

Faith-based Charity 'Hope Abides' Reaches Out to India

By LISA TSERING
India-West Staff Reporter

Brent Adams wants to help India's underprivileged children find homes, medical care and educational opportunities, and he has created a plan to leverage the best work of India's orphanages with resources from the West.

Adams is the president of Hope Abides, a new faith-based charity that is now evaluating a list of 50 orphanages there to best target the charity's funding and organizational experience. "While the founders of Hope Abides are Christian we know that poverty, hunger and illiteracy are not limited by gender or religion. Accordingly, we help children regardless of their gender or religious background and seek help from all regardless of nationality or faith," reads a statement on the organization's Web site.

Adams, who is based in Elk Grove, Calif., became committed to helping children when he accompanied some Northern Californian doctors on a missionary trip to Guatemala in 2006.

"One morning a group of about two dozen Mayans came into the city to get medical treatment from the doctors," he explained in an

e-mail interview. "By the time the afternoon arrived, some of the Mayan children were showing signs of distress — flushed faces and such. At first the doctors thought they might be sick but we quickly discovered the problem was that the children had nothing to drink since they arrived.

"There was a little market next door to our location selling five gallon bottles of water for about \$2. That meant that amongst the approximately two dozen members of that group, they did not have \$2 to buy their kids water.

"I was reminded of the face of true poverty, but this time through the eyes of an adult. Needless to say we quickly got the water for them, but that event has replayed itself in my mind many times since then.

"During this same time frame, my wife and I developed an affection for Bollywood movies and made friends with several Indian Americans through our jobs. Due to all these factors and knowing that India has more orphans than any other country, and that a huge percentage of the population lives on less than \$1.25 a day, and that much of the population speaks English, we decided to focus our efforts on India."

Adams is currently in the fund-



Brent Adams, founder of Hope Abides, and his wife, Marie-France Adams. The Adamses created the new faith-based charity to address a range of children's needs in India.

ing stage, and has gotten Hope Abides certified as an IRS 501(c) 3 public charity. It will work primarily around Pune and Amritsar to start.

"First, we will partner with existing well-run orphanages in India to fund some of their priority needs," he told **India-West**. "In return we will ask that they allow us to learn about their challenges and best practices as well as about governmental and societal requirements for operating successfully in India."

During 2011-2012, Adams and his team, which includes in-country advisers in Pune and Amritsar, will determine the number of charities they can effectively partner with, and will then "take our lessons learned from the previous phase and use that knowledge to assist struggling orphanages with funding, operational efficiencies, government filings, outreach and other factors," he said.

Adams aims to keep costs low.

"To date all administrative work has been performed by volunteers and all overhead has been paid for out of the private funds of the directors or through product donations. The only exception to that has been the filing fees associated with formation of the charity. Our long-term goal is to keep admin

productive adults," he explained. "In order to do that we believe we have to provide for all the needs of a child — food and education and medical care, etc. We think our approach will accomplish that.

"Another reason is that we believe that there can be a benefit by establishing mentorship and

interning opportunities between well-run and struggling orphanages in India. We want to explore that possibility.

"It also helps that a little bit of money goes long way there. \$3 can buy medical insurance for a month, \$200 can hire a teacher. Some of our Indian friends are now part of Hope Abides and others have helped us with networking opportunities and information."

For more information, or to donate to the charity online using PayPal, visit www.hopeabides.org.

"...Knowing that India has more orphans than any other country, and that a huge percentage of the population lives on less than \$1.25 a day, and that much of the population speaks English, we decided to focus our efforts on India."

— Brent Adams

costs between 5 and 10 percent," he said.

India-West asked why Adams wanted to go through the effort of creating a new charity when there were already several top-notch organizations doing work in the country, such as CRY, Asha for Education and Akshaya Patra.

"One reason is that we want the children to become independent,

Dhillon Elected Chair of San Francisco Republican Party

[Cont. from page A2]

who unsuccessfully ran for state Assembly in 2008, against popular Democrat Tom Ammiano.

In an earlier story (**I-W**, Dec. 3), outgoing Republican party chair Howard Epstein noted Dhillon's competence and her no-nonsense

approach to politics.

Dhillon founded the San Francisco, Calif.-based Dhillon and Smith in 2006, and specializes in business disputes, civil rights, election and campaign law, intellectual property, and water and land usage issues.

Law Office of

ALLAN A. SAMSON, J.D., Ph.D.

Former Lecturer: U.C. Berkeley Law School, Visiting Lecturer: Bombay University



- **BUSINESS • BANKRUPTCY**
- **PERSONAL INJURY & AUTO ACCIDENTS**
Attorney's fee is only 30% for settlement; please compare this fee with that of other attorneys
- **IMMIGRATION**
*Greencard • Political Asylum • H-1 and L-1 Visas
Deportation Defense • Labor Certification • Work
Authorization Extension of Stay • Student Visas*
- **DIVORCE**
Totally committed to your interests.

One Sutter Street, Ste. 700
San Francisco, CA 94104

(415) 391-4949



Sai Travels

CST#2005484-10

International
Airlines
Travel
Agent
Network

Wholesale prices on most major airlines

Special fares originating India



A great way to fly
SINGAPORE AIRLINES



BRITISH AIRWAYS

CATHAY PACIFIC



Lufthansa

JET AIRWAYS



KOREAN AIR

Tel: (510) 657-1724 • 415-646-0075 or (408) 946-4SAI

39737 Paseo Padre Pkwy., Ste. A3, Fremont, CA 94538 • Fax: (510) 651-3898

E-mail: saitravel@sbcglobal.net

Looking for a full time travel agent • Email Resume - saitravelinc@att.net



The Company You Keep®

Ajay Parikh & Nikesh Parikh

Agents, New York Life Insurance Company

- **Life Insurance**
- **Investments*/Variable Annuities***
- **Retirement Planning**
- **Business Planning**
- **College/Education Funding**
- **Long Term Care Insurance**



Ajay Parikh
CA Insurance Lic# 0672686



Nikesh Parikh CFP®
J. D. LUTCF
CA Insurance Lic# 0F79124

18528 S. Pioneer Blvd, Ste 201.,
Artesia, CA 90701
Bus: 562-403-7100
Fax: 562-403-7101
Res: 714-974-5335
Cell: 714-381-3545

* Ajay Parikh and Nikesh Parikh, Registered Representatives offering Securities through NYLIFE Securities LLC (member FINRA/ SIPC), A Licensed Insurance agency.

www.ajayinsurance.com • anparikh@ft.newyorklife.com