

Lets give hope together!

November 28th, 2011



RAY OF HOPE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

# Fall Newsletter

## 2011 brings a new Ray of Hope



Happy Holidays to all our friends, family and patrons. Hope you all had a great Thanksgiving holiday. This is our first year as a charitable foundation, with a million dreams and an incredible family of supporters.

As you begin the holiday season to honor and count your blessings with your loved ones, lets begin to rekindle our spirit of giving.

You will be delighted to hear that we have had very successful fundraising events and have made a few contributions locally as we prepare to lay the stepping stones for our contributions in India.

Through our first fundraiser, hosted by Nava Nritya Dance Academy of Ambler, PA, we raised \$10,000+. In addition to dedicating their artistic talent, the children of the academy raised money through their own piggy banks- a heartfelt gift for the needy.

During the summer we ran a clothes drive supported by 60+ families, that we have distributed to two local shelters.

It has been a true pleasure and honor to have contributed towards the great cause of Inglis House that provide programs and services designed to enable people with physical disabilities to enjoy life with the greatest amount of independence and mobility.

We have also been fortunate to have many friends dedicate their children's birthday parties to Ray of Hope in lieu of gifts—what a noble thought from little children who want to help enable the underprivileged at such a young age.

With such a fantastic beginning, all we can say to you all is - "Thank You"

Seasons greetings and warm regards to you and yours,

Anwesha Dutta-President,  
Hemang Desai-VP/Treasurer,  
Sumit Gulati-Secretary

*Ray of Hope Board of Directors*

## Supporting "adaptive technology" for people with disabilities

You have all heard the popular saying, no one is disabled, we are all differently-abled. Inglis House is a truly inspirational organization in Philadelphia that empowers people with disabilities to achieve their goals. Inglis utilizes its

nursing home services and community programs to help people with physical disabilities live life to the fullest.

We at Ray of Hope designated a \$3000 gift towards supporting "Adaptive technology" in the computer

lab for the privileged residents. We are honored to be able to make a contribution to their noble mission.



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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)
- Special thanks to Nava Nritya Dance Academy: [www.navanritya.org](http://www.navanritya.org)

## Working wonders in the Philadelphia community: Inglis Foundation

How many times have our parents said to us “count your blessings?” When we worry and complain about day to day issues, little do we realize how privileged we are to live a life well beyond *necessity*, in fact we are indulging in luxurious benefits every day.

We have taken so many things for granted in our lives—the ability to practically communicate and contact anyone anytime has now become a need through the advancement of technology. Imagine this- if you had a disability that prevented or limited your ability to use normal technology including basic items like a keyboard and a mouse, how would you write your emails and update your facebook status?



*Technology can truly enable the community in so many ways*

There are many skilled nursing facilities in this country who are serving our needy population very well.

means providing access to not only technology, but also to the external world that technology brings to residents.

Helpful adaptive devices such as, IntelliKeys Keyboard and KeyGuard and a Penny + Giles Joystick Plus II, an alternative to a traditional mouse, make operating a computer possible for residents with limited hand mobility and/or strength. It's been Ray of Hope's honor to support this great program.



What's unique about Inglis is its mission to empower people with disabilities to achieve their goals and live life to the fullest.

Investing in adaptive technology for the Inglis House Resident Computer Lab

## Rasayog— Nava Nritya Dance Academy's annual charity recital benefiting Ray of Hope

Nava Nritya Dance Academy is a dance school that trains dance enthusiasts of all ages in Indian classical dance Bharatnatyam and contemporary dance Navanritya. The academy is grateful for the past seven years of creative excellence and generous donations. With the inspiring performances, supporting families and magnanimous audience support, they are at an exciting intersection of community, creativity and charity.

While raising funds for a diverse palette of global charities, Nava Nritya Dance Academy, which has been much more than an institution for art education, realized the great potential for continued philanthropy year around. Striving for excellence in the art of giving, we are proudly supporting the launch of Ray Of Hope. We have raised more than \$70,000 in the last six years for many charities. We plan to exceed these numbers exponentially with your continued support and grow our patrons through new networks and fund raising events.

As we proudly support the newborn Ray of Hope International Foundation in the path of dedicated benevolence, the acad-

emy led by Anwesha Dutta, was also excited to announce class expansions at Nava Nritya dance academy with continued focus on eclectic ancient classical Bharatnatyam as well as the contemporary style of "Navanritya", (an amalgamation of classical dances, martial arts, yoga, ballet & more). The academy looks forward to seeing you at events like this in future in support of the arts or the charities or simply as friends who believe in their mission.

On June 19th, 2011, the academy hosted its Annual recital at the Gwynedd Mercy High School Performing Arts Center, dedicated to Ray of Hope.

The show was presented by the 40+ students and showcased beautiful dances set to captivating music. The show depicted nine different acts to portray the nine emotions (peace, anger, love, compassion, disgust, wonder, courage, happiness) that elevated the 200+ audience members into delightful moods.

One of Ray of Hope's first beneficiaries, Inglis House was invited to come and educate the audience and donors about Inglis' mission. John Dugan, partner at Pricewaterhousecoopers is a board member of Inglis Foundation who shared the mission, values and accomplishments of Inglis House.

The students of the academy expressed their pleasure in being able to support Ray of Hope in its mission to advance Inglis House's goals and objectives. Based on donations and ticket sales, the academy raised \$10,000 for Ray of Hope.



