

# HOPE IS LIFE FOUNDATION



Building Hope One Child at a Time

August 2011

*Dear Friends:*

*Just last month, I turned 18. These past six years, since we started our Foundation in 2005, my desire to help the needy children and the poor has brought new perspective in my life. I am so grateful to all of you, who have been great supporters of my vision to build hope - one child at a time.*

Today *Hope is Life Foundation* is dedicated to working with children, especially young girls, to provide an environment where they can live free of poverty and discrimination.

From the tsunami victims in Asia to earthquake orphans in Haiti to the underprivileged street children in Cambodia, we have been working with the local community in each area to provide hope for the children.

This coming year, we have initiated several projects to eradicate illiteracy that have to be sustainable with the human and financial resources available in the local community. Criteria for success are not only linked to trust-worthy individuals who manage the projects, but also to the availability of experts who obtain the skills to closely monitor the projects.

This requires major change at many different levels of society - the students, parents and villagers. To drive these changes, we want to demonstrate program success through measurable results. This is crucial for building support from the key stakeholders in the community.

Once again, I am asking your support to provide hope for these children.

- Natascha Yogachandra

## **Underprivileged Teenage Girls in Kolkata, India Proudly Show their Achievements**

During the past few years, *Hope is Life Foundation* has been working with the All Bengali Women's Union to educate and provide hope for abused and underprivileged teenage girls at their center. During a recent visit in June this year, we checked up on their progress and the girls were delighted to show their report cards to Natascha. Our *Foundation* takes pride of their achievements and will continue to support their education.



*"Tanu" one of the teenage girls whose education was sponsored by Hope is Life Foundation proudly showing her certificate of academic achievement to Natascha. She was born in a poor family in a lower caste and was abandoned by her mother when she was ten. She wants to become a nurse.*

# Sustaining Community Initiatives

Our Foundation's basic philosophy is to identify projects to eradicate illiteracy that have to be sustainable with the human and financial resources available in the local community. Criteria for success are not only linked to trust-worthy individuals who manage the projects but also to the availability of expert know-how and the skills to look after the projects.



*Natascha is seen with the piglets and the Principal of the school*



*Some of the students*



*New structures built for pig farm - a community based project*



*Computer Center - to train village teenagers*

In a remote village in the Northeast part of India (close to the Myanmar border), *Hope is Life Foundation* worked with a local school to start a pig farm and a computer training center to help the school and the villagers.

Almost all the students come from very poor backgrounds and some are orphans, parents of whom died of AIDS. The school is Borni Memorial School and is in Pangantabi village, in Thoubol district which is about 80 kms from Imphal city. The population of village is approximately 6,000.

Most of the villagers are farmers. Their family income depends on the annual harvest. The farmers live on an average of less than US\$1 a day.

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## Educational Center in Battambang, Cambodia Continues to Promote Village Education



*Natascha cutting the ribbon to open the educational center in the village - 2009*



*June 2011 - visit to the school to review and monitor the progress*

The Education center built in 2009 continues to provide education and welfare for nearly one hundred children in the Kbal Thol village in Battambang province, in Cambodia. It is one of the poorest areas in Cambodia and the villagers live on less than one dollar a day. In June 2011, we visited the center and the villagers to monitor their progress and to sustain it. The children are attending classes regularly and we have incorporated virtue classes in addition to teaching academic subjects by volunteer teachers from the village.



*Debbie (left) & Natascha with Vann Sina back in July 2008*

## Trafficked Victim Pays Back

Each year hundreds of thousands of women and children are tricked into promises of highly paid jobs or marriages, sold, coerced or otherwise forced into situations of exploitation from which they cannot escape. They have become commodities in a multi-billion dollar global industry - sex trafficking - dominated by highly organized criminal groups operating with



*Vann Sina*

impunity. Sex trafficking is nothing less than slavery.



