

Seeds on the Wind

NEWS FROM BETHANIA KIDS • SUMMER 2025

A Greeting from the President

Dear Friends,

Last fall I had the privilege of visiting all four of the Bethania Kids homes. At each home, I joined the children and staff for a delicious meal. I attempted to eat with my hands, as is the Indian custom, but I was thankful utensils were provided as an option. At home in the US, I take food (and utensils) for granted, but many of these children have known what it feels like to go hungry. What a relief for them to come to Bethania Kids and know they will have plenty to eat. And as some children have said, “with dessert, too!”

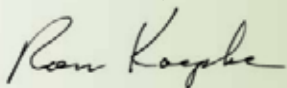
It takes \$80 per month to provide for all the needs of one child in our homes. In addition to food, Bethania Kids covers the cost of clothing, school supplies and fees, tutors, medical care, transportation and loving staff to care for the children. The article about life at Shalom Home in this issue of *Seeds on the Wind* will give you a good picture of the difference \$80 makes in a child's life each and every month.

We depend on donors who give monthly. They are our “Sustaining Donors.” Different donors contribute different amounts, but they all give consistently. I'd love to add more donors to our current group of 170 Sustaining Donors. When we know we can count on you for monthly support, we can establish a realistic budget. Then we can devote more money to serving the children and spend less on fundraising.

I invite you to join me and other board members in committing to support Bethania Kids on a monthly basis. **July is the perfect time to become a monthly Sustaining Donor because your donations will be matched one-for-one for an entire year, effectively doubling your gifts.** If you have already been supporting Bethania Kids on a monthly basis for a while, please prayerfully consider increasing your gift. Inflation and a fluctuating economy continue to increase our costs, even more so in India than here in North America.

We are deeply grateful for all gifts to Bethania Kids, large or small. Having visited our ministry sites in India, I have seen first-hand the difference your support makes. May we continue to partner together to serve the least of these in Jesus' name.

In His service,



Ron Koepke
President



Bethania Kids

God's Mercy Abounds at Shalom Home for Girls

The foundation stone of the Bethania Kids Shalom Home includes the verse, "He remembered us in our lowly state; for His mercy endures forever" (Psalm 136:23). Indeed, God's mercy is evident at Shalom Home. Before that stone was even put into place in 2019, God worked in the hearts of donors across North America, prompting them to give generously toward the construction of a new home for girls in India. After the foundation stone was laid, God provided a way for construction to be completed despite the COVID pandemic. We thank God for his faithfulness.



The Home's History

Shalom Home was originally opened in 2006 in a rented space to meet the needs of children affected by the tsunami on the eastern coast of India. The tsunami devastated the coastline and left thousands dead and countless orphaned children. Staff members traveled to the coast and, working with Indian Government officials, rescued 50 children, bringing them back to Kodaikanal to live. The girls continued to live in less-than-ideal rented spaces until the completion of the new Shalom Home in 2022.

The New Home

Shalom Home is on "the plains" with beautiful views of the mountains. The three-acre property includes a playground and gardens and is enclosed by a 7-foot-tall stone wall for security. The two-floor home includes comfortable sleeping rooms as well as a kitchen, dining room, study hall, music and arts studio, computer lab, sewing room, and library. When you visit, the girls will likely be waiting on the veranda, eager to greet you!



Mrs. Pradeepa

Mrs. Pradeepa is the "project in-charge" at Shalom Home. Having grown up in an environment similar to Shalom Home, she is well aware of the needs of the girls in her care and seeks to ensure that each girl experiences the love of Jesus.

Life at Shalom Home

Seventy girls currently find refuge at Shalom Home. The girls are there because they had no one to care for them. Poverty and trauma left them struggling to survive. Shalom Home is a refuge for them as they grow up, helping them to prepare for a productive adult life on their own.

The girls experience Jesus' love each day through the care of Christian staff members. Every morning they and the staff pray, sing hymns and read the Bible, and on Sundays they worship in town. The girls eagerly memorize Bible verses. The older girls go to youth gatherings, and the younger children go to Sunday school classes.

