

The Emirates Airline foundation



A quarterly newsletter about projects funded by your donations

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New home for Chennai children

Abandoned HIV+ children, cared for by the NGO Community Health Education Society (CHES) in the Indian city of Chennai, are looking forward to leaving their rented villas for their new home, which is being funded by donations.



Artist's impression

Currently under construction, the Emirates-CHES Home will have dormitories, a medical care centre, an education centre up to 4th Standard, an indoor recreation centre and a swimming pool. The project will cost US\$642,000

and donations will also fund the running costs of nearly US\$86,000 a year for the next 20 years. None of the children is aware of being infected and until now, none has survived beyond the age of 16.

Pradiksha's story

Nearly 10 years of age, Pradiksha has spent her whole life at the home, arriving shortly after testing positive for HIV as a new-born.

(Continued overleaf)



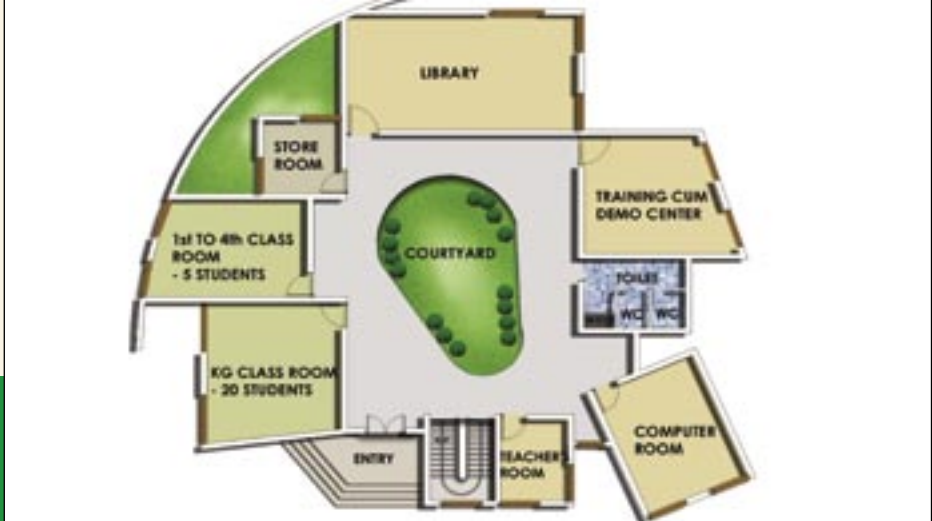
Pradiksha



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Cover story (Contd.)

She's a friendly girl who started her life at CHES and probably will always think of it as her real family. She doesn't ask questions about her other family, who left her before she could meet them.

In 2004, Pradiksha began taking anti-retroviral therapy (ART) and now enjoys an active life jumping rope, singing and drawing. She taught herself both classic and western-style dance by watching TV

and movies and her favourite Tamil movie hero is the famous star Vijay.

She's not one to complain; she has to be reminded to go to bed but wakes up easily and with a cheerful attitude. She complies with her ART regimen.

Many of her playmates will be sent home, re-integrated with their relatives or extended family after CHES counsellors sensitise them on issues of HIV/AIDS.

There's no hope that Pradiksha will participate in that happy transition.

Instead she'll grow up at the home, with her CHES family, as she has been - dancing and smiling.



Girls are being assessed on their aptitude



On the road to a good education

The foundation is supporting a project run by an NGO in the foothills of the Himalayas in northern India to give a number of 10 to 11-year-old girls a chance of an education. The Purkal Youth Development Society (PYDS) gives additional tutoring to nearly 100 children from poor families to help them keep up with their studies at two English-medium schools in the city, some 10kms away, which give scholarships and other concessions. The society's buses bring the children to and from the city and

later to the society school for extra classes and a daily meal.

The foundation has donated over US\$12,000 to fund the society's new project 'Bus them to Purkal', which will help educate girls from more remote villages. The girls are currently being assessed for their suitability in terms of their intelligence and diligence, support from their families and their potential to go through the next 10 years of education. "The environment at our school will allow the girls to see real-life success stories of boys and girls from similar communities who are now on their way to a better life," said society founder G.K. Swamy. "We believe this is a wonderful opportunity for the children, their families and the community."





Healthy meals for healthy minds

The children of the St Leonard's Orphanage in Gampola, Sri Lanka now have a more balanced diet due to the foundation's funding of the home's monthly food requirements of eggs, milk, chicken, fish, dried fish, butter and jam.

"This latest assistance from the Emirates Airline Foundation has been an immense help to us," says Sister Pushpa Tissera, the Mother Superior of the Sisters of the Blessed Virgin, who manage the orphanage of 75 children. "With prices of essential food items rising daily, we were finding it difficult to provide the children with three balanced meals a day."



The infants' dormitory is home for three babies, all under 12 months.

Your donations had earlier funded a comprehensive refurbishment of the orphanage, including the installation of cooking gas facilities and a semi-automated laundry with four washing machines and two dryers. The monthly electricity and gas bills are also covered by donations.

The improved quality of life at the home as a result of the better facilities and food



Madhurika and Madhushi

has enabled the children to focus more effectively on their studies. Madhurika Murhubandagē and Madhushi Chathurika, two 11-year-old girls, achieved 127 and 130 marks at the Year 5 scholarship examinations held last August, the best marks achieved in the past 15 years at

the orphanage. The girls, who have been with the orphanage from birth, attend the Buddhist school in Gampola and the nuns in charge are trying to get them accepted to St. Joseph's Girls School, also at Gampola, on the strength of their good performance.



