



Agra children enjoying a day out at the Taj Mahal with Robin.



Reflecting on my recent trip to India, I was pleasantly surprised to see how dedicated our partners have been this year and their focus on our vision of giving hope and a home to orphaned children. They are even more encouraged as the sponsorship grows and we are able to take in more children making an even bigger difference. We took the children to the eye doctor, sat in on their English lessons and took them on an excursion to the Taj Mahal just a 20 minute ride in a motorised rickshaw. I also had discussions with the Robin's Nest Committee regarding the purpose-built orphanage we propose to build in the New Year. We discussed sustainability and outreach projects for the home. Positive reports from the village people on the progress of the children are an indication that we are moving toward our goals

On arrival in Jhansi I was amazed to see 15 new orphaned children from local villages that have been left to fend for themselves. As I sat next to the doctor during our routine visit, my heart was saddened as he physically showed me the symptoms of scurvy, scabies, TB, cholera, malnutrition, ugly boils, and other terrible signs of poverty and neglect. This experience motivated me to see to an urgent need to get them settled into their new home by gathering, beds, linens, tailor fitted clothing, school uniforms, shoes and stationery etc. We renovated a new room by whitewashing the walls, repairing windows, measuring for curtains, installing fans and arranged for a security wall, a shower block and toilet block to be renovated. For Christmas we had enough donations to purchase 6 bikes to share. You can imagine the smiles on their faces! During our committee meeting we discussed starting our sustainability sewing project for our orphaned girls, local widows and single mums. So far, we have received enough funds to purchase 6 sewing machines for this project.

Robin welcomes 15 new orphans from local villages to Jhansi Robin's Nest.



The first purpose built home nearly finished. How exciting for the children after 7 years of waiting!



A highlight of 2009 was when an Australian building team, including Grahame Byrnes co-founder of Robins Nest, spent three weeks in Bungoma, Kenya constructing the first purpose built home for the orphaned children. By Christmas time, the robins were officially living on our new land called the "Shamba".

Another high point within our outreach project, was when we were able to sponsor a little blind girl Lydia by enrolling her into a proper blind school where she is learning Braille, has lovely teachers, and her own bed with a mosquito net. She is much happier now. It's exciting to see Lydia blossom and smile.

We have had an exceptional number of volunteers visit and help our children this year which was wonderful! Many thanks to those who have kindly donated funds from afar!

A special thanks to ICARE for their administration and support, to Jan Suffolk for overseeing the Kenyan building project and our many volunteers who spend tireless hours making this vital work possible. Because of your assistance and generosity we were able to help 67 otherwise destitute children and employ 17 people and up to 30 builders and tradesmen living in poverty who would otherwise never have had an opportunity for a brighter future.

Blessings,

*Robin and Grahame  
and our Robin's Nest Team.*