

Sample of Mehndi

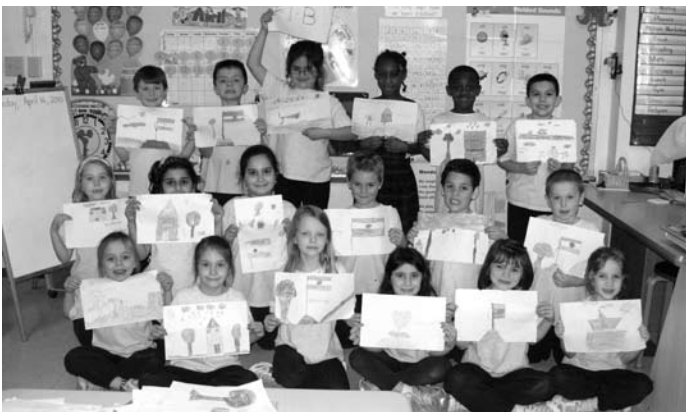


St. Raphael School

St. Raphael School stepped forward again this year with a picture project. This is an art project by many students and classes of the school. The project is directed by art teacher Sharyn LaHaise. The program is for children in India as well as Children here in the USA. It is a great program where children learn about each other and their cultures through drawings. An example might be an American student draws an American flag or a rainbow. An Indian student might draw the Indian flag or a pretty flower. What makes it so great is the children exchange the drawings. On the back of the drawing the child writes from your friend with their first name. The teachers in both countries love the program. It is a fun project to do and the children learn about each other. When the drawings are first passed out to the students in each country, we talk about them and what the drawings are about. It could be a man sitting in a rickshaw and the American student might ask me what is a rickshaw? The Indian student may have a drawing of the American flag and I am asked what do the stars and stripes mean. It's a wonderful program which connects the children to become friends and learn about each other's country and its people. This year we had 14 classes take part in the project. It is a lot of work for me keeping the drawings sorted out by classes and classrooms but again as everything else we do at Angels from Heaven the smiles of all the children "Indian and American" make it all worth while. When you give small children a few crayons it is unbelievable what they can draw. The crayon becomes a tool to learn.



St. Joseph Convent School, India



St. Raphael School, America

International Association of Machinists – Lodge # 447

Every year as I plan my trip to help the children in India, Local #447 always sends me a check to help me with our charity work. For the past few years I.A.M. #447 has sponsored a wonderful dinner for many children in Rourkela. This year was no exception. About 200 children enjoyed a wonderful fish curry along with rice and chicken. The children were so happy and I smile as I sit here and write about it, as it was so beautiful. The children look after the entire meal from serving it to cleaning all the dishes. I had a chance with the help of Sister Anna Mary to buy the children some badminton rackets and birdies at a local sports





store. The children loved the gifts. It is visits like this one that truly touch your heart seeing the children so happy. It is something you never forget and I could never afford to do this each year without your help, and I.A.M. Local # 447. My heartfelt thanks to all.

St. Paul's School Wellesley, Massachusetts

I can always count on St. Paul's School to send me well over 150 pounds of Halloween candy each year in early November. I package and send the candy to many places in the USA and abroad including the children of India. The children at St Paul's School understand that many people in the world would love a piece of candy and the kids come through every year in a big way to help out!

Below is a short list of where the candy was sent this year.

1. Walter Reed Army Hospital, Washington, DC
2. Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA
3. New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans, Boston, MA
4. St. Charles Children's Home, Rochester, NH
5. Pine Street Inn, Boston, MA
6. Friends of St. Francis Food Pantry, Medford, MA
7. Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany
8. Children's Hospital Center for Families, Boston, MA
9. Nazareth House, Boston, MA
10. Malden / East Boston Youth Hockey Association, Boston, MA
11. Hundreds of Children in Calcutta and Rourkela, India

Thank You St. Paul's School!

Nanritam

Nanritam is a non-profit social welfare organization in West Bengal helping many very poor children in need. With the help of St. Raphael School in Medford, MA and a very special teacher of the school, Children are Angels



from Heaven was able to send many used school uniforms to village children in Purulia and Suhankar located in West Bengal. The uniforms were sent in three large boxes by air to Calcutta to my friend Anweshha Bhattacharya's home where her Aunt Dr. Nandita Chatterjee picked everything up for transport by rail

to the villages. The children and teachers were so happy to receive the uniforms. I also sent a few small toys for the children. This project could never have been done if it was not for the special teacher at St. Raphael's. At the time of the project the Angels from Heaven checking account was very low and I did not have the funds available for postage because of the high cost involved. This special teacher stepped forward and paid every cent of the postage bill for all three boxes all the way to Calcutta. I do not want to mention any names but thank you Margie Chisholm. You have made many children happy!



Angels in Rourkela

For the past few years Children are Angels from Heaven has sponsored children to go to school at St. Joseph Convent School in Rourkela, Orissa, India. It's a great program that directly helps children in need. Very generous people in America sponsor each student in the program. With the sponsorship comes a photo of the child with a copy of the student's report card at the end of each marking period. The student and the sponsor have an opportunity to exchange letters or drawings during the school year. The older students write letters and the younger children draw pictures for the sponsors. Sister Mary and Sister Anupama of the Daughters of the Cross are in charge of the program but all the Sisters help when needed. Last year we sponsored 15 children to go to this wonderful School. My hopes are to keep building on the program each year, to help many more children receive a great education. **Thank You Sponsors** we could not do this without you.



Sometimes Things Work Out and Other Times They Do Not !

Many times in my newsletters you read about a wonderful woman who I call the *Taxi Angel*. On a very cold snowy night in Boston at Logan airport, I was on my way home from a very long Indian trip. To make a long story very short Maura and I shared a taxi so we both could get home as there were no taxis and the weather was very bad with heavy snow. Little did I know the taxi driver was going to over charge me.

Maura who was sitting in the back seat would not hear of it. Next thing I knew we were parked in front of her house and she was outside the cab arguing with the taxi driver. She said you will not overcharge that man (meaning me) and she took out her wallet to pay my fare. I said lady I don't even know you, if he wants to rip me off let him all I want to do is get home. Thank you for your kindness let God sort it all out.

Maura (*Taxi Angel*) and I became friends and at a later date I met her husband and three boys at their church in Melrose, MA. This year Maura wrote me and said the company she worked for wanted to donate 15,000 Tee Shirts and 15,000 pens to the poor children of India through Angels from Heaven. Children are Angels from Heaven is a 501 (c) 3 non profit here in the USA but not in India. Shipping this amount of donations is not easy for two reasons, the total dollar amount of the goods shipped and duty charges as import taxes would be due when the shipment arrived in India. I contacted my friend Bernard Maung he tried everywhere at many NGO's in India and asked for help with no luck. After three to four months of trying to find help to receive the shipment as duty free, I decided to tell Maura and her company it just was not going to work out and she was going to have to find another charity to donate the goods too. I felt so bad doing this as a lot of time was wasted but looking back it was the right thing to do. It was a problem and with lessons learned from other shipments duty charges can be very high, more than the cost of the original goods. It sure was an honor to have Maura think about the poor children in India and offer to help them. I am very sorry things just did not work out.

Sister Doll

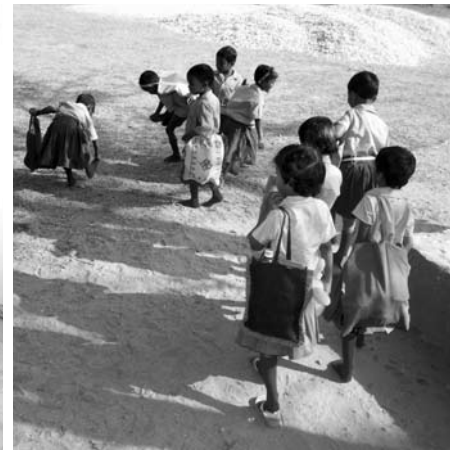
If you remember from my 2008 newsletter you will see so many stories regarding stuffed animals and giving them to children. At one point I was in a big school hall and the children were going crazy over the animals. The Sister

who was helping me saw that it was getting out of hand and decided to clear the room of the children and have only one class enter the room at a time and pick out an animal starting with the very small PRE-K children. The other children were so excited looking in every window of the room



Sister Mary Benita

saying PLEASE SISTER, DOLL . These words were coming in the room from every direction from every child. Sister finally had enough and said to the children my name is not Sister Doll! Sister Doll is not here. My name is Sister Benita. At the time it was serious business but when I came home and told the story to everyone they thought it was a funny story. Guess what someone sent me to send to Sister Benita? A “special” stuffed animal just for her. A picture is worth a thousand words.



Socks for Village Children

I was given 40 pair of beautiful bright red socks to give to the children in a small village that I visited. Sister Carmela, Sister Ursula, Sister Kusum, Sister Mary and Sister Jagrani helped me get the children to sit on the convent front wall and helped me put the nice socks on their feet. It was so beautiful watching this being done I took a few photos. When the children were leaving the convent we all waved and said goodbye to each other. The children looked so pretty with their smiling faces and so happy with the new socks. Little did I know that many of the children did not have shoes or slippers. When the children walked out of the cement driveway onto the dirt they all stopped and took off the new socks, as they did not want to get them dirty. I felt so sad inside seeing this. I honestly wanted to cry. One of the Sisters knew I was upset and said to me Mr. Ray its ok. Now the children will have nice new socks to put on when they go to bed to keep them warm. As long as I live I will never forget this day! See pictures top of next column.

Angels from Heaven and Other Charities

Each year Children are Angels from Heaven reaches out to support as many projects as it can, including the United States. We were happy to be a part of these special charities this year. Toys for Tots Drive at Christmas, The Pan Massachusetts Challenge Bicycle Ride to benefit the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Guide Dogs of America providing Guide Dogs to the Blind at no cost, Project Bread Walk for Hunger, America Cancer Society Relay for Life, Aleppo Shriners Childrens Transportation Fund. It is directly because of your generosity, that Children are Angels from Heaven can reach out to help these worthwhile charities each year.



Foundation for Children in Need

For the past five years Children are Angels from Heaven has sponsored a young boy to go to school in south India who has a hearing problem. His name is Mahammed Rafi. He is now in 10th grade and doing very well. I receive one or two letters a year from him along with a photo. Here is just a little of this years letter from him.



Dear Sponsors Children are Angels from Heaven, I have received Mosquito net, Bible diary and general knowledge books towards life for Christmas. These are very fine. I am happy and I thank you for these gifts. I am very happy to inform you that I have completed my 9th grade and now promoted to 10th grade. Now I am preparing for the half yearly exams. Please pray for my studies, I am able to continue my education because of your kind and generous help

only. This year I have study hard and to write my public examinations in the month of March 2010. Please pray for my studies.

*Your Sponsored child
Mahammad Rafi*

Deposit Cans

Here are the totals of the deposit cans for the year 2009 and the grand overall total. I am sure you will be very surprised when you see the numbers. I have worked hard on this project just about every afternoon, counting thousands of cans and bottles that are given to me. Its not easy but you do what you have to do to raise funds to help the kids and you are happy to do it. I cash everything in at the Tewksbury Redemption Center in Tewksbury, MA. The staff at the Redemption Center are always friendly and willing to help me any way they can. They know all the money collected goes to a small charity for poor children.

The total cans & bottles collected for 2009 was 22,913with a cash value of **\$1,145.69.**

The Grand total of cans & bottles collected over the last few years is now 117,395 with a cash value total of **\$5,869.76.**



Ray OBrien after work each day.

Can Tabs

The total of can tabs collected this year was 19 pounds. They were again turned over to Mr. Llyod Wentzell who is a member of the Shriners. The Shriners turn the tabs in for scrap metal and use the funds to buy needed equipment for the Shriners Hospitals. The Shriners hospitals help children free of charge and they do a great job. I give all of you a challenge, get a small plastic bag and fill it with the tabs and when it is full send the bag to me. You will find out how hard it is to do. Your effort will help a child in need at the Shriners Hospitals. A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped with this project.



Ray OBrien & Llyod Wentzell

Free Paper and Parking

I would like to say Thank You to Xpedx Paper Company, 613 Main St., Wilmington, MA for donating all the paper needed to print our newsletter and also for letting Angels from Heaven keep our storage trailer (that was donated by them) parked in their lot. All of their efforts have been a great help to Angels from Heaven in helping the children. I also would like to say *Thank You* to all the Xpedx workers for the help and support they have given me over the years. I could not do this work without their help. Xpedx Paper Company is a division of International Paper.



Civic Clubs

Two very special clubs and their members have supported our work for a long time. The Pittsfield, NH Rotary Club and the Medford Kiwanis Club. I take my hat off to both of these fine clubs, not for just supporting our efforts but for the many things that they do. I have visited each club many times. The members of each club always find a way to have fun and laugh with each other at a weekly meeting over dinner, but when it comes time to plan an event to raise funds to help children, or the community, its all business with lots of hard work by each member. It is a great honor to have each club help us in our work to help children.

Union Help

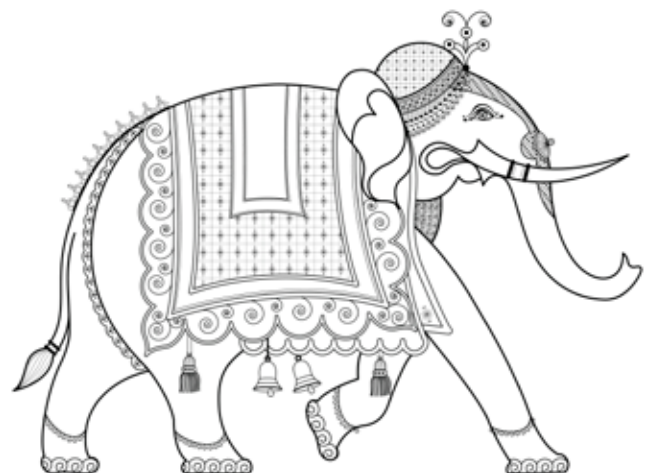
I would like to say Thank You to local Unions who help Angels from Heaven, Teamsters Local #25, and Machinists Union Local #447. In a time when America is sending many of our jobs to foreign countries, it makes me proud to see local unions and their workers stepping forward to help poor children of the world. Efforts like this make me proud to be an American and call the United States my home.

Non –Profit Status

We are a tax deductible and legal non-profit organization. Our International Revenue Foundation Status Classification is 501 C (3). This was done by our accountant, Mr. Robert Johnston, CPA of 444 Washington St., Boston, MA. 1-617-787-8520. Rob has done everything for us from A to Z with not one cent accepted as payment. Rob suggested right from the start that the bookkeeping be accurate and available for review by the IRS at any time. Rob also suggested all purchases or payments be made with check or credit card only. Rob has also helped us in many other ways to become what we are today. He is a great guy! If you ever need tax help he is the man to see. Thanks Rob for all your help.

Newsletter Printing

Bunny and Victor Stoykovich of Town and Country Reprographics, 230 North Main St., Concord, NH have always donated the entire cost of printing the newsletter for Children are Angels from Heaven. I am so taken back by their effort and generosity to help me year after year. Bunny sets up the entire newsletter page by page for printing, all I do is send her the written information and she puts it all together for us. Bunny is an English Major from college and her work on the newsletter shows it. It is directly because of this generosity that I am able to have extra money in our checking account to reach out to many more children in need. Each year because of so many people working together to help me, Angels from Heaven grows. This means we always need additional newsletters printed. Every time I explain this to Bunny she always says “Ray that’s not a problem we are happy to help.” I have never met such down to earth people who enjoy helping others. Thank you Bunny and Victor for all your help.



Donations

The very first place your donation has to come from is your heart. The smallest gift can mean so much to a poor child with very little. I have met children who did not have balls and played catch with rocks. I have met children that are so happy with one pencil. It does not take much. I can make a few dollars go very far to help many children and bring many smiles. Many people help me. Here is one example, a girl named Emily Murphy writes short stories for book companies she donates her profits to Children are Angels from Heaven. During her book signings Emily displays our current newsletter and also has a penny jar close by to collect donations. A few other examples are Eileen and her friends having a yard sale every year sending all the profits to me for the children, I receive many donations for a person's birthday or a donation sent to me in honor of a loved one that passed away and many donations are sent to me at Christmas. As you can see some donations start long before you reach for your pocketbook or wallet. People enjoy helping Children are Angels from Heaven because they will see just where the money or goods went to and the children that we help. If you would like to make a donation to our charity please make a check out to Children are Angels From Heaven and send it to 16 Bower St. Medford Ma 02155 or Call me Ray OBrien anytime 781-483-1002



Highlights From Some of Our Letters

Hi Ray

This program is so stupendously wonderful thanks to you
....

Wendy

Hi Ray

Thank You for all that you do. It is my pleasure to enclose a small donation for the children involved with Angels from Heaven.....

Merry Christmas
Phyllis

Dear Ray

Enclosed is our annual donation to help support all the work you do in India.

Have a good year.
Debbie

Dear Ray

Please accept this donation and continue your remarkable work

Sonal

Hello Ray

We were moved by the story and your web site. We would like to make this contribution to help you continue.

Amy

Dear Mr. O'Brien

Please find the enclosed check for your use with Children Are Angels from Heaven from members of our church.

The First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

Dear Ray

Please accept this donation towards your upcoming trip to India. We admire your generous spirit.

Tom and Rita

Dear Ray

Enclosed is a small check – wish it could have been more but every dollar helps

June

Ray
Use this for whatever you think would please me in India
Love
Joan

Ray
Thank You for all your hard work on behalf of the children.
Enclosed is a check to be used as you see fit for the Angels.

Karen

Ray
Here is something for Children are Angels. You know how
close and meaningful your work in India is to us.

Take care & much love,
Lauren & Jemma

Ray
May you be blessed beyond belief in 2010, as you bless all
of us here who know you, and all the beneficiaries of your
kindness in India. Those men, women, and children that
you love so much.

Love
Margie



In Closing,

It has taken me hundreds of hours to go over all my notes and photos of this past 2009 trip to India to write this newsletter. One part that really made it very special was going over all the letters and notes all of you have sent to me this year. So many of your writings are so beautiful. If I ever write a book about our work I will include many of them.

I have done my very best to look after not only every dollar but every penny of our donated money. I have said it before and I will say it again... I am accountable and responsible for everything. I ask for nothing for this work except the smiles of all the children. Not one penny of the donated money is used for personal expenses. 2009 was a very busy year with many more people stepping forward to help with our work and more projects to do. Yes, **OUR work**..... I am only the glue that helps everything along. It is many people who help us.

Our donations come from hard working people all over the United States as well as Canada. I understand that in today's economy trying to reach out and help others and keep your own head above water is very hard to do. That's what makes all of this work even more special to me.

I would like to say Thank You to everyone in the entire world who has helped me in one way or another or reached out to help others after learning about our work. My next trip to India will be on Thanksgiving 2010. I am now working on a few projects for the children and look forward to seeing them again.

Thanks again for your help and support. If you have any questions at all, feel free to call me 1-781-483-1002.

God Bless You,
Ray O'Brien



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In Memory of
Aidan Jake
Goodwin

9/13/2000

6/13/2001

Love,
Nana & Papa



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 of

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 great love, there are
 always miracles."

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Local 447



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In memory of
**Robert
 &
 Regina
 Healey**
 who loved children
 and cared about all
 those who were poor.

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Mission Statement

At birth, all children are equal in innocence and hope. They are not equal in circumstance and opportunity. Birth is not a crime. Yet thousands of children are sentenced to a life of hardship and need by the accident of their own birth. Children are Angels From Heaven strives to help profoundly disadvantaged children pursue productive and meaningful lives.

Check it out! Childrenareangels.org