

Agape

AIDS Orphanage



Loving hands, living hope for AIDS orphans

MY VISION OF AGAPE'S FUTURE

by Lynne Voggu

"From the cradle through college--everyone needs a home" is Agape's philosophy, one that has evolved since I took in the first six orphans in 2003. Since then, we've cared for hundreds of AIDS orphans and some of my first kids have gone on to college, graduate school and the working world. These children, who had nowhere else to go, have thrived with the love, care and education we've been able to provide them. And there are more children who need our help.

Over the last few years, Agape's Board and I have become convinced that the key to Agape's future is to move out of the city into more permanent housing - where the children can live and learn in proper facilities without discrimination. We now rent 7 residential facilities and a separate school building. This poses several challenges:

- Daily transport between residences and the school
- Limited outdoor space for exercise and play
- Constraints on how many children we can take in
- The threat of eviction or rent increases
- Waiting for repairs or improvements
- Pressure from neighbors and others who do not like having HIV+ children nearby

With the purchase of a 10-acre parcel of land outside Hyderabad, we can build a gated campus that houses all of the facilities we need. While land outside Hyderabad is very expensive, we must remain within an hour's drive of the local hospital in order to have access to discounted care for the HIV+ children.



With the thrilling success of our matching gift campaign in December, we can now move ahead with the purchase of the land, and seek the support of foundations to build the facilities we need. My vision for Agape's new home includes:

Dormitories: We can build housing for 500 orphans right on campus -- eliminating the daily transportation challenges to get all of the children to school.

School Building: With plenty of classrooms, a library, and computer, science and audio visual labs, we will have space to educate all of Agape's children and have a place for our college students to study. The many donated supplies we use at our rented school can be used to customize each room for maximum benefit for our students.

Event Hall: A gathering place for all of our children can be a place for meals, assemblies, and celebrations.

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MY VISION OF AGAPE'S FUTURE, *continued*

Outdoor Space: Outdoor space for sports and a playground will allow the children to play safely. A large lot of land will allow us to support our nutrition needs and even generate income by growing fruit trees, teak trees, and vegetable or flower gardens. The gardens would also provide training and education opportunities.

Staff Housing: Being able to house cooks, staff, and teachers would benefit our staff and allow for easier coordination and support. We could also offer housing to Agape students who have graduated and want to stay on to work with us.



Utilities: Low water tables in the state mean that we would dig deep bore wells and implement a water harvesting system, house our own water treatment equipment and outfit the buildings with solar array panels for our energy needs. The high capacity laundering equipment donated to us would serve the entire campus.

Training Center: For our graduates who aren't college-bound, there would be space for a much needed trade training center, workshops, and even possibly a junior college. A junior college (comparable to 11th and 12th grade in the US) can help our students either prepare for college or learn a trade that can provide them with a means to earn a living. We could then begin to develop a placement center to help our graduates find jobs that will sustain them and give them a profitable future.

We are on the verge achieving all of this for Agape, and are so appreciative of your support and generosity.

Gratefully,
Lynne Voggu
Founder & Executive Director

MATCHING GIFT CAMPAIGN A HUGE SUCCESS

Thanks to the incredible generosity of a supporter, Agape's December matching gift campaign was a huge success. The unprecedented \$150,000 gift was surpassed only by the response of Agape's donor base who stepped up and gave \$154,000. With the matching gift, **Agape raised a total of \$304,000.** This funding allows us to move ahead with a land purchase to create our own facility. We have already identified several possible locations and hope to have one under contract in early 2018. With the land, we can then get funding from foundations to build residences and school buildings. It is a multi-year project that hinges upon obtaining the land-something that's now within our reach. A huge thank you to everyone who helped us meet this goal!

If you are interested in learning more, or would like to be a part of the next phase of creating Agape's new home, please contact joe@agapeintl.org.

AGAPE'S ANNUAL DINNER A FESTIVE SUCCESS

Agape's annual fundraising dinner was held in October at the Holiday Inn in Brookline, MA, and showcased our success in caring for and educating poor children orphaned because of AIDS.

The audience, a mix of Indians and Americans, heard, via Skype, from children who grew up at the Agape orphanage and now either attend college, or have graduated and have successful careers.

While only 4 percent of poor Indian children go to college, Agape, with our own English-medium school, has sent close to half our high school students to college. A boy, who came to Agape as a poor HIV+ seven year old, now speaks perfect English and works as a chemical engineer. Another speaker was a girl who came to Agape as a child, finished her MBA, and now works for a corporation in Hyderabad.

The interactive session had the audience asking the students how Agape had prepared them for life outside the orphanage, the issues of being HIV+ in a world that still stigmatizes them, and what donors could do to help. The evening resulted in many new donors, who heard for the first time the work done to help poor children in India impacted by AIDS, generously sponsoring the living and educational expenses of the Agape orphans.

The evening also featured an update by Lynne Voggu, Agape's founder who lives in Hyderabad, a silent auction with many items from India being snapped up in a pre-Diwali bidding frenzy, singing by mother-daughter duo Sudha and Krithi Rao, and a fun dance by local resident Priti Saini, who got the enthusiastic audience of Americans and Indians on their feet with a couple of Bollywood numbers.



