www.mnaidsproject.org](http://www.mnaidsproject.org). Tiffany's Troop was the only non-corporate team in the top ten fundraisers for 2006! View Tiffany's beautiful art at [www.tritiff.com](http://www.tritiff.com).

**HEALTH CAMPS:** The teachers and students at LDA were surprised when, in the middle of a school day, Indian government nurses appeared at the gate to administer vaccinations to the kids! This has happened in the past, and although it's inconvenient to interrupt the school day, immunizations are important and KHEL strives to cooperate. There are no charges to KHEL for this service.

**JOINT VENTURES:** Report by Beni Bhatt and Ammaji – The Medical Camp in February that served more than 390 patients was a joint venture of **Cheshire Home, Himalayan Institute Hospital Trust's (HIHT) Jolly Grant Hospital, Sardar Bhagwan Singh Institute of Medical Science** and **KHEL**. Cheshire Home is an institute for the developmentally challenged, with a staff of 16, and 60 residents. They arranged for free medication and eye glasses for the patients. Sardar Bhagwan Singh Institute of Medical Science is a medical training facility with more than 200 students. They sent pharmacy students to distribute medications. HIHT provided 9 volunteer doctors to see the patients. KHEL provided the LDA grounds to accommodate all the patients as well as snacks and backup support for the doctors. **Cost to KHEL: \$15**

KHEL is working with **Rural Development Institute (RDI) of HIHT** for Adolescent Initiative Uttaranchal Project. This is a pilot project implemented by HIHT in collaboration with the Population Foundation of India & Sir Dorabji Tata Trust. The program covers 30,420 adolescents between 13 and 19 years old. The goal of the project is to improve the knowledge, attitude and behavior regarding hygiene and reproductive health practices.

**BASIC AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL AID:** The medical aid that people require varies from year to year. Sometimes it's as simple as a pair of glasses to study, but other times the emergencies are bigger and beyond the scope of KHEL's finances or expertise. This past year a young boy, Ravi, was hospitalized with breathing problems and a young boy named Salman needed a heart valve replaced. We referred him to our contacts at the **All India Institute of Medicine (AIIMS)** in New Delhi.

**MEALS PROGRAM:** We have finally phased out the meals programs. The Shiv Puri colony as a whole has progressed to a point where monthly rations for everyone at LDA are unnecessary; we've discovered that parents are now more interested in having KHEL help with education, as they are able to meet most of their basic needs. Of course, there are still many families that need help, so we will provide aid on an individual basis. Last year, we had a pair of sisters who were almost starving and we were able to help them to the point where one of them has now decided she wants to be a police officer! This is a big step for a young woman from Shiv Puri. Three other children are being helped by KHEL with nutritional needs. In all cases their fathers have died and their mothers are raising multiple children on their own.

**PERSONAL NARRATIVE:** Report by Bhagvat Prasad - *I have worked with KHEL for 16 years. I have improved my academic career and social skills with help from KHEL. My wife, Anita, who worked for KHEL before our twins were born, was stricken with appendix pains. I was quite worried for her and our twins could not be given the care they needed. The doctor advised that surgery was the only solution to this problem. I, who tremble at the mention of needles, was quite afraid of such a procedure! Mataji explained the procedure to me and helped me to prepare mentally for this challenge. For the initial doctor visits and drugs KHEL gave a grant, and for the laser appendectomy we received a KHEL interest free loan and a personal loan from Mataji. Anita was operated on July 9<sup>th</sup> and now she is completely recovered. She who used to have expressions of pain now*



*sports smiles on her face. For this I am grateful to KHEL and I hope that KHEL continues to help the poor. Cost to KHEL for all emergency medical aid: \$682.*

**INDRESH AND RAM MANDIR LEPROSY COLONIES:** There has been a lot of work completed at the **Indresh Leprosy Colony**, with new homes and drainage being the two most important. There is still much to do for this colony due to their location at the bottom of a hill, backed up against a small stream that serves as the sewage facility and garbage dump for the neighborhood at the top of the hill. During the several months of monsoons, their homes flood with this raw sewage. This is especially disastrous for leprosy patients, as they can't feel the effects of an infection. And believe it or not, there are people who are willing to steal from the residents of a leprosy colony! We have had several incidents of stealing by unemployed youths and transients, who see that the residents are in many ways physically incapable of defending themselves. We are working hard to solve these problems. *Cost of aid to leprosy colonies: \$7992.*

### Health Wish List

#### Indresh Leprosy Colony:

Sanitary facilities need repair: \$400.

