

May 12, 2014

# Ripples of hope



***“I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.”  
-Mother Teresa***

RAY OF HOPE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

# Spring Newsletter

Dear friends:

I know we say “Lets give hope together,” but what does that mean?

The word “Hope” must be the second most commonly used word in the English language, right after the word “Sorry.” Here are a few common uses of the word “Hope” – *I hope I get that promotion! I hope the weather is nice tomorrow. I hope I get a good raise. I hope the Eagles draft well and hopefully win the super bowl this year! I hope.....so on and so forth.*

We use this word so often on a daily basis that we may be losing the essence of the word. For so many less fortunate individuals, hope has a very different meaning. I hope to be independent. I hope I can buy a computer someday. I hope my family comes to visit me soon. I hope I have sufficient healthcare. The difference between in how you and I use it is that we have to work and are able to put in effort to achieve our “hope.”

On the contrary, the underprivileged children at Gwalior school who are hoping for a safe and nurturing environment to grow to be productive healthy adults and the disabled adults at Inglis House hoping to live a normal day to day life, **need our help.** They do not aim to garner our pity, but rather seek our help to provide them with a ray of hope and assurance that the future is better even if the present is a little tough. The essence of being human is to HOPE. **To hope for change. To hope for a better tomorrow. To search for that Ray of Hope in the generosity of others.**

Our hope is that YOU – our friends and family will help our causes – The Gwalior School and Inglis House. Help us by not only donating money but by also spreading word about our fledging charity – Ray of Hope! We, the board members look forward to seeing you all at our fundraising events in 2014 and beyond.

Warm regards to all of you. Sincerely,

**Anwsha Dutta-President, Hemang Desai-VP & Treasurer, Sumit Gulati-Secretary**

**Board of Directors Ray of Hope [www.letsgivehope.org](http://www.letsgivehope.org)**

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## Special points of interest:

- Visit our newly launched website: [www.letsgivehope.org](http://www.letsgivehope.org)
- Learn about Inglis House: [www.inglis.org](http://www.inglis.org) & Gwalior Children's Charity: [www.helpchildrenofindia.org](http://www.helpchildrenofindia.org)
- Special thanks to Nava Nritya Dance Academy: [www.navanritya.org](http://www.navanritya.org)

# Saaz—Echo of Musical Instruments— Nava Nritya Dance Academy's annual charity recital benefiting Ray of Hope

The first fundraiser of 2013 was hosted by Nava Nritya Dance Academy on May 11th (annual recital), which raised about \$18,000, part of which went to Gwalior Children's Charity. Nava Nritya Dance Academy is a dance school that trains dance enthusiasts of all ages in Indian classical dance Bharatnatyam and contemporary dance Navanritya. With the inspiring performances, supporting families and magnanimous audience support, they are at an exciting intersection of community, creativity and charity. We have raised over \$100,000 in the last several years for many charities.



**Have you ever watched a vibrant Indian dance ballet with enchanting classical, folk and world music echoing around you?**

Yes, you did – right here with Nava Nritya Dance Academy! As we celebrated our 9th year with the harmony of various musical instruments & gorgeous costumes, our 60+ dancers honored internationally acclaimed Indian composers.



**Have you ever heard of a dancified journey through India?**

Another real treat for our spectators! We took our audience on a virtual train ride called "Friendship express" from the North to the South, from the West to the East of lovely India with traditional folk dances. We began this tour by boarding a train in North India- in Uttar Pradesh showcasing North Indian folk dance first. Then the train went to Gujarat, which hosts Navaratri, its a 9 night autumn festival with a beautiful form of folk dance called

Garba. After that we travelled to the Southern state of Tamil Nadu, where the cute gypsy dance of Kurathi came from. We ended our tour in Assam, the northeastern state of rolling tea gardens, with a delicate folk dance called Bihu.



**What difference did this make?**

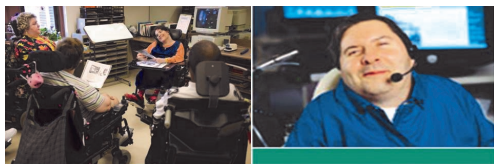
\$12,000 were donated to Gwalior Children's Charity. With the mobile van already donated, we were already transporting village children to the school and providing rural healthcare 2 days a week. With this generous philanthropy from the Dance Academy family, the rural healthcare program has been expanded to 5 days a week that is now touching 120,000 lives every year.

