**ISSUE 2: VOLUME 13 SUMMER 2015** 

# **AGAPE INTERNATIONAL**

Loving hands, living hope for AIDS orphans.



SHIVA REDDY.

JYOTHI, MEENA, AND JYOTSHNA EARNED BACHELOR OF COMMERCE DEGREES!

AGAPE'S FIRST ENGINEER!

## You've Helped Them, Now They Will Go Help Others!

Congratulations! You've helped Agape come full circle!

In 2003, adorable young children tugged at our hearts and made us want to sweep them all up and smother them in our love. And we did. But the years have gone by and now those little kids have become teens and young adults!

Agape is growing up! A two room school now has 32 rooms to teach kindergarten through high school. We continue support through

college, and Agape's job is now completed for four bacholor's degree graduates: Jyothi, Meena, Jyotshna, and Shiva Reddy. While they are leaving to make their mark, they will always be part of Agape's family. We look forward to seeing how they will help others with all they've learned!

"You embraced our vision of raising up poor AIDS orphans and equipping them for promising futures."

Meanwhile, our work continues with their 250 Agape "siblings" of all ages who thrive because of your partnership and prayers.

You embraced our vision of raising up poor AIDS orphans and equipping them for promising futures. You've helped provide so much more than food, clothing, and shelter for poor orphans.

Thank you for helping Agape - and each child - reach and achieve our hopes and dreams!



REMEMBERING AGAPE'S EARLY DAYS & SWEET FACES!



"FAMILY" FOREVER - CRADLE TO COLLEGE & BEYOND!



EIGHT AGAPE KIDS - NOW ALL AGAPE SCHOOL GRADUATES!

### Bachelor Degree Grads Ready to Impact the World!

Education is a powerful tool one can use to change the world. In the next few years our college students will all venture out do just that! In this issue we honor our college students by sharing their photos and stories. We also celebrate the amazing impact <u>your</u> support has made in the world! Every Agape orphan is truly grateful for your investment in their lives.

We are so proud of **Shiva Reddy** because he worked so hard and has led the way as Agape's first college graduate to earn a degree in Electronic Communication Engineering!

Shiva Reddy came to Agape in 2005 at 12 years old. He studied in Telugu until college, and now speaks English fluently. His sister graduated from the Agape School last year, then returned to their village to live with their HIV positive mother. She is continuing her education at a government college.

Jyothi and her brother Divaker were brought to Agape in 2007 after their father died of HIV/AIDS. Jyothi's mother works as a day laborer and could not earn enough to provide for her children.

Jyothi has completed her Bachelors of Commerce (BCOM) degree and has broken the cycle of poverty into which she was born.







SHIVA REDDY 2007, 2012, AND 2015



JYOTHI, MEENA, AND JYOTSHNA 2013





JYOTHI, MEENA & JYOTSHNA CIRCA 2007

Meena was not interested in school as a child. She would skip school and run around the streets. When her mother became ill with HIV/AIDS, Meena went to work hustling breakfast packets on the street, for which she was paid a mere 50 cents per day. Her mother was unable to control Meena so she sent her to one orphanage and then another. She ran away from both. When Meena came to Agape at age 14 in 2006, everything changed. She focused on her studies and has been rewarded with a Bachelor of Commerce degree! Her proud, grateful mother exclaimed with tears, "The only reason Meena is educated is because of you and your love!"

Jyotshna and her brother came to Agape in 2007 after their father died of AIDS. Her brother Ashok went to take care of his seriously ill mother after graduating from the Agape school in 2014. Jyotshna remained in college to earn her Bachelor of Commerce degree.

#### PLEASE JOIN US ON OCTOBER 17th



At the Boston/Newton Marriott

OR

In Chicago/Hinsdale Area Homes

#### **COME ENJOY:**

- » Special Agape Presentation
- » Fabulous Food & Cocktails
- » Great Entertainment
- » Benefit Auction / Raffle
- » Host Home Hospitality (IL only)

Details and registration at AgapeIntl.org.

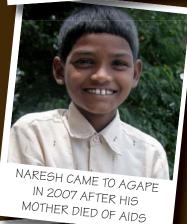
## **Continuing College to Pursue Their Dreams!**



SHRAVAN (LEFT) STUDIED IN TELUGU WHEN HE ARRIVED AT AGAPE 10 YEARS AGO



SAI KUMAR WITH AGAPE'S FOUNDER LYNNE VOGGU IN 2005





ANIL IS ONE OF THE SIX ORPHANS WHO LIVED IN OUR FIRST CHILDREN'S HOME

# MEET AGAPE'S BACHELOR DEGREE COLLEGE STUDENTS

**Shravan** graduated at the top of his class at the Agape school. He just started his final year to earn a degree in Chemical Engineering. He has come a long way since he joined Agape 10 years ago. He was 11 years old at that time, in 5<sup>th</sup> class and studying in Telugu. He now speaks fluent English, is an amazing translator, and a great help to his Agape family!

