



One! **International** **Poverty Relief**

2007 Annual Report

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Mission, Vision and Value Statements

Our Mission:

To teach literacy skills to children living in the slums of Mumbai (Bombay), India, including reading, writing, and numeracy skills, so that they are better prepared through gaining the confidence, knowledge and skills needed to achieve his or her potential to become responsible members of society.

Our Vision:

Improve the future of impoverished children and youth in Mumbai (Bombay).

Establish programs that aim to strengthen families and prevent the abandonment of children.

Provide children with basic living needs through trust, respect, integrity, commitment, and caring.

Help children recognize and express their abilities, interests and talents.

Our Values:

We believe that education is an inherent right and the key to freedom through breaking the cycle of poverty.

We believe in peace, non-violence, frugality, simplicity, honesty.

Our Goal:

Maximize the benefits for the street children of Mumbai while minimizing administrative spending.



Est. Population in India - 1,166,079,217

Est. Population in Mumbai - 13,922,125

Est. Annual Birthrate - 22.22 births/1,000 population

Literacy rate 61.0%

India contains the largest concentration of poor people in the world, and has a higher rate of malnutrition among children under the age of three (46% in year 2007) than any other country in the world.

India has the world's largest population of street children, estimated at 18 million.

22 percent of the population lives below the income poverty line

Message from the President

In 2007 I continued to try and seize each opportunity that was presented to me to its fullest, meanwhile surviving the tough times. Our major accomplishment in 2007 was expanding our efforts in Mumbai by starting a new school in the district, Nallasopara. In only nine months we managed to get the new school to a consistent 50 plus student attendance. Even though our efforts were now spread between two locations, we were able to balance ourselves and allow the original Khar Danda School to also continue its growth.

My personal highlight for the year was surviving chaos amongst the staff. The chaos acted as a catalyst for us all to learn, to grow personally, and to assist myself as well as the staff to achieve composure once again. Thus together we continued to take One! International to the next level.

The capacity of One! in Mumbai is being increased continuously as the staff and the working clients (both students and parents) increase their personal capacities and make a commitment to the dream of change. One! is an infectious dream of hope and we have been so lucky to have had staff and clients who understand and want to live the dream.

Volunteers are a vital part of the schools as they bring in fresh energy and fresh ideas. The volunteers are the catalyst that allows the staff and the children to reach their full potential. Volunteers in Canada keep us going both financially and administratively, they are the link that brings the spirit of One! to its supporters and donors. There is room for growth in volunteering both in Canada and in India. As the number of children we touch increases so does the need for volunteers.



Incredible things have been accomplished in these past seven short years. I am currently debating how to pursue my goal of further studies. I would like to learn more about social work and education and especially the link between the two. I am not sure at this time whether my learning will take place in a formal institution or whether I will try to schedule time for it amongst all the day-to-day learning that happens through One!

In November, my parents came to visit; both have always been incredibly supportive. This visit was special for me as it was my Dad's first trip to India; he has always been supportive behind the scenes. The children were delighted and I was thrilled that he had come to see where and what exactly his daughter was doing in a land so foreign to everything he had ever experienced. This trip was made in November of 2006.

I close this report with grateful thoughts about the many people all over the world who help to make my dream a reality through their faithful support in every way.

Tania Spilchen,
Founder and President

One! International Mumbai, India



Who we are:

One! International is a humanitarian organization committed to providing the impoverished people in Mumbai (Bombay) India with the tools, knowledge and opportunities to break the cycle of poverty.

One! International is a non-profit, non-governmental, non-denominational non-political international organization. Education is our main focus. We provide the tools, knowledge and opportunities to break the cycle of poverty through basic education.

In addition to the challenge of providing basic education, concurrent problems which must be addressed are nutrition, medical attention, family and societal problems faced by women, and abusive men.

One! had five to ten permanent employees of in India during 2007, plus numerous volunteers, and a Board of Directors.

Our long term Goals directly support the mission of One! International through education, which means building the foundations of a sound future. The ongoing tasks and spin-off benefits are well-known: breaking the cycle of begging; promoting good nutrition and health, encouraging change; defending the rights of women; promoting school attendance; and learning from the children themselves.

