

NIRVANAVAN

YES I'd like to pledge my support with ____ a month.

Please complete the details on this form and return it today to:
Nirvanavan Foundation, 70 Thurleigh Road, London SW12 8UD

My Name: My telephone number is:
Address:
.....
..... My e-mail address:
..... Postcode:
.....

I want to start making a regular contribution ofa month until further notice, starting
on (Please allow at least three weeks between signing the form and the date of the
first payment).

Instructions to your bank or Building Society to pay Direct Debit:

Name(s) of Account Holder(s)
.....

Bank or Building Society Account No. Sort Code:..... - -

Name and full address of Bank or Building Society:
.....
.....
.....
.....

Instructions to your bank or building society: Please pay The Nirvanavan Foundation direct debits from
the above account subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee.

Signed: date.....

Receiving bank details:

Nirvanavan Foundation, Barclays Bank, Wandsworth Branch, PO Box 3847, London SW11 1TR.

Account Number: 30709468 Sort Code: 20 – 90 – 69

Nirvanavan Foundation



love and maitri

summer 2008

“dare to dream”

Nirvanavan Foundation
70, Thurleigh Road
London SW12 8UD

Web site: www.nirvanavan.org.uk
e-mail: krishnadhyanam@hotmail.com

Hello again,

The land at the main school at Advaita Garden is more like a building site than a school at the moment. When I left at the beginning of April, three new classrooms, a larger schoolroom and a gaushala (cowshed) were under construction. (see the photographs in the photo gallery on the website.) This is just one result of having a regular income which the direct-debit scheme ensures. Two classes at the school meet under the flimsiest of shelters from the hot sunshine. Having a new – real – classroom will make such a difference. I look forward to returning after the summer to see the progress which has been made.

Because I don't speak Hindi well enough yet and the children do not speak English, communication can sometimes be a problem. We sing a lot! There is a big need for an English language teaching programme in all the schools, particularly as many of the teachers also do not speak good English. I am looking to develop something while I am back in London and if anyone can help with this please let me know.

Charity status.

A big welcome to Rishiputra (Bob Spedding) to our proposed Board of Trustees. He brings with him a wealth of experience in charity work and has taken over our application process. He has been in dialogue with the Charity Commission for some months now and we are hopeful that our new application will be successful.

Advaita Garden

The Foundation has, in effect, been squatting on the land at Advaita Garden – home of the main school and site of the proposed childrens home (village). The legal process to obtain ownership of the land is now in its final stages. I know I have said this before but now the District Commissioner has given his verbal approval and all that remains is for his signature to appear on the legal documents. As soon as this happens work will commence on the first stages of preparation for the

Advaita Garden Childrens Village

A separate leaflet is now available describing the present vision for this project. Those of us already involved with the Foundation are very excited and pleased to be part of this vision as it evolves. We hope to share this involvement with individual and corporate sponsors. See this vision leaflet on the Foundation website: www.nirvanavan.org.uk And if you have any ideas about who we might approach for sponsorship then please let us know.

The Great Nirvanavan Coloured Pencil Appeal.

A big thank you to all of you who responded. With an increased baggage allowance generously granted by Jet Airways I was able to take over three thousand coloured and lead pencils in January. These came in from all over the UK. There is an enormous need for such basic school equipment. Some people also gave money and I was able to use this not only to buy school materials but also to paint the outside of the main school and to financé the 'photo run' whereby each child received a photograph of themselves. Such simple things which we take for granted here but they really do make a big difference to the

quality of the environment and the childrens self esteem (and the parents and teachers too.) All of the children in all of the schools were able to receive their own set of pencils and a ruler etc. An added benefit was that we could provide employment to some of the women in the prostitution villages who made cloth pencil 'cases'. This sewing group also makes very nice embroidered cushion covers and Salwar Kameez (loose cotton pants and top) which are for sale in aid of the Foundation. If we could find a few outlets for this work, it would help raise money and also provide the women with some employment. If you know of any possibilities please let us know.

The Pencil Appeal continues! The donated pencils will soon get used and when I return in October I would like to take another batch. I also wish to revisit ALL the schools – some of them are desperately in need of a coat of paint!! And take photographs of ALL of the children in ALL of the schools. So please bring us or send us more pencils – and if you would like to contribute financially to this work, please do not hesitate!!

A Visit to Alwar.

In November 2007, Halim Ina, a photographer from Ohio, USA, spent a week visiting the Foundation's Alternative Education Programme in the Nat and Kanjar villages surrounding Alwar. These communities are traditionally into prostitution. Halim writes eloquently about his visit and his work creating a series of photographic portraits. Read his words and see his photographs on the Foundation website: www.nirvanavan.org.uk If you don't have internet access and would like to have a copy let me know, and I will send you one. The first public exhibitions of the portraits took place in Cleveland, Ohio, USA in March 2008. All profits from the sale of the photographs go towards furthering the work of the Foundation in these communities. The portraits are all black and white and Halim presents these women to us with a dignity which I imagine they do not often experience. We are looking for possible venues for an exhibition in UK/Ireland. Again, if you can help, please let us know.

Come and Visit

Come to visit for a few days or spend longer getting more involved. Please bear in mind that accommodation is very simple, food is very basic, and toilets are a hole in the ground. I shall be going again during October – if you would like to accompany me you would be most welcome. Anyone with experience of teaching yoga to children or English as a foreign language would be most welcome. If you would like to visit over Christmas also let me know – that might be a good time to arrange a small group visit also. Christmas cake in the deserts of Rajasthan?

Love and maitri

p.s. . Now I KNOW that there are some of you who simply haven't 'got round' to it yet (I know because some of you have told me so!) So please, if you are in a position to do so, complete a direct debit form soon. . (And of course, another big thankyou to those of you who make occasional donations. We need those also!!)

