



# THE KEY

A TEACHERS FOR TOMORROW NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 Number 2, September 1997

## The President's Message

*Janet Haines*

An exciting new opportunity for Teachers for Tomorrow presented itself in the form of a chance question. Early last spring the subject of new programs came up during a casual conversation with Mr. David Babu, Operations Manager at Christ's Home, a residential facility for children in nearby Warminster.

"Besides Romania," asked Mr. Babu, "where in the world would Teachers for Tomorrow like to have a program?"

"We would be interested in a place where we can offer children who have limited resources hope for a brighter future through education," we replied.

"Then, why not consider India?" suggested Mr. Babu, who himself is originally from India.

Indeed, why not, we thought, and with that the seed for a new program was planted. We asked for more information. India is an extremely diverse country, and we discovered that the number and scope of its indigenous languages are a partial statement of that diversity. These include 18 officially recognized and more than 1600 minor languages and dialects. English and Hindi are widely used throughout the entire subcontinent, but neither is a "native" language and must be acquired through education. Knowledge of English is desired because it permits its users to go anywhere in India and literally opens doors to all of the world.

In the weeks following our conversation, Mr. Babu put us in touch with the directors of the Jeevan Jyothi Public School in Hyderabad, India. This institution, begun three years ago by a small group of Indian Christians, was founded to educate poor children living on the outskirts of the city. Before the school was built there was no other school in the area for needy children to attend. Today there are nearly three hundred students at the Jeevan Jyothi School, kindergarten through grade 10, from Christian, Hindu and Muslim families.

We quickly realized that the mission of this special school closely matched our own and eagerly made plans to do a pilot program for three weeks in July 1997. The school year in India begins in June and runs through April, so regular classes are in session in July, making our visit there timely.

As I write this, I am happy to report that the pilot program was an outstanding success. Four Teachers for Tomorrow



*David Babu, Bill Haines, Mrs. Roopkala, Thom Switzer, Janet Haines, Keith Costigan*

representatives, accompanied by Mr. David Babu, were graciously received by students and staff of the Jeevan Jyothi School. The children quickly warmed to the visitors and soon were shouting new songs in English and using the language creatively to do such activities as calculate the time differences between India and other parts of the world.

We look forward to working with the faculty and students of the Jeevan Jyothi School in the future. Plans are under way to broaden our involvement in the summer of 1998. Based on the school's curriculum, faculty members will provide suggestions on what the Americans should teach, and our teachers will develop lessons and collect materials necessary to do the job.

Teachers for Tomorrow feels fortunate to be able to expand our program to include children in India. It is our desire to work in close cooperation with the Jeevan Jyothi Public School to provide a strong education coupled with an understanding of English to the poor children of Hyderabad in order to provide greater future opportunities for them. ✍

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## Wheat First Butcher Singer Awards Grant

Teachers for Tomorrow was honored to receive a \$2100 grant from the Wheat First Butcher Singer Foundation. The grant was used to fund the costs of an educational exchange program that brought three Romanian educators to the United States at the invitation of Teachers for Tomorrow. The grant was presented to Janet Haines, President of Teachers for Tomorrow, by David Werrett, Vice President and Manager of the firm's Doylestown office. ✍

## Fund-raiser a Success

Teachers for Tomorrow's first fund-raiser was held Sunday, March 9, 1997 at the home of board members Kenneth and Georgiana Coles. Over 125 people came to the cocktail party and enjoyed delicious hors d'oeuvres catered by Fivi, Maria and Vali Delapeta, Bucks County residents who are native Romanians, and Jack Skudris of Memorable Affairs. Those who attended had the opportunity to talk to three educators visiting from Romania. During the evening baskets were filled with donated school supplies that included paper, pencils, pens, glue sticks, crayons and scissors. These supplies will be used by children attending our Teachers for Tomorrow summer classes. Plans are already being made for a similar event to be held on Sunday, March 8, 1998, so mark your calendar for that date. 🗝



*Liliana Oniceag, David Werrett, Janet Haines, Nicolae Cristea and Stefan Itul enjoy our fund-raising event.*

