



PROJECT EDUCATION INDIA

We have **160** children who are waiting for a sponsor. This number ebbs and flows almost daily for a variety of reasons. We understand. We are still committed to the program and all the children who are part of Project Education India.

Based upon our partnerships in India, LPGM has made a commitment to sponsor a certain number of children in the school year through a contract with the Arcot Lutheran Church and the India Evangelical Lutheran Church. Whether or not we have a specific sponsor for each child, we still send funds to

support all the children, every month. This puts a drain on our funds no doubt, but it is what God is calling us to do.

We are seeking in as many churches as possible a liaison (or two) willing to coordinate a sponsor drive once or twice a year. **The first campaign will happen between April and May 2010.** We will help you by providing a sponsorship kit that will include actual children who are waiting to be connected to a sponsor. Is God calling you to help us tell your fellow congregational members about this unique opportunity?

Who better than you to share the story that a small investment makes a huge difference in the life of a child? Call or email our office at 612.823.5058 or office@lutheranpartners.org today.

Although the money is important to sustain the project, it's not about the money to the children. The children are waiting for news of a sponsor ... being valued for who they are as a precious child of God ... a gift far greater than money.

EXTENDED STUDY STUDENTS

What a wonderful opportunity some students receive ... they are deemed academically qualified and they have the personal desire to study beyond their 12th Standard (12th grade) education. LPGM is proud to offer 80 students a bright future by providing funds toward their advanced degree. This program has been under

development for several years. Because it is a new concept to the boarding homes in which we partner, we are still working out the kinks with our staff in India. If you have any questions about this program and how it affects the child you sponsor, please do not hesitate to contact us at 612.823.5058 or office@lutheranpartners.org.

TIME ZONE / SCHOOL YEAR

Did you know that if India accepted the time zones of the world, the country would be divided into two different sectors? Instead they split the difference and keep time on the half hour between the zones. The LPGM India office and the children in Project Education India are 11 ½ hours ahead of the Minneapolis office (10 ½ hours in the summer).

The school year in India begins on June 1st. The first day isn't at all like it is in the U.S. For reasons that are not always available to staff, some children don't come back to the boarding home for several weeks. Their

absence makes it extremely difficult for the boarding home staff to determine IF the child is coming back.

Some of you have indicated that you are frustrated when you get news of a child's departure so long after it actually happened. We share your frustration, yet this is a cultural nuance that we cannot change. LPGM India has a staff that is dedicated to issues that are critical to ensuring the success of the sponsorship program. LPGM US staff is working with the LPGM India staff to create answers to questions and quick replies. Please contact us if you have any concerns.

LPGM COMMUNICATING WITH YOU

We would really appreciate having your email address so we can communicate with you quickly and easily if we have a need to reach you about your sponsored child, a greeting glitch, visit from a global partner, special event or your payment. Letters back and forth from our office to you take precious time and cost money. Phone calls work when you are available during business hours. But email offers us the 24/7 connection that we believe would be helpful to keep the Project Education India program running smoothly while keeping you well informed!

Sign up now!

Please sign-up now by clicking on the JOIN OUR MAILING LIST button on the home page or at <http://lutheranpartners.org/get-involved/join-the-mailing-list/>.



COMMUNICATION WITH YOUR SPONSORED CHILD

In late January and early February 2010 the LPGM office mailed out nearly 1500 Annual Progress Reports from the children in India to their sponsors. Many of you have commented about how wonderful it is to receive news from this special child.

Have you written to your sponsored child recently? We encourage you to do this at least once each year. We have new safeguards in place so that when your sponsored child receives a greeting from you, you should have a response within one month. But there are some exceptions.

On occasion, mail never reaches the LPGM India office. This is precisely why we honestly discourage sending anything but a letter and perhaps a photo or two. PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH DIRECTLY TO THE CHILD. While in our culture showering people we care about with gifts sends a special message, a child who receives a gift from a sponsor may actually be avoided by other children with a certain jealousy. Packages that are appealing may never make it to our India office and thus will not reach your sponsored child. Instead, you may send an extra cash gift to us with

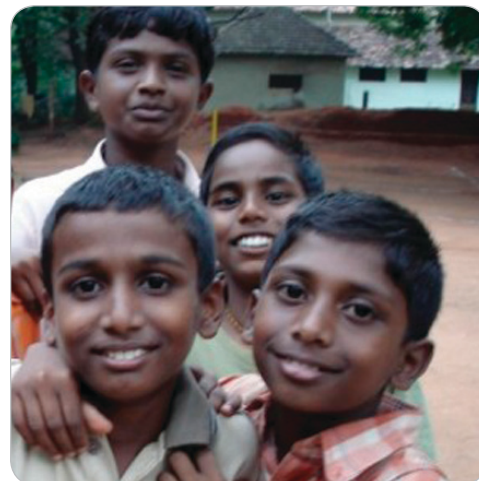
which we will make certain all sponsored children receive a special gift each year. We really appreciate your sensitivity to this cultural nuance.

To write to your child, use this address:
Child Name/ID Number
LPGM India
Post Bag 59
Cuddalore 607 001
TN South India

To protect your privacy, you may use the LPGM US office as the return address:
LPGM USA, Suite 319
122 West Franklin Avenue
Minneapolis MN 55404

Please be certain to visit the post office to make certain you have applied the appropriate postage.

Keep in mind that it takes time for mail to be delivered. The students are on summer break from mid-April to early June, so we recommend that you mail your greetings by March 31 or wait until June. If you have not received a reply within 30 days of mailing



your greeting, please notify our office. We will communicate with our staff in India to see if the greeting was received and get an answer back to you swiftly.

If you or someone you know is traveling with LPGM to India, carrying small gifts is possible. In that case we suggest a gift that can be shared with others, like a package of pens or pencils, a small game that needs multiple players, a jump rope, hacky sack, multiple hair ribbons, a bag of hard candy or balloons.

COMMUNICATION FROM YOUR SPONSORED CHILD

We are now using electronic mail more and more when your sponsored child responds to a greeting from you. It saves a great deal of time and reduces program costs as well but also poses some technical challenges. We do our best to present the original drawing or letter as well as the translation to you in a pleasing printed version. We apologize that sometimes there is some distortion from the PDF that we receive. We are working with our staff in India to improve this.

It is true that sometimes students copy other students or maybe even a chalkboard when writing letters. It may feel a bit impersonal



and in some cases it may not be accurate but it isn't meant to be offensive. If you ever receive a letter from your sponsored child for which you are concerned, please notify us at the office so we can help you process the information.

It is important to note that the English translation may not read perfectly. The staff members at the boarding homes speak Tamil as their first language and are doing their best with the translation.