The girls' physical needs are met, as well. They receive nutritious meals including vegetables, fruits, eggs, lentils, meat and milk. The girls' height and weight are checked each month to ensure they are growing appropriately, and they receive regular medical check-ups. One of the reasons for selecting the Shalom Home location is the good access to clean water and hospital services.



The girls also have responsibilities around their home. They help maintain the garden, growing vegetables like greens, beans, gooseberries and watermelons, and they tend the fruit trees that were planted on the property. They get to eat the fruits of their labor, providing extra motivation. Indoors, they help with daily cleaning.

Education is an important focus at Shalom Home, as it is in all our homes. The excellent local schools are another reason this location was chosen. Bethania Kids provides the necessary school supplies, uniforms and school bags. Each day, the girls ride to and from school on the home's bus.

The girls receive daily tutoring in math and other subjects at Shalom Home. The staff monitor how the girls are doing in school and are happy to report that most of them are excelling. Those who are struggling receive the extra help they need.

Time to play and a variety of extracurricular activities round out the girls' lives. They are encouraged to sing, dance and play musical instruments. Any visitor to Shalom Home will confirm that this is where the girls' hearts really shine. They enjoy performing for special events like Independence Day and Christmas and to welcome guests.

Life After Shalom Home

Once the girls age out of the home, Bethania Kids continues to help them with further education. Currently 11 young women from Shalom Home are in post-secondary studies supported by Bethania Kids. These girls have come a long way since they first entered Shalom Home as children with little hope for the future.

All for the Glory of God

We are so grateful to the many donors who made the new Shalom Home a reality and who continue to make life at Shalom Home possible for 70 girls. The wording on the plaque on the home's foundation stone begins with the words "For the Glory of God."

These words are a good reminder that the beautiful work at Shalom Home is all for God's glory. May God be pleased and honored in all we do.



Sadhasri

Sadhasri came to Shalom home when she was 14 years old. Her father had died, and her mother could not support her. Her story is unfortunately a common one. When a family is already struggling, the death of one parent often pushes them into extreme poverty. Without Shalom Home, Sadhasri faced a bleak future with little money for shelter or food. She has adjusted very well at Shalom Home and is excelling in her studies. She recently finished her year-end exams and placed 1st in her class!





Nurturing and equipping the children and women of India to change their world through Jesus' love.

Bethania Kids is an IRS registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit and benevolent organization.

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New Donations Matched for a Year

July is Sustaining Donor Month. "Sustaining Donors" contribute to Bethania Kids on a monthly basis. We invite you to join the current group of 170 Sustaining Donors who make an impact every month. *If you become a Sustaining Donor during July, your monthly gifts will be matched for a full year.*

Bethania Kids depends on our Sustaining Donors. Their generous and consistent support each month has transformed the lives of many boys and girls in India. When you commit to making a monthly recurring donation, Bethania Kids can spend more money helping children and less money on marketing and fundraising. That's just smart giving.

The current cost to provide for all the needs of a child in one of our homes is \$80 per month, but you can choose the amount you want to give. If you give \$50/month, your gift will be matched with an extra $\$50 \times 12 \text{ months} = \600 , for a total donation of \$1,200. Your generosity will be multiplied. Any amount, large or small, helps!

To become a monthly Sustaining Donor and have your gift matched for a full year, go to bethaniakids.org/donate and set up a recurring gift (just check the box marked "Make this gift recurring"). We'll make sure your gift is matched.

Already a monthly donor? Thank you! Perhaps you have been supporting Bethania Kids at the same level for a long time. We invite you to prayerfully consider increasing your monthly gift. If you increase your current monthly gift now, the increase will be matched for one year. Just give us a call at 540-450-2729 to increase your monthly support or go to bethaniakids.org/donate and set up a new recurring gift (be sure to let us know at giving@bethaniakids.org so we can deactivate your old recurring gift).

A total of \$5,000 in matching funds is available. Be a smart giver and help us put those matching funds to good use before they expire on July 31.



Recent gifts made in memory of:

Audrey Ruth Michalk Abel
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Paul and Jean Dettman
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Mark Hennig
Robert Hennig
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