

# THE MIRACLE FOUNDATION

Empowering children to reach their full potential, one orphan at a time.



Volume 6, Issue 1

February 2009

## Bhawani Children's Home is being rebuilt, thanks to Austin Ventures!

The Bhawani Home for Children was taken over by The Miracle Foundation in March of 2007, and since that time some improvements have been made to the structure, but thanks to a commitment by **Ken DeAngeles** from **Austin Ventures**, a much needed, new structure is being built in 2009.

Ken visited Bhawani in 2007 with other Ambassadors and agreed that the current structure provided shelter, but it just wasn't big enough or equipped enough to nurture the 200 children that were living there. The structure is one large building and currently serves as both their home and their school. In addition, Bhawani supports about 50 children from the surrounding villages who come to the orphanage each day to attend school and receive meals. This service is provided free to the villagers by a program The Miracle Foundation started when we took over; it is our current *Lunch & Learn* program.

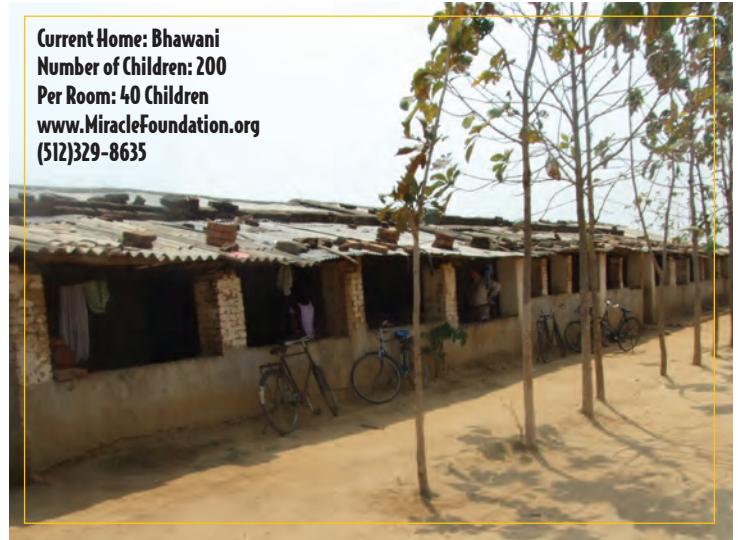
In 2008, Ken came to us and offered help. Ken and Austin Ventures committed to raising half the funds necessary to build a new structure; \$150,000! With that commitment, The Miracle Foundation was able to purchase land near the current site to build the new children's home. In November of 2008, several generous donors stepped up and committed to sponsor cottages,

cafes, playgrounds and other structures to create a more substantial home for these children. Once the home is built, the current building will serve as their school.

The Miracle Foundation's goal is to create an intimate family environment for the children, where they receive individual

*(Continued on Next Page)*

**Current Home: Bhawani**  
**Number of Children: 200**  
**Per Room: 40 Children**  
**[www.MiracleFoundation.org](http://www.MiracleFoundation.org)**  
**(512)329-8635**



*Bhawani Children's Home in 2007*

### Urgent Needs

#### We need Sponsors

More than 70 children in The Miracle Foundation network still need sponsors. We've had great success over the past two years with corporate sponsors and donors raising funds to renovate or build new children's home, but those children need sponsors. For \$100 a month, a child is fully supported with excellent nutrition, medical care, clothing, education and a safe environment. If you are already a sponsor, share your experience with someone who would enjoy being a global parent and have them contact us about becoming a sponsor. If you are not already a sponsor, consider sponsoring a child that needs you. **To find out more about this program or to sponsor a child, visit [www.MiracleFoundation.org](http://www.MiracleFoundation.org).**

#### Give a Miracle

Our new Austin Ventures Children's Home will need to be furnished, and our Give a Miracle catalog allows you to donate an item in someone's name as a unique gift. It's special gift for someone you love, as well as for the children.

**Visit [www.MiracleFoundation.org](http://www.MiracleFoundation.org) to shop our Give a Miracle online catalog.**

### Important Dates

#### February 28th

Deadline for letters and items to be taken to the children to arrive at our office.

#### March 13th

Our first tour of 2009 leaves for India.

#### May

3rd Annual Bulldog Miracle Mile. Watch our website for registration information and the final date for this event.

# Bhawani Children's Home is being rebuilt, thanks to Austin Ventures!



Plans for the Austin Ventures Childrens Home

Construction on the new Austin Ventures Children's Home has begun, and our Grand Opening is scheduled for March of 2010. Thank you to Ken DeAngeles, Austin Ventures, and the generous donors listed below for creating this miracle!