Common kitchen \$10,000.

#### Ram Mandir Leprosy Colony:

Medical clinic \$8,000.

#### LDA:

Sanitary drinking water and water tank installation \$500.

Other requests for medical aid: \$775.

## EDUCATION

**Lakshmi Devi Academy (LDA):** Report by Manmati, LDA Headmistress – *There are 14 people on staff at LDA and we teach from nursery to 5<sup>th</sup> class. The School has its own building with good rooms and seating facility for children. There are different teachers for different subjects including yoga, music, Sanskrit and daily physical training. LDA provides sweaters, uniforms, shoes, socks and stationery to the poor children. At the end of semester/year the top three students and best teachers are rewarded with attractive gifts. A society can never walk on the path of development unless its people are educated and healthy minded and when there is a lack of these important features the people cannot take advantage of those projects which our government launches for the development for everyone. Because KHEL has played a big role in community development, people of the area are much impressed by its work. The colony has around 200-250 families. Most of the families are poor and are living under the poverty line. Because the people are illiterate and undeveloped, so are their children. The question of whether to educate the children doesn't arise here because the children are needed to carry on the family business, such as a barbershop or butcher's shop. In the areas surrounding Shiv Puri colony, also most of the people are illiterate and poor. KHEL (LDA) has motivated many families.*

*After LDA was opened the children who didn't used to see the school even in their dreams are exposed to its importance and the power of education. This motivation has really decreased the selfishness from the parents' minds which was keeping their children in the dark for so many years. Now the kids who attend the School observe the lessons they are taught, and their families are also helped by the KHEL community in many ways such as facilitating free education for poor children, lepers' children, helping the disadvantaged families by providing them with things they need and also giving them medicines. Some parts of the area surrounding the School have leprosy patients they are given food rations by KHEL and free education for their children. As for those scholars who are in their college life and are not able to pay their fees, KHEL helps them too. This means that not only does KHEL help those who are its student or its society members, but also helps the doors of cooperation to be opened to outsiders and the needy. Now those students who are good in their studies and have a creative mind, sincerity and discipline are able to get better jobs or if they prefer they can join LDA as a teacher.*





*Looking towards all the above description KHEL has a good reputation in community development. By seeing the summary of its work done in the community, every child in the School and every person joined with the Project should have a dream to make KHEL Project successful, dream of living in a developed society and so in a well-cultured nation. **Cost to run LDA: \$11090.***

**FIELD TRIP:** In August, 21 kids from LDA accompanied by Beni, Bhagvat, Rajeev, Manmati and Ramesh, made educational tours of the **Dehradun Main Post Office**, and the **Punjab & Sindh Bank**. They were shown around the various sections of the post office and the basic skills of buying stamps, stationery and mailing letters. After this they paid a visit to the Punjab & Sindh Bank and introduced to the Manager and staff. The kids learned how to open accounts, apply for a loan and so on. They were thrilled to see the bank vault. The Manager was kind enough to distribute sweets to the kids. They wound up the trip with a stop at a local restaurant for a snack. On returning to the School, the children wrote about their field trip and Shakir S. won a prize for best essay. They learnt a lot from the visit but said they liked the snacks the best! **Cost of field trip: \$35. Cost of exams and prizes at LDA: \$500.**

**KHEL YOUTH ORGANISATION:** Currently KHEL is helping to support 148 scholarship students in grades 6 through college and trade programs. This is an increase over last year by 27 students! Every year this number increases as more kids go on to college. Sometimes we can only offer a small grant or loan, and this year we turned away eligible applicants due to lack of funds. Some students are able to supply some of their own tuition, either through family, a part-time job or loans/grants from other institutions. We will continue to encourage them to find numerous sources for funds. We have also tightened up our application process to ensure that the students are correctly reporting their grades and not duplicating their applications in order to up their chances!

