

Caring for AIDS orphans from cradle to college

Winter Newsletter 2019

AGAPE WINS SPIRIT OF HUMANITY REGIONAL AWARD 2019

Agape AIDS Orphan Care was selected as Childcare Regional Winner for the 10th Spirit of Humanity Awards 2019 by the Americares India Foundation. A rigorous evaluation process was used to assess more than 300 nonprofits in India, in order to those organizations making “exemplary contributions” to society.



AGAPE RECIEVES FIRST DONATION FROM KEOLIS FOUNDATION

Agape began the year by hosting the launch of a new charitable group, the SNCF Foundation in Hyderabad. Keolis India, a subsidiary of SNCF France’s national state-owned railway company, established the foundation to support organizations that work with disadvantaged children.

The SNCF Foundation’s first charitable donation was made to Agape in the form of medicines valued at more than 32,000 rupees (roughly \$450).

AKASH RECEIVES AWARD FROM ST. JOHN’S

Akash was recently ranked #1 at St. John's Junior College. The principal presented him with an award and a small monetary gift from the faculty. Lynne Voggu, Agape Founder and Director, was also present. He is now preparing for the Law entrance exam.



GENEROUS GRANT BRINGS NEW UNIFORMS TO AGAPE

For Agape's children, the opportunity to go to school and receive their own uniform is something most of them had never experienced. This year, a generous \$2,500 grant from Tailored for Education allowed us to provide all of the children with new school uniforms.

Tailored for Education is a Boston-based nonprofit that provides uniforms to poor children all over the world, allowing them to attend school and access the opportunities an education provides.

Thank you Tailored for Education!



VISIT AGAPE IN JANUARY 2020

A group of volunteers will be traveling to Hyderabad, India to help at the Agape homes and school in January 16 - 22, 2020. Volunteers will have a chance to see the Agape homes and school, as well as spend time with the children, and work on other important projects at the orphanage.

If you are interested in learning more about the trip, please contact **Kara Thompson** at chicago@agapeorphans.org.



IN A VOLUNTEER'S WORDS

Recently, dozens of hard-working volunteers from Deloitte in Hyderabad spent the day volunteering at Agape. They spent time with the children, enjoyed a talent show, and worked on numerous projects at Agape, including:

- Leading counselling sessions on Health & Hygiene/Bullying
- Painting the kitchen as well as providing additional exhaust fans, vessels, cutting boards and mats to sit on
- Installing new bathroom doors for a girls hostel, and repairing clotheslines and damaged window panes
- Providing a 1,000 liter water tank and water cans to help with the distribution of drinking water
- Donating school supplies including books, pens and pencils



Sashank Pagadal helped coordinate the Deloitte Impact day at Agape, and reflecting on the experience said, “The kids at the orphanage and the school are wonderful. I have never met kids with so much energy, talent, happiness, grace and love in their hearts. They were curious and were all eager to learn, compete in sports and activities, dance, sing and showcase their individual talents and skills as well.”

“Each student here is unique in their own way. Our volunteer work at Agape has changed all of us as individuals, and the valuable experience and memories with Agape children is something that we will treasure forever. I would encourage anyone who wants an experience of a lifetime to visit Agape and connect with the wonderful kids there. Even if it is just for a day, there will undoubtedly be smiles on all of the kids’ faces.”



THEN & NOW...

BHANU'S STORY...

After his mother died from HIV (AIDS?), Bhanu was largely abandoned by his HIV+ father. His grandfather took him and his sister into his home, but all were shunned by their community and extended family. So in April 2005, Bhanu's grandfather brought him to Agape.



Bhanu thrived at Agape, and finished 10th class at Agape excelling in English medium. Wishing to continue his education, Bhanu joined a reputable junior college where he studied MPC (math, physics and chemistry) for 11th & 12th class. (CORRECT?) He did well and was able to secure a seat in a very good degree college, Bhavan's Vivekananda College where he studied Computer Science Applications. He was recruited on campus by a multinational corporation, Cognizant Technologies.



Thanks to Agape's donors and supporters, students like Bhanu and Pavani are able to achieve their potential.

THANK YOU!



TODAY...



Bhanu is now living on his own, and comes back to help at Agape, as he recently did to help with the Sponsor Skype event at the Boston dinner in October.

