

# THE MIRACLE FOUNDATION

Empowering children to reach their full potential, one orphan at a time



Rupeswari



Mary



Sonny



Mohan  
(needs a sponsor)



Jagjit  
(needs a sponsor)

## Caroline's Letter: Our 1000-Day Plan

Dear Friends,  
We've known it all along. The formula to empowering orphans to reach their full potential is a loving mother that ensures a sense of belonging, nutritious food to sustain their little bodies, and an excellent education leading to college and a chosen career. Yes, it's a simple formula; but it isn't easy. Everyday, we face challenges that haunt us and baffle us. Yet, one day at a time, we transform these resilient children and change the trajectory of their lives. It is miraculous, humbling work.

Having established the fundamentals of our model, we are now focused on a 1000-day strategy that will allow us to take this **proven formula** to the next

level and **set the global standard** for orphanages everywhere. Our model has **four priorities: Empowering Children, Developing Housemothers, Creating Children's Villages, and Uplifting the Surrounding Community.**

**Our Children** are at the center of every decision we make. Ensuring that each child receives the care, love, attention, food, education, and health-care s/he deserves is difficult but rewarding work (ask any mother). Most children have parents to ensure this. These children have us. Our Housemother and Sponsorship programs were established to meet this goal. Knowing that the sponsor/child relationship is so very important to the child's well being and extremely fulfilling for both parties, we are committed to locating a sponsor for



Caroline Boudreaux and children of Sooch Village at the grand opening, March 2008

every one of our children. It is a relationship that makes a significant difference in a child's life.

**Housemothers** are a key component of our model. A housemother's love warms each child with a sense of belonging and self-esteem; leading to well-balanced, productive adults. We provide our housemothers with training, a safe and stable home, a good salary and the opportunity for a family. In turn, the consistent, loving care that they give to the children is the foundation for attachment, something that most orphans are denied. We've recently partnered with **Guild of**



**Service**, a highly respected organization which empowers marginalized women in India through a variety of proven strategies, including offering vocational training to widows. Guild of Service will equip our

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### Urgent Needs

#### 50 Children Need Sponsors

We have 50 children in need of sponsors, including 18 who were recently orphaned following religious riots in Phulbani, Orissa. For \$100/mo you can provide a child with both financial and emotional support. To find out more about sponsoring a child, please contact Jasdeep Sandhu at 248.880.2888 or [jasdeep@miraclefoundation.org](mailto:jasdeep@miraclefoundation.org). **Sponsor a child and feel the joy of being a global parent!**

#### Volunteers Needed

We need IT help and Web support 2 to 4 hours per week, as well as electrical work—all at our West 6th Street office.

#### Photographic Prints Needed

Been to India? Have any extra prints of your pictures? We would love to have them for inclusion in our thank you notes.

### Important Dates

#### October 24

Bollywood Night at Copa Bar & Grill.

#### November 14

*One Child at a Time* screens at Austin Asian-American Film Festival.

#### December 5th

KGSR Anniversary Party benefiting The Miracle Foundation.

#### December 6th

Cut-a-thon at Avant Salon.

#### March 13–20, 2010

Voluntourism trip to India. Sign up today!

## Caroline's Letter: 1000-Day Plan (continued)

housemothers with further training and also provide additional housemothers who will continue to give our children the love and care they deserve.

In March 2008, we opened Sooch Village, and established the model for our ideal **Children's Village**. We are now working to replicate this model at two other locations: Rourkela and Bhawani. We are also partnering with **Architecture for Humanity**, a San Francisco-based nonprofit design firm whose network of professional architects are donating their



Initial rendering of our ideal Children's Village to be built by Architecture for Humanity

time and talent to design and oversee the construction of our new Villages. It's another powerful partnership, ensuring that more children will live with dignity.

The first right of every child is the right to live with his or her parents. However, orphanages are full of "economic orphans"—children who were surrendered to orphanages because their parents could not afford to care for them. In response, we established a **community program**, called Lunch & Learn. This program provides children from local villages with nutritious food, a good education, and loving attention while their parents are at work. This **orphan-prevention program** ensures that these children get to stay with their parents and still get the care, food, and education that so many oth-

ers are denied. This (very inexpensive) program keeps families together. We are replicating it in all of our homes.

