

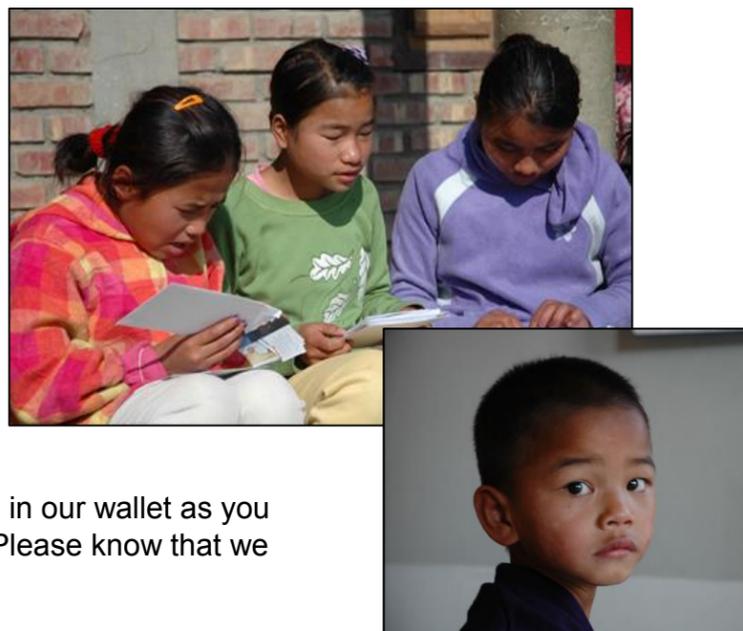
What's in OUR wallet?

Thanks to an all-volunteer staff in the USA, the James Connection continues to send 93 cents of every dollar raised directly to the care for the kids in India. In 2016 we raised \$322,000 and covered annual operating expenses of \$220,000.

The lifeblood of our income is sponsorship fees. These remain the same as they were in 2005 - \$35 per child per month. While expenses have increased, we recognize that many sponsors are contributing the best they can so rather than raise the fee, we have focused on recruiting more sponsors. So far so good!

Realistically, the total cost of care per child per month is now approximately \$100.00. This provides nutritious FOOD including eggs two times a week, CLOTHING including school uniforms and sports shoes, dormitory style SHELTER with solar energy to generate light, EDUCATION tuition to attend a nearby private English-speaking school, and NURTURE in a loving Christian environment.

Just thought you might like to know what's in our wallet as you consider your year-end charitable giving. Please know that we appreciate your support at any level.



YES! I would like to offer my support for the children at **Angels' Place!**

\$ _____ to kick-start the vocational education program.

\$ _____ as a year-end gift to be used as needed.

I want to sponsor a child for \$35 per month.

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____ Phone () _____

Email _____

New sponsors: we will mail you a sponsorship form or you can download and mail one from our website: www.jamesconnection.org

Please send donation or sponsorship forms to:

James Connection PO Box 751 Monroeville, PA 15146



look after orphans ...
in their distress ... James 1:27

PO Box 751
Monroeville, PA 15146
Email: info@jamesconnection.org
Online: www.jamesconnection.org

An update from Executive Director Jan Swensen

November 2017

OUR SAWMI IS A USA COED

Chingmalsawm, affectionately known as Sawmi (pronounced Sew-Me) to her friends, is the first Angels' Place graduate to become a coed in the USA. Sawmi entered Ohio Valley University in August, and her midterm grades put her on track for the dean's list. She sings beautifully and has made the acapella choir which will go to Romania in May 2018.

Sawmi has accomplished much in her young life. She came to Angels' Place in late 2005 at the age of seven after having lost both parents before her fourth birthday. She had to apply three times before we had space for her. She had lost a year of school due to a lack of funds to buy even paper and pencil. But once she got the opportunity to attend a good school she excelled. Within a short time she went to the head of her class. After class ten she easily passed the state exam to qualify to go on to classes eleven and twelve. Last spring she graduated first in her class. What's more she has grown into a wonderful, caring and kind young woman. Just look at that big smile which evidences a big heart.

One of our generous donors took note of her academic achievement and, after meeting her, offered to finance her college education. She had to get a passport and visa made difficult by the lack of a birth certificate. Then she had to fly alone half way around the world through five airports to get to school. That was arduous, but one part of her preparation for college she loved was picking out a complete new wardrobe.

