

Tenali School Newsletter 2012

T.R Residential School for Poor Children
Education Organization for Orphans and Handicapped Children (EOOHC)
Website: www.uwindsor.ca/EOOHC



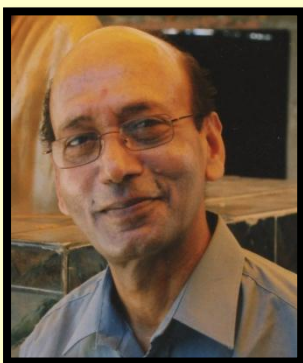
Editor's Note

Katie Renaud – (Bachelor of Arts – International Relations and Development – University of Windsor)

The Tenali School for Poor Children was founded on August 15, 1992 in Tenali, Andhra Pradesh, South India by Dr. Tad Venkateswarlu. It aims to educate and provide careers for orphaned and handicapped children from the poorest communities in India. Residential buildings allow the children to live at the school, and they are provided with the basic necessities needed to survive. The school gives children the opportunity to learn academic subjects as well as several vocational subjects, which provide them with skills they can use in their everyday lives for a future career. In addition to the educational aspects, the children are immersed in their culture. . The 12 full time teachers, 4 part time teachers, and 4 support staff ensure the children will be nurtured as they progress through grades 1 to 10. Over the past nineteen years, the school has produced 150 graduates with an environment that spawns success and a bright future, which would not be possible without the continuing generous support from those who wish to see the children thrive in their adult lives.

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Founder's Message

Dear friends,

In April 2012, I returned from India where I had the opportunity to see the progress of the school and the children. A few photos have been emailed to you as attachments. I am pleased to report that the construction of eight new classrooms will begin on May 1, 2012, as the current rooms are mouldy and falling into disrepair. The new rooms will cost an estimated \$45,000. I borrowed part of the money from the local banks, which will be repaid in the future through installments. The classrooms will allow the children to learn in a safe and comfortable environment. I have also hired a headmaster holding a Masters Degree in English and a Bachelor of Education who will take over the position beginning July 1, 2012. In addition to her administrative duties, she will teach LKG, UKG, and grade 1 English medium classes. These adjustments will contribute to the academic success of the children as well as to the continued advancement of the quality of the school and the support system it offers to the children.

The new projects will be costly, but they are needed to enrich the lives of the children at the Tenali School. It is only with your support that the school has made such progress since its establishment, and I know I can count on your future support for its long-run sustainability.

Tad Venkateswarlu
University of Windsor



Recreation time in the garden

Meeting Basic Needs

While the Tenali School provides education to the students that study there, it also provides basic necessities to the children. The children, who are living in poverty before they attend the school, need basic items such as clothing and toothbrushes, as well as daily meals and clean drinking water. Using the generous donations received throughout the year, the staff is able to feed the children basic meals each day. When Dr. Tad Venkateswarlu, the founder, visits the school twice each year, he takes with him things like medicine and special treats to keep the children healthy and happy. The children are also provided with educational tools such as portable chalkboards and books, which are housed in the school's library.

Aside from the basic items the children are supplied with, the Tenali School also offers them a home. Many of the children are orphaned and do not have family members to support them. The school residences give the children a shelter as well as a place to gather with the other students who become like brothers and sisters to each other. On the playground, they build lasting friendship and gain communication skills that will be useful in their future careers. The Tenali School provides the children with a safe educational environment, in which to grow up alongside a family of fellow peers and staff members, all with the goal of creating a bright future filled with opportunities to succeed.

A Letter from an Alumni Student – March 26, 2012



To Sri Venkateswarlu Garu:

My name is Narayana Penki. I studied at your school from class 1 to 10 and scored high marks which enabled me to get admission at a local college for the first year of my undergraduate degree. I have completed four years of undergraduate studies (two years intermediate and two years Bachelor of Commerce) at T.J College in Tenali, affiliated with Nagarjuna University. I scored good marks with a 78 percent average. I have applied for a first year master's degree in Commerce at Gupta College. I got admission from the Faculty of Graduate Studies to study first year Master of Commerce degree.