One! International has a far-reaching goal to educate/inform North American children about their counterparts in other parts of the world, particularly in Mumbai, India. Our world is becoming a very small globe and if we are to live in harmony we need to understand and appreciate the aims and aspirations of people from other countries.

We are very lucky in North America to have bountiful benefits. It is our hope that students here in North America develop a more balanced view of the world, as well as a sense of appreciation by experiencing and learning about another country. Through having a tie to an organization such as One! International, North American students will have an opportunity to develop this deep sense of appreciation and even satisfaction in being able to help an Indian child gain educational success. Further, it is hoped that compassion will result for those majority world peoples who lack the basic human needs which those in the minority or the 'developed world' takes for granted.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is maintained to ensure that the direction of One! International remains focused and positive for improving the future of the children, women, and families in Mumbai, India. The Board is the 'voice' of all the donors and financial supporters. All major decisions, in terms of the administration of *One!* (accommodation, transportation, communication, advertising, public relations) are passed to the Board and must be accepted by the majority of members. The hope is to maintain the 'human factor' and the credibility of the organization through the people that are represented by the Board.

The Board is a working Board, responsible for overall guidance of the organization. The legal responsibilities of the Board are to ensure that all activities of One! International complies with the rules and regulations pertinent to charitable activities in the province of Alberta, Canada and India.

- Tania Spilchen, President / Founder, Director
- Gordon Sustrik. Legal / Secretary, Director
- Colleen Woltjen, Director
- Other Officials
 - Marilyn Spilchen, Canadian Coordinator
 - Tara Woltjen, Public Relations
 - Marketing/Fundraising Committee Members



Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2007

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash	\$14,533
Accounts Receivable	3,551
Micro Loans Receivable	3,057
Prepaid Rent	<u>11,514</u>
	\$32,655

Equipment	<u>\$2,014</u>
Total Assets	\$34,669

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities

Accounts payable	\$0
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Total Liabilities	<u>\$0</u>
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EQUITY

Net assets invested in equipment	\$2,014
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Unrestricted net assets	<u>\$32,655</u>
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Total Equity	\$34,669
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Total Liabilities and Equity	<u>\$34,669</u>
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Statement of Operations

December 31, 2007

REVENUE

Give a child a chance—sponsorship program	\$21,221
Donations	23,268
Fundraising	10,783
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	\$55,272

EXPENSES

Travel & transportation	\$10,462
Rent and occupancy costs	11,969
Wages	19,745
Communication	1,491
Fundraising	1,121
Books and supplies	1,146
Office	7,363
Children's Promotional Projects	5,103
Children's Nutrition Program & Medicines	7,047
Amortization of Assets	1,001
Loss on disposal of computer	1,421
Other	0
Utilities and internet	338
Bank charges	518
	<hr/>
	\$68,725

Surplus/(Deficit) for the year **\$(13,453)**

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

For the Year Ended December 31, 2007

	Invested in Equipment	Unrestricted	Total
Balance beginning of period	\$2,235	\$45,887	\$48,122
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	0	-\$13,453	-\$13,453
Non cash item—amortization	(1,001)	1,001	0
Net Investment in equipment	<u>780</u>	<u>-780</u>	0
Balance end of period	\$2,014	\$32,655	\$34,669

Statement of Cash Flows

Cash provided by (used in)

Operating Activities

Surplus/(Deficit) for the year - \$13,453

Items not affecting cash:

Amortization of Equipment 1,000

Loss on the disposal of equipment 1,421

\$(11,032)

Changes in non-cash working capital

(Increase)/Decrease in Accounts Receivable (1,051)

(Increase)/Decrease in Micro Loans Receivable (3,057)

(Increase)/Decrease in Prepaid rent and travel (5,992)

(Increase)/Decrease in Accounts Payable (48)

(10,148)

Cash flow from operating activities \$(21,180)

Investing Activities

Purchase of Equipment (2,200)