It is perhaps impossible for an American to imagine the culture shock Sawmi has had to endure, and she still must adjust to a completely new culture every day. The transition from Manipur, India to the USA will challenge even an experienced world traveler. But Sawmi has handled it all very well. We are very proud of her and her willingness to be a pioneer for the children of Angels' Place. When she graduates she wants to go back to India and become a social worker to help others.



FOCUS ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

We want all of our children to have employable skills when they leave Angels' Place. That's why we have **launched a new program to provide vocational education to all**. Our kids have done well in the academic program provided at Hermon School from nursery to class ten. Then each child must decide "will I go on to take the state exam to continue education through classes eleven and twelve or should I leave school and look for a job?" About 40% do not go on past class ten either by their decision or because they do not pass the qualifying exam beyond class ten, which means they will not go to college.



We are proud that of the thirteen children that passed class twelve this year eleven now continue in college. But we must serve those who do not choose to continue academic pursuits. That is why we have made vocational education a priority this year. One of our board members, Jim Ice, has agreed to head up this program. He has already made contact with a representative of India's prime minister and studied all state and national programs for vo-ed and has set out a plan of attack.

There are no vocational schools in Manipur, so we will put our own program together. We are exploring every training method including mentoring, tutors, onsite training, state sponsored training, apprenticeships, internships or cooperation with businesses. We have had to learn everything else from scratch since the birth of Angels' Place. This is one more program that we will learn. The children need this training, and they know it. They will have a new incentive to study and prepare for their adulthood.

LEMONGRASS OIL PRODUCES REVENUE

The James Connection is in the import-export business. We made our first shipment of over 1100 liters of lemongrass oil to the US company, doTerra of Utah for which we received over \$25,000. Our partners in India now have a means of helping in the support of Angels' Place. We plan to continue our lemongrass production at the rate of three or four crops a year on our 500 acres of fields.



For over five years we have been clearing fields and growing lemongrass from which we extract the oil. The Indian buyers have not offered enough for our oil to make it profitable. We worked for years to get an export license. Then we finally made contact with doTerra, a company that imports essential oils from all over the world, through Diane Samueloff, a member of the Jupiter Florida Church of Christ. Diane used to work for doTerra and told us about that company after hearing a presentation on Angels' Place at her church. She put us in touch with the company and told them to check us out. A doTerra representative went to Angels' Place and investigated both our orphanage and our lemongrass fields and distilleries after which doTerra told us they admire our operation and want to do business with us. Now we can sell our oil at a reasonable profit.

We plan to continue to do business with doTerra for years to come.



Those panels you see on the roof are the new solar panels we have installed on top of the boys' dormitory. We have endured nightly black outs for years. Now, even when public power regularly fails our kids study, work and play even after dark. We can plan better and save money too. We thank all donors who helped us move to solar power.

EYE CARE MINISTRY VISITS ANGELS' PLACE

Gordon Mendenhall, a professor from the University of Indianapolis, has a ministry of providing eye exams and glasses for needy people all over the world. Gordon went to Angels' Place with us this past April and did his work for our kids and everyone else who came to our orphanage.

It wasn't easy. Gordon lugged an enormous suitcase full of 356 pairs of glasses along with eye charts, sample lenses, examination lights and glasses cases all the way to Churachandpur, a three day journey. Then he set up an examination room with assistants and began examining all of our children. He found 19 kids that needed glasses and gave them two pairs each. After he had examined all our children we called an orphanage several miles away and had their children come to Angels' Place for the same care. When he finished with the second group, we advertised his services to the town people. They lined up for hours for Gordon's care. Gordon examined people late into the night every day. He gave out 172 pairs of glasses to people who had none.

Gordon even trained two of our staff people on how to do exams and gave them all the charts, testing lenses and specs to continue to examine all children who come to Angels' Place. Gordon has since given us another enormous suitcase full of his glasses for at Angels' Place future use as he continues his fine work to African countries.

THE KIDS EXCEL AT MANY ACTIVITIES

Our children continue to excel. Boyai Singh, #67, just won second prize for his painting for the state Wildlife Week Observance. At the Annual School Sports held at Hermon English School this past month, our children walked away with many first place wins. Among them were Khamuansang, #267, who won the marathon; Tualkhanson, #244, who won the balloon race; Khamsonghang, #290, who won the 100 meter dash. Angels' Place volley ball, soccer and basketball teams also did well.



Boyai Singh

Our varsity soccer team is doing well in the Second Division League for the Churachandpur District Sports Association. The boys are very good competing against other schools and adult teams.

The children paint a lot. They have painted murals on all the walls of the boys' dormitory. They just painted the exterior entrance to the building. They painted the wall around the pool.