From my first visit to our partners in India, and throughout subsequent visits, I am always impressed and fulfilled by the joy of the children with whom I am visiting. At first, I thought it might just be my biased perception, but others have had the same observation.

There are a variety of factors that allow most of the children to be so emotionally well-adjusted: a loving, safe environment; protection from a culture with an excessive focus on material ‘riches’; respect for tradition; and much more. However, some of the key ingredients are the bonds and relationships formed with their brothers and sisters with whom they live.

There is a fascinating study presented in a 12 minute TED Talk which I have linked here. It presents findings from a decades long (75 years to be exact) study following the lives of several hundred men and how various factors in their lives impact their happiness and satisfaction. Some of the findings of this study align with what we see with “our kids”.

I encourage you to take a few minutes to watch the video. It might be the best 12 minutes you spend today.

Thanks to my wife Marie for sharing this with me.

Brent Adams, President

Long time Hope Abides benefactor Dr. Nalini Juthani also works with Indian NGO Aids Combat International (ACI) to combat glaucoma. Glaucoma is one of the major causes of blindness in India. It is treatable but often unrecognized. ACI subdivision Nayanam is working to creating awareness about glaucoma and to offer massive screening and treatment. They recently held an open clinic which offered screening and treatment to hundreds, including a 12 day old baby with childhood glaucoma. An operation was performed at Shankar Netralaya Hospital, Chennai to address his condition. The total cost of the surgery was covered by ACI.

Hope Abides was able to play a small role in facilitating this work by helping with the transfer of funds from the U.S. to India. Thanks to Dr. Juthani, Dr. Girish Trivedi of ACI and all who supported this effort. We appreciate the chance to be a part.

Our September 22 fundraiser was a great success attended by about 160 people, one of our largest turnouts ever. Guest of Honor Aarti Naik shared her story from slum girl to Changemaker. She is improving education for dozens of girls in her Mumbai slum area. We were also joined by Founder Michelle Stephens, and her husband Ryan, of Florida based NGO Mahaan Aasha.

The evening’s food was delicious and the musical duet of Shayanti Ghoshal and Ravi Pindiproli was very entertaining. Friends, family members and supporters all helped make the event a great success to ensure a great future for “our kids”. We humbly thank you!

Krishnaveni R, age 12, lives in Tamil Nadu. Her mother ran away in July 2011 and never returned. Her father re-married and has two children with the stepmother. Her stepmother resents Krishnaveni since she is the child from the first marriage. Her father left her in the care of the ashram in May 2013.

Please consider sponsoring Krishnaveni or one of the other children at our website.