Our 1000-Day Plan is possible and so very exciting. However, none of it can be accomplished without you! With

your help, a thousand orphans will be loved, fed, clothed and educated; hundreds of marginalized women will be given a fair wage and a safe home; and families will get to stay together. It's so easy to make a huge difference.



Lunch & Learn students with their parents and the TMF staff at Sooch Village

**Donate, Sponsor or Volunteer today. You'll never regret it!**

*Caroline Boudreaux*

Caroline Boudreaux  
Founder

# The miracle is this—the more we share, the more we have.

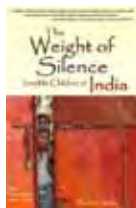
Leonard Nimoy

## News

### Two new books feature The Miracle Foundation

***The Weight of Silence: Invisible Children of India***  
by Shelley Seal

A TMF Ambassador, Seal turns the spotlight on the orphans of India, with a special focus on the significant work being done by The Miracle Foundation. Purchase your copy directly through our office, and we will receive all of the profits. Drop by 1506 West 6th Street, Austin, Texas or call 512.329.8635.



***Professional Destiny: Discover the Career You Were Born For***  
by Valerie Hausladen

A TMF Ambassador and former Board member, Hausladen features the story of Caroline Boudreaux's initial inspiration to start The Miracle Foundation.

### GlobalGiving Open Challenge: We Won!

Thanks to the **288 donors** who contributed to The Miracle Foundation via the GlobalGiving Open Challenge, we won the top spot in the Unique Donors category! Through the generosity of our donors, we received **\$21,061** (exceeding our initial fund-raising goal by \$6,261), and we were **awarded an additional \$3,000** for winning the competition. Our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you! Your gift will go a long way towards helping the single mothers and their newborn children at our Simdega Home.



### New Volunteer: Ambassador Coordinator

Carol "Cookie" Phillips is our new Ambassador Coordinator. Cookie traveled to India in March '09 and was so moved by her experience that she immediately sponsored a child. She is now volunteering her time and talents to ensure that—following their return from India—all TMF Ambassadors remain engaged with our activities and our mission. Thanks Cookie, we so appreciate your commitment!

## Travel to India

Are you a Miracle Foundation sponsor, volunteer, or supporter? You have an opportunity to make a difference IN INDIA! Join us on our tours to India and meet our Miracle Children first-hand. This is the ultimate travel opportunity to see how you and our many supporters make a difference at home and in India. **For more information, visit [www.MiracleFoundation.org](http://www.MiracleFoundation.org) or call Barbara at 512.329.8635.**

## Featured Child: Mohan Das

In March of 2009, communal riots broke out between Hindus and Christians in Phulbani, Orissa. Buildings were burned and many people died. The Miracle Foundation was notified that an orphanage in the area was being forced to close due to the on-going violence. Our representatives visited Phulbani and brought back eighteen children: many from the at-risk orphanage and others whose parents had been killed during the riots.

**Mohan Das** is one of those eighteen children. Prior to the riots, Mohan Das had two brothers and two sisters. Their whereabouts are currently unknown.



For \$100 per month, our Sponsorship Program allows for a surrogate family to financially and emotionally support Mohan.

To find out more about sponsoring a child, please contact Jasdeep Sandhu at 248.880.2888 or [jasdeep@MiracleFoundation.org](mailto:jasdeep@MiracleFoundation.org). Or visit [www.MiracleFoundation.org](http://www.MiracleFoundation.org).

**You'll change a child's life, and your life, forever!**



India Spotlight

**Sosan Purti** joined The Miracle Foundation family in 2006. With her innate talents and her love and compassion for children, she efficiently manages the housemothers and oversees the children's care at Sooch Village in India.

Sosan was the second child born into a traditional Christian family in Orissa, India. She demonstrated her intrinsic interest in serving others early in life, when she became involved with her local church and provided much-needed social services to her community.

