



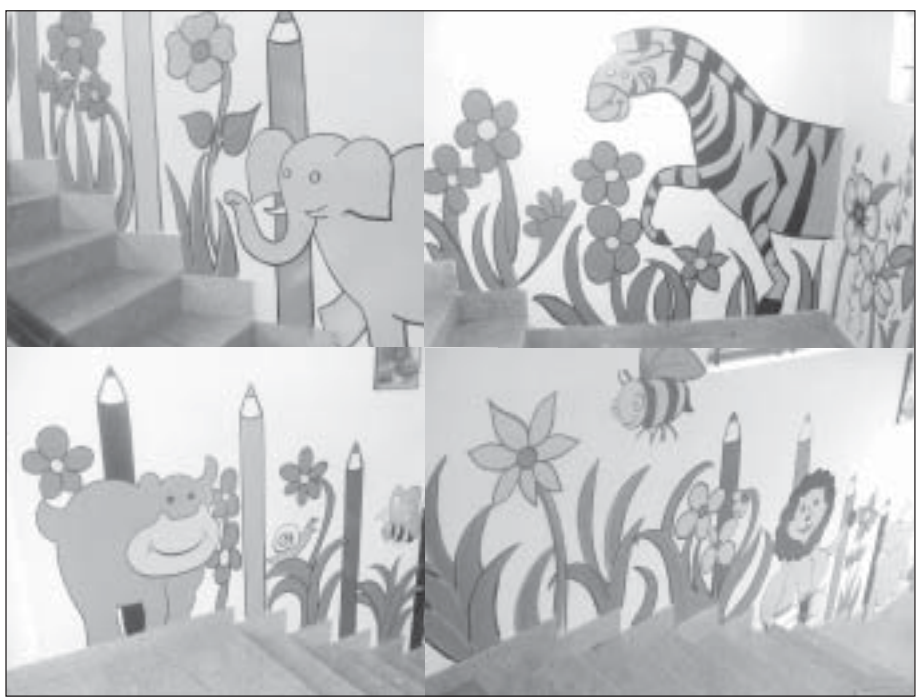
In accordance with God's plan, Vathsalaya is committed to finding families for homeless children, as every child deserves a permanent home of its own.

A NEWSLETTER OF VATHSALYA CHARITABLE TRUST

# BOONJING

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## Cheerful Colours at VCT



*The murals at VCT*

The attractive murals of flowers, birds, animals and butterflies on the walls of Vathsalaya give you a delightful feeling that you are at a child care centre. Thanks to volunteers from an investment banking company, the walls of the ground floor, those leading to the school in the basement and the first and second floors, come alive with the cheerful colours. The volunteers also organized a picnic for our children and child care staff, and also

conducted a drawing and painting activity. That's not all, our foster parents and children were treated to a delicious lunch.



*Activity day for our children*

## VCT Offices at Raichur and Koppal

The Government has committed to give Vathsalaya a licence to handle in-country adoptions at Raichur and Koppal, provided we open offices there. Initially, it was suggested that VCT co-ordinates with existing NGOs for the programme. Chairman Col. Guruprasad met with the Chairpersons of the CWCs in Koppal and Raichur in the third week of May.



## Our Home Page

### @ VCT

- We were happy that six of our children, who were with us for a long time, went home with their parents in international adoption. VCT staff, foster parents, child care givers and the other children truly miss them.
- Tanvi, a one-month-old baby, who was relinquished to us by her birth mother, has been instrumental in uniting her parents. During the counselling sessions with Tanvi's mother which was rather difficult because she did not know any of the

languages we spoke, we got to know her background and her relationship with Tanvi's father. With the



help of an interpreter, we were able to get more details. The couple have decided to marry and keep their baby Tanvi.

- VCT has started using the web camera to help outstation parents see the child they have been matched with. This is very useful when one parent is travelling and his / her approval is sought before the decision is taken.

### They now have a place they call HOME

- David and Tamara McGinnis (USA) took home their daughter **Ghazal** on February 4, 2008.
- Kevin Sequeira and Joyce Fernandez (USA) took home their sons **Lokesh & Ramesh** on February 11, 2008.
- Ram and Rajni Vaidyanath (UK) took home their daughter **Melina** on February 27, 2008.
- Kelly and Jennifer Carmichael (USA) took home their daughter **Ranjitha** on March 14, 2008.
- Paul and Angela Southwold (USA) took home their daughter **Vastravalam** on March 14, 2008.
- Robert and Michelle Corron (USA) took home their daughter **Anvita** on March 14, 2008.
- Rangaraj and Shibani Rangaraj (Bangalore) took home their son **Sagar** on March 24, 2008.
- Peethambaran and Uma Devi (Bangalore) took home their daughter **Radhika** on March 24, 2008.
- Barbera Benedetto and Ferrari Donatella (Italy) took home their daughter **Sultana** on March 25, 2008.
- Santhana Krishnan and Uma (Bangalore) took home their daughter **Pooja** on April 4, 2008.
- David Patrick and Teresa Greenbough (Bangalore) took home their children **Geetha, Shyam** and **Santosh** on April 21.
- C.R. Ganesh and Uma (Bangalore) took home their daughter **Lakshmi Sadana** on April 28, 2008.
- Raman Varadarajan and Meenakshi Raman (Bangalore) took home their son **Sawan** on April 30, 2008.
- Dhani and Nalini Kannan (USA) took home their daughter **Gitali** on April 2, 2008.
- Sharand and Avani Goraji (USA) took home their daughter **Deborah** on April 7, 2008.
- Patrick Wilson and son Nick (USA) took home **Tamara** on April 22, 2008.
- Praful and Meeta Karanth (USA) took home their son **Manu** on April 22, 2008.
- Parasuraman and Muthulakshmi (Bangalore) took home their son **Akash** on May 30, 2008.
- Ernest and Jennifer Murray (USA) took home their son **Jayanth** on May 19, 2008.