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## United Way Reminder

Teachers for Tomorrow has embarked on a very ambitious program to be conducted in both Asia and Europe. The financial help of many people, companies and civic organizations have contributed to our ongoing success. An easy method to help support Teachers for Tomorrow is to select the organization as a designated donor on your United Way pledge card. It is an easy and convenient way to help the children in our program. 🗝

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## Janet Haines Named Ambassador of Bucks County

In recognition of her prominence and philanthropy across the seas, the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce selected Janet Haines, President of Teachers for Tomorrow, as the recipient of the 1997 Ambassador of Bucks County Award. The presentation was made at the Lifetime Achievement Awards Ceremonies held March 22, 1997. The award was made in recognition of distinguished personal endeavor, and outstanding contributions to humankind. The awards letter called specific attention to her "initial one-teacher effort in Romania in 1991 that has led to an exemplary international organization dedicated to education." 🗝



*Janet Haines is designated Ambassador of Bucks County at the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement Awards Dinner.*

## Visitors from Romania

On February 22, 1997 three educators who have helped to make our program in Romania the success that it has been, arrived in the United States. The three, Stefan Itul, principal of the high school in Hateg, Nicolae Cristea, principal of the special school at the neuropsychiatric hospital for children at Paclisa, and Liliana Oniceag, a translator and teacher at Paclisa, came as part of an educational exchange program. The program was planned and hosted by Teachers for Tomorrow and funded through a grant from the Wheat First Butcher Singer Foundation.

While here the Romanians visited a number of schools to gain knowledge of American teaching methods, curriculum development and administration. The exchange provided them with the opportunity to see firsthand how American school systems operate and to share insights about the Romanian educational system.

In addition to their activities in the schools, the visitors also attended meetings of the Doylestown Rotary Club, the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce, and were taken by Wheat First Butcher Singer on a tour of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange.

When they returned to Romania on March 24, each expressed thanks at having had the opportunity to visit, observe and learn from their American friends. 🗝

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## Warm Shoes, New Socks

*by Molly Leahy*

When I left Paclisa in August 1994, four pairs of my own "well-traveled" shoes stayed behind for a few of the many barefoot children we worked with that summer. Little did I know, I would accompany Janet and Bill Haines on their return to the children's institution in November 1996 with many, many more shoes for the kids. Our fast Romanian shoe run was a result of Samantha Seaman Bodine's initiative. With the help of Haverford School District, she collected over 600 pairs of almost new shoes for children of all ages. After hearing about this project, William Tennent High School students and staff donated 1000 pairs of new socks.

(continued on back page)

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Yes, I would like to help Teachers for Tomorrow. Enclosed is a contribution in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (make checks payable to **Teachers for Tomorrow**). Your employer may match your gift to TFT. If so, obtain a matching gift form from your employer, complete it, and mail it with your check.

The official registration and financial information of Teachers for Tomorrow may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

I would like to volunteer my time or services.

I would like more information about Teachers for Tomorrow.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

# Teachers for Tomorrow — Today

by Thomas Switzer

Hyderabad, India was the destination for four Teachers for Tomorrow participants this past July. Situated on the Deccan Plateau in southcentral India, this bustling city of more than four million people is moving forward rapidly into the twenty-first century. Its past history before British departure saw it a center of great wealth and the home of the world's largest diamond, the Star of India. The Nizam Salar Jung in 1947 was the second wealthiest man in the world and his ancestral palace, the Golkonda, is so huge it makes European castles appear to be mere guest housing. The past fifty years have not been as kind. Nevertheless, the young population is meeting the challenge with a surge in education.

This is what brought five of us to India. Keith Costigan, Bill and Janet Haines and Thomas Switzer, all Teachers for Tomorrow volunteers, were joined by David Babu, who is originally from Hyderabad, to teach there this summer. The school where we worked is the Jeevan Jyothi Public School. Jeevan Jyothi, which means "life-light," is an institution founded three years ago. Settled among huge granite rock formations, the structure more resembles a compound. The classrooms surround a spacious courtyard where three hundred students gather by class in rigid formation to pray, sing their national anthem, hear current news and greet the principal and teachers each morning. We arrived every day to this gathering before classes began.

