



# Asian Aid USA

Special Bulletin

January 2005

## Tsunami Update

In the days since the Tsunami disaster, many of our donors have called wondering about the safety and well-being of the children that they sponsor. People are also wondering what the response is of Asian Aid USA to this recent disaster.

From the reports that we have so far, we have not suffered any loss of students or damage to property. We have two schools that are located about one half hour from the coastline of Tamil Nadu. Early reports indicate that the people within the area surrounding these schools have been impacted in some way but we are not sure to what extent. Even though there is no damage to our schools, we remain uncertain about the impact on the community where these schools are located. We also have a number of day students in schools near the Chennai coast. Reports verify that they are safe and accounted for. The vast majority of our children have not been affected by this disaster.

For 40 years, Asian Aid Australia has worked in India providing education for worthy students who are unable to afford schooling. In addition, they have provided relief efforts and sponsored other small community development projects. The American counterpart, Asian Aid USA, was established about four years ago; the two work in close coordination. (Further references to "Asian Aid" in this special report will refer to both organizations.)

## Asian Aid's Role in Addressing the Immediate Needs

Asian Aid is currently working together with other agencies in India such as Helping Hand Welfare Society and the Southern Asia Division of the SDA Church. We are not a front line disaster response agency in the same way as organizations such as ADRA and World Vision. Our primary mission has been, and will continue to be, that of providing long term support of orphans and worthy students as well as sending "Hungry Money" to those who have no other way to survive. In keeping with this mission, we are responding to the immediate needs of victims of this disaster and have stepped up our efforts in providing immediate food and shelter. In addition to this, funds have been released to support the relief efforts of the Southern Asia Division which is sending clothing and blankets into the state of Tamil Nadu. Once this is behind us, we will continue our original mission but with the added responsibility of providing support for many who have been displaced because of the recent disaster.

Our immediate task is only just beginning to emerge. We are receiving requests for shelter and care of orphaned children from Tamil Nadu and are assessing these requests. Our orphanages and boarding facilities have been made available to local government authorities to provide assistance for displaced and orphaned children. It has been difficult to obtain exact details of how many more children will come into our care. While numbers appear small at present, we anticipate requests to increase as the relief efforts continue.

As you can appreciate, educating and supporting children until they are independent is a decade-long commitment, sometimes longer. Also, providing food for those who have no other way of providing for themselves is an ongoing commitment. We are only able to undertake this important work with the help of our generous sponsors like you.

## Our Request to You

In the past we at Asian Aid USA have asked people to sponsor individual children and have requested funds for "Hungry Money" for the elderly. We provided donors with a profile of the child they supported and kept the sponsor informed of their child's progress. However, during this time of crises, we are temporarily changing our request. We are asking sponsors to contribute to one of two funds: "Hungry Money" or the "Asian Aid Unrestricted Fund." Donations to the "Unrestricted Fund" are really needed to help us take care of the immediate need as well as the long term responsibility of providing shelter and education for these displaced children. Our "Hungry Money" fund will temporarily expand to include emergency feeding of those affected by the disaster. (This will not detract from our regular food program to the elderly.) After conditions stabilize again, any unused "Emergency Hungry Money" will be added to the regular "Hungry Money" fund and used for feeding the elderly who have no other means of obtaining food. For those donors sponsoring children, please do not forget your monthly support. We appreciate your continuing prayers for the children and for Asian Aid.

Even though there is an immediate need for funds for disaster relief, please don't forget the needs of children who are already waiting for someone to sponsor them. People interested in sponsoring a child should contact our office at (402) 274-4440 or E-mail [dwells@asianaidusa.org](mailto:dwells@asianaidusa.org).

### Check Category of Donation Below:

<input type="checkbox"/> Asian Aid USA Unrestricted Fund	Amount_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Asian Aid Hungry Money Fund	Amount_____
	Total_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Charge my credit card. (Please note a 2.5% fee is added to the amount to offset the fee charged by the credit card company.)	Amount_____

Card Type:  Visa  American Express  Master Card

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Mrs. Miss: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Donations are tax deductible. Contributions are receipted quarterly.

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