In July our scholarship students took part in an art and essay competition. The 1<sup>st</sup> Place Senior Literary Prize was awarded to Nadeem A. for his poem entitled “Glimpses of a Peaceful Valley”. The 1<sup>st</sup> Place Junior Literary Prize went to Rani P. for her essay about her parents. Nina G. won the Senior Art Prize and Rani P. won the Junior Art Prize. Thanks to all the kids who took part! Saraswati Means has kindly agreed to translate the winning entries and we will be posting them to the website as soon as possible.

KHEL had a two day youth activities program for the scholarship students, to keep them in touch with the KHEL community. There were many activities conducted by several of the KHEL staff and students: card making, mehendi by Chhaya V., embroidery by Sunita B., Shamshad and Saizad did craft work, Sheetal and Shayaree wrote poetry and some students worked with rangoli, a traditional painting art. As Ammaji's birthday is in December, the students presented her with a cake and sang for her! Also present was Mr. Ramesh B., a long time friend of KHEL. This program was organized by Bhagwat, Rajeev and Kamli. Among the scholarships students, 145 passed their exams. Overall, our scholarship students are doing well academically. It has helped to keep in touch with them throughout the year. Congratulations for placing first among the scholarship students: Nina G., Amrita S., Sangeeta, Sunita P., Jyoti S. and Reeta B. Awards were presented to these young women by Mr. Chatterjee. **Cost of scholarship program: \$3850.**

**PERSONAL NARRATIVE:** Report from Sarita S., nursing student - *My name is Sarita Shekhar and I am studying in the Everest School of Nursing in Haryana. I am really enjoying this course. I have met people from many walks of life. I have learnt how to live with them. Being far away from home we learn to share and solve our problems by ourselves. At the end of the training course we hope not only to earn money but also to be of service to others. I am a member of our Institute's library and sometimes I write for our paper, the Everest Gold. I really like being here as I participate in several programs. I won the first prize in Speech in our AIDS Festival. In spite of all these activities, I stay focused on my studies so I can do well. We meet patients with all kinds of diseases and I try my best to help them get better. We are taught to do our work honestly and diligently. Nursing is such a career that it teaches you to respect others, to understand their emotions and that lives have meaning. These abilities are necessary in today's world. With Nursing, I get an opportunity to realize my dreams.*



**MANAGEMENT COURSE:** Report by Beni Bhatt - *I have worked for KHEL for more than 20 years. With the help of KHEL, I have completed my Masters in Commerce, did a computer diploma and have also completed a few other professional courses. Last year I saw an ad in the local newspaper about a course in cooperative management by The Ministry of Agricultural, Govt. of India. I made inquiries about this and thought I could do this course to improve my management skills. I was thinking how to finance this course; it was too expensive for me to finance myself. So, I applied for financial help to KHEL for this course. Fortunately it was approved. It was a very good experience for me I tried to learn as much as I could. Mostly the students were officers from cooperative banks and Government supported cooperative societies. Government of India supports this institution and it has good recognition. Although I try to learn as much I could but there were very few session for classroom studies so there was lack of practical knowledge. But it was really a very good experience to know about cooperative movement of India and abroad. I learnt a lot about this through studies of books etc of this course. I gained knowledge about project writing, management, organization behavior and communication. There was a lot to study! I studied this in Hindi medium because when you have to study a lot then it is good to use your own language. Sometimes it was very hard to understand the pure Hindi used in the textbooks because spoken Hindi these days is very much mixed with Urdu and English. Without the support of KHEL it would have been very difficult for me to take this course. **Cost to KHEL: \$310.***

**OTHER TRAINING:** Shruti P., Co-producer of the TV news channel CNN-IBN, spent some time with the KHEL Administrative staff discussing the production of brochures and photo taking. She emphasized the use of space in design, and how fonts should be used according to the contexts in which they are selected.

