



April 2020

Dear Friends,

Not an hour goes by that we here at World's Children don't wonder how you, our wonderful sponsors and donors, are doing. We truly hope you are taking every precaution and you will remain free of this terrible new virus.

**We know that you are worried about the children you support.** Although we can't provide information about every child – at least not yet – we wanted to tell you as much as we know about their general situation.

Fearing that solid medical **information about the coronavirus** might not be as available in India, Ethiopia and Guatemala as it is here in the U.S., we took steps to provide all the orphanages with the best information we could find. We have sent out two emails to all the homes telling them what we learned from the Centers for Disease Control and other infectious disease agencies. We also provided funds to buy more soap.


We received many emails back from the home administrators thanking us for sending the information and asking us to let the sponsors know what they were doing to protect the children. On the back of this letter we've copied a few of the comments we received. India is in complete lockdown as I write this. Schools have closed and the government told the orphanages to send children away to stay with relatives for the duration of the lockdown. Of course, many of the children either don't have any relatives or they would be in danger if they stayed with their relatives. In Ethiopia they have very few cases of coronavirus but are dealing with a massive locust invasion.

Just as millions of families in America are dealing with bored children who must stay home because schools are closed, so in the orphanages they are dealing with 30 and 40 children who cannot go anywhere.

I feel I must be honest with you, however. We are concerned about the health of the children going forward. When there are that many children all living, playing and sleeping together, all it would take is for one child or adult to get coronavirus and it would sweep through the orphanage. The five homes for HIV-affected children are especially concerning to us. They already have compromised immune systems and a virus like this could be devastating.

It is entirely possible we may be asked to pay for medical treatment or hospitalization, possibly even funeral expenses for the children. We do have some reserves because many of you have donated generously to the greatest need category. And we have a small Healthy Child Fund. If any of you are moved to donate to either of those emergency funds, we will be very grateful and it will allow us to be prepared for the worst. We all hope that will not be the case, of course. Be assured that we will keep you informed about the children, including the children that each of you sponsor, as soon as we get news about them. In the meantime, **please take care of yourselves and your loved ones and let us know how you are doing.**

With love and blessings,

  
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## Latest News from the Administrators

“Every day children are offering special prayers for GOD'S mercy to take away the coronavirus and save the world.” –Sister Nirmala, **Sister Seline's Memorial Home for Children** (for HIV-affected children)

“We allowed only the children who have parents to leave Nambikkai Illam. Others are staying in our home. We provide proper arrangements such as hot water, fresh cooking rice and vegetables, orange, guavas, Indian goose berry, etc. During the days they watch animal movies and sing.” –Sister Stella, **Nambikkai Illam**

“Really we are worried about how the situation will be here with the society. How are you all doing? We are praying for you all to be safe. Thank you so much for coming in contact very often. We are earnestly praying for the stop of the epidemic. You take care of your health and stay safe.” –Sister Mary Imelda, **Bethel Orphanage**

“Here the government is very strict not allowing anyone to be out and contacting others. If the police see anyone out roaming, they are doing lathi charge (beating with a bamboo stick) and so people are afraid. We watch the news along with the children knowing the facts of the spread of coronavirus in the neighbourhood, in the country and world at large. Children are provided with masks and sanitizers, etc. Here we have in morning one hour of study, computer education, relax, play, reading and view news, library hour, etc.” – Sister Celine, **Sneha Sadan**

“We are all doing good by the grace of God. The situation here in remote villages is good when compared to metro cities and some big towns in India. Our government has imposed strict complete lock down till April 14. We are taking care of our children though few parents voluntarily came and took their children home. Hope you all and all the dear sponsors are fine. I like the concept of washing hands "by singing Happy Birthday song twice" 😊. We will definitely follow all the precautions and instructions.” –Pearl Sunder Raj, **Methodist Boarding Home for Boys and Girls**

“I do appreciate and thank you for taking lot of interest in our hostel children. At present we have only 14 children in our hostel. Rest all have gone home either to their relatives or parents. Here government is taking lot of precautions. They are not allowing us to go even to the neighbors' house. No guests should be entertained, if so 1000 rupees fine (\$13). We are praying for entire world.” –Sister Lourdu Mary, **Nithya Sahaya Matha**

“We still don't hear of a case in Gondar but we are trying to do everything to secure and protect our children in advance. We tried to provide all the necessary sanitation materials, medicines and food items. And we are working to provide training to our caregivers and children on how to protect themselves from this pandemic. The desert locust swarm hit Ethiopia and it threatens the agriculture production. So, we already started feeling its negative impact because the prices of agricultural products are rising day by day.” –Tsion Alemayehu, **Bridge of Hope Children's Village**

“Thank God we have not had any cases of coronavirus in the town, least of all in the boarding school. Classes were soon suspended and we were quarantined, so we have had no difficulties so far.” –Sister Rosa Maria, **Quiche Indian Mission**



## Awareness

**World's Children donors provided a laptop computer, projector, and screen to help educate children about coronavirus. Your kindness in action is helping to save lives.**

## Staying Healthy with Clean Hands

We researched the best information we could find about the coronavirus, its symptoms, treatment and **how to avoid it**. We emailed that material along with fact sheets to every home. We also funded the purchase of **extra soap**.



## Please Give to the Healthy Child Fund

**Donations will be used for prevention of the virus and medical emergencies for the children and administrators due to COVID-19.**

*The photos show children from the orphanages we support. Above the girls are holding bars of soap funded by WC donors. Below you see children using proper handwashing technique.*





## Once they were vulnerable children— now they are trained nurses helping coronavirus patients



Shravani (left) and Beni (right) are finishing their nursing degrees. Shravani's father died while she was earning her degree, and a WC sponsor stepped in to help her finish. Beni has had the same sponsor since she was 10 years old. Her father abandoned his family and Beni's mother brought her and her two brothers to Happy Home for Children.



*"I shall never forget your loving heart and generosity in my life." —Beni*  
*"I am proud to say I am a nurse. I like this job to serve the ill patients and to improve their health." —Shravani*

### You supported 276 students in 2019. 78 will graduate in 2020.

#### Pending Grads —78 in 2020

- ♦ 10 are getting Master's degrees
- ♦ 50 are getting Bachelor's degrees
- ♦ 18 are getting a professional diploma or certificate

#### Continuing Students —198

These student will graduate in future years.

*Students like Beni and Shravani have overcome huge obstacles in their lives. Let's help as many children as we can finish college.*

#### Breakdown of Grads by Profession

- ♦ 18 will become nurses
- ♦ 17 will become teachers
- ♦ 15 will become engineers
- ♦ 9 will become scientists
- ♦ 8 will become bankers or accountants
- ♦ 4 will become computer programmers
- ♦ 2 will get their Master's of business administration
- ♦ 5 will become professionals in other fields (mechanic, librarian, beautician, catering, medical imaging)

#### Note

We are giving regular weekly updates through e-news. You can sign-up on the footer of our website or email us at [info@worldschildren.org](mailto:info@worldschildren.org). During these critical times, we want to keep you connected to the children.