



# hope abides

Hope and Help for Orphans in India

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June 2012

## Who Are We?

**Hope Abides** is a U.S. faith based organization whose mission is to provide help and hope to orphaned and destitute children in India. We help children regardless of their gender or religious background and seek participation from all regardless of nationality or faith.



### Bollywood Night Sacramento Waldorf School

Thanks to all who made the 'Bollywood Night' event a success for both Hope Abides and the SWS Class of 2013. Attendees were treated to great Indian food, Bollywood music and a fashion show. Thanks SWS!!



## Our 1st University Student

Hope Abides is proud to announce that we are sponsoring our first university student, Miss Bobby Babu. She will be graduating March 2013 with a B.Sc. nursing.

Bobby's father passed away when she and her brother were 9 and 7. He was a pastor who suffered a heart attack while in a remote area of north Kerala.

Pastor Babu and his wife Valsa were from a very poor background, therefore Valsa could not afford to raise them by herself.

Since it was difficult for Valsa to care for both children, our partner orphanage, Precious Children, took care of Bobby and Bibin until they finished senior high school. After aging out of the orphanage, they have been living again with their mother although her parents have since passed. Precious Children has continued to help the family including sending Bobby to nursing school. We are financing her last year of studies.

We are told Bobby is a smart student with good character. Congratulations Bobby!!



### Support Our Mission 2nd Annual Fundraiser Dinner!

Saturday September 29th  
5:30 to 8:30

Rancho Cordova City Hall  
Dinner, music and auction

For ticket and media package info click [here](#).

### First Punjabi Charter School in the U.S.

The first ever Punjabi charter school in the United States, the [Sacramento Valley Charter School \(SVCS\)](#), opened in 2011 and has now completed its first year in operation.

Their mission statement commits to 'strong community support', 'a rigorous, standards-based curriculum' and 'an uncompromising commitment to learn, compete and excel'.

California charter schools are independent public schools with rigorous curriculum programs and unique educational approaches. In exchange for operational freedom and



### California Statewide Interfaith Conference

This October 16th and 17th join faith and community leaders in Sacramento for an open discussion about important issues facing our communities and to create understanding between faiths.

<http://www.californiainterfaithconference.org/>



flexibility, they are subject to higher levels of accountability than traditional public schools. Charter schools are tuition-free and open to all students and are meant to offer quality and choice in the public education system.

The school is located in an area with a large Punjabi population with most of them being of the Sikh religion, easily identifiable by the turbans worn by the men. The unique aspect of SVCS is that its formation was spearheaded by many of the local Punjabi leaders in response to issues their children faced at school with bullying, food and diet, as well as social values. They wanted to create a safe loving learning environment for their children that respected their traditions and which had a rigorous curriculum.

The school currently teaches kindergarten through sixth grade with plans to expand to eighth grade for the 2012/2013 school year. They have reached full enrollment with about 90% of the children being Punjabi American. All students take Punjabi lessons in addition to the California Public School curriculum such as English, math and science. The children are fortunate to be instructed in Punjabi by a local university professor, Dr. Amrik Singh. (cont'd to the left)



### SVCS Principal Jane Egashira

#### First Punjabi School cont'd

All the classrooms are new, comfortable, and interestingly, not overly dependent on technology. Principal Egashira has made a decision to limit technology oriented 'teaching aids' such as smart boards and multimedia projectors in favor a more traditional approach that focuses on teacher/student relationships, and rigorous academic expectations and student accountability. As results come in from their first year of standardized testing, the effectiveness of this approach will be evaluated and adjusted. Based on our observations of the school, staff and the principal, we believe that SVCS has a bright and promising future. Thanks to all at SVCS who took time to introduce us to their school!



To sponsor 14 year old Jayasree who is fatherless, click [here](#). Only \$25/mth can help her towards a more secure future.

To sponsor other children or supplies click [here](#).

One time donation to our general fund click [here](#).

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

Questions or comments? E-mail us at [info@hopeabides.org](mailto:info@hopeabides.org) or call 1 916 690-4289 (US)