

# Sewa Ashram

NEWSLETTER  
OCTOBER  
2008



## We greet you this month from a very green post-monsoon Sewa Ashram...

After two years of "dry monsoon" (meaning we got very little rain) this year was a real monsoon, with heavy rains for several weeks. The land so desperately needed it and the Ashram and area around it looks green, fresh and renewed.

We have a good team of foreign staff here at the moment and our ex-patient

staff is growing and maturing. They are starting to take on more responsibility and the Ashram runs very well. Two former patients in particular, Deepak and Sarin, who have taken on leadership roles among the staff.

Deepak is now our ex-patient staff coordinator. He came to the Ashram almost a year ago with a severe wound on his

leg. He also has diabetes and the wound is taking a very long time to heal. He oversees the daily work for all the staff with his warm and humble manner. One day the patients might be weeding the garden, the next they might be working on a craft activity. The staff has been busy making our muddy fish pond into a proper cement-lined pool. Theoretically, it will be

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Deepak

for fish, but the temptation to jump in and cool off will be very great next summer! And our rabbit fence is expanding to two areas on the Ashram side and one section in the Kids House / Old Man / Women's House. So far we have had 5 new baby rabbits, but we know that more will be on the way.

Sharin is responsible for all the kitchen operations. He came to the Ashram with spinal TB and spent 10 months flat on his back in the clinical ward and TB ward. He was able to start walking in February and has become a faithful Ashram staff member. Sharin goes to the markets several times each week looking for the best fruits and vegetables at the best prices. He has updated our menus and diligently provides special food as needed for our patients. It's beautiful to see people working together as a team.

As a community serving the destitute, we share our lives with broken people who suffer greatly from the injustice of poverty. The simple daily acts of loving and caring for those in our midst can consume all our energy and we forget about the big picture. It is easy to lose our sense of perspective about the larger forces that shape our world and the root causes of their suffering. But it's important to always be asking questions: What consequences does the current economic crisis in the US have for each of us? How do we as an organization respond to some of the dramatic changes that are happening in our world? And more importantly, what can we do to prepare for what is coming next?

In seeking to understand these issues and the factors that will shape our future, our staff has started watching documentary films together and discussing them. In recent weeks we have viewed movies about the rising oil crisis (Crude Awakening) and climate change (An Inconvenient Truth, 11th Hour, etc.). Both of these modern problems have dire implications for all of us but more so for the poor and powerless. Even the current economic crisis is an issue of importance. Greed has run amok, serious consequences are and will continue to emerge for the global economy and at the end of the day, the powerless will suffer the most.

Now more than ever, those who seek to follow Jesus need to embrace the solution He gave us: to treat and love others as we would like to be treated and loved.

We harbor no illusions that our small community can effect a global change, but we can change ourselves and that is what Sewa Ashram is all about. Again and again, we hear volunteers and patients talk about their time at Sewa Ashram as a place where they learn something, and receive more than they give. And their lives were changed as a result.

Ultimately, our lives are valued not in the superficial, material things of this world, but in that which is unseen: love, truth, compassion. All core values that are a result of change on a soul level.



Sharin

Michelle Obama put it well:

*"We have lost the understanding that in a democracy, we have a mutual obligation to one another – that we cannot measure the greatness of our society by the strongest and richest of us, but we have to measure our greatness by the least of these. That we have to compromise and sacrifice for one another in order to get things done. That before we can work on the problems, we have to fix our souls. Our souls are broken in this nation."*

Thank you for sharing this journey with us.

With love and blessings from the whole community.

Your Sewa Ashram Team

## For our friends in Australia:

We are pleased to offer a tax-deductible donation option through Opportunity International.

Opportunity International is a leading micro-finance organization. Over the last year, we have been sharing strategies and ideas about how to help the destitute. Our thanks to OI for providing this service to our donors in Australia.

Donations can be sent to:  
Opportunity International  
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Level 4  
220 George St  
Sydney  
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Please mark your donation "Sewa Ashram"

Sewa Ashram provides free medical care for sick and destitute people for approximately \$4 US per patient per day. We depend on your support to continue to care for the least of these. Thank you for your opening your heart to your brothers and sisters in India .

Online donation is available on our website: [www.sewa-ashram.org](http://www.sewa-ashram.org)

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