

MATTAMPALLY NEWS

HEARTS' CRY, Inc.

Fall 2007

Priorities for 2007-08

In the Summer newsletter we recapped some of our accomplishments last year. This year we hope to accomplish great things as well.

Our priorities for the 2007-08 year are: (i) to maintain tuition sponsorship for all children in our Educational Program and to expand the number of children receiving education at the K-10 level; (ii) to expand our Food Program to provide more hot meals for more homeless elderly and hungry children in the village; (iii) to continue funding the women's cooperatives (skills training, micro-enterprise loan program, literacy program, awareness program); (iv) to secure tuition support and living assistance for sponsored students who have graduated and who have done well in school and who have now been

accepted into nursing college or technical college; and (v) to continue to keep our overhead expenses low by using volunteers so we can continue to ensure that more than 95 cents out of every dollar donated goes directly into programs in Mattampally.

A lot of our effort this year will go into building/expanding our volunteer network and the infrastructure in our new Ithaca office. The office is located at the Women's Community Center in downtown Ithaca.

We would like to welcome our newest volunteer coordinators for the educational sponsorships, Jo Ann Fuller and Christen Bonacci, who will be responsible for grades K-9 and 10-12, respectively.

In September, the Board of Directors approved the expenditure of approximately \$1,000 from our reserve funds for the purpose of providing several micro-

enterprise loans and the purchase of sewing machines for the start-up of a clothing business by several graduates of the tailoring course. Many HEART'S CRY supporters generously contributed to this program, which will be covered in greater detail in our Winter newsletter.

There is a lot to do and we really need your help. We especially need an elder care coordinator and a website administrator. Also, if you can volunteer some time in the HEART'S CRY office (part-time/occasional basis), or if you can help with a fund raiser, or if you can provide a little additional financial support this year, then please give the office a call at (607) 319-0200. We can't get it all done without your backing and support.

Thank you for all that you are already doing!

MOST NEEDY FAMILIES LIST

These children are severely malnourished and need a meal plan sponsor:

Katakota Meghana
Mamidi Kamala
Kommeraboina Naresh
Chinnapongu Naresh
Maidi Mose
Bhushi Rani
Kantu Lakshmi
Thungam Swathi
Vallapudasu Upendra
Banala Abhisheka
Thokala Saidulu
Thungam Nagaraju
Pagadala Kalyani
Karnati Tharun

The six month fee is \$120 which provides two hot meals a day, seven days a week.



Gifts of a water buffalo and calf have made a tremendous difference for the family of Badram Saidamma.

A Letter from One of Our Sponsored Students

I am Sanga Prashanthi. I am studying in the 10th grade in St. Ann's High School, Mattampally. My parents are day laborers. I have an older sister. Both of us were studying in grade 2 when we were picked up by HEARTS' CRY. My parents were struggling to support both of our schooling expenses along with maintaining the family. It was at this crucial time that I was sponsored by the HEARTS' CRY Sponsorship program. The day I joined this program is still a memorable day for me and for my whole family. If I could continue my studies without any financial difficulties till today, the credit goes to HEARTS' CRY Sponsorship program and to my dear Sponsor Barbara Gregoire. I am provided with books, stationery, school dresses and color dress. My school fees and other fees are taken care of by the program. Daily tutoring is arranged in Life Light Community Center. It helps me to clear my doubts and to do my homework under able guidance. Tutoring improved my performance drastically. I am examined by a doctor every quarter. I go on an educational tour every year. My sponsor loves me so much that she sends me beautiful gifts periodically. My aspiration is to become an engineer. I am

studying hard to score the best marks in 10th grade. I love to dance. I learned dancing in our own school taught by our teacher. I gave my dance performance at district and State level schools and got many awards and prizes.

My mother joined one of the women's self-help groups funded by HEARTS' CRY, Inc. She received a financial loan, with nominal interest, from them and began a clothing business. She sells them in and around the villages of Mattampally on foot. She is doing well in this business. With this business my mom is able to add an extra income to our family. My family is indebted to HEARTS' CRY program once again. My heartfelt thanks go to the HEARTS' CRY Sponsorship Program for giving me the greatest opportunity to study through the generous help of Barbara Gregoire. I also thank all the sponsors who are kind enough to help 203 students like me. My cordial thanks to Fr. George Allam and Ms. Wilfred for their loving care and able execution of the whole program. (translated by Ms. Wilfred)

The generous financial support of HEARTS' CRY sponsors, their letters, gifts and expressions of support and love are

changing the lives of hundreds of children in a wonderful way. There are many students like Sanga Prashanthi who will soon be graduating and who have worked hard and developed aspirations for further education but some will not be able to continue on because HEARTS' CRY has a limited number of sponsors who can afford to finance a college education (\$2,500/yr).