Sai Kumar was abandoned by relatives right after both of his parents and an infant sibling died - all within two weeks of one another. He was only 8 years old, but took a job as a house servant and rented a slum hut. He and his sister lived there until they were brought to Agape three years later. He started school in 2005, attending Agape's special bridge program designed to take a child from zero level and into 6th class within 2 years. After graduating from the Agape school, he attended an English Medium Junior College. He spent a gap year sharpening his English skills and is now pursuing a Bachelor of Commerce degree.

Naresh also spent the last year improving English skills. He completed high school at Agape studying in Telugu, then attended one year of English Medium Junior College. He is now pursuing a Bachelor of Commerce degree as well. Naresh came to Agape at age 10 after his mother died of AIDS in 2007. His HIV positive father could not work and raise Naresh, his two HIV positive brothers and their disabled sister on his own.

Anil is one of the first six children that came to live and learn at Agape. He did not retain much of what he learned before coming to Agape in 2004. He graduated from the Agape school and completed Junior College training as a Lab Technician. He's doing an internship, and is preparing for a comprehensive exam he must pass to enter school for a Bachelors of Medical Lab Technician.



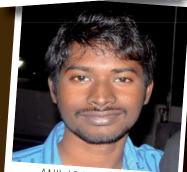
SHRAVAN - FINAL YEAR CHEMICAL ENGINEERING (EXCELLENT INTERPRETER!)



SAI KUMAR - BEGINNING TO PURSUE A BACHELOR OF COMMERCE DEGREE



NARESH IS NOW WORKING TOWARDS A BACHELOR OF COMMERCE DEGREE



ANIL IS PREPARING TO BECOME A MEDICAL LAB TECHNICIAN

### **Grown Up and Climbing the Ladder to Success!**



OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS CONTINUE TO ADVANCE!

JYOTHI, PAVANI & SOWMYA (FRONT, LEFT TO RIGHT)

RAJESH & BHANU PRAKASH (BACK)

~ PICTURES BELOW FROM 8 YEARS AGO! ~

# WE NEED YOUR HELP TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF POVERTY

Together, we can continue educate AIDS orphans.
This is essential to help them rise above poverty,
disease, and despair and become adults
of honor, dignity, and hope.

# INVEST IN A FUTURE AND MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE!

College Sponsors play a vital role in equipping students for prosperous, independent futures.

College Fund donors help meet the growing need for tuition and living expenses.

Sponsor or donate at agapeintl.org

#### With Your Help, They are Well on Their Way! Student Photos: 2007



Jyothi just completed her Bachelor of Commerce Degree (BCOM) and is awaiting final exam results at this writing.

Jyothi's mother died

of HIV/AIDS and Jyothi is also HIV positive. She was entrusted to Agape's care in June of 2007 when she was 10. Her father is HIV negative and his second wife did not want to raise an HIV positive child in her home.

Jyothi is now almost 18 and is a treasured member of the Agape family. She is especially close to the Agape 'sisters' she has grown up with over the past eight years.



Pavani just completed her second year of Junior College studying CEC (Business). She will continue on for another three years to complete her Bachelor of Commerce

Degree (BCOM). Pavini's younger sister is entering the 8<sup>th</sup> grade at the Agape school.

**Sowmya** just completed her second year of Junior College studying MPC (Math,



Physics and Chemistry) with an overall average of 85%. She is preparing to take a competitive entrance exam to try to secure an engineering seat at college.

Sowmya came to Agape in June of 2006 when she was eight and entering 4th grade. Before she came to Agape she stayed at a government hostel. Sowmya said she didn't eat much because the food was very bad and she was in poor health.

Sowmya's older sister also graduated from the Agape school, then completed Junior College at a Telugu Medium Government College. She married in December, 2015.



Rajesh just completed his first year of Junior College. He is studying MPC (Math, Physics & Chemistry). That is the foundation to prepare for a technical degree (Engi-

neering, Computer or Medical). Next year he will take a competitive entrance exam to try to secure a seat to pursue a Bachelor of Pharmacy college degree.

Both of Rajesh's parents died of HIV / AIDS before he and his siblings came to Agape in January, 2006. He was eight years old then. He is now 17 and is living with HIV.

Rajesh's sisters Navitha and Ravali also live at Agape. Ravali is beginning her final year at the Agape School. Their older brother was educated at Agape and left to pursue a college education on his own. He's in his final year to earn a Bachelor of Science.



