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QUÉ PASA
What's Happening

A Publication of International Children's Care
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Thankful for Your Support





Poornima in 2011 (left) and in 2023 (right). Poornima was only five weeks old when she arrived at Sweet Home. You can see her testimoy by using the QR code.

Thanksgiving is a time for counting our blessings and expressing gratitude to God for His goodness. It's also a time for family gatherings, food, and fellowship.

To orphan children who are without home and family, there is little for which to be thankful. That is why ICC's ministry to orphan children is so important. Your support helps to provide the basics of care that they need: food, shelter, and education.

Thousands of children have experienced the blessing of sharing meals around an ICC table. One such child is Poornima who grew up at the Sweet Home Children's Village in India.

Poornima came to Sweet Home in December of 1999 after being abandoned by her parents. She was only five weeks old when she arrived and was welcomed into the ICC family and given a place within a loving home. This is where Poornima grew up and learned to be responsible at home and at school. She learned about her Heavenly Father and prepared herself for a life of service.

Poornima received her elementary and secondary education at Flaiz Adventist School and College and then went on to earn her degree in nursing. She is currently serving as a nurse and is happy to be treating sick people and helping them to heal.

Recently, Poornima shared a video testimony where she expressed her gratitude. Poornima said, "I want to thank God for being with me throughout my journey." She recognized the prayers and support of her ICC family and the help of her sponsors. These helped enable her to complete her preparation to become a nurse.

Thank you for the part you play in helping to transform the lives of children like Poornima.

If you'd like to watch Poornima's video testimony, use your smart phone to access the QR code. Or you can key this URL into your web browser.

https://vimeo.com/iccmedia/pjshqp

YOU Can Provide the Gift of Sponsorship!



Children in India need sponsors to help provide for their care.

Please provide the gift of sponsorship to a child today. Contact Rachelle at the ICC office (800-422-7729) or use the QR code.

ForHisKids.org/Sponsor-A-Child

Project Spotlight – DEWS Sweet Home, India

The Impact of Your Support

The Impact of YOUR support can be seen in the following report from the ICC Sweet Home Children's Village in India. Thank you for helping to make these experiences possible!

A Celebration of Faith: Baptism Service



Sweet Home celebrated a profound spiritual milestone as three of our young people publicly declared their faith. Having accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour, the three young men took the sacred step of baptism. Adding to the joy of the occasion, the service was administered by Pastor Timothy, a proud alumnus of Sweet Home. Watching a former student return to baptize the next generation of believers was a deeply moving experience for the entire campus community.

Learning and Leisure: Vibrant Summer Activities



Summer vacation at the campus was filled with laughter, learning, and meaningful bonding as the children spent quality time with their siblings. To keep their minds and hands active, Sweet Home hosted a variety of specialized workshops, including Music, Computer Literacy, English, Local Language proficiency, and Tailoring classes. The children embraced these new skills with great enthusiasm. The summer wasn't all work, though; unforgettable field trips to the local beach and a nearby swimming pool offered the perfect, refreshing escape from the summer heat.

Leading the Way: The Pathfinders Induction Ceremony



The Sweet Home Pathfinder program recently experienced an exciting milestone during a formal induction ceremony. Nearly 40 of our children have officially joined the club this year. The program is under the expert guidance of Sweet Home alumnus, Pastor Moses. Serving alongside him as Deputy Director is another alumnus, Mr. Udai. The highlight of the beautiful ceremony was when one of our Sweet Home children was chosen to light the ceremonial candle on the main stage, symbolizing the bright future ahead for these young leaders.

Fortifying Our Home: The South Garden Wall Project



For some time, a broken structure along the south side of our garden posed a significant safety hazard for our children. Recognizing the urgent need for a secure perimeter, the Sweet Home family prayed for a solution. What a blessing it is that a generous donor stepped forward to fund the project. Construction is currently underway on a brand-new garden wall, which will restore total security to the campus and ensure our children have a safe, protected environment in which to play and grow.

Pedal Power: New Bicycles Bring Endless Smiles



To make the summer break even more memorable, the campus purchased a fleet of brand-new bicycles for the children. The new wheels instantly became the biggest hit on campus. The older children have taken great pride in teaching their younger siblings how to ride, fostering patience and teamwork. The campus pathways are now regularly filled

with the sounds of laughter as the children spend their free time racing around and sharing the joy of their new rides.

Cultivating Character: The Sunday Work Program



While our children diligently manage their daily household chores throughout the week, Sundays are reserved for a special campus work program. Every Sunday morning, the children head out to the garden to work side-by-side with their house fathers. Together, they plough the land and tend to the crops to boost the campus harvest. Far from viewing it as labor, the children genuinely enjoy this outdoor time. The garden has become a space for storytelling, where children happily recount their favorite memories from the past week while working the soil.