Thank you to these generous donors!

Rick & Candy Barnes	Dan & Peggy Keelan
Bryan & Wendy Bittner	Al Kohler
Bill & Linda Carson	Jim & Mary Kozlowski
Joey & Kathy Chiaf	Jill & Kanna Kunchala
Mary Cooper/Mommy Mixer	Ken Kuznia, Lara Lovell & Baxter Gentry
Marian Dozier & Joseph Howard	Joe & Andra Liemandt/Trilogy
Ed Goble	Adi & Rajul Mishra
Brett Hatton & Heather Antonelli	Ken & Mary Clare Moll
Valerie Hausladen	Dr. Nona Niland
Ed & Mary Healy	Doug Richards & Mary Traverse
Jacque & David Hook	Well Bible Church
Andy & Amy Hart-Jones	

attention from their housemothers. Each cottage will house 10 children and their housemother, with two cottages sharing a café or common area for meals.

The cottages are built around the playground and cricket field, where the children can play. Our core philosophy is to follow the family principle as close as possible, with attachment to parents and the feeling of a home, being the most important.

It's not too late to help with the finishing touches for the new Austin Ventures Children's Home. **Visit the Give a Miracle catalog at [www.MiracleFoundation.org](http://www.MiracleFoundation.org) to donate furnishings and other items to fill these cottages.**

"The great end of life is not knowledge, but action." - Thomas Fuller

## News & Events

### Bulldog Miracle Mile

Join us for the 3rd annual Bulldog Miracle Mile in May! The Miracle Mile is a family and pet-friendly race as part of the Congress Avenue Mile. You'll receive a race t-shirt and kids under 12 receive a super hero cape to wear during the race. All proceeds benefit The Miracle Foundation. **Watch our website for registration information.**

### Passport to Giving Travel Site

The Miracle Foundation now has a private-labeled, full-featured travel website for both individual and group travel bookings. When you book your travel through this site, The Miracle Foundation receives 60% of commissions paid as royalties. **Book travel by visiting [www.MiracleFoundation.org](http://www.MiracleFoundation.org) and following the link from the home page.**

### Slumdog Millionaire

We encourage you to watch this movie because you will see a realistic depiction of kid's lives growing up in the slums of India. You'll feel good knowing that you are making a difference in this part of the world.

### New Website: [www.MiracleFoundation.org](http://www.MiracleFoundation.org)

Our new website is live with a new look and new features. You can watch videos of the orphanages and see more photos of the children. The travel section has more information on tours to India. Our sponsorship section allows you to choose the child they would like to sponsor and set up payment online. Later this year we will be adding a section for sponsors, allowing them online access to information and photos of their sponsored child.

### Sponsors, Send Us Your Mail for the Children

We are going to India in March, and are happy to take letters, cards, photos, stickers, coloring books, or candy to your child. The kids really enjoy receiving gifts and letters from their sponsors. Please drop your items by the office or mail them, but please make sure we receive them by February 28. Items received after that date will be held and taken during the August tour to India. **Deliver to 1506 W. 6th Street, Austin, TX 78703.**

## IMPACT Travel

Are you a Miracle Foundation sponsor, volunteer, or supporter? You have an opportunity to make a difference in INDIA! Join us on our IMPACT Travel tours to India and meet our Miracle Children first-hand. This is the ultimate travel opportunity to see how you and our many supporters make a difference at home and in India. **For more information, visit [www.MiracleFoundation.org](http://www.MiracleFoundation.org) or call Barbara at 512-329-8635.**

## Our Sponsorship Program

Our Sponsorship Program allows a surrogate family to help financially and emotionally support these children. For \$100 a month, you can completely support a child in one of our orphanages. This amount will pay for food, clothes, education, and healthcare for that child. To ensure consistent care, we ask sponsors to commit to this monthly amount for three years. You can help support one of these adorable children by becoming a sponsor today, and feel the joy of becoming a global parent. You can exchange letters and pictures with your child, and The Miracle Foundation will make sure you get regular updates and video emails from your child when The Miracle Foundation Ambassadors make visits to the orphanages to see the children. For some orphans, yours will be the only family they will be able to call their own. Become a sponsor, you'll change your life and theirs forever.



### Featured Child: Birsa Pahan

Meet Birsa Pahan. Birsa is a six year old boy who came to Sooch Village on January 8, 2008 and is still in need of a sponsor. He has been saved from a life on the streets and enjoys a comfortable, nurturing home and education at The Miracle Foundation.