Increase/(Decrease) in Cash **\$(23,380)**

Cash beginning of period \$37,913

Cash end of period **\$14,533**

2007 – Khar Danda Report

- With the addition of the second school in Nallasopara and the continuous growth in Khar Danda, One! hired another teacher, Jayanti who has experience in various schools and was excited to add her expertise to the One! team. Jayanti's experience is mostly with children in Grade 6 and up; she now has the opportunity to work with children of all ages.
- One of our student employees, Bismilla, became a teacher for lower steps in Hindi and Math at Nallasopara. Jayanti will be a teacher for Steps 1-4 in Khar Danda, teaching math.
- Some staff left, new staff was hired. Candidates were interviewed and mock teaching sessions were held. At the Khar school one social worker and three teachers were hired to add to Vinita's experienced team. Anil, the new social worker comes with over 35 years of experience in the field. He has been recognized by the government for all of his efforts. His primary goal is to gain the trust of the older boys and assist in getting government certificates and legal status for the families.



2007 – Nallasopara Report

- In February, the staff and board of Directors decided that we needed a new start, a new challenge, and we needed to expand our efforts in Mumbai. Planning started for a new school in the northern suburb of Mumbai called Nallasopara. After meeting with families and being introduced to the village council leader, Panchayat in Alka Puri, he agreed to give One! three very small houses (200 square feet) free of cost for two hours, three days a week to teach.
- Registration day was on March 20th; more than fifteen families came to register and a list of over 80 students. The children were tested on the basics and assigned to a class. We discovered that more than 90% of the children could not read or write and could not do simple mathematics. The children ranged in age from 4 to 17 years. On the first day of class, there were 58 children in attendance, by the end of March, there were over 70 children. The teachers were thrilled with the success of the school; Nallasopara does not have a single government school, so a great need was filled.
- Nallasopara is rapidly growing. There were 75 children attending regularly and over 100 names on the list. By the middle of May, attendance had dropped slightly as families traditionally go to the village for the summer. However, registration continued to increase, we are expecting over 100 students when school begins in June. Very basic classes will be provided to begin with. Teaching Hindi, English, Math, Science, Exercise, Music and Drama.

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- A banana a day will be provided plus counseling sessions for the parents. As the project succeeds and becomes stable, other elements of our current program will be added.
 - Teaching in Nallasopara's district of Alka Puri was shifted to an area called Santosh Bhavan due to the officials planting roadblocks and leaving One without a space to run classes. Two of our old families were instrumental in getting everything for classes to being. They allowed One to teach in their house for a couple of weeks.
 - Nallasopara lost two key staff in August, despite massive growth and enthusiasm. A decision was made to cap the registration at 60 children, but would open registration in January. This gave the children incentive to maintain their attendance record and work ethic/behavior in class. Family interviews were conducted with the parents of the students as parts of a survey to establish what social work needs are required. Once survey is completed, we will be able to identify the needs and priorities of families in the area, as well, which skills programs can be implemented in the Nallasopara school.

2007 – Quarterly Performance Report

January - March

- One! International signed up with www.CanadaHelps.Org charity. This organization allows people to make direct credit card or direct debit donations to any Canadian registered charity and receive online tax receipts.
- One of the original students, Rakesh, from 2001 has is now a certified driver, so he has been hired as the driver for One! International. Rakesh has realized the importance and what a tremendous opportunity his driver license provides him with. This opportunity will be presented to the other boys of age.
- Jayenti and Bismilla have been employed as teacher's assistants to fill Vinod's position. They will also be assisting with basic tasks and errands, both will be supervised by the teachers. This is an excellent opportunity for them to learn new skills and values.
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- The Sonal family came to One! and asked for another loan, their past history proved they were responsible and trustworthy by paying in full, two previous loans. The Sonal family wanted a loan so that they could get their own private electricity for their home. This would enable them to be independent of neighbors and give them official paperwork.
- One! is pleased with the support of the expatriate community. Their newest venture is to do some major repairs to the school. The kitchen was moved from upstairs to downstairs, one of the toilets and washing areas were remodeled. The doors and window shutters will be redone, dividers created in the classrooms and extra storage areas made.
- One's official status in India was finalized. On March 1, 2007 we became a Foreign Liaison Office in India working for the betterment of the lives of street children and their families.