The Tenali School paid for all of my books, tuition fees, examination fees, and school uniforms for the 10 years I studied there. I am grateful to the school for helping me enter first year of graduate work in Commerce. I am indebted to all of you.

Yours faithfully,
P. Narayana
Master of Commerce degree (First Year)
Gupta College, Tenali

Distribution of toothbrushes by Tad Venkateswarlu, the founder of the school



Eating lunch



Learning in a classroom



The Tenali School's Cultural Program

India has one of the most diverse and historical cultures in the world. To ensure the children are immersed in their rich cultural heritage, the Tenali School incorporates the following cultural elements into the daily lives of the children:

- Dance, including Bharata Natyam and Bollywood styles
- Yoga
- Plays that are centered around Indian mythology and epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata
- Singing of traditional Indian songs

In the past, the children have entertained guests by performing theatrical dances and dressing up in costumes to act out Indian mythology. By connecting the children with their cultural heritage, the Tenali School guarantees that the students will discover their cultural identity and share a common bond with their community.

Sustainability

Long-term sustainability is a central goal of the Tenali School. It is crucial that the school promotes sustainable living and education that will ensure the continuing operation of the school as well as a bright future for those who study there. The following are sustainable features of the Tenali School:

- Garden - allows students to grow their own food, learn marketing skills, and learn subsistence techniques
- Medical Centre - provides basic health care to the students
- Vocational Programs - teach students skills to be used in their future careers; raise funds for the school through activities such as making candles and selling them
- Fast Food Centre - established downtown to allow graduates to support themselves and gain entrepreneurial skills

While the school has many other sustainable features, there is still progress to be made. The school needs to replace its temporary sheds with permanent facilities to ensure a stable shelter for the students and the staff. It also needs to establish a scholarship fund to allow the school to finance the graduates' higher education.



Yoga



Classical Indian Dance



Gardening



Making Honey



Chalk Making

Volunteer Visits Since 1992

1. Professor Dan Boles, University of Windsor, Windsor, Canada - 1995 and 1997
2. Ms. Maya Primorac, Windsor, Canada - 1997
3. Ms. K. Chang and Ms. Kelly, New York, U.S.A - 1997
4. Ms. Amy Stapleton, Brisbane, Australia - 2000
5. Mr. Fayaz Ahmad, Kingston, Canada - 2002
6. Ms. Shoesh Koorjee, Vancouver Canada - 2002
7. Ms. Shazhan Amed, Montreal, Canada - 2002
8. Ms. Norma Nidoff, Windsor, Canada - 2002
9. Mr. C. Formagin and Ms. Amy Farkas, Windsor, Canada - 2003
10. Ms. Joanne Sabourin, Windsor, Canada - 2004
11. Professors Melinda Rias-Tims and Odette Furois, University of Tours, France - 2005 and 2009
12. Professors Melinda Rias-Tims and Odette Furois, as well as Celine, a student, from Univeristy of Tours, France - 2011

Future Plans

- Purchase 5 acres of land to accommodate recreational activities, vocational training, and staff rooms
- Construct permanent buildings to replace temporary sheds
- Creation of \$200,000 trust fund to sustain the school in the long run out of the annual yield of interest
- Establish scholarship fund for graduates pursuing post-secondary education

Recent Achievements

- 2007: Child recreation centre built to commemorate the memory of Uma, the founder's wife who passed away in June 2006
- 2008: Rainwater conservation project established to preserve and supply water to children
- 2009: Vegetable garden enhanced with topsoil and fertilizer
- 2010: Evening tailoring classes introduced for unemployed adults and alumni

The Clinic



Enjoying the garden

Academic study time

Your continuing support is needed for the success of the school.

Please send cheques or drafts payable to:
 Tenali School (EOOHC)
 C/O T. Venkateswarlu
 P.O. Box 7311, Sandwich Post Office
 Windsor, ON, Canada
 N9C 4E9
 Email: tvenkat@uwindsor.ca
 Tel: 519-253-3000 Ext. 3183

Visit us at www.uwindsor.ca/EOOHC

The philosophy of the Tenali School and Educational Organization for Orphans and Handicapped Children is:

"All is one"