

# Ramana's Garden Children's Home



## Newsletter 2015

OUR BLISSFUL SUMMER...

*LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL... [CLICK HERE](#)*

As the afternoon shadows lengthen a stillness has fallen over the garden as though the earth herself is holding her breath in tepid anticipation of the first long awaited cool drops. Dark swirling clouds give the horizon an ominous steel-grey glow that promises we won't wait another night for monsoon to finally begin.





Bring it down



Raindrops NOT falling on my head...

Ohhh how hot has this last summer been. A relentless scorching inferno that melted the streets of Delhi and claimed the lives of 1000's while the Govt. took refuge in their air conditioned chambers in denial of global warming issuing orders to the masses to stay inside. Inside?? For so many this simply wasn't an option as they baked on the open pavement or in their black plastic shanties.... Though every summer it is a Blessing to be able to all retreat up to our Ambiya Mountain Paradise. This year it was literally a lifesaver. **This year's project was building a new kitchen...**



Building our new kitchen

Last year I asked Dil to make some stone steps..... this started quite the obsession and he is still busy "Romancing the Stones". But looks like he has also been having some rendezvous with Merlin and Gandalf this year, building wonderful hobbit huts for our little elves and volunteers...



The stones keep growing...



Magical hobbit huts



Pesty cabbage moths and assorted predators of all shapes and sizes along with 5 forest fires were promptly brought under control yielding once again abundant harvests.. Summer ended with us pickling up all our scrumptious vegis for the winter months using my grandmothers favourite recipe.



Some of our bean harvest this year



WE CELEBRATE  
EVERYTHING





## NEW BEGINNINGS...

It is an exciting time for us this year with 10 students flying out of the nest into college. So many thanks to all of you who have helped them live their dreams; Gyan Shakti Kaur and Dennis, Gurmukh, Terry and Mangala Billson, Kala, Surrendar Patal, Larry and Carrie Harris, Foundation Almayuda, Francois Angers and ALL of you who gave time, money, things, love and prayers to make this possible.

Moina and Mandi have received scholarships to one of Karnataka's oldest and most prestigious colleges, Lingraj.



mini Moina



Moina



Mandi



mini Mandi

Himani and Santoshi have completed their spa and massage therapy training through one of India's most elite training centres and have begun working at the Ananda Himalaya Spa, rated no.1 in Asia.



mini Himani



Himani and Santoshi



mini Santoshi

Naina is soon to join Himani and Santoshi when she finishes her training next month.



mini Naina



Naina

Basant and Neeraj are planning for a future in business and begin their university life next month at Tula's university in Dehradun. We are super proud of them!



mini Basant



Basant



mini Neeraj



Neeraj



Oinak is starting coaching for his entrance into one of India's top Law Schools in New Delhi, where he will have to compete in the spring with 200,000 others for 200 seats... very ambitious?? But we are confident he can do it!



mini Oinak



Oinak

Manish is off to Delhi this week to begin his studies in animation. Manish is already a very talented artist, graphic artist and short movie director. We know that he will excel in his studies and we look forward to seeing his artworks come to life in the near future.



mini Manish



Manish

Durga is currently in 12th grade and studying very hard everyday in order to achieve his goal of becoming a pilot. Durga has dreamt of flying ever since he was small and after achieving 100% marks in his 10th grade exams, he is well on his way to seeing those dreams fulfilled. We are still raising funds for his US\$50,000 pilot training and hope that by the time his 12th studies are finished we will have everything we need to get him there.



mini Durga



Durga... lets help him get his "wings"

Krishna and Ramita are both studying in Dehradun and excelling in their classes. Krishna is in her second year of psychology and Ramita in her fourth year of micro-biology. These girls are helping to lead the way for all Indian women.



mini Krishna



Krishna and Ramita



mini Ramita

Another marriage for one of our beautiful girls... Nisha and Babaloo... and now they have little baby Harsh..



Nisha and Babaloo's Wedding



little Harsh



## Living on the Edge

Geologists warnings fall on deaf ears as rampant development and damming sacred rivers continues here in the fragile Himalayan range situated exactly on the (Tectonic) plates which are in constant flux as the internal pressure builds resulting in yet another devastating earthquake in Nepal. We were completely spared here in Ramana's Garden while thousands lost their homes and lives throughout Nepal. Over half of our children and staff are from Nepal.

In 1979 as temperatures soared I was melting in my first hot season here in India I asked Osho if I could go to Nepal despite all warnings that those who run away will clean toilets forever when they return. He laughed and gave his blessings for our journey saying, "you go and enjoy there. The Himalayas will go on doing my work for me and when you are ready they will send you back to me." My friend Manish and I soon found ourselves to be the only westerners living in remote Nepali villages. We were treated with so much kindness, hosted in families homes, sharing their lives, their struggles, and falling in love with their innocent playful spirits. The monsoon rains carried me back to Poona but my heart remained forever in Nepal.

Now was time to pay it all back. I reached out to all my fellow travellers and old Hippies whose journeys to the east brought them to Nepal and within days our hero Paulo along with help from Organic India manoeuvred our first truck full of relief materials through countless obstacles at the border and into Nepal. He joined Nripal, Abhari, Kiko and the amazing TENTS TO NEPAL team to help rebuild lives, homes and schools.



Nepal my Love







Paulo arrives at a collapsed village



Tent building begins



...and its up!



A new school for the children

So many thanks to the entire Organic India team, Matthew from Khusi Hona, Oliver and all those around the world who donated to: [www.crowdrise.com/TentstoNepal](http://www.crowdrise.com/TentstoNepal) or volunteered, Including five of our own Ramana's boys who traveled to Nepal to help build tents. A special thanks to Ed Norton & Shanna who created *Crowdrise* and ALL of you who made it possible to help the thousands who lost everything in Nepal. Now though, the work still continues and the volunteers are at full speed to beat the onslaught of monsoon rains.



Our boys in Nepal: Suraj, Basant, Ali, Bharat and Neeraj with Ramana's volunteer Alba



## New and Wonderful..

Spirit Voyage have not only raised a lot of funds for the new boys hostel with their Kirtan Aid CD, but Ram Desh Kaur also brought an enthusiastic group of adventurous souls all the way to India to help us get the construction of the boys hostel under way ...and it's almost there.



Our new boys hostel



Together we can make it happen

We also now have two new additions to our wonderful family: little sisters Ayushi and Anshika. Ayushi is the quiet and gentle one, while tiny Anshika the bright and wild spark.

We celebrated last Christmas at home with all our family and friends from around the world who made it a very special day for all...



Ayushi & Anshika



Santa's elves cutting cookies



Friends took us out for a Christmas dinner



...and, one day last year there was an email from someone across the world who we had never met, asking what what we needed?? A bus! Thank you again Oliver Zitoun! The children painted it and now I don't know how we ever lived without it!



Also a special thanks to the amazing Ramana's Garden team: Madman Paulo re-building Nepal, Inti who created our fabulous summer movie, Pamela on emails and fundraising, Alba organising relief efforts in Nepal and Radha on web. Plus all of the incredible volunteers who have visited this last year and shared with us.

*"The most precious gift we can offer anyone is our attention. When mindfulness embraces those we love, they will bloom like flowers..."*

*Thich Nhat Hahn*



*love*

*Prabhavati Dwabha*