**Educational Wish List:**

Rebuild library area: \$750.

**LAUGHTER**

**CELEBRATIONS:** While gaining great advantages through education, kids need entertainment, too! This year Children's Day was celebrated by a sports competition, which all the children enjoyed. First, second and third prizes were distributed for nursery class Balloon race, kindergarten Toffee Race, 1<sup>st</sup> grade Banana Race, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Sweater, Shoe and Sock Wear and Run Race, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Marble and Spoon Race, 4<sup>th</sup> grade Relay and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Hospitality Race, which consists of running with a tray covered with bowls full of water! Among the winners were Mohd, Suaib, Vishal, Nazreen, Farhan, Ashish and Shehanaz. We hosted the Hill Crown School in games of cricket and KHO, a traditional Indian team sport. Ms. Manju N. and Ms. Sunita N., both teachers at Hill Crown, accompanied the students for their visit to LDA. We are happy to report that LDA won the KHO match and in the spirit of good sportsmanship, we're also happy to report that the Cricket match was won by Hill Crown! After the sports activities there was a small cultural program and yoga demonstration.

For Teachers' Day the LDA kids had planned entertaining programs, including some dances, which Ammaji (Mrs. Lalita Arya, KHEL's founder) joined in! The children presented fruit baskets to their teachers. Ammaji received a bouquet of roses from Headmistress Manmati. Beni went to visit Swami Veda, KHEL's President, and presented him with a basket of fruits as well. Awards were distributed to teachers: Manmati won the award for Excellence in English; Best Teacher award went to Bindra as well as the award for Best Emcee-ing of LDA programs. Devender was presented with an award for his music teaching and Manju M. for Best Cooperation in Staff Duties for her excellent help in taking on an extra class. We thank these teachers for there special efforts!

Annual prize distribution in May was chaired by Mrs. Bindra Rana, a senior teacher at LDA. Prizes were awarded for best academic performance as well as best attendance. There were special performances of local folk songs and dances performed by the school kids, followed by tea and sweets with the guests.



India's Independence Day Program on August 15<sup>th</sup> began with the raising of the flag by guests Shri Narinder P. of Delhi and Mr. Ilyas of Shiv Puri Colony on the school grounds. This was followed by song and dance performances by the children of the School. Speeches were given by Mr. Chatterji, Shri Sajwan, former local council President and Ammaji. The children received snacks before going home. The teachers and guests stayed on to enjoy some time together and to present a birthday card and gift to Manmati, who shares a birthday with India!

After the celebrations at LDA, Ammaji and guests proceeded to Indresh and Ram Mandir Leprosy Colonies. After the flag raising, the residents of each colony sang, accompanied by traditional instruments.

**GUESTS TO LDA:** There were many visitors to LDA this year. Roland S. and guest visited with the kids on November 14<sup>th</sup>; for the January 26<sup>th</sup> flag hoisting Mrs. Murti Devi P., Sunil J. and Mr. Sajwan joined us. Mr. Sajwan is the former president of the local village council of Adhoiwala and has been a regular supporter of KHEL through all these years; he never misses an opportunity to visit us! Dr. Vivek B. of Guyana, a relative of Ammaji, also spent some time with the children and staff of LDA. Ms. Neelam P. was presented with flowers before launching the RDI health program on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ms. Apoorva P., an architectural student from Delhi, came to study the LDA building. In May Ms. May Wan of Hong Kong, Ms. Baylin of Korea and Mr. Navin S. of Toronto, Canada, visited along with Ms. Manju L., Mrs. Poonam T. and Mr. Mohit G.

#### **KHEL COMMUNITY NEWS:**

**CONDOLENCES:** We are sad to report the deaths of several members of the KHEL community during the past year. Radhe (affectionately known to all as 'Mamu', which means uncle) passed away after a lengthy illness. Radhe was a family friend and member of the KHEL community from 1988 and will be missed. His family continues to be partially supported by KHEL. We offer them our heartfelt condolences on their loss and share their grief.

