

# "Voice of HOPE"

*Newsletter of the HOPE House*

May, 2007

Bi-Monthly for private circulation

Issue number: 7



**Sign the HOPE House petition to  
become a voice to the voiceless**

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**HOPE House news**

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Dear Friends,



HOPE House strongly believes in advocacy for the rights of children in India. In this issue, you will read about our passion to promote 'Adoption Tax Credit' to enable equal opportunity to every Indian to adopt a child. I call upon all my fellow citizens to support this petition in strength so that we may take it to the next level to have a policy in place. It is my sincere hope that you just don't become a passive signatory of the petition but an active voice for the voiceless. Thank you in advance for your support and God Bless. **Ruby Nakka**

If part of the petition could be previewed, consider reading this:

Per capita income in India (in 2005 - 2006) as per the Central Statistical Organization (CSO) is Rs. 20,734/-. As per CARA guidelines on costs for domestic adoptions, Shishu Grehs (government funded adoption agencies) can be reimbursed up to Rs. 15,000/- for maintenance and Rs. 9,000/- for medical expenses apart from Rs. 1200/- towards registration and home study by the prospective adoptive families. This means that a child with medical needs could cost as much as Rs. 25,200/- which is far more than the average annual income of an Indian citizen. The entire petition for you to read and to sign is available at <http://www.petitiononline.com/atc26047/petition.html>

### **10 ways you can promote this petition to become a voice to the voiceless**

1. If you have a web site, you can give a link to this petition in its home page. (Use the above link)
2. Send an email to forward this petition to your friends to ask them to sign and support.
3. Discuss about this petition on your personal Blog.
4. Send a message to your list serve group (such as Yahoo or Google group) to support the petition.
5. If you're in a position of power, help spread the message throughout your organization.
6. Write to the media outlets to get the much needed attention for this petition.
7. Initiate a debate among your family, friends and coworkers on this topic.
8. Join in the rally in November of 2007 (details will be made available to you at a later date) to generate interest at the grassroots level.
9. Send an email to all the petition addressees to explain in your own words about the argument of the petition.
  - Smt. Renuka Chowdary, Minister of State for Women & Child Development [min-wcd@nic.in](mailto:min-wcd@nic.in),
  - Ms. Deepa Jain Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Child & Women Development [secy.wcd@nic.in](mailto:secy.wcd@nic.in),
  - Shri. Joseph Mathew, Additional economic advisor, Economic Division, Ministry of finance [mathew.i@nic.in](mailto:mathew.i@nic.in),
  - Smt. Anuradha Prasad, Director of Budget, Budget Division, Ministry of Finance, [anu.prasad@nic.in](mailto:anu.prasad@nic.in),
  - Shri. J.K. Mittal, Chairman, Central Adoption Resource Agency – CARA [cara@bol.net.in](mailto:cara@bol.net.in)
10. Last but not the least, let us know of your efforts to promote this petition and how we can be of further assistance to you at [admin@hhinternational.org](mailto:admin@hhinternational.org)

**NEWS:**

1. HOPE House is connected to the broadband internet on March 6<sup>th</sup>. This is significant for us as this improved our communication efficiency and our children are able to listen to free Tamil music.
2. A local church (St. John’s church) celebrated their harvest festival (equivalent of Thanksgiving in the US) recently and the church’s administrative committee has decided to give 50% of the proceeds to the HOPE House. We thanked God and St. John’s church for the providence.
3. Received a box of stationary from Ashoklal Mohan’s family of Evansville, IN – USA on March 25<sup>th</sup>. This box of stationary will be kept for the children to use in the new academic year in June.
4. Received a package from Sarah Duhon of Fort Worth, TX – USA on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Package contained stuff for the Easter celebration. Kids enjoyed them very much on the Easter day.
5. As you know, Sarah Duhon visited us as a volunteer last December. She talked to all the kids over the phone on March 31<sup>st</sup>. She had to have a translator as she couldn’t speak the local language (Tamil). Mr. Manoah Mohanraj, the President of HOPE House International of Chico, CA – USA graciously volunteered on a conference call to translate and the rest is history. Kids have convinced Sarah to consider visiting us again this year.
6. Two different families celebrated their children’s birthdays on April 4<sup>th</sup> at the HOPE House. One family supplied us with breakfast and the other with dinner. Families also joined in the fun.
7. On April 11<sup>th</sup>, we had a visitor who came to the HOPE House on April 4<sup>th</sup> for a birthday celebration bringing new dresses for all the HOPE House kids. Needless to say that our kids looked very colorful the following Sunday as they wore these dresses to church.
8. On April 16<sup>th</sup>, literally HOPE House kids swept all the prizes at their school in competitions (in sports, drawing, literary and entertainment) that were held in commemoration of school annual day.
9. Dr. Rajan Samuel and his wife of Vellore have celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on April April 27<sup>th</sup>. They have supplied dinner for the HOPE House staff and the kids.

**VISITATIONS:** More than anything, HOPE House appreciates the TIME that people are willing to spend with our children because not very often they get to spend quality time with others other than our staff. HOPE House recognizes and appreciates the effort of the following people for their willingness to spend time.

1. Local high school (Ida Scudder School) kids visited the HOPE House with their teacher Ms. Mridula. They played games and taught songs and brought snacks.
2. Dr. Mrs. Saro Devenandan visited on April 4<sup>th</sup> to learn about the HOPE House and it’s operations.

### **SUPPORTING THE HOPE HOUSE**

HOPE House spends approximately 5000 rupees on monthly groceries (including food for 14 children + 2 staff, cosmetics such as soaps, shampoos, toothpaste and disinfectants).

HOPE House welcomes generous hearted individuals to underwrite our expenses for a month/ fortnight/ week

If you're interested, kindly write to us at [indiahopehouse@gmail.org](mailto:indiahopehouse@gmail.org)

### **FACTOID**

Number of emails received from the sponsors at our sponsored children's exclusive sites during the month of March and April:

**17**

Are you interested in becoming a sponsor to a HOPE House child?  
Kindly write to us at [indiahopehouse@gmail.org](mailto:indiahopehouse@gmail.org)

### **If you're touched by our message and inspired to support us, kindly follow the details below**

- If you're living in the US: Address your payments to "HOPE House International" and mail them to

**HOPE House International**  
**P.O.Box: 7438**  
**Chico, CA - 95927-7438**

(HOPE House International is a non profit organization in the US (501c3) and your contributions are tax deductible maximum allowed by the US law)

- If you're living in India: Address your payments to "The HOPE House" and mail them to

**The HOPE House**  
**16/28, 25<sup>th</sup> East Cross Road**  
**Gandhinagar**  
**Vellore - 632006**

(The HOPE House is a non profit organization in India (80G renewal pending) and your contributions are tax deductible maximum allowed by the Indian law)