*Vann Sina today with Nat in June 2011*

Vann Sina was rescued by AFESIP organization after a few years in the brothel. We paid another visit in late June this year to monitor her progress. She continues to live with the memories of her terrifying youth, but gained lots of confidence. Today, she is the Co-Program Manager for Voice For Change and works for *Somaly Mam Foundation* in Cambodia, which rescues abused victims and provide shelter and hope for the girls. *Hope is Life Foundation* continues to work with several local NGOs to create awareness of this human misery.



*Training of teachers*



*Repairing of schools*



*Enrichment Centers for street children*



*Educational sponsorships*



*Visiting schools and children centers to attend to their needs*



## Hope For Haiti

Despite the billions of dollars pledged by the international community and the presence of several thousands of non-governmental agencies, more than a year later, one million Haitians (one of every nine people) are still crammed into 1,000 camps, rife with violence and unsanitary conditions with cholera outbreak. Port-au-Prince's streets are still filled with rubble and collapsed buildings.

*Hope is Life Foundation*, with the support from friends all over the world, have made some progress - funding the kickoff of an arts curriculum, *Healing through Art*, for elementary students in a local school. The goal is to develop a Visual Arts Program with the hope of providing Haitian children and the community a spiritual and safe environment to emotionally grow.

Our *Foundation* is currently working to repair and build additional classrooms in a community school in Petion Ville and identifying children who became orphaned as a result of the earthquake and make sure they attend school.

We continue to work with a local non-governmental organization, CAFT, to start Children Enrichment Centers for street children in some parts of Haiti.



Natascha and Ms. Chhong from Cambodia

## Education - Only Way to Rid the World of Poverty

We believe that all young people have the right to education, health and safety. Children and youth are encouraged to develop a strong sense of purpose, empowering their own transformation and leading them to contribute to the advancement of society. Education, then, emerges as an indispensable tool--a tool of active academic and moral learning.

We also believe in educating girls is more important than educating boys. The first teachers of children are mothers, and we need to educate them first. We have always stressed that girls benefit tremendously from education, and so do the societies around them.

## Spirit of Service

Purchase Now! \$14.99



## Proceeds from the sales of this book will be used to promote education among children in underprivileged areas of the world

Full of rich personal experiences of a young teenager with a passion to serve mankind, and a desire to help young girls in impoverished parts of the world.

This book provides inspiration to youth and gives ideas on how to become involved in community services and volunteering. It inspires young people to start a campaign or link up with movements already happening in their country in order to make this world a better place.

Available at Wegmans Penfield, 2157 Penfield Road, Penfield, New York  
Wegmans Perinton, 6600 Pittsford-Palmyra Road, Perinton, New York

Also available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and Bahai Publishing and Distribution Services.  
Or contact Hope is Life Foundation, P.O. Box 261, Fairport, New York 14450



Current state of the school - six classrooms made out of mud



Future site for the new building  
Land donated by a local farmer

## Building New Structure for a Village School

Hope is Life Foundation is currently working with the villagers of Pangantabi village in Imphal, Manipur, India, to build an 8-classroom building for their school. We have acquired the land and this new building will replace the current structure made out of bamboo and mud.

Due to regular rain and heavy storm in this area, the classrooms often get flooded and is not safe for the children. The brick building will be safe for the children. We want to empower the local community and take ownership of the project. The land for the new building was donated by a local farmer. Each class room is estimated around US\$2,000 and we have just started raising funds for this project. Updates and more information on [www.hopeislife.org](http://www.hopeislife.org)

Hope is Life Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit incorporated in the United States in 2005. All donations are tax-exempt and receipts are provided. If you would like to contribute towards supporting our Foundation activities, whether to provide scholarships to orphans, build learning centers and libraries in remote areas of the world or to enhance the welfare of needy children, please send your check or money order to:



Hope is Life Foundation  
P. O. Box 261, Fairport, New York 14450 USA  
[www.hopeislife.org](http://www.hopeislife.org)