A tragedy occurred earlier this year for the family of Lal Bahadur, who has been with KHEL since the mid 1980's. His 6 year old son, who was very ill, was misdiagnosed by a local doctor and died from being given the wrong medication. Although he may have eventually succumbed to his illness, we were doing our best to keep him healthy for as long as possible. There were a few other deaths in the KHEL community this past year, as well; Chet Ram, who Beni, KHEL's longtime Manager, was personally helping, died from leprosy related illnesses, as did Gulab Singh, a leprosy patient. Mr. Singh was the father of Bina, who was one of the first students to graduate from Lakshmi Devi Academy (LDA), our school in Shiv Puri colony. Before he became ill, Mr. Singh worked at LDA as a guard. Mrs. Manmati Subba, LDA's Headmistress, personally assisted Bina before approaching KHEL for financial aid.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** Ms. Manju Pal, a long time teacher at LDA left the School to get married. She has helped to educate many children over the years and KHEL is sorry to see her go, but we wish her all the best. *Gift to Manju: \$200, includes personal contributions from the Arya family.*

Several other young people were also married this year: Sangeeta B., Manju P., Pushpa J., Farhan and Anita N. We are proud that all of them completed high school and college before deciding to get married. We wish them all the best and hope that they take what they have learned into their new lives.

#### **Laughter Wish List:**

More educational field trips: \$200.

**THANK YOU!** Of course, we couldn't do any of this without our devoted donors and volunteers! **Karen B.**, **Donald K.** and **Lila R.** have donated monthly for years! **Carolyn and David H.**, the Drs. **Saroj and Soma I.**, Prof. **Vivek. M-R.**, Mrs. **Suman A.** and **Lauren P.** are among the most regular donors. **Pat H.**, in addition to processing our cheques at the Meditation Center, donates every three months. **Dan P.** has asked his family for years to donate to KHEL instead of giving him Christmas gifts. Little 4 year old **Kai H-B.** gives up his birthday



presents in lieu of donations for KHEL! Our good friend in St. Cloud, **Willa P.**, promotes KHEL in her community and sells Artisan Project items at various craft shows. **Mayanne**, who has taken care of the KHEL account at the Meditation Center for years, has proved to be a steadfast friend and supporter of KHEL. **Marcia**, who has been sending out our thank you notices for years and keeping records of all the thank you's also deserves a big thank you! **Pat L.**, we're sorry you're moving to Milwaukee, it's been a pleasure working with you. Mrs. **Sharada B.** and Mrs. **Shanta S.** of Canada, Mrs. **Somie C.** and **Diane McD.** Of Chicago for exhibiting works by the Women's Sewing Group. Many thanks also to **Ruth S.** and our many friends in Italy! In India, Mr. **Vipin B.** for his continued support, a special thank you to the kind staff at **Punjab & Sindh Bank** and the bank's Manager, **Mr. DS N.** for teaching our kids the ins and outs of banking, Mr. **Sudhesh A.** for his guidance to the Artisan Project, **Sangeeta G.**, Mr. **GS A.**, Mr. **Chatterjee** and of course, thanks to **Swami Veda.** And to **Ammaji**, thanks for lecturing at the Center for free last year, since all of the donation money was stolen out of the front hallway basket!

As always, the KHEL staff in India deserves much praise, and this year especially **Manmati**, **Beni** and **Bindra**, for keeping cool under pressure, for taking on additional responsibilities and for doing such an amazing job of keeping KHEL and LDA running smoothly!

Another year has come and gone, another group of kids have been given a chance. From down here in the trenches it's often hard to see the progress; the opportunity to share with you puts it in perspective. We knew that we could feed a child and save a life. We believed we could educate a child, change a life and someday they would feed themselves. We hoped that their family would benefit from that child's progress. We never imagined that a slum would someday be a neighborhood and that a community would say, thank you, but we can feed ourselves. Educate us instead.

Let us say it again: by educating one child we not only save a life, but change it. In changing one life, we change one family, one community. We change the world.

In Service,  
Stomya Arya Persaud  
Saumya Arya Haas

