



April Good Deeds (and the kids discovered Zoom!)

So far, Mysore has avoided a surge in Covid 19 cases (less than 80 to date). The city has been effectively shut off from outsiders, and the police are enforcing very strict movement rules. Most people wear masks (mandatory as of May 1), and people will be fined for spitting in public.

Our kids have been in our compound since mid-March, their daily routine is keeping them busy. Everyone is healthy. No outsiders are allowed inside.

We even had to strongly insist that the district child welfare officials NOT come when they wanted to visit us last week. Instead, we sent them videos and photos to assure them that our kids are taken care of.

The lockdown in Mysore has made it very hard for many to feed their families and themselves. The poor typically buy from local vendors who sell their goods on pushcarts and on sidewalks. These sources of food have been shut down.

In this newsletter, we thought we'd highlight a few people in our Operation Shanti community who have been proactively helping us and others in whatever way they can.

Be hopeful. Laugh a lot. Wear a mask.



Kids cooking lessons on Zoom with Anu!

Some of you may know Anuradha Ganesh, our CEO in India and owner/head cook of Anu's Cafe in Mysore, an eatery for the yoga crowd.

During the lockdown, Anu has moved her cooking class to Zoom and, even more fun, she's been teaching our boys and girls how to cook during weekly virtual cooking classes!

[Watch the virtual cooking class with Anu Aunty](#) and some of our girls on how to make sambar (curry) and give it a try in your kitchen!



learning how to make sambar (curry) powder



See the kids on Zoom with Stan on May 3

Stan Woodman is an ashtanga yoga teacher who—like many other teachers and instructors—has moved his daily yoga classes online.

On Sunday, May 3, he'll be hosting a benefit class for Operation Shanti.

From Stan:

"Donate through GoFundMe to attend our Zoom Yoga Benefit Class on Sunday, May 3rd from 9-10:30am ET. The children at Operation Shanti will be Zooming in on the Benefit Class as well, a very special time to connect with them."

To sign up for the May 3 class: <https://www.allthingsashtanga.com/ashtanga---seva>

To donate to Stan's fundraiser for Operation Shanti via GoFundMe: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/operation-shanti-feed-our-brothers-and-sisters>



(just a photo of five cute kids in 2010 -- and that's sowmya, 2nd from right, who you just saw in the cooking class video!)



Kavita, one of our moms, receiving a parcel of groceries

Helping the poor in their hometown

One of our sponsors currently living and working in Seattle and who grew up in India has teamed up other NRI friends in the U.S. to feed the destitute in their hometown of Mysore.

All of the funds raised go to buying groceries and serving hot meals to those in desperate situations. They focus on migrant workers and people without ration cards (below-poverty-line ID cards that get the holder discounted or free groceries from the government), as well as old-age homes in the area.

It doesn't cost a lot—\$8.00 provides basic ingredients to feed a family for two to three weeks.

We're grateful to Uday and Vivek and their childhood friends in Mysore who are spearheading this effort. They've distributed much needed groceries to our destitute mothers and some of our HIV+ orphans throughout the city. Thank you.

If you'd like to donate to their efforts, you can do so here -- > <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-for-india-in-the-battle-against-covid19>



Stitching homemade masks

Thanks to the mother of one of our kids who made a bunch of masks for our kids and staff (and their families), and a handful of street kids!

Manjula, a single mother, lives in one of the slum areas in Mysore. One of her daughters lives with us and, when school starts again, she'll be studying commerce in 12th grade.

Manjula's life has been similar to many of the other mothers of our kids; they have suffered a lot but only want their kids to have better lives.



Fun

In April, our girls finished a 3000-piece puzzle. Then they finished a 2000-piece puzzle.

(Now we're waiting for Amazon.in to list some jigsaw puzzles for order.)

The boys have no interest in jigsaw puzzles ("boring")— their world revolves around cricket and carom, and occasionally football (soccer).

A few of our kids need sponsors, mom Manjula needs a new sewing machine, and more people need food. If you'd like to donate through our website, here's the link.

[Donate](#)

#StayHomeSaveLives

Peace,

The Operation Shanti Team



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