



# MINUTE FOR MISSION

## PROJECT EDUCATION INDIA SPONSORSHIP UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2017

**W**e often wonder about the deeper impact of our sponsorship program. Oftentimes, we find it is quite challenging to measure. Of course we can quantify the number of students who graduate from year to year, but we want to know more about the lives of students beyond just their schooling. How has receiving an education changed them? Or has it? Has it helped them find work or contribute to their families' needs in ways that we don't often see or hear about? Are girls able to find work rather than immediately marrying and having children of their own? Are graduates able to seek and find meaningful work or activities that contribute to their personal growth and fulfillment as a result of their education? These are the questions we often wonder about.

During a recent trip to India, the impact of our work became abundantly clear. We had asked Rev. Jane Anitha, Siloam Boarding Home Manager, to gather a few women from the school to share their stories during our visit. Jane reached

out to ten students, but an unexpected FORTY-TWO young women came to share, many bringing their mothers with them! When they spoke, we were deeply touched. All of the women were grateful to their sponsor(s) who, they said, profoundly impacted their lives by making education accessible. Today, some alumni are in Chennai working as teachers, nurses or pharmacists, as computer scientists or physical therapists. Some are in nearby villages teaching, serving as nurses, and raising a family. As the stories unfolded, the tears streamed down their cheeks and ours with gratitude for what has been given and received.

With your support, LPGM continues to offer resources and hope to these students and thousands of others, as well as families and communities around the globe. Thank you for your continued support and partnership!

—by Julie Rogness, LPGM Executive Director

# Partners in Practice: Student, Sponsor, & Field Coordinator

For the past three years, an LPGM field coordinator has been working on behalf of LPGM on the campus of the boarding home where your sponsored student lives and studies. The field coordinator's role is to connect with the LPGM sponsored students and facilitate communication between you and your student in a meaningful and timely way. We regularly receive stories about students and activities that are happening on their campuses. Some of these stories are shared in this newsletter.

The field coordinators have gathered the information about your student(s) for the "Annual Progress Report" included with this newsletter. We hope you enjoy getting to know your student a little better with an inside look at your daily life.

Remember all of the students in your prayers, especially the 10th and 12th Standard (Grade) students as they prepare for government examinations in March and April.

Together we can achieve things that are otherwise impossible. In 2016, our work removed barriers and made education possible for 944 girls and 495 boys.

Thank you for joining us in the support of education through Project Education India where your prayers and financial gifts are making a difference, one child at a time.



## Child Centered Management Committee (CCMC)

*Each boarding home has a CCMC, a system created to achieve "holistic" care for every boarder. As its title suggests, the administration has great concern for the welfare of the desperate, highly neglected girl children in this patriarchal society. CCMC is a promising system providing ways to develop spirituality, hope, confidence, discipline, talents and skills for every student. CCMC also operates in the male boarding homes.*

*CCMC comprises eight different committees governed by leaders elected by the children as democratic exercises: Spiritual, Educational, Sports, Maintenance, Health, Cultural, Food, and Farming.*



# 030 - Saron

*Sponsored: 262 | Unsponsored: 98*  
*Rev. Daniel Gnanasekam, Manager*  
*Jagatheesh, LPGM Field Coordinator*

The Arcot Lutheran Church and Dalit Liberation Movement (the social component of the ALC) extend heartfelt gratitude to LPGM and student sponsors in support of the “poor, deprived, and semi-orphan young boys” at Saron.

A Tin Sheet Shed was renovated for the students to use for studying after school as well as for sleeping. LPGM supported a portion of the renovation, but DLM volunteers and parents of students eagerly participated in the construction work by offering labour to reduce costs.



The support offered by LPGM is immense. Many students are children of single parents, many of whom have not seen their father or mother, but now with sponsorship, they feel they have a virtual family. Through the love and concern of sponsors, children feel the warmth and love as though from their own parents.

Saron wishes LPGM student sponsors New Year blessings and best wishes in propagating the Gospel of God’s love for the lost and the least. The students remember LPGM in their daily morning and evening prayers.

The collective partnership and work of the ALC, DLM, Saron Boarding Home and LPGM has brought new life to the Saron students, and God’s work is truly being realized in the hope-filled lives of these Saron students. Thank you.

## Communicate with your Student!

Visit our website, [www.lutheranpartners.org](http://www.lutheranpartners.org), and click on “Quick Links” to find out ways to communicate with your student. The best way is to use our Email Form online, but you are welcome to communicate by post. Please follow the instructions on our website, including ways to protect your privacy.

Student replies are delayed from April - June during summer break. We will do all we can to deliver a message to 12th standard students if you write via email ASAP—before March 1st. A good rule: write between June 1 and March 1.