**Call us at (512) 329-8635 to sponsor Birsa or visit [www.MiracleFoundation.org](http://www.MiracleFoundation.org) to choose a child for sponsorship.**

## Meet our Board of Directors

Our nine dedicated Board members keep our efforts on strategy and provide direction for the success of The Miracle Foundation. We salute them!



*Krishna Srinivasan  
- Chairman*



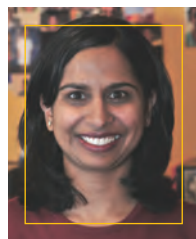
*Bill Ramsdell*



*Brett Hatton*



*Dan King*



*Jignasha Amin  
Patel*



*Mary Kozlowski*



*Nav Sooch*



*Sumit Sadana*

*not pictured, Cindy Lind*

Visit our website to read their bios.

Journal: Cheryl Habbe



## Meeting Vikash

After sponsoring Vikash for about a year and a half, I was finally able to meet him in person.

We arrived at Rourkela Children's Home that morning to a beautiful welcome ceremony by the housemothers and some of the older children who sang to us. I was struck by how peaceful and happy the atmosphere was inside the gates of the home; in stark contrast to the chaos and crowds of the cities we had visited on the way to Rourkela.

After the welcome ceremony we were given a tour of the facility and all the children were waiting for us in the main building to meet and sing for us. I spotted Vikash pretty quickly because he was standing near the front; I motioned to him and he came over and jumped into my lap. I was so excited!

This little boy who was rescued from indentured servitude in a rock quarry; he and his sister were taken there when their parents died and the family had a debt they couldn't pay. Here he was, safe and sound.

I had been told he might not interact much because he was still a little shy and quiet. Well, he had really come a long way! During my visit we looked at books together, colored pictures, and I watched him play games with the other kids; running around and laughing. A regular six year old.

During that trip we had a lot of exciting things happen, like the Grand Opening of Sooch Village, but meeting Vikash was the highlight for me.

--by Ambassador Cheryl Habbe

**Empowering children to reach their full potential, one orphan at a time.**



You can make a difference in the life of a child by choosing to become a sponsor for \$100 a month and support their daily needs. Fill out the enclosed envelope or visit [www.MiracleFoundation.org](http://www.MiracleFoundation.org) and become a sponsor today.

**Sponsor a child now by visiting [www.MiracleFoundation.org](http://www.MiracleFoundation.org)**

## THE MIRACLE FOUNDATION

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## Caroline's Letter



Dear Friends,

After a fantastic end to 2008, we're very excited about 2009! We have three major initiatives we'll be focusing on this year. They are:

1) To upgrade each of our orphanages to a global standard by implementing best in class, sustainable and repeatable model of care for each child living in our homes. Best in

class means finding, training and retaining quality people. It is "The Year of the House Mother" and we are going to make sure they are fully invested and empowered to do a great job of taking care of the children. Sustainability is achieved through working with the community and offering our amazing community outreach programs like the Lunch and Learn program or the Computer Training we offer to the villagers. These programs help us maintain excellent community and government relations and make our children active members in their communities. Finally, we'll evaluate ourselves rigorously and continuously so when we grow, we'll be able to repeat our model of care and these amazing programs everywhere we go.

2) To develop a proven, repeatable and scalable model of fund raising that focuses on finding a sponsor for every child and getting more people to India to meet the kids. We raised over 1.5 million dollars last year and are planning to raise even more this year. We only have 73 children who need sponsors now, however, we take in more everyday. Our goal is to find a surrogate family for all our kids AND to get 100 people to India this year. There are some new and cool trips we're offering for students, doctors, budget and

5 star travelers. If you ever wanted to go to India, this is the year to do it.

3) To enhance productivity with renewed emphasis on our people, processes, and communication. This is an important initiative that is going to help us as we grow. We're using technology to assist us in communicating with our homes and we'll use our website to keep in better communication with you. It's the year to document everything we do, and use it consistently so as we grow, our loving, family-style, transparent culture will be engrained and grow with us.

We're looking forward to this year and are grateful to you for believing in these kids and our program. If you haven't seen "Slumdog Millionaire" yet, we recommend it to you. It is a good depiction of what happens to children that don't end up in a home like ours. The reality is sad and true. Feel good knowing you are doing something about the problem. We couldn't do it without you.

With my head bowed down,

Caroline  
Founder

*Special Thanks to our Sponsors.*