There are even more children who are now where Sanga Prashanthi was eight years ago but who cannot attend St. Ann's because they do not have sponsors. If you are not already a HEARTS' CRY sponsor, then please consider getting involved; you can make a dramatic difference in the life of a child and the future of a village.

Kasani Jyothi, currently a second-year nursing student, is in need of financial assistance in order to complete her nursing program. She still needs a total of \$3,200 to cover her third and fourth year nursing college fees. Kasani has been one of our best students; her father is blind and her older sister supports the family. Kasani is herself a HEARTS' CRY volunteer, having been instrumental in establishing the elder care program.

Ithaca Alternative Gift Fair

The Ithaca Alternative Gift Fair provides critical support for a diverse collection of 30 local, national and international organizations with established track records of helping people and the environment. HEARTS' CRY will be participating again this year, December 1 at St. Paul's Church. Last year we raised \$1,120 for the people of Mattampally.

This is a wonderful opportunity to purchase an alternative Christmas present. Donations to HEARTS' CRY are made in the form of designated gifts. Last year's gifts ranged from \$5 to buy toiletries for a homeless elder to \$20 for a pair of chickens to help a poor, low caste family start raising poultry and eggs. This year's gifts will be equally affordable; there will also be the option to make an undesignated donation in any amount to provide general support for HEARTS' CRY. Consider buying a sponsorship as a gift on behalf of someone you know.

With your donation you will receive a beautiful holiday card describing the gift you've made in the recipient's honor. There is room on the card to include a personal message from you. Designed by Ellen Wheeler and decorated with the artwork of the children of Mattampally, the card provides a lovely packaging of your present.

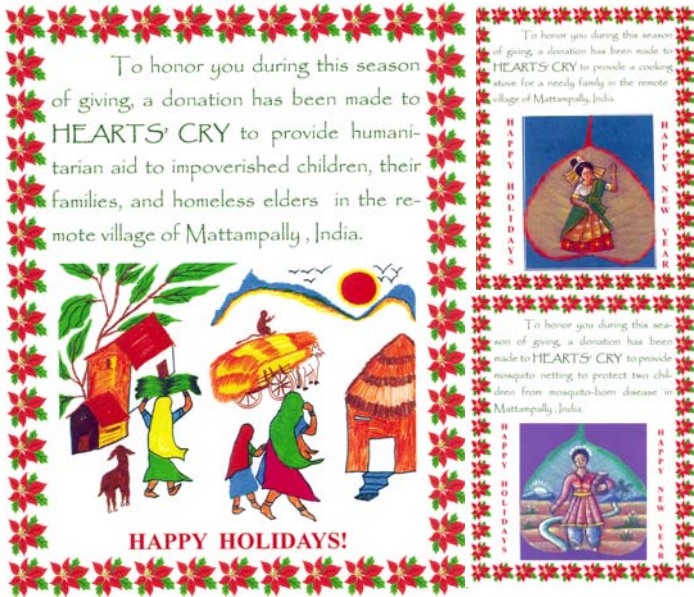
These are great gifts to give to family and friends but also wonderful gifts for businesses and professional practices to give to clients, patients, customers and staff. It is truly a gift that can change a life!

For more information, check the website <<http://www.ithacaaltgiftfair.org/>> or contact Janis Graham, the HEARTS' CRY coordinator for this event. Email: <grahamj@twcnv.rr.com>. Phone: (607) 273-5758.

Everyone involved with HEARTS' CRY is encouraged to attend this event. Stop by the HEARTS' CRY table and introduce yourself.



The Women's economic loan program helped the Boyapati Family set up a coffee and tea business.



HEARTS' CRY, Inc.
Board of Directors, 2007-08
 Hon. Judith Rossiter —President
 Ms. Janis Graham—Vice-President
 Mrs. Audrey Kahin—Secretary
 Ms. Michelle Benedict-Jones—Treasurer
 Mrs. Ellen Wheeler—Program Coordinator
 Mrs. Kim Alexander
 Dr. Sanjeev Bhojraj
 Ms. Christen A. Bonacci
 Mr. John Jaquette, Jr.
 Mrs. Adrienne Posner
 Mr. Peter Salmon—Newsletter
 (Contact information listed in the Summer 2007 issue)

Examples of some of the gift card designs (actual size is 4" X 5"). See the article on Page 2 about the Alternative Gift Fair. Cards may be ordered in advance for pickup at the fair by calling the HEARTS' CRY office.