## Updating Skills

Our staff were imparted training on improving our methods of statistical analysis by resource persons organized by our chairman Col. Guruprasad. These sessions will be an ongoing one.

## Outreach Programmes

- Thanks to our education sponsors we have increased the number of beneficiaries from 100 to 400. From the next academic year we hope to network with NGOs and schools to give this benefit to more students.
- On March 8, we were invited to speak to a group of 200 women on self esteem and their contribution to the welfare of their families.
- SAIACS is planning to introduce the topic of adoption in their child theology programme, and VCT was asked to help out with a write up about adoption and the procedures.
- A team of four students from colleges of social work learned more about adoptions during their internship with VCT.
- On April 22, Pat Wilson accompanied by his friend Jeff and his son Nick, visited to take his daughter Tamara home (above photo). Their presence radiated joy at VCT. We were able to get them two guitars and they played solos and duets. The children including Tamara danced to their music. It was fun time for all the children.
- VCT addressed a group of lawyers on adoption on May 8. The session was organized by Lawyers Collective, an NGO working with HIV and AIDS. The interactive session was a great hit with the participants, especially those who did not know anything about adoption.



## We Welcomed

• As always **Dean Hale's** visit is filled with work and fun. This time during his visit between April 7 and 9, 2008, we organized a one-day staff retreat (photo below), a meeting with the Board as well as a discussion with our paediatrician on children with medical conditions who have been released for international adoptions.



*Dean Hale (fourth from left) with the Vathsalya team (from left) B. Hanumanthappa, Susan Ninan, Mary Philips, Vineetha Austin, Savita S. Matilda Yorke, Shirley Thomas and Mary Paul*

Dean discussed the Holt conference in 2009, to be held in India. The 100 participants could be from child welfare agencies. The topics will include adoption both pre and post adoption issues, foster care, experiences of parents/children in their adoption journey, ASQ, grief and loss issues in the adoption triad. The resource persons will include both domestic and international child welfare consultants/experts.

• We were blessed to have visits from parents who had adopted several years ago and want to keep in touch. Both children and parents were thrilled with our facility and expressed their joy at being part of it.

**New Staff:** **Susan Ninan** joined as part-time as social worker. **Anna Philipose** works with VCT as psychologist (part-time)

# Story for the Quarter

When Jothika came to us on the December 6, 2004, we did not know her age. The bone density and dental checks said approx. seven years, and her date of birth as July 6, 1998.

Jyothika appeared confident and determined, yet she wore a serious look. We could see that getting information from her was not going to be easy. Since she was not forthcoming in her answers, we decided to give her some space to make her comfortable. Whenever we spent time with her, we could see her battling with her emotions. The tears glistened. and she said that she did not remember where her home was and was not keen to return.

A deeper sharing revealed that her mother was not very kind and has on several occasions had physically and verbally abused her. She showed us a mark on her cheek to prove this. What impressed us was the fact that she seemed very bold and sure of what she wanted. Media publicity was completed and Jyothika was taken to the place where she was found. However, we drew a blank.

When Jyotika received her adoption release order, we wondered whether to release her to Italy or the U.S. since most of our older children are released to Italy. But with

Jyothika, we just felt in our hearts that she would do well in the U.S.A

Holt International matched Jyothika with a single mom, and Jyotika was overjoyed. From that day we were bombarded with all sorts of questions, and she was also keen to communicate to her mother and send her letters and pictures.

In the mean time Jyothika was placed in foster care and how she thrived. She went into a formal school programme and excelled. She was quick to learn and participated in all the activities with enthusiasm and purpose.

There was not a day when she did not ask us, "When will my mother come and when will I go home?"

The time came for Jyothika to meet with her mother and truly this was a blessed day for all at VCT. We could see the bonding although this was their first meeting. Of course, the letters and pictures that went back and forth had started the cementing. After spending a day at the centre Jyothika went with her mother to St. Mark's Hotel.

The next day we saw a further transformation. This was a Jyothika brimming with confidence and happiness. She knew that God had indeed matched her with her family and life was going to take a definite positive turn.



## Blessed with Volunteers

V i n d y a interacts with older children, teaching them English among other activities.



Volunteers from GAP, spent time with infants and older children doing activities like craft, clay modelling and baking