Sales Co-ordinator Anuska Tennakoon, joins the children as they tuck into their midday meal - a small mound of rice surrounded by vegetable curries, a hard boiled egg and dried fish.



The new Emirates Friendship Hospital under construction.

Floating

hospital on course

Work is going full strength on the new Emirates Friendship Hospital ship in the Bangladeshi capital, Dhaka and hopes are high that the vessel will be launched in the Spring.

The two waves of floods over the past months delayed the project as the shipyard was flooded and workmen had to leave to salvage their own homes. The twin-hulled vessel, now being fitted with wards,



The Emirates Friendship Hospital will join the Lifebuoy Friendship Hospital ship (seen here in red) currently serving communities in the flooded areas of northern Bangladesh.



An artist's impression of the new Emirates Friendship Hospital

theatres and laboratories, has been funded by your donations, at a cost of US\$540,000 and more donations will be needed for yearly running costs of US\$150,000.

When it goes into service, the floating

hospital will be welcomed by the communities in northern Bangladesh who've suffered water-borne diseases due to the recent flooding, which forced them and their livestock off their island homes in search of higher, drier ground.





The orphanage, run by Franciscan Sisters, is home to some 150 children who will shortly have new mattresses and pillows in their newly-repainted dormitories. The study hall and small classrooms also received new benches and work tables for the young students.

A brighter day in Addis

Colourful window blinds are brightening up the mornings for the children of the Kidane Mehret Orphanage in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, thanks to donations. The Dubai-made blinds were installed by a group of Emirates employees who travel down on a regular basis to supervise a massive refurbishment project currently taking place throughout the home.

Colourful, new blinds in the nursery!



One of the most exciting aspects of the renovation project was the sourcing of artwork by famed Ethiopian artist Afework Tekle to hang on the walls. Surafel, an 11-year-old who lost his mother to TB, loves the new artwork, saying "it reminds me of nature and the beauty of my country." Surafel's favourite subject is chemistry, and he hopes someday be a scientist.

When Emirates Airline decided to replace their onboard blankets, the old ones, still in good condition, were a welcome gift for a number of organisations across its network. So too were the children's soft toys and activity



Festive gifts bring warmth

kits, also replaced with new products. Your donations paid the charges for transportation to most of the destinations during the festive season of Eid Al Adha and Christmas.

Disaster relief

Nearly 30,000 blankets, along with 100,000 soft toys and 200,000 activity kits were donated to Bangladesh's Ministry of Food & Disaster Management for the people in the southern coastal districts who were hit by Cyclone Sidr last November. Villages and crops were wiped out by the devastating weather conditions which killed over 3,000 people and injured more than 100,000.

Playtime in Beirut

The children of the Dar Al Khayrat Nursery for orphans, one of the 25 homes run by the Social Welfare Institutions (SWI) of Lebanon, were delighted to each receive a soft toy and activity sticker, brought to them by Emirates' Beirut staff in liaison with the UAE Programme to Support & Rebuild Lebanon. The 2,000 blankets they also brought were a welcome necessity during the cold weather.





Father Keith Humphries opens the boxes.

For those in need

The Mikokoro Centre (Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Centre) in the Japanese city of Nagoya was glad to receive blankets and toys for disadvantaged families within their community.

Festive gifts gifts bring warmth (contd.)

Warming their nights

Some 3,000 blankets were sent to the Dhaka Project, run by Cabin Crew Maria Conceicao. Galvanising her army of dedicated volunteers, Maria drove her truck a few kilometres outside the Bangladeshi capital to the village of Sripur to deliver the blankets to residents living in mud huts, with wooden pallets for beds.

The village elders had already organised the men, women and children into queues to receive the blankets, enabling the team to hand out 2,000 blankets in less than two hours. They then drove off to the next village to deliver the remaining 1,000.



A blanket for each person.



Welcome gifts in India

A consignment of 1,000 blankets and 4,000 soft toys was delivered to children cared for by the Indian NGO Mercy Homes. Abandoned children, orphans and those whose sole parent are unable to take

Now for some fun!



care of them, live in the safe environment of the homes which house up to 10 children each. Of the 65 Mercy Homes, two care for mentally challenged individuals and the elderly who have found themselves homeless.



Mater Hospital. Over 10,000 babies are born each year in Kenya with a congenital heart defect, yet there is no dedicated congenital heart programme to treat them. Lacking access to modern medical cardiac care, many of these children fail to live past their early childhood years.

Donate your Skywards Miles

The foundation has a bank of donated Skywards Miles, ready to exchange for Emirates Airline tickets to transport volunteers working on humanitarian missions around the world.

If you are a Skywards member and would like to donate some of your Miles, log onto www.skywards.com and select Donate Miles from the Earn and Spend drop-down menu on the top bar of the website. Donations can be made in multiple units of 2,500 Skywards Miles.

Paediatric heart surgery in Kenya

Tickets exchanged for Miles are flying a medical team of eight - a paediatric heart surgeon, doctors and nurses - from the US to the Kenyan capital, Nairobi in April, to perform heart surgeries at The



The volunteers, working with Take Heart Association Project (THAP) of Kensington, Maryland, will also carry out diagnostic work for a number of additional children, plus provide training to medical personnel in Kenya. On their last week-long medical mission in June 2007, eight children were selected for surgeries and twelve children for interventional catheterisation. The focus of each mission is not only to provide care for these children but to continue to provide education and training on all levels. Medical equipment and materials are brought by the team and given to the hospital to support them in their care for the children.