April - June

- A very generous sponsor from New York is producing and directing a documentary named 'Lucky Ducks'. The premise of the documentary is to show how the baby boomer middle and upper class population of North America are providing their children with so much that it may be too much. The youth of today are not learning boundaries or appreciation of what they have, possessions, people and values.
- One! participated in the filming of this documentary. Taylor, a 15 year old New Yorker, spent two weeks with the children. Through the experience, the hope was to open up Taylor's eyes to hard work, a sense of accomplishment, and an appreciation for where she comes from and the privileges she was gifted with in this life.
- Renovations began in May. With the increase in number of classes and students, more rooms were desperately needed. Windows in both rooms were remade and exhaust fans were installed. Three very large whiteboards were donated from a foreign company; they were installed with wooden doors on the front, so they will last longer. All of the renovations were donated by a good friend of One's in Mumbai.



July - September

- Reshma was employed to assist with small jobs at the school and she was also our cook. She was the only student employee for an extended period of time, she earned a full wage and the pride she exuded in her jobs showed. In June, Reshma will be teaching one class.

October – December

- Contact was made with ADRA-ASI who is involved with transporting goods around the world for humanitarian organizations. One! is hoping to be able to share a container bound for the west part of India.
- Smita, Kishore, Diksha and Susheela are the other teachers hired. All have poise, professionalism and an eagerness to work with the children and earn their trust and respect.

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- Sadly we mourn the loss of Ramesh, he was the father of one of our beginning families. Sensitive issues have started to arise and have forced us to raise questions on what our organization policy and procedures are towards homosexuality, male prostitution and child sexual abuse.
 - Pleased to report that there are much fewer cases of malaria and malnutrition amongst the children in Khar. However, other major illnesses have surfaced like Tuberculosis and Dilshaad's tumor.



Partners

A) Alliance for Youth Achievement Inc. (AYA)

AYA is a small American non-profit organization that raises money for orphans and street children around the world. They focus on smaller programs that would fall below the scope of groups such as UNICEF and World Vision, but which are run from the heart and where a little money will make a big difference in the lives of the children.

In 2004, AYA started the sponsorship of the Sewing and Woodworking projects which were implemented that year.

One! is pleased to have them continue their sponsorship and provide informational reports throughout the year.

B) Children's Hope (India) Inc.

Children's Hope Inc., based out of New York, is an organization comprised of professional women who support the cause of underprivileged children both in India and the U.S.A. In the bustling city of Bombay where many children dwell in slums, Children's Hope supports 60 balwadis or head start schools for children.

Children's Hope entered into a partnership with One! International to assist the children and families of Khar Danda through hiring a teacher and a social worker. The full time social worker and part time Hindi teacher have made a huge difference. The children's understanding and ability to read and write in the national language has increased. The social worker has been able to work with the families and children to encourage social growth.

One! and CHI are exploring additional ways to partner and Nallasopara may become a joint project in the future. Regular reports are provided.

C) Schools

One! International has an ongoing partnership with Wes Hosford Elementary School in Sherwood Park, AB which holds an annual fundraiser collecting supplies and money for the children in India.

Edmonton St. Charles, Foam Lake in Saskatchewan and Wes Hosford in Sherwood Park planned successful fundraisers for One! in 2007.

Our dream of educating Canadian children about children in countries such as India has taken a leap forward – actually two leaps. St. Charles Elementary School in Edmonton raised over \$1500 for One! International for their Lent project. And, Savannah school in northern Alberta is going to learn about “our” One! Children and raise some money for them. Thank you to Nicole and Katie for teaching and supporting

D) Yoga Studios

One! International is fortunate to have partnerships with a number of Yoga studios: Yoga for Today in Sherwood Park; Yoga Passage in Calgary; and the Yoga Lounge in Canmore. These studios sponsor children and host fundraising events.

Yoga for Today who has been supporting One! from the beginning, took advantage of Tania being home and held their annual fundraiser one month earlier than usual. Attendees enjoyed hearing about the activities in India from Tania directly, enjoyed food and a silent auction. This venture was extremely successful.

