



“The Land Down Under was so much fun!”

Children from Udayan Ghar invited to experience school in Australia

Holidays are a time for travel and many children enjoy a trip abroad during summer vacations. But when you talk to **Sheila and Madhuri (names changed)** 11 year olds from Udayan Ghar, Sant Nagar (in Delhi) there is a different gleam in their eyes as they talk of their recent Australian tour. Their trip was different as they were *invited* to Melbourne for an educational experience! They spent 6 weeks at Preshil School, a unique school that is dedicated to developing children holistically. Both the girls have been at Udayan Ghar, Sant Nagar since the last 3 years. They and 11 other young girls are nurtured by their Mentor Moms and care givers in the warmth of a family.

Both the children loved their experience at Preshil especially the unique project of creating a clay tree, no higher than 10cm height and with a minimum of five branches, not exceeding 1cm thickness. “The “engineers” were up to the challenge and the results were amazing,” as the school report tells us!

Madhuri will always remember celebrating her birthday with her Australian school friends and Sheila says “everyday was special. I loved playing soccer. I swam in the Ocean in the icy cold water and literally scared the star fish!”

As Dr. Kiran Modi, Managing Trustee Udayan Care adds, “At Udayan Care, we make every attempt to ensure our children get as much exposure, so that they grow into responsible adults. And very fortunately, our committed supporters, from varied walks of life make it possible. This time it was our long term volunteer who arranged everything, from the tickets, to the children’s stay with an Australian family, to having Preshil School have the children attend school with them for 6 weeks! Since the girls have returned, we can already see a huge leap in their confidence and the manner in which they conduct themselves“

Our volunteers Kristen Benson (International Volunteer Coordinator, Udayan Care), Lisa & Richard Lloyd (the host family) and Julie Lantry (Chair, Udayan Care Australia), the children in Preshil School, also felt enriched, as they were exposed to a different culture. The efforts of our volunteers in Australia only go to prove that anybody, anywhere, anytime can make a difference.

About Udayan Care:

Udayan Care is a registered Public Charitable Trust that nurtures children who are orphaned or abandoned at Udayan Ghars. Udayan Care also supports higher education of girls and enables communities to train themselves in vocations, by engaging socially committed individuals, who provide a transformative, nurturing and mentoring environment, to help them realize their full potential. With a vision “To Regenerate the Rhythm of Life of the Disadvantaged”, in 17 years, Udayan Care initiatives have transformed the lives of over 7500 children and youth in 7 states of India. **For any queries please contact: Meenakshi Kohli or Dr. Kiran Modi** Ph. 9811600941 / 9810509654 or – 9810132736). Website: www.udayancare.org
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Some Facts :

- UNICEF reported that the number of street children in India was as high as 18 million in 2000.
- Estimates claim that Delhi’s streets house between 100,000 and 500,000 of these children.
- Over 25 million children in India are orphaned
- Less than half of India’s children between the age of 6 and 14 years go to school
- More than 50% of India’s children are malnourished

Udayan Care’s Impact :

- 224 children nurtured to be responsible, capable young girls and boys by committed Mentor Parents
- Education in the best schools
- Emphasis on co-curricular activities and academics

About Udayan Ghars

Each Udayan Ghar is a home that operates on a unique model called LIFE (Living in Family Environment) where lifetime volunteer mentor parents run the home with about 15 children. Ghars are located in popular neighbourhoods and children attend private, English medium schools, and participate in vocational training and mental health programmes that help integrate them into a safe and productive community. The children in the Homes are between the ages of 6 and 20 years. Today, we cater to about 169 children in 12 homes, where they receive the necessary mental, physical and emotional care to overcome earlier trauma and reach their full potential. Children from Ghars have gone on to lead healthy lives and remain tied to their Udayan families.



Starting with 3 children in 1 Ghar in 1996, Udayan Care currently manages 12 homes in Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and UP; out of which 5 are in Delhi, 3 in NOIDA, 1 Ghar each in Gurgaon, Ghaziabad, Jaipur, and Kurukshetra.

Children have access to play areas where they play cricket, football and cycle. Children regularly attend educational and recreational workshops. Conscious efforts are made for children to participate in seasonal camps that offer sports, games, songs and create a sense of belonging. The children enjoy celebrations on birthdays and holidays!

Transforming Lives Permanently

Madhuri and Sheila came to Sant Nagar from two other organisation 3 years ago. As is so often with these children, very little is known about their lives before Udayan Care.

They were home tutored at Udayan Ghar, Sant Nagar for several months before getting admission into one of Delhi's most prestigious schools, which is supporting both girls fully.

Neither of them could speak English before coming to Udayan Care but now are completely fluent. Madhuri is an excellent all-round sportsperson. She is in her school football team, is great at athletics and is very proud of the cup she won as the best athlete of the Junior School in 2011. She has always been shy and so it was with such pleasure that we learned from her Australian hosts that she was singing and dancing around their house.

Sheila is always the leader of her group. She loves dressing up and playing typical "girlie" games.