Just getting to the school each morning presented a series of life or death situations. Our driver was an Indian kamikaze student who viewed people, animals, pedicabs, trucks, bicycles, cart vendors and whatever else was present as a threat to his personal right to exist. Since sidewalks were almost non-entities, all of the above vied for the same space on the roads. With everyone born with the need to apply the horn of their choice, but not necessarily their brakes, each ride was a thrill a second. Night travel was worse because Indian drivers seem to feel it is bad luck to use headlights. And when it rained, well, need I complete the scene? Nevertheless, these driving tactics apparently work because very few accidents or mangled cows or people were seen. Probably a sound question to

ponder is why did we go there if just getting to the school daily was a hair-raising experience?

As in Romania, we were invited to go there to pass on a love for and a desire to learn English, along with a strong dose of American culture. Jeevan Jyothi, like many of the new schools in India, stresses English as essential for future growth in communications, especially in the fields of math, science, and the exploding area of global economics. Since most parents of our students were illiterate and definitely living below the poverty level of India, we were very willing to give our time and money to help in a school where efforts are under way to improve the lifestyle of the current generation of children. To experience the bright eyes of both students and teachers and to see their expressive reactions when an American approach to instruction is used, makes the Teachers for Tomorrow philosophy a truly "can do" program.

There are many needs to make our program work on an annual basis. One is to have qualified and highly dedicated teachers/experts become committed to our venture and another is to generate the necessary funding. The teachers who make up our staff volunteer their time and pay expenses while in the host country. Teachers for Tomorrow needs financial help to provide airfare and materials for the educational program. The schools where we work have extremely limited resources and our organization helps support them. The Jeevan Jyothi Public School had neither telephone nor electricity. These two basic needs could be provided for \$800. One of our goals is to make certain these essentials are in place in 1998. To accomplish this we need help from many people. ✍



Lunchtime at the Jeevan Jyothi school

Teachers for Tomorrow  
2898 Mill Road  
Doylestown, PA 18901  
(215) 794-5321



## Keystones

- Teachers for Tomorrow thanks David Babu, who not only introduced us to the Jeevan Jyothi Public School, but also coordinated our trip to India. We couldn't have done it without you.
- We have developed slide shows on our work in both Romania and India and provide presentations on request.
- Thanks to the Doylestown Rotary Club for a very generous donation of \$500 which enabled Teachers for Tomorrow to work with many needy children in India.
- We thank the many area school districts for the help they provided during the exchange we hosted for the Romania educators. Also thanks to Dr. Vantine who coordinated a tour of many districts to view programs administered by the Bucks County Intermediate Unit. It shows that local educators truly value the need to share experiences to help better the lives of young people throughout the world.

## Teachers for Tomorrow Board of Directors

Janet H. Haines, President  
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## **THE KEY** Editorial Staff

Janine Cole  
Janet Haines  
William Haines  
Molly Leahy  
Louise McLeod  
Thomas Switzer

### **Warm Shoes, New Socks** *(cont. from page 2)*

After a short and unexpected delay in Istanbul, Turkey (an appropriate place for our Thanksgiving celebration), we brought the huge boxes of shoes and socks to the institution. In a tiny, crowded room, four hospital aides helped us unpack and distribute the new footwear. With great chatter, affection and enthusiasm, the children exchanged their ill-fitting, tattered and torn shoes for newer pairs of all sizes and styles and they received at least two brand new pairs of colorful socks. The donations of boots enabled the children to play out-

side during the winter months with warmer, more appropriate footwear.

It was a privilege for me to participate in this project. Our local communities and the two school districts overwhelmed us with their generosity. An unforgettable honor, bringing these shoes and socks to the children taught me the importance of international cooperation. My own students here in America observed the power of working together to solve a problem. I hope they too will participate in similar endeavors of their own some day. 🗝



*Children at the Paclisa Hospital receive new socks and warm shoes.*