New email address:

heartscry@centralny.twcbc.com

Holiday Gifts

Holiday gifts for sponsored families: Donations for holiday gift purchases in India for elders, students, and families should be in the office by December 1 to ensure delivery by January 1. Holiday gift donations may be submitted after December 1 and will be included in the January wire transfer. Wilfred has warned against sending packages to Mattampally because items have been stolen when passing through customs. She suggests that sponsors who are interested in purchasing a gift for the special needs of their elder, child or family should do this through a donation to HEARTS' CRY—in this case, the gift will be purchased in India and delivered safely.

Holiday gifts for family and friends: Sponsors recently received the Mattampally Community Wish List and may choose items from that list to give as holiday gifts in honor of US family and friends. The person honored by a gift will receive a December gift notice followed in February by a photo and thank you from the individual or family receiving the gift. Please note that there is a \$1.00 per gift notice, postage fee.

HEARTS' CRY US Office

The HEARTS' CRY Office will be staffed once a week and more often during the busy periods of sponsorship registrations and correspondence mailings. Phone messages may be left on the office answering system at 607-319-0200. Volunteer coordinators who plan to work at home will post home phone and email contact information in the next newsletter. Thank you for your patience as the organization transitions from a home office to a downtown office, and, as of November 1, I transition from overall program coordinator to office manager and coordinator of the meal program for children. - *Ellen Wheeler*

Wish List - US Office
 carpeting
 computer paper—all colors
 envelopes—all sizes

Volunteers needed
 elder care coordinator
 website administrator
 more educational program coordinators

Here is the correspondence address for children and elders. Remember that international letters must be weighed at the post office counter.

Child or Elder's Name
 c/o Miss S. Wilfred
 Post Box No. 11
 H. No. 3 - 278/3/A/4
 Nayanagar
 Kodad 508 206
 Nalgonda District
 Andhra Pradesh
 India



Kantu Upendra (graduate of the sewing program) with donated sewing machine.

Needing Educational Sponsorships



Banala Abhisheka
4/8/95 (Grade 9)



Mamidi Anil
3/7/94 (Grade 8)



Jaddu Prabu Kumar
4/10/01 (Grade 1)
Father is alcoholic.



Kesara Naresh
5/5/92 (Grade 10)



Guthikonda Swathi
11/10/94 (Grade 8)

(One-year sponsorship, \$260; Six-month sponsorship, \$130)

Needing Elder Care

Sponsorships



Mekala Gurvamma



Chinthala Lakshamma



Salla Ramaiah



Pulusu Somulu

"I am Pulleti Lakshamma. I am the first one to join the elderly adults program run by HEARTS' CRY, Inc., in 2001. I was married and lost my husband a few years later. I was not blessed with children. I am left with a tiny room with thatched roof. The loss of my husband had a great impact on my health. The depression made me too weak to work. I begged every day and filled my stomach. There were days I could not even go begging due to my physical condition.

"It is at this time, I heard of a hot meal program for helpless elderly adults started by HEARTS' CRY in our own village (Mattampally). I explained my pathetic situation to Fr. George Allam and Ms. Wilfred. They responded positively and joined me in this program. That day is the red-lettered day in my whole life. I could have committed suicide if my situation had not improved. Helpless elderly adults program, therefore, is a ray of hope in my life.

"I am getting nutritious hot meals twice a day. They give me toiletries every month and clothing twice a year. I get bedding every year and get medical care as and when needed. The company of 15 members is stimulating to me. I forget all my bitter feelings and painful events of the past when I join with other members of this program. Every day is a fun day for me now. I am not worried about my future since it is taken care of by the program. Every little help (separating the rice from small stones, cleaning the red chilies for powdering, exposing the cereal to the sunshine for killing germs in it, washing the utensils and cutting the vegetables) is contributed to the Life Light Community Center with fun and joy. No doubt, this wonderful program has increased my lifespan and doubled my hope to live long. I thank HEARTS' CRY for taking care of a less fortunate one like me. God bless all of you!"

Pulleti Lakshamma

HEARTS'CRY Newsletter is published quarterly. For general information about the programs or to volunteer support, contact Ellen Wheeler at HEARTS'CRY, Inc., 100 West Seneca Street, Ithaca, NY 14850 (607) 319-0200, heartscry@centralny.twcbc.com <http://www.heartscryindia.org>
Newsletter Deadlines: January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1.