Spreading Kindness: Sabbath Afternoon Visits



Sweet Home firmly believes in teaching the children the value of community elders. On Sabbath afternoons, the children are encouraged to visit retired families living nearby. During these visits, the young people bring immense joy to the elderly by singing a few uplifting hymns and offering heartfelt prayers for their health and well-being. The children always return to the campus buzzing with excitement, eager to share how much happiness and comfort they saw reflected in the eyes of those they visited.



A Personal Note from Joel

I came across it while going through an old file of short videos some time ago; I wasn't looking for it. It was a video of a little girl in some city in India. The light is dim, as night has already fallen. The video itself seems to have been captured on an old flip phone with a rudimentary digital camera. The image is grainy and blurred, which only adds to the rawness of the moment.

She is wearing a yellow dress, her hair is tangled, and her feet are bare. Around her, the sidewalk is busy with people rushing to and fro. She stands and looks about for a few minutes, then proceeds to make her bed; a blanket spread on the hard concrete and a pillow tucked against a wall on the far edge of the sidewalk. She fixes her bed with so much care, even fluffing the pillow before lying down for the night. All the while, people come and go, and no one seems to notice. **No one seems to care.**

That video stirred deep emotions in my heart. The question that screams within me is: did any of the passersby notice the little girl? Did they intentionally avoid looking at her to prevent the inevitable guilt that comes, induced by compassion?

Compassion is one of the most beautiful gifts from God. It is what makes us human. It is what brings us closer to the original image of God in which we were created. It is what caused the Samaritan in Jesus' parable to stop when he heard the cries of the wounded stranger on the side of the road.

Today, I am incredibly grateful for you; for your deep compassion for the hundreds of children who find refuge in the ICC children's villages around the world. I am so thankful for the shining light that the Sweet Home village represents to the abandoned and neglected children in the Narsapur region of India. May the Lord continue to bless you for your compassion and for the sacrifice of love you make to save one more child from the horrors of life on the streets.



With gratitude,

Joel Reyes
President



The Rose. The Thorn. The Bud.

By Pastor Rick Bowes

Today, during this season of the year when everyone is talking about giving thanks, I am so very thankful. I'm thankful for my parents who showered me with an incredible amount of love. I'm thankful for my wife, who loves me with an equally incredible amount of love. And I'm also thankful for my now-adult amazing children.

For a moment, I want to tell you about what they themselves did when they were young children. They took their weekly allowances and used them to sponsor orphan children. And now, as they have children of their own, their children are doing the same.

There's one thing in particular I want to say about my daughter. At every evening bedtime worship she asks her girls, "Today, what was the rose of your day? What was the thorn of your day? And what is the bud that you have seen blooming today? In essence, she asks, "What was positive about your day today, what was negative about the day, and what good do you see coming in the future?

The questions of those worship times can be perfectly applied to our ICC life. Yes, we do have the "thorns" of the difficulties of feeding, clothing, and educating the children. But far more important, we have the "roses", and "buds of the roses", that our children are being fed, clothed, and educated. Bottom line, our children are thriving, and we want to thank you for making all of that possible.

So, in this season when everyone is talking about giving thanks, we want to say, "Thank you for what you are doing for "HIS KIDS!"

Year-End Giving

5 Tax-Smart Ways to Give that Help You and "His Kids" Even More!

Your gift restores a home, a family, and security to an orphaned child.

1. Give appreciated stock

Gift stock you've held over a year and you may avoid capital gains tax while deducting its full value. We gladly accept stock gifts!*

2. Give from your IRA

Age 70½ or older? A Qualified Charitable Distribution goes straight to ICC, can count toward your required minimum distribution, and isn't added to your taxable income.*

3. Use a donor-advised fund

Most donor-advised funds can send gifts to ICC. Your deduction is already in hand. Now you choose the children it helps.*

4. Bunch your giving

Combine two or three years of gifts into one tax year so you can itemize and go beyond the standard deduction.

5. Double it with a match

Many employers match charitable gifts. Ask your HR department. It costs you nothing extra and doubles the care.*

Let's talk! We'd love to help you maximize your gift.

*** Tax ID # (EIN): 93-0717332**

1-800-422-7729 · wendy@forhiskids.org

ForHisKids.org

ICC is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We are not tax advisors; please consult your own advisor about your situation.

End-of-Year Dates & Deadlines

♥ **Mail in donations: Postmarked by 12/31/2025** ♥ **Call in donations: Call before 3:00 pm PST on 12/31/2025**

♥ **Online donations: received prior to midnight PST on 12/31/2025**

When soliciting funds for a specific need, we occasionally receive more in donations than requested. In those instances when we do receive more money than solicited, those extra funds are placed in "Alcyon's Angel Fund." To protect the privacy of our children, ICC uses fictitious names in the Que Pasa when referring to minor children.