

Pumpkin House

F A M I L Y N E W S

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After five years, Pumpkin House provides family-style life for 67 children

After five years of operation, the Pumpkin House for Children Trust is providing a family-style living environment for 67 children in Vidynagar near Meherabad, India. Thirty-six of the residents are boys, and 31 are girls. Thirty-two of the children are orphans, 19 are semi-orphaned, and the remaining 16 have parents who are either divorced, separated or nomadic. Pumpkin House plans to cap the number of children at 75.

Pumpkin House was established by an independent trust serving children from all faith traditions. The children are from various locations in western India, and they receive bed, board, education and regular medical care.

Pumpkin House recently completed an expansion of its residential space by adding two large halls onto the current facility. The trustees have purchased a plot of land immediately adjoining the current facility for additional future expansion of residential space. The trust has also made a down payment on a tract of land for a new school and hopes to begin construction in the near future.

Pumpkin House has already established the Divine Grace School for its young children. Children higher than second grade are attending nearby schools appropriate to their interests and aptitudes. All children are learning to read and write in English. Pumpkin House recently sponsored a successful environmental fair involving its children with students from other nearby schools.

As its responsibilities evolve, Pumpkin House has increasing financial needs. Donors in India and other countries are providing support. One organization, Pumpkin House USA (PH-USA), contributes a quarterly financial stipend to the orphanage along with periodic gifts, such as a \$5,000 donation toward the purchase of land for the new school. PH-USA is a nonprofit organization incorporated in the State



Several children from Pumpkin House play during an Environmental Fair sponsored by orphanage last February.

of Georgia, with 501(c)(3) status to accept tax-deductible donations.

Individuals wanting to learn more about Pumpkin House's activities can write Mrs. Pillai at stella46@pumpkinhouse.in or contact PH-USA officer Charlie Gardner by e-mail at arangaon@aol.com or by phone at 706-546-6492. Information about the Pumpkin House project is also available at www.pumpkinhouse.org or www.pumpkinhouse.in on the web.

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Scenes from Pumpkin House for Children: February 2010



In February, 2010, three members of the Pumpkin House USA board of directors got a first-hand look at the Pumpkin House for Children. During a visit to Meherabad, India, board members Charlie Gard'ner, Mark Hodges, and Robin Shearer made a half-dozen visits to the orphanage, often joined by other Western visitors from the nearby Meher Pilgrim Retreat.

Gard'ner, Hodges and Shearer had the opportunity to tour Pumpkin House, observe an environmental fair sponsored by the orphanage, and discuss Pumpkin House's plans for the future with director Mrs. Stella Manuel Pillai. They also met each child and joined them in group dancing and singing.

They were all very pleased with the high standard of care the children are receiving, the quality of their school work, and the happiness pervading daily life at Pumpkin House.