## Wish List Donors, Thank You!

A total of \$4,949 was raised for the 2016 Boarding Home Wish List. This is an increase from last year, and we are grateful to those who supported the Wish List this year.

Most of you know that the wish lists are created by the students, keeping in mind age-appropriate needs as well as group activities so that all students are included in receiving these special gifts from LPGM sponsors.

In fact, we do not allow individual gifts. Instead, gifts are for the boarding homes for all to use. Every student, then, is a recipient and the gifts are used now and in the future, too. While this effort is easy for us to undertake and accomplish each year,

it is significant and exciting to the students who anticipate these items that make their play time and studies even that much more enjoyable.

We want to gratefully acknowledge the generosity of our Wish List Donors this year:

IvaNell Monson  
Kristin Blomquist  
Naomi & Steven Staruch  
Alberta Evans  
Beth & David Hoepner  
Lois & Franklin Johnson  
Mavis & Clay Strandlie  
Lorna Anderson  
Katherine Eisele  
Margret & Harvey Lorenz  
Gail & Phil Minerich

Gail & Tom Colenso  
Marion & Roger Anderson  
June & Harold Hayer  
The Rev Gerald & Sharon Anderson  
Deb Krause  
Sue & Keith Hanson  
Elizabeth & John Nelson  
Corinne & Dan Engstrand  
Brenda & Hank Klehn  
Linda & Al Behrens  
Sharon Stoeck  
Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Charlotte Finseth

*Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry is a 501(c)(3) organization. Your donation is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.*



# 020 - Melpattambakkam

*Sponsored: 257 | Un-sponsored: 73*  
*Rev. Peter Paul Thomas, Manager*  
*Anbu, LPGM Field Coordinator*

Melpattambakkam is the first of the ALC boarding homes, started by our first missionary Rev. Christopher Oches from Germany.



The ALC appointed me as manager in October 2016. With the help of Holy Spirit, I am doing my job with the fullest commitment. Though it's a short period, we conducted several programs for the uplift of the students in the boarding home campus.

- A safe drinking water system was used for the children
- The sick room was furnished and made usable
- A sports meet was conducted
- A CCMC swearing in ceremony held
- Health checkups for students were conducted
- Educational updates are monitored for all the students and fix more special coaching

## 070 - Concordia

*Sponsored: 35 | Un-sponsored: 15*  
*Indra Michael, Manager | Sheeba, LPGM Field Coordinator*

There are fifty 5th to 12th grade girls staying and studying here, with 3 staff, one Warden, one cook and an Assistant Warden hired last July to oversee their studies. The girls are served nutritious food daily, and special food is served on special and festival days.

Emphasis is on their studies. Special classes for English and math are given to 8th - 12th grade students. Importance is also on their health and hygiene. A medical check-up is done with experienced female doctors, and an emergency First Aid kit is kept at the Home. We pay special attention to the girls' spiritual life. Every morning and evening, we pray. On Sundays, the students attend worship and Sunday School in our local church. Our students take part in church activities, like Bible and singing competitions and also participate in cultural programmes and win prizes, too.



Our students were happy to receive study materials, new dresses and sweets for Christmas. We requested water tanks to have sufficient water for daily use. LPGM supported the purchase of 3 syntax water tanks to store water.

The girls were taken on a day tour to Tuticorin Home, the Harbour, and the beach. They got to meet and spend time with students of the Good Shepherd Boarding Home, which they enjoyed. LPGM's programme and executive director visited and attended the General Body meeting, IELC, which was wonderful for us. Tailoring machines were gifted to our children per the wish list, and our students now receive tailoring and sewing training. It is very useful to them.

The staff and children are very grateful to all of the sponsors and LPGM for the support and gifts. The children remember their sponsors in their daily prayers.



# 010 - Siloam: Girl Power!



*Sponsored: 416 | Un-sponsored: 54*  
*Rev. Jane Anita, Manager | Anbu, LPGM Field Coordinator*

66 million girls around the world are out of school! Being a girl is cool, but it isn't always easy! It is obvious that many girls are not offered an education. The experience of being unable to do something because "I am a girl" is bitter, indeed! Despite this, there is a small group growing vigorously in a small town called Tirukoilur under the name SILOAM BOARDING HOME by the great support of LPGM under the leadership of powerful ladies: Rev. Julie, Ms. Mary, Ms. Anne, Ms. Valerie, Ms. Betty, Ms. Naomi - just to challenge the world which speaks to Gender Justice and Equality! The Arcot Lutheran Church also advances a bold theological vision of empowering women.