Sadly, she was faced with great tragedy when she lost both of her parents and her elder sister. As the oldest remaining child, Sosan took on the responsibility of caring for her younger brother and sister. As a result of this experience, she decided to devote her life to working with orphaned children.

Sosan graduated from college in Orissa. In order to increase her knowledge, she continues to attend advanced programs in child development, and, since joining Sooch Village, she has embraced the opportunity to improve her computer skills. Manjeet Pardesi, Country Manager, explains, "Sosan is a soft spoken, yet dynamic person, who has a natural instinct for the job and working with children." These qualities—combined with her strong supervisory skills—make her a great manager, leader and a real asset to The Miracle Foundation.

## Travel Report: August Medical Trip

Our August 2009 Medical Trip was a huge success! We had 21 "voluntourists," including students, dentists, optometrists, and doctors from all over the US and Canada. The students assisted the medical professionals as they examined approximately 500 children and 40 staff members—in only 5 days! We are already planning for August 2010. Interested? E-mail [Barbara@MiracleFoundation.org](mailto:Barbara@MiracleFoundation.org) to learn more.



Ambassador's Journal

by Ruby Sooch, MD / Ambassador

As we traveled from the Ranchi airport to Sooch Village, I couldn't take my eyes off the people on the streets, so industrious and seemingly perfectly content. I felt smolders of shame about my privileged life. I then began to feel immense gratitude. "Thank God, that is not me and my children." I don't know what scared me more; the desperate madness the people lived in, or their ability to endure it.

I first saw the children of Sooch Village from the veranda of the administrative building. Guided by their housemothers, they walked single-file from their cottages. My heart moved into my throat, and I couldn't breathe. My eyes welled up. When I finally thought to swallow, it hurt. The children were beautiful. Some of their faces were full with curiosity, others with excitement, and others with confidence. I stood there awkwardly as they customarily touched my feet, while I softly touched their heads. They greeted me with "Jai Hind, Auntie." We were all strangers, yet within minutes we somehow connected.

I was soon struck by Bikram, a ten-year-old boy, the same age as my son. Before Bikram came to Sooch Village, he was found washing dishes in a hotel. I observed him mostly from afar as he picked up the younger children when they walked back to their cottages and gently guiding others back into line. I watched as he diligently perfected his yoga pose, as he revealed his curiosity when the medical team performed their exams, as he helped an optometrist organize his medical supplies, and, finally, as he encouraged the other children to dance to the Bollywood music we played. When Bikram came to me for his physical exam, I told him, "You are really smart. Continue to study hard because you are going to do something good. I see in you a leader." His smile was immense and beautiful.

I am an affectionate person, but I'm not typically drawn to other children. However, as days passed, I felt my eyes and heart open wider and my touch become more tender. These children were not much different from my own. Their smiles, their laughter, and their tears were so very familiar. They were lovely, strong, vulnerable children—and all so full of potential. I see now that it takes just a little courage and effort to respond to them. They all can fly.

I'm not sure why it took me 26 years to return to India. I am even more surprised that this trip—so far out of my comfort zone—got me there. I am forever grateful for the challenge and opportunity. Everyone says you get much more than you give on a trip like this; they are right. I have been home a few weeks now, and although I have returned to my family, my work, and my routine, I'm aware that my life is somehow different; and it is good.

# THE MIRACLE FOUNDATION



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1506 West 6th Street  
Austin, Texas 78703  
Phone 512-329-8635  
Fax 512-482-8201  
info@MiracleFoundation.org  
Address Service Requested

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U.S. POSTAGE  
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AUSTIN, TX  
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### The Miracle Foundation Endowment Fund

Recognizing that modern philanthropy is about choice, we have recently established **The Miracle Foundation Endowment Fund**. By providing this philanthropic opportunity for our donors, we are also guaranteeing that The Miracle Foundation's work will continue long into the future. The Miracle Foundation Endowment Fund is held and managed by **The Austin Community Foundation**, which has been in existence for 32 years and has assets well in excess of \$100 million. To learn more about our new Endowment Fund, contact Caroline Boudreaux at 512.329.8635.

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### The Miracle Foundation Board of Directors

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### Special Thanks

**André Beausoleil**  
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FOUR HANDS