Lynne Voggu, Agape's founder said recently, "Bhanu is an amazing young man with a lot to offer. He's smart, has good communication skills and is creative. Most of all, he's a good guy and I'm proud of the young man he's become."

PAVANI'S STORY...

Pavani joined Agape in 2007 when she was in the 4th grade. Initially she studied in Telegu – the local language, and in 8th class she was transferred to English instruction. She did well, and after completing her 10th class at Agape, she went on to complete her "inter-degree" (her plus-two) at junior college. Then, she went on to a private residential college for girls and completed a Bachelors of Commerce.



TODAY...



Pavani is working for the foundation of a multinational corporation – so she's giving back to society by using her skillset in the area of corporate social responsibility. With a well-paying job, Pavani is able to live with and support her mother (her father died before she came to Agape), and is working on her master's degree with support from her employer.

Recently, Lynne Voggu said of Pavani, "She's someone anyone would be proud to call their daughter and we're so proud of what she's become."

FUNDRAISING SUCCESS IN BOSTON

On Saturday, October 5, 2019, more than 260 Agape supporters gathered at the Sheraton in Needham, MA. While enjoying delicious food from Masala Art restaurant, the attendees got an update from founder Lynne Voggu, bid on a range of items in a silent auction, and skyped with their sponsored child.

Not only was this the largest gathering of Agape supporters, it was our most successful fund raising event ever. More than \$130,000 was raised for Agape's annual operating expenses, and 41 new children got new partial or full sponsors.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the evening so successful!



FUN IN CHICAGO

On May 31, Chicago-area Agape supporters enjoyed a fun evening of food, drink and friends -- and raised more than \$40,000 for Agape. We are so appreciative of this support of Agape's orphans and their dreams of a successful future.

YOUR IMPACT/HOW YOU CAN HELP

Each year, Agape provides medical care, a home and education to more than 220 children who have no one else to care for them. We are only able to do this with the generous support of donors and child sponsors.

Each school-age child needs a **Residential Sponsor** as well as an **Education Sponsor**. Additional sponsorship opportunities include **Infant Sponsorship** and **College Sponsorship**.

To learn more about how your tax-deductible contribution can change a child's life, please visit our website - agapeorphans.org or contact Joe Joseph (joe@agapeorphans.org)

RESIDENTIAL SPONSOR

\$500

covers a child's housing, meals and medical expenses for one year.

INFANT SPONSOR

\$1,000

covers the residential and medical care for an infant for one year.

EDUCATION SPONSOR

\$468

covers a child's education (kindergarten to high school) expenses for one year.

COLLEGE SPONSOR

\$1,500

covers the tuition for one of Agape's high school graduates to attend college for one year.

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

If you have a Donor Advised Fund (DAF), you know they can be an easy way to make charitable contributions. As a 501c(3), Agape AIDS Orphan Care (EIN# 20-0452537) can accept donations directly from your Donor Advised Fund.

Questions? Please contact Joe Joseph (joe@agapeorphans.org)

AGAPE'S FIRST WEDDING



Meena was a “rebel” and a “freebird”, according to Lynne Voggu, when she came to Agape. Her father had died and her mother was HIV+, and she’d already been thrown out of a couple other orphan homes. Meena survived by selling breakfast packets on the street, and she had little interest in going to school.

When Meena’s mother brought her to Agape, she went into the English-medium program. Meena and Lynne developed a strong connection, and when Meena completed 10th class at Agape, she went on to complete a Bachelor’s Degree in Business. With a good job, she was not only able to support her ailing mother, she also pursued a Master’s Degree in Finance.

Earlier this year, Meena’s mother expressed her thanks to Lynne and Agape for helping Meena, and asked Lynne to meet with the young man she thought would be a good match for her daughter. With everyone in agreement, a wedding date was set.

Thanks to a generous sponsor in Chicago, the wedding reception, Meena’s dress, and a photographer were paid for. It was a wonderful day of celebration for Meena and Agape.





MEET JOY!

Joy came to Agape earlier this year when she was 4 months old. Her mother is HIV+ and unable to care for her. Thanks to a generous donor, Joy has a sponsor and is thriving at Agape.



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