

April 2012

Dear Friends,

We are now in the final month of instruction for the 2011-2012 school year. We are getting ready to administer final exams at the end of this month and distribute report cards the first week of May. It's hard for me to believe that I have been back in California for nearly a year already! I am very proud of my teachers for their hard work and dedication in keeping the school running well in my absence.

### Our 2012 Graduates!



*Kaushal, Kavita, Manish, Aradhna, Chandra Shekhar, Deepa, Gopalji, Sandhya, Abhimanyu*

This will be the first year that Asha Deep Vidyashram will have a graduating class. Heretofore, each year we have always added another grade to the school so that the children in our highest class have just continued at Asha Deep. But, in my absence, the teachers have decided to run the school through 8th grade only. This is a common stopping point for schools (and even students) in India. So, our current 8th grade students will be graduating and moving on to other local high schools. While our graduates will be attending other schools next year, we will continue to offer the support they need to follow their dreams.

- To attend Asha Deep Vidyashram, these students paid 50 rupees per month (just over \$1). High school fees will be closer to 1500 rupees per month (\$33). **We are seeking sponsors willing to pay \$25 per month to help offset the increased cost of education.**
- Most Indian high school students attend after-school classes to support their studies. In order to help our students compete and succeed, **any child who receives financial aid from Asha Deep Vidyashram will be required to attend after-school tuition which we will provide at our facility.** Our aim is to provide quality, personalized, after-school help.

- Of course, all of our former students will remain a part of our school family and will have the **love and support** they have always enjoyed as well as access to **personal and academic counseling** as needed.

If you would like to read more about these students, you may open the attached .pdf file. It includes a photos and short paragraph each child wrote about him or herself, their experience at Asha Deep, and their plans for the future.

We are hoping that eight people (We already have one sponsor!) will step forward to help with their educational expenses (\$25/month). If you would be interested in being a sponsor, please write me and let me know which child you would like to sponsor (except Manish -- he's taken!). I can give you an email address so that you will be able to communicate with them throughout the year.

Thank you for the support you have been in helping us complete our mission of providing hope through education.

love, Connie