*Inglis House Board member, John Dugan at Rasayog recital 2011*



*Nava Nritya Dance Academy dancers at the 2011 Rasayog Annual Charity Recital*

## Making an impact locally and internationally

Starting at Nava Nritya Dance Academy's dance recital June 19th 2011, Ray of Hope kicked off the summer clothes drive with the goal of donating lightly used clothing to local shelters.

Clothes were donated by 50+ families over the summer which were given to: Covenant House in Philadelphia and Co-ordinated Homeless Outreach Center of



Montgomery County in Norristown, PA.

We were truly touched by the overwhelming support from friends and families of the Academy and our friends at Turks Head Yoga.

Over the summer, we also attended Shakti Fest event in Main Line PA in July of 2011 to raise awareness about Ray of Hope. The Kirtan lovers welcomed us into the community. We are very grateful that the Global Maya Yoga event at Turks Head Yoga also raised both monetary and clothes donations on September 24th 2011.

In addition, we would like to thank our friends and their children who dedicated their birthday parties in lieu of donations to Ray of Hope:

- The Truchel family
- The Kannan family
- Roy-Gulati family.

We are currently exploring two different international programs to contribute towards:

- Child health medical camps in Central India: In collaboration with a leading health system in the USA, Ray of Hope is considering organizing a medical camp with volunteer clinicians from USA to provide free healthcare services to underprivileged children in India in 2013.
- Active discussions are also ongoing with a small NGO that supports slum children and orphanages in the Western part of India.
- As these discussions get finalized, we will start publicizing the programs and offer volunteering opportunities to you in USA and India.

## Time to give our thanks to YOU

Ray of Hope would like to thank our following 2011 grand donors without whose contributions we could not have achieved this much in less than a year:

Dr. Marlowe Schaeffer-Polk, Drs. Bindu & Ramesh Koneru, Usha & Mahendra Desai, Marybeth & John Dugan, Anwesha Dutta & Hemang Desai,

Monica Goyal & Kushal Banerjee, Drs. Meena & Shivraj Desai, Mike

Cassidy, Shubhda Roy & Sumit Gulati, Drs. Anuja Dokras-Jagasia & Dinesh Jagasia, Sridevi & Sreeni Jakka, Dr. Shruthi & Jay Jayaram, Drs. Suleena Kansal-Kalra & Pankaj Kalra,

Drs. Monica & Sumeet Mainigi, Neeta & Dr. Pallav Mehta, Nayana & Anil Naik,

*The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention.*  
~Oscar Wilde

Latchmi & Dr. Mirza Rahman, Anitha Kannan & Kannan Sivarajan, Sowjanya Tangutur & Dr. P. Venkat, Hima & Ravi Bhatia

Mita & Divyesh Desai, Yeshashri & Hemin Desai, Akshita & Umang Naik, Nandini & Raghu Rao, Amisha and Nameet Rai

## Upcoming fundraising activities in 2012

Valentine's day is a special day in all our lives - a time to celebrate the special bond we share with our special someone, families and friends. In 2012, come celebrate a special Valentine's day weekend with the entire family at a special bowling event designed for folks of all ages to enjoy.



This will be a fundraiser event for Ray of Hope on **Saturday February 18th 2012 @4pm** Facenda Whitaker @ East Norriston, PA.

**On Saturday May 19th 2012 @ 2pm** at Nava Nritya Dance Academy at Gwynedd Mercy High School (Ambler, PA) will

showcase its 7th annual dance recital dedicated to Ray of Hope.

During the summer of 2012, please join us for a few more "Lets give hope together" events—for YOU and YOURS! Stay tuned for 5K walks to get a good workout or a relaxing wine & cheese!

**To join our mailing list please email us at [info@letsgivehope.org](mailto:info@letsgivehope.org)**



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*Let's give hope together*

## Ray of Hope is here!

The founders of Ray Of Hope, Anwasha, Hemang, Sumit supported by their family and friends, have been raising funds for various charities over the past several years through the Annual Charity Dance Recitals hosted by Nava Nritya Dance Academy and have raised \$70,000+ for various charities in India and USA to help the underprivileged, including organizations like UNICEF, Sankara Eye Foundation, Philabundance, and Doctors Without Borders.

To be able to make a more direct contribution to specific needs and programs that various organizations struggle with (e.g. sanitation in rural areas in India, vocational training/apprenticeship), this foundation was launched.

Additionally, for smaller Non-Governmental organizations in India who are not registered in USA, Ray of Hope will be the gateway to wonderful supporters, donors, patrons, volunteers and friends like you to help them advance their impactful social causes.

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

***“It is not how much we do, but how much love we put in the doing. It is not how much we give, but how much love we put in the giving.”—Mother Teresa***

## 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. We will primarily focus on organizing fundraising events/campaigns to raise funds for various charitable programs and run its own programs focused on underprivileged children and families in USA as well as in India.

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.

In addition to the Board of Directors, we are supported by a dedicated team of committees and advisors with a wide range of experience from different walks of life: Andrea Howard, Anitha Kannan, Antara Dutta, John Truchel, Dr. Tony Luberti, Deanne Caputo, Dr. Anuja Dokras, Dr. Marlowe Schaffer-Polk, Mahendra Desai, Miriam Ferreira, Pinky Fafadia, Shubhda Roy.

### **Want to get involved?**

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

Join local events including School Nights and Spirit Nights at various school districts to talk about the cause of Ray of Hope - how we are supporting organizations like Inglis House in USA and many NGOs in India.

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 coordinate in your area.



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