Bhanu Prakash completed his first year in Junior College studying MPC (Math, Physics & Chemistry). He'll take a competitive entrance exam next year in hopes of

securing a Computer Applications seat in college. He wants to become an animator and program planner.

Bhanu came to Agape in April, 2005. He was nine years old and now he is 19 and is living with HIV. Family discrimination and poor understanding of HIV/AIDS caused Bhanu's grandfather to bring him to Agape. His grandfather explained, "The reason I can't keep him is because all our relatives won't come to our home if he is there."

### What's Next for 2015 Agape School Graduates?



AGAPE CLASS OF 2015: Shyamala, Sireesha, Daivagna, Kalyan & Swathi (front row, left to right) Kishore, Sunil, and Bhavani (middle row) Shiva Pavan, Naresh, Ghouse and Sai (back row)

Right behind our college students is this years' 10<sup>th</sup> grade class. They are waiting for the results of the government exams to see if they graduate. If they pass, they'll be off to college too! Business, engineering, science and teaching are major areas of study many of our students choose.

Some Junior College and high school graduates who do not qualify for to advance. Others prefer to return to their village. These students will leave Agape shortly.

We are proud and nervous as any parent seeing their grown children starting off on their own! Having known and raised these AIDS

orphans, they are now ready to enter the mainstream of society healthy, educated, and capable of enjoying bright and wonderful futures. With your help, support, and prayers we have fed them, educated them, taught them to be self-sustaining, independent, valuable members of society in India.

"WE NEED YOUR HELP!
PLEASE CONSIDER GIVING TO
THE COLLEGE FUND OR SPONSORING A COLLEGE STUDENT."

We are barely able to catch our breath congratulating them and wishing them well when we must

turn our attention to the next crop of teens graduating and going to college and completing the full circle of growing up here at Agape!

Sending each student to college costs \$1,500/year. We really need your help! Please consider giving to the college fund or sponsoring a student through 2 or 5 years of college.

For our graduates, the circle is complete. For this we can only be thankful for the wonderful ways God has seen to accomplish this. With 230 more orphans to raise, including eight in the nursery, we are so blessed to have you join us on this life-changing journey!

## **United States Students Show Their Support!**

Many thanks to all of the kids in the US who are reaching out to touch lives at Agape. Here's a few:

KIDS FOR KIDS was started by



Eliza Brady to raise money to send her sponsored boy at Agape to college when he is old enough.

His name is Sai Kumar and he values and loves his education. It is Eliza's dream to be able to tell him he will get the college education that he deserves.

10<sup>th</sup> WALK FOR AGAPE - Kia Gray did a great job raising funds to help Agape's kids, winning a prize for most funds raise by a child!

GRADS GREET GRADS - Graduating seniors from the Sturgis Charter School volunteered for an Agape project. They also made special greetings to congratulate Agape's high school graduates.

You are never too young to change the world!

collecting coins - A group of youth in Connecticut will be collecting coins throughout the year to send a special donation to support Agape this December.

VBS BLESSING - Students attending Vacation Bible School at Memorial Congregational Church will send a special "Congratulations Graduate" project they are making for Swathi. The church has sponsored her for 10 years, and played a vital-role in her growth and education!

CRAFTY KIDS - A group of home schoolers, high school teens and a few adults teamed up to make some special thank you gifts for Agape's top donors. Special thanks to Art Instructor Donna Dowler and and the Lotz kids!

## TOGETHER WE CAN EMPOWER THE IMPOVERISHED!

SAI IN 2007, 2011 & 2014 AGAPE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE, CLASS OF 2015I







YOUR INVESTMENT MULTIPLIES AS STUDENTS GROW, GIVE BACK AND IMPACT OTHERSI



THIS POOR, HIV POSITIVE MOTHER ENTRUSTED SAI TO AGAPE'S CARE IN 2004



SAI & HIS SISTER (IN MIDDLE) LIVED WITH THESE 4 CHILDREN IN AGAPE'S 1<sup>ST</sup> ORPHANAGE



SAI IS 4<sup>TH</sup> IN THIS LINE OF AGAPE 'SIBLINGS'



BHANU (LEFT) NOW IN 2<sup>ND</sup> YEAR OF COLLEGE, KISHORE, & SAI - CLASS OF 2015 AGAPE SCHOOL GRADUATES!

AGAPE INTERNATIONAL PO Box 51, Ashland, MA 01721 978.443.3180 ~ AgapeIntl.org

Lynne Voggu, Executive Director ~ Lynne@AgapeIntl.org
Elayne Brigham, Director of U.S. Operations ~ Elayne@AgapeIntl.org

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PO Box 51 Ashland, MA 01721



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