This program was started on August 23rd, 2013 in Gwalior India. The children and adult dancers of the academy and their parents are very excited to be able to make such a huge difference across the globe. More importantly, the children of the academy have developed confidence that every little stage decoration they make, all of their dance steps, dedication to dance classes, hard work with raising money through piggy banks—all of that transforms lives at the other end of the world. Learning to give at the age of 6, 8, 13 17 and being determined to make a difference, says a lot about these wonderful children.



## Sabor del Latino—Ray of Hope’s Holiday Fundraiser—Nov 14th

On November 14th, we hosted our annual fall fundraiser at the Saturday Club in Wayne, PA dedicated to our Philadelphia program at Inglis. Last year’s event was called “Sabor Del Latino – Latin Flavors,” a Latin-inspired food, drink, and entertainment filled evening, featuring dazzling performances by ContempraDANCE theater company & Flamenco de Colores. The event was attended by 60+ supporters of Ray of Hope, helped us exceed our fundraising goal and enabled us to make a grant of \$6,000 to the Adapted Technology program at Inglis.



Last year’s grant was used by Inglis to implement an **Electronic Library** in their 32 PC computer lab via the ‘Book-share’ program. Many of their residents are unable to physically access standard electronic book reading devices, but are able to use current adapted technology to access computer-based book reading applications.



Our gift helped enable the book-share program with the purchase of many books for their library, and created a new opportunity for an Inglis Resident Worker who manages the accounts and library resources. But most importantly, it provided



access to electronic books to the 300+ residents at Inglis House in Philadelphia, PA. In addition, we ended the year with an excellent gift wrapping day at Inglis House with PwC and Ray of Hope International Foundation volunteers.

## Its’ a new generation of givers.....and change makers

Our next generation of donors also came to the forefront in 2013. Two of the senior dancers from Nava Nritya Dance Academy, whose families have been long-time supporters of Ray of Hope, decided to use their ‘Sweet 16’s’ as a fundraising opportunity. Sanjana Jayaram organized her birthday and asked her guests that all gifts be made as donations to Ray of Hope, collecting in excess of \$1,700 in total donations. Sanjana Venkat also chose to give her birthday gifts to Ray of Hope & donated \$500 to us.

Donating special skills and time is also noteworthy. Senior dancer Anika Jagasia, another 15 year talented girl, took on the charge of being the primary photographer as well as an assistant event manager for Sabor del Latino. Her twin brother Arnav Jagasia, has been doing Ray of Hope videos and assisting with running our events as well. Sara Sawant, a teenager volunteer and the others mentioned above have spent quite a few years now in helping with our marketing efforts for our annual dance recital e.g. flyers, brochures, social media, website event posting, etc.

**These strong teenagers are paving the way of contributing in newer and creative ways....watch as they change our world. But lets not forget even our little ones who also spend a great deal of energy and dedication towards making a difference.**

## What do we look forward to in 2014?

*We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop. - Mother Teresa*

The first event of 2014 is once again Nava Nritya Dance Academy’s annual recital but this is a special year. It’s the 10th year of the academy and its bringing together current dancers and alumni to celebrate the importance of giving: both artistic and charitable giving. Please come join us on Sunday June 8th, 2014 at 2pm at Gwynedd Mercy High School: [www.navanritya.org](http://www.navanritya.org)

“**Azure – water poems**” is bringing to life the dynamic element of water through acrobatic choreography, set to captivating classic poetry and vibrant music in 8 different languages composed by world famous music maestros. The dancers will present mesmerizing Bharatnatyam dances: celebrating holy rivers, romantic monsoons, water avatars, Lord Shiva’s release of the holy river Ganga, and Lord Krishna’s de- feat of Kalinga, the serpent on the banks of the river Yamuna. And you will enjoy an enchanting contemporary dance dramas: “Fish tales” adaptation of the popular saga of “Nemo,” “Jalpari” inspired by the famous drama Little Mermaid and “Daughter of Ganga” honoring women’s empowerment. **Visit us at: [www.navanritya.org](http://www.navanritya.org) and RSVP to our evite.**