OUR DONORS IMPACT

Life Changing Opportunity For Our Graduates



Deepika was living with her father and her HIV+ brother, Deepak, after the death of their mother. When Deepika's father, an alcoholic, left them, the landlady turned Deepika and her brother out onto the street. In 2007, a social worker found them and brought them to Agape. Deepika recently started college and is ranked third in her class at the end of her very first semester. She hopes to become a doctor once she graduates.

Nagarjuna was brought to us in 2011 with his older brother. They, along with their HIV+ mother, struggled financially and were dependent solely on their elderly grandmother. The brothers came to Agape to find a stable environment. Now, Nagajuna has completed high school and started college this past June to study engineering.



Jyothi came to Agape in 2007 after her father died from AIDS and her mother, a laborer, could not feed her. With her living, schooling and college expenses sponsored by friends of Agape, Jyothi was able to attend a residential program at St. Pious Junior College and graduate with a Bachelor's of Commerce (BCOM) degree and a Master's of Business Administration (MBA).





Shравan's parents had passed away from AIDS when he came to Agape. Unable to find support from his living relatives, generous donors paid for his education through high school and his entrance into college. Additional sponsorship was provided for him to attend CVSR College for his engineering degree. Shравan is now working and pursuing his MTECH in environmental engineering at Osmania University.

Deepika and Nagarjuna are only a few of the many Agape children that are moving beyond our walls to find higher education. And they are joining other Agape alumnus who have already graduated from local colleges and made lives for themselves.

Agape's sponsorship program has allowed these students to not only live in a stable environment, but to go on to learn and thrive. The continued support of our donors helps keep Agape a safe and nurturing place for children to grow and thrive. Supporting a child out of high school and into college not only opens the door for them to find new success in life, but inspires other Agape children to work hard and achieve.

CHICAGO AGAPE DINNER

SAVE THE DATE!

May 11th, 2018

6:30pm - 10:30 pm

The Community House Hinsdale
415 W 8th Street, Hinsdale, IL 60521

More information to follow

WALK FOR LOVE

Donors Walk in Support

Long-time Agape supporter Liz Ross's annual fundraising walk brought out 30 Agape supporters on a chilly spring day to raise awareness and funds for our orphans. A tradition begun by another Agape supporter, Mildred Emmons, the walk took place on a beautiful, crisp day at the Framingham Common. After the walk everyone gathered for a hearty lunch--swiftly replacing any calories burned during the walk. It was a great opportunity for Agape donors to enjoy some time together, show their support for Agape and raise more than \$2,600 in just one morning. All of this money went directly to the kids, and Agape wants to thank Liz and everyone involved with the event for their efforts.



Liz Ross - Walk organizer

TEA FOR TWO...OR TWENTY!

Agape is supported by its donors - both financially and by spreading the word about the orphanage. Recently, long-time friends of Agape Preeti Sayana and her husband Raj - the only male allowed - hosted a tea party for Agape.

With help from Nikki Sawhney, twenty women were hosted by the Sayanas. After working their way around a table groaning with sandwiches, cookies, cakes and other delicious snacks, they had an opportunity to meet Lynne and learn how she came to start the orphanage.

For many, it was the first time they'd heard about Agape and Lynne's work with AIDS orphans.

They were so moved that many of them signed up right there to sponsor a child's school expenses. \$39 per month pays for an English-medium school education - something a poor child in India can only dream off. Very often schools don't allow HIV+ children to attend class - our school is the only chance these kids have of getting an education. Thank you to the Sayanas and everyone who attended the tea!

GATHERING FOR AGAPE

Hosting events for friends and family is a great way to spread the word about Agape. Consider hosting an event of your own to tell your friends about Agape. Word of mouth is the best way to share Agape's story and connect with new donors. A walk, a run, a party, a cookie sale -- these are just a few ways to help the children.

Contact joe@agapeintl.org if you need help with materials or coordination.

SPONSOR A MEAL



Celebrate a special occasion or honor a loved one by sponsoring one special meal for all of Agape's children.

Vegetarian Lunch or Dinner

Bagara Rice or Vegetable Biryani
Vegetable Marsala
Raita
\$100.00

Non-Vegetarian Lunch/Dinner

Bagara Rice
Egg and Tomato Curry
Raita
\$125.00

Chicken Curry Lunch/Dinner

Bagara Rice
Chicken Curry
Raita
\$175.00

Dessert Options ~ For Any Meal

Ice Cream - \$25.00
Bananas - \$15.00
Cake - \$80.00

Daily Snacks

Snack for a day - \$20
Snacks for a week - \$140
Snacks for a month - \$600

TO SPONSOR A MEAL - contact Joe Joseph by email: joe@agapeintl.org

SPONSOR A CHILD CHANGE A LIFE

Agape feeds, clothes, shelters and provides medication to the nearly 250 children in the orphanage. Funding is provided by individual donors who sponsor a child's residential or schooling expenses.

Sponsor a Child's Living Expenses:

HIV+ child: \$54/month

HIV- child: \$29/month

Sponsor a Child's Education:

Elementary, Middle
or High School Student: \$39/month
College Student: \$125/month



Visit www.agapeintl.org to see how you can sponsor a child, or email joe@agapeintl.org to learn more.

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