E) Stollery Children's Hospital

The Edmonton Stollery Children's Hospital kindly donated toys, books and assorted items after they remodeled their play room. Items that were not suitable for transport to India were donated to The Candora Society, a non profit organization in Edmonton that assists the needs of low income residents.

F) Goan Association

Thank you to the Edmonton Goan Association for contributing money from their Gala evening for the work in India.



Give a Child-a-Chance Program (GCC)

The GCC program includes weekly meals, sporting activities, private education, counselling for families and the children, encouragement to improve life circumstances, and support as required. Donations for sponsored children are used to provide nutrition, clothing, medical necessities and the start of an education for a child. Most of all, the child will be given love and hope - a chance for a better future!

When you sponsor a child, you are provided with the child's history: name, birth date, family, strengths, weaknesses, likes, dislikes and dreams. Every six months you will be provided with an update of your child's situation, two new pictures, and art work from your child, schoolwork or exams, report card, and One! news - as much personal contact as is possible.

Giving a chance to a child is only \$30 (CDN) or the equivalent thereof.

In 2007, we are pleased to announce that there were 67 children who were sponsored for part or all of the year through the GCC program.

Donations continue to come from: Give-a-Child-a-Chance (GCC) Program, general monetary donations, and gifts in kind. Several people have taken advantage of CanadaHelps.Org to donate by credit card or direct debit.



Volunteer Program

One! International has been very fortunate to attract volunteers from all over the world who have gone to India to work with the children from varying periods of time.

In 2007 volunteers came to us from:

USA

England

Canada – Alberta, Quebec

Denmark

Australia

Volunteers in India are responsible for assisting the children to grow academically, as well as in areas of personal health, sporting activities, creative play, and learning about future opportunities for themselves and their families. Typical duties of a volunteer include teaching classes – usually to the younger children (basic hygiene, basic English, mathematics, how to play and share and learning to prepare properly for tasks). Volunteers also maintain child records, and organize such weekly activities as meals, sports, drama, music, and travel.

The volunteers are expected to put in approximately seven hours a day, five days a week in program implementation, with fun fieldtrips on Saturdays. As holidays are numerous in India, there is opportunity for travel. One! provides basic food and accommodation for its volunteers.

Applications for volunteering in India have increased considerably from all over the world through a wide variety of sources (universities, travel sites, word of mouth, etc.). Applications recently were received from Australia, Egypt, United Kingdom, USA, Canada and many more. Canadian volunteers contribute by bringing one 70 pound suitcase of supplies for the children.



Volunteer Profile – Alysha Lust

I had the opportunity to volunteer with One! International for six months in 2003. One! had only been established for a couple of years prior to my arrival, and I was not sure what to expect on my arrival. Having previously been to India I was looking forward to being back and immersing myself in the diverse culture of the country. What a wonderful way to become reacquainted with a country that I love. Throughout my six months with One! I developed relationships with the children, the families, other volunteers and the founder and President of One!, Tania.



At this time we were teaching the children in one of the government schools, in a very small room and the children packed in like sardines. After a couple of weeks of my being there, construction began at the government school. We were ousted from our small room and ended up teaching outside on tarps in front of the school, amongst the construction. This demonstrates the dedication and tenacity of Tania, the glitch of not having anywhere to teach the kids did not get in the way of the goal: providing a safe place for the children to receive free education and nutrition. The kids demonstrated the same resolve as despite the disruption they were excited every day to be there.



At times during my volunteer experience I wondered if I was really making a difference in the lives of the children. In the end, although it is a cliché, I felt that the children gave more to me than I ever could have given them. Their happy disposition, active minds and interest in whatever we were doing at the time was energizing... even in the heat of summer in Mumbai!

In the spring of 2007 I had the chance to revisit the school and the children. I was impressed with the growth that had occurred in One! in four years. Tania was facilitating a sustainable environment for the children by hiring teachers from Mumbai to provide normalcy in the education of the children. Foreign volunteers were still an active part of the children's lives as well, teaching English and doing projects specific to their expertise and education. One! also had an actual building that was being rented with a kitchen, office, nursery, and 3 classrooms. The kids had scheduled classes throughout the day, and the routine was clearly working wonders for their education.