A transformational academic year started with a warm student welcome in June. The crown of the month's events was orientation to the Child Centered Management Committee to train tomorrow's leaders and to build the world's most thriving regenerative powerful girl's community.

Building women is the aim of the ALC-LPGM partnership. Siloam girls are building a one-of-a-kind community of promise supported by LPGM with holistic development. They continue to serve as a flagship working model for other boarding homes.



Notable endeavours this year are bringing together alumni of Siloam Boarding Home, collecting blood to save lives through Blood Donation Camp, creating leaders through CCMC, exploring the talents of the girls through art workshops, innovative training and jewelry making, and helping students with personal and career development.

A fun Siloam activity: participating in a sports meet with children from other boarding homes, held on the Siloam and Kalrayan Hills campuses. Parent gatherings of classes from I to VIII in July and X and XII in October were really wonderful; parents and caretakers met, got to know each other, and discussed the joint responsibility of raising the children.



Girls were educated about the bursting population, the need for food and its scarcity in many countries, gender inequality and gender justice, depletion of the ozone and about the importance of friendships, too. Other activities which made the girls feel proud of themselves were playing violin and learning Tamil folk dances like Beating the Dalit Drums and dancing karagattam, oylattam, kolattam, etc.

The girls and everyone at Siloam join hands to offer a heartfelt THANKS to our dear partners LPGM and the ALC for the constant support and prayers for the girls' well being, making a society under the leadership of women!

# 110 - Good Shepherd

*Sponsored: 34 | Un-sponsored: 6*  
*Rev. D. Raja, Manager*  
*Sheeba, LPGM Field Coordinator*

Our Home has 40 children, 2 staff, a warden and cook. 26 boys and 14 girls are in preschool - 8th grade. We provide nutritious foods, with special food served on festival days. We pay close attention to our children's education. Every evening, tutor classes are conducted by Miss Abisha for children in all subjects. Every Saturday evening, Speech Therapy classes are held and focus on improvements in speech and word pronunciation. Study materials (notebooks) are issued to children each year. We maintain a First Aid box with emergency medicines used in times of unforeseen illness or mishaps. We also conduct medical checkups for our children. Every morning and evening, our children pray, and on Sundays, they attend Sunday service in the campus church.

The children took a day-tour to the Harbour and the beach with CGBH girls. They enjoyed the time with girls. Our LPGM Programme and Executive Director visited in September which made us really happy. Children were provided Christmas gifts: new clothes and Laddu. Tailoring machines were gifted in December per the wish list, and our children are being trained in tailoring and sewing. It is very useful to them!

We, the staff and children are very much grateful to all the sponsors and the officials of the LPGM for all the help you are rendering to us.



# 040 - Kalrayan Hills

*Sponsored: 146 | Un-sponsored: 30*  
*Rev. D. Thangadurai, Manager*  
*Kumanan, LPGM Field Coordinator*

Education is essential to live a peaceful life. Yet most children are unable to receive an education due to their economic situation. LPGM supports 190 students here. 90%+ are tribal and most are first generation learners. Thanks to LPGM student sponsors, they are getting good food, shelter, and clothes.

The traditional Indian festival, Diwali (Festival of Lights), was celebrated in a grand manner. Children enjoyed it with cultural programmes, having special food, and bursting crackers.

An Inter-Boarding Sports Meet was held in November at Kariyalur Campus. Staff and children from Saron, Siloam, and Melpattambakkam participated, making this event a grand one. This event helped to strengthen relationships between BH's and gave the children unique experiences. Children from various cultures, traditions, and religions gathered in one place and spent the day joyfully. Special food was given to all. Prizes & certificates of honour were issued to the winners. Everyone got a participant prize.

The Christmas Celebration was wonderful – all the schools and BHs joined hands and celebrated the birth of Christ. Children praised God, singing, dancing and via drama. It was a great occasion as the USA shared joy, happiness, hope and peace with one another. Cakes and special food were provided to children and staff. Students happily came forward to decorate the church & BHs.



For the first time and with great effort, a Teachers-Parents-Wardens-Children meeting was held in January 2017. Children were asked to bring parents as they came back after the Pongal holiday. Many parents happily participated and shared the positives & negatives of the BH & Schools with an open heart. Parents also got to meet their children's class teachers and learn about their academic progress. This strengthened understanding, and parents requested to conduct this meeting twice each year.

A two-day tour programme is planned in April. All students from 1st-12th grades will participate and visit academic and Holy places. This exposure will help them gain practical knowledge and strengthen their faith and spirituality. It is a big challenge to take all 332 children at a time! Thanks to LPGM and a generous donor for making the sports meet and tour possible.