When you arise in the morning, give thanks for the morning light, for your life and strength

## Time to give our thanks to YOU

Ray of Hope would like to thank our following grand donors without whose contributions we could not have achieve this much in less than a year:

Akshita & Umang Naik, Anita Walker, Anitha Kannan & Kannan Sivarajan, Antara Dutta & Samir Sinha, Anwasha Dutta & Hemang Desai, Bob Lux, Cynthia & Gavin Kerr, Dan Garrett, Deanne Caputo, Deboleena Bose & Arnab Mukherjee, Donna Schmidt, Dr. Shruthi & Jay Jayaram, n Drs. Anuja Dokras-Jagasia & Dinesh Jagasia, Drs. Bindu & Ramesh Koneru, Drs. Meena & Shivraj Desai, Drs. Monica & Sumeet Mainigi, Drs. Suleena Kansal-Kalra & Pankaj Kalra, Ekata & Bimal Patel, Faith & George Philip, Frank Erdlen, Heidi & Michael Harris, Indu & Yogesh Kansal, John Dugan, Julia Tock, Kim Colwell, Kirti & Jayesh Naik, Kousalya & Apparao Vaddempudi, Kristen Viera-Traynor, Krutee & Nayan Shah, Latchmi & Dr. Mirza Rahman, Lindsey Jarrell, Lisa & Matt Gillin, Mike Cassidy, Mita & Divyesh Desai, Monica Goyal & Kushal Banerjee, Nancy Beacham, Nandini & Raghu Rao, Nayana & Anil Naik, Neeta & Dr. Pallav Mehta, Paul Raden, Pratibha Keshavamurthy & Sathya Jois, Priya Swamy & Prithvi Sankar, Rebecca Maurer, Rupal & Mehul Desai, Sandhya Yalamanchili, Saroj & Bhupendrarai Desai, Shahzia Banth, Shampa & Ashoke Deb, Shana & Adam Lebofsky, Shubhda Roy & Sumit Gulati, Sonal & Sushant Sawant, Sowjanya Tangutur & Dr. P. Venkat, Sridevi & Sreeni Jakka, Tom Degarmo, Tom Pacek, Tracey Clark, Usha & Mahendra Desai, Vaishali & Vasant Jadhav., Vicky Luttrell, Yeshashri & Hemin Desai

### RAY OF HOPE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

Phone: 215-792-3848  
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*Let's give hope together*

[WWW.LETSGIVEHOPE.ORG](http://WWW.LETSGIVEHOPE.ORG)

**Companies:** Banglez, Brandywine Yoga, Cabi Clothing (Kim Kelly Heft), ContempraDANCE Theatre Company, Everfit, Inglis House Art, Maha Yoga Studio, Stella & Dot (Allyson Houchen), Stafford Chiropractic & Healing Center, Thirty One Gifts, ValleyDo Designs, and Nava Nritya Dance Academy.

**Special thanks to ALL of our volunteers and guests at all of our events.**

## Who are we? How can you help?

Ray of Hope International Foundation, founded in February 2011 is an international charitable foundation headquartered in Philadelphia, PA.

Our mission is to support a wide range of charitable organizations and special causes in targeted communities to **foster, enhance, and empower** socio-economical, educational, financial, cultural, creative, and intellectual growth of the underprivileged by focusing on utmost specific needs and projects both in Philadelphia, PA and India.

Currently the 2 main programs we are focused on are as follows:

- Inglis House—home for the disabled: supporting 300+ residents
- Gwalior children's charity, India: education and rural healthcare: impacting 120,000 lives in 20+ villages

### Want to get involved?

Attend events to support as a staff - bowling night, recitals, walks etc.

Create an event of your own - utilize opportunities such as anniversaries, birthdays - cultural events to request donations to Ray of Hope as the anniversary or birthday gift or host your own wine and cheese party.

Ray of Hope is your organization and if you want to donate to a local food bank or homeless shelter, we are happy to support you with our brand and execute in your area.



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