Many of the children I had taught, who were now adolescents, were taking on leadership roles. Reishma was the school cook, Bismila was assisting in setting up the new school, Rakesh was learning how to be the school driver, Nilesh was teaching the younger children. As Tania facilitated the children in taking on more responsibility, there was an enhanced feeling of community. I was impressed with the development and growth of One! and am glad I had and have the opportunity to be involved in this community.



Concurrent Programs

A) Education

Education is the key to a better life for the street children by giving them the choices that education (even simple literacy and rudimentary mathematics) can give. In addition to the basics of Hindi and mathematics, English is taught once Hindi has been mastered. One! International also has a skills development program which teaches sewing, woodworking and cooking.

Most of the older children have tried to attend government schools in the past, but the efforts were unsuccessful for the following reasons:

- parents did not encourage or enforce regular attendance
- parents did not understand the benefits of education as they themselves were uneducated
- the children did not have even the minimal of school preparation such as being able to use a pencil, how to play, to share, or have the discipline to sit quietly and learn
- the children do not have proof of age documents
- the families need the assistance of the children to contribute to the families' income

One! teaches all age children from pre-Balwadi (pre-kindergarten) to adulthood. The younger children will be able to attain the basics of education, discipline, the love of learning and the groundwork for Hindi, Maths and English, which will allow them to attend regular schools in India and thus obtain their school certificates. Older children, who are not able to catch up to their age peers, will become literate and gain other important knowledge which will give them more options for employment. The skills development program will also help.

Accomplishment in 2007:

Class groups have been renamed to 'steps'. Old KinderKids program is now called 'Presteps' and then programs 'Step 1' through to 'Step 7'.

All students are able to continue their full education with continued hope of passing the Grade 10 diploma examination. It is pure joy, watching them grow.



With the new school season, the staffs quickly realized how much some of the students had grown up and were no longer 'children'. Now faced with typical teenage antics: interest in opposite sex, experimentation with drugs/alcohol, identity crisis and just teenage foolishness. A new Health/Life Skills class was started and covered all important topics pertaining to teenagers. The children were encouraged that honesty and communication is the key to understanding their thoughts and feelings. The social workers assured the students that they would not be judged and provided them with the necessary facts so they can make healthy decisions/choices.

Single class attendance reached the highest ever, approximately 85 regular students, 10 babies and 10 older students plus 20-30 children that come and go. One! cares daily for more than 100 children at Khar Danda with an additional 50 children at Nallasopara.

One! International has seven teachers/social workers/child care workers (six full time and one part time), plus Tania Spilchen, six part time student/parent helpers and the volunteers working at the schools

Education assists by trying to break the parent's dependence on their children for the food and money the children get from begging. Emphasis on basic subjects: Hindi language, mathematics, sciences and English.

- Children from 'Lines to Literacy' (learning how to use a pencil to reading Hindi and English)
- Life skills such as woodworking, sewing and cooking as an alternative to begging. Thereby improving self respect, self esteem, confidence and able to contribute to society.
- In addition, health and hygiene, art, drama and music, as well as school field trips provide children with a complete school experience.

B) Health and Social Assistance

One! International works with the families in the areas of health, hygiene and cleanliness. If the children attend classes regularly, they have access to health related products and services as required. The organization has enforced the rule that all children must bathe and keep clean to attend school and take part in any One! activities such as Saturday field trips. Cleanliness (toiletry and washing) reduces illness and disease.



These hygiene practices are carried over to the school room where the children wash their hands and brush their teeth every day. Cleanliness has spread into everyday life and there is a visible difference in the decreased level of sickness among the families, thus giving them a healthier lifestyle and a way that they can break the cast/class barriers that they are forced to contend with.

One! International continues to assist the families in a wide variety of health issues. Bandages, medication and hygiene products are supplied as required.

- Implementation of dentistry and optometry programs.
- All children are expected to bath regularly and keep clean by washing hands, brushing teeth. This focus has expanded to daily life and there is a noticeable decrease in sickness amongst the families.

C) Field Trips

One! International volunteers and staff take the children and some times their parents on regular fieldtrips. The children are taken to the movies, the beach, and the fair or to a volunteer's home, even just down the street to play games and have fun. Every field trip involves an educational component, a full meal at a local restaurant which allows the children to enter and a lot of smiles.

Through these activities, the children have the opportunity to participate in activities that they would not otherwise be able to afford. They learn to conduct themselves appropriately in social settings and that learning can be fun. The fieldtrips continue to be a reward for the children for attendance at school and as an incentive for continued learning.

Our long term supporter Tracy Jackson in New York sponsors the weekly Saturday field days.

Accomplishment in 2007:

The children also worked hard on their Hindi plays for each group. They embraced the plays and for the first time, were truly acting their roles – facial expressions and all. Volunteers taught the children an English song and they conquered the Beatles and 'Ring around the Rosie'. It is clear to see that the children are learning the songs much faster, both singing and in choreography. Dancing has always been a favorite – except when the older boys and girls do not agree on a song, so they each do one. The confidence and pride in the children shines through every action – it is an absolute joy to watch. They love being on stage and their excitement and enthusiasm spreads through to their very proud parents and of course, the entire audience.



D) Art & Drama

Each year in November the children give a concert for their parents and supporters of One! International. The children prepare for weeks for their roles in the plays and the dances; they help with the costumes and prepare the art work for the stage. All of the children enjoy their regular art classes and extra art projects; they usually prepare posters for volunteers when they leave and for other special occasions.

Accomplishment in 2007:

The children also worked hard on their Hindi plays for each group. They embraced the plays and for the first time, were truly acting their roles – facial expressions and all. Volunteers taught the children an English song and they conquered the Beatles and ‘Ring around the Rosie’. It is clear to see that the children are learning the songs much faster, both singing and in choreography. Dancing has always been a favorite – except when the older boys and girls do not agree on a song, so they each do one. The confidence and pride in the children shines through every action – it is an absolute joy to watch. They love being on stage and their excitement and enthusiasm spreads through to their very proud parents and of course, the entire audience.

E) Housing

Families live in make shift huts by the side of the road as their income is only enough to provide food for their family. They are unable to afford the costs of getting into permanent dwellings; permanent as in they will not be torn down for road repairs, have walls and a roof made out of wood, and have access to electricity and water. Committing to renting a permanent dwelling is a huge commitment for the families and involves a great desire to want to make things better for their children. A large percentage of family income would need to go towards rent, and since many of the adults have serious addictions, income is often used to feed the addiction.

Accomplishment in 2007:

More families were relocated to more permanent housing with only about 8-10 families still in temporary housing.



F) Life Skills Development Program

Cooking Class, the students prepare lunch for the entire school. They learn to purchase food, and prepare it in a healthy and safe manner.

Sewing and woodworking skills development programs are producing incredible results. Long gone are lop-sided bookshelves and irregular stitches, the students are building tables, chairs and cupboards and sewing backpacks for the students. The students are paid for the products produced based on quality, hence the children are more self motivated. An excellent life lesson for the children to learn and understand – hard work and motivation.

The children were excited to have the following two new life skills programs added to the curriculum:

- Camera Project. Disposable cameras were donated by a volunteer who taught some of the older students the basics of photography.
- Driving Lessons. One of the oldest boys took driving lessons with the aim of being able to drive for the school, and obtain future employment. Although he passed his test, he still requires further practice.



Assistance for the Work of One! International

One! International would not have had the success it has had without the support and assistance of numerous individuals and organizations, both Canadian and world wide.

Assistance and support has come in many ways:

- Give-A-Child-A-Chance Program
- Corporate and school partners
- Fundraising activities such as: fundraising dinners (2 or 3 /year); silent auctions; monetary donations from \$10 to \$15,000
- Donations of school supplies, hygiene products, toys, books, gently used children's clothing, saris and numerous other items
- Legal and accounting services
- Organization management services
- Volunteer Board
- Marketing strategies (newspaper, radio, TV)
- Moral support from family, friends and strangers
- Support of the Yoga Community

Respectfully submitted by,
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President/Founder of One! International Poverty Relief

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