

You won't find Gollapudi on any map. It's just a small, rural village in Andhra Pradesh, South East India,

where the people mostly work on the land and

households are still run according to ancient traditions.



In the heart of the

village, Brother Azariah and his

Many of the hostel children come from farming communities

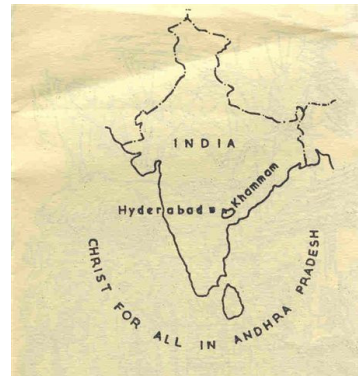
team at the Christian Service Unit care for some of the community's poorest members,

sharing God's love among people from all faiths in practical, life-changing ