



A Monthly Newsletter

February 2012

Letter from the President

Between dance, choir and art, the children at Rising Star are making a name for themselves!

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School Update

Much of the focus at the school this month was on smiles. . . and behind them, fixed teeth!

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Grateful for Sponsors

Not a day goes by without the children of Rising Star remembering their sponsors. They are forever grateful.

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Letter from the President

Fun things are happening on campus in regards to the arts. Our dance troupe has a unique opportunity this month to dance for more than 3,500 Mona Vie distributors at a national conference in India. They have become amazing dancers—the Mona Vie crowd is definitely in for a treat!

Our dancers have had the limelight for quite a while now, reaping praise from many sectors, and raising awareness across Tamilnadu of what’s possible when children from the colonies are given a chance. Turns out they’re just as—if not, more—talented than the kids from regular families!

The phenomenal success of our dance troupe is the result of the many volunteers from Promethean

Spark, comprising some of the most promising young dancers in America. These volunteers come to work with the children at the school on a daily basis, teaching them life skills such as dedication, hard work, achieving success, goal-setting—all through the medium of dance.

The program’s been a phenomenal success and has brought attention to our work throughout many places in India. But now, the dancers have some competition! One of our Managing Directors, Pam Gates, has started the first Rising Star Outreach Children’s Choir. Pam



has been a professional opera singer as well as a highly respected conductor. She's worked wonders in taking the high-pitched voices of the children, and training them to produce beautiful music. It's been a fulfilling experience for all involved.

School, itself, gets more and more fun. Creativity abounds! Check out these children's activity on jungle animals.

Each child is full of unlimited potential. All they need to succeed is an opportunity to develop their talents and skills, and the dedication to take advantage of the opportunity. It's been such a joy to watch each child begin to blossom at the Rising Star Schools. What an incredible thing to witness!!

We continue to invite our sponsors and friends to plan a trip

to visit "your" child at Rising Star and to join in our work in India. Come see how those carefully saved dollars have impacted the families of the leprosy colonies. It's got to be one of the happiest stories on earth! Thanks for helping to make this story possible!

Becky Douglas

School Update
Celina Charles

Our students, teachers, and other staff members have been thrilled and grateful to the three dentists and their wives who recently visited our campus. Actually, some of the younger children's tears indicated that they were anything but thrilled! Yet we were all grateful (at least after the fact) for the selfless service these dentists rendered. Many of the children had abscesses, severe tartar accumulation, and rotting



teeth. Some of our teachers had been waiting for years to see a dentist, and would not otherwise have been able to afford the care they received.

While we expected the dentists to clean teeth and fill cavities, no one thought they'd be able to spend time on aesthetics. So we were all surprised and delighted when Tom VanDenBerghe repaired broken front teeth on four children. It had simply been assumed that the students would go through life without ever getting the chance to have their teeth fixed.

A warm thank you to Scott & Myra McGavin, Tom & Julie VanDenBerghe, John and Maryanne VanDenBerghe and Gordon McGavin.

Update from India
Jim & Pam Gates

The last week of January was very busy in the hostel as three wonderful and compassionate Dentists and their wives came from Utah to "set up shop" in the Boys Hostel. We cleared a special room and installed the dental equipment we already had plus





the equipment the dentists brought with them.

Working in one room with three chairs, their wives as Dental Assistants and the Rising Star Medical staff assisting every step of the way, the Dentists set to work tackling everything from extractions of wisdom teeth, to filling cavities, to cosmetic dental repair of chipped front teeth. They worked from sun up to after 10 p.m. at night in order to treat all



the children in the hostels. The final morning they were here, they treated all who needed examinations including Rising Star staff members and teachers.

We will be forever grateful for the

compassionate and professional way they performed a much needed service and we appreciate them more than they could possibly know. Bright and shining smiles are everywhere at Rising Star since their visit.

Grateful for Sponsors

Derek Sharp

Every night before dinner, the children have what they call prayer time. It is a time when the children gather together to sing songs, offer a prayer to their greater being, and learn lessons about becoming better people.

This past Wednesday, a volunteer, Kenady Bunker, shared a lesson on being grateful. What a great reminder it was for me to be grateful for the things I have in my life. As Kenady was presenting her lesson she asked the kids what things they are grateful for. Hands immediately shot

up through out the crowd as they waited for her to call on them.

Great things were mentioned such as family, school, and friends, but towards the front of the list was SPONSORS. Little Abisha raised her hand and when called upon, her quiet little voice expressed her gratitude for her sponsors.

I just want to let you know that your sponsored children love you very much. They talk about you all the time and love receiving your letters and pictures! Their faces light up as they receive your letters, and they quickly run around showing all of their friends.

Thank you for all that you are doing for these children. I hope that you realize these children could not be where they are at without you!



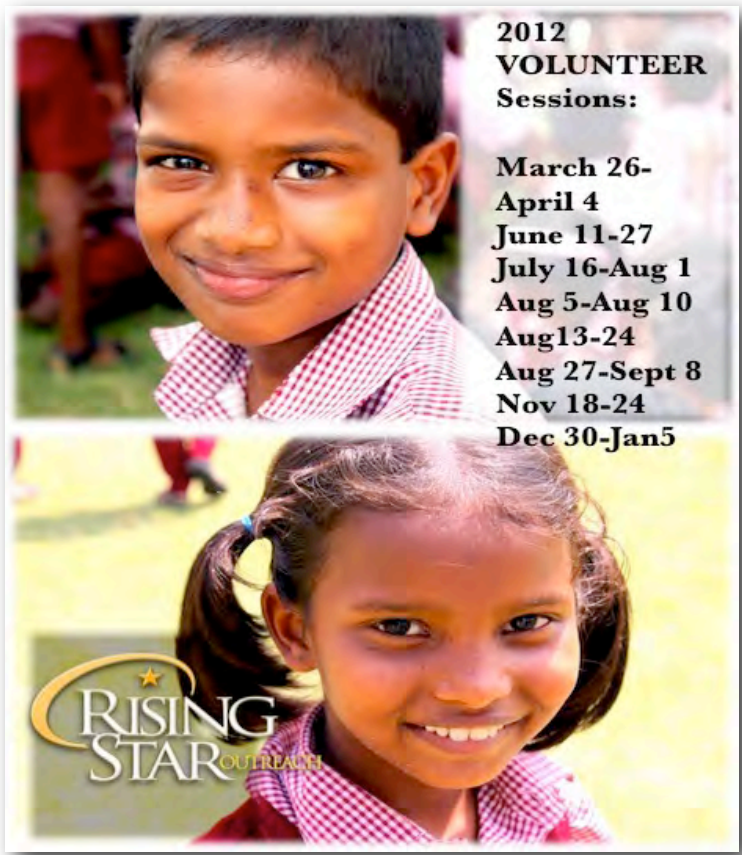


Barath

September 5, 2005

Barath is a very happy, cheerful young boy with a wonderful personality. He is a very caring and charismatic child. His family lives at Chellaperumal Nagar, Sriperumbuthur.

To Sponsor Barath, visit risingstaroutreach.org



**2012
VOLUNTEER
Sessions:**

- March 26-
April 4
- June 11-27
- July 16-Aug 1
- Aug 5-Aug 10
- Aug13-24
- Aug 27-Sept 8
- Nov 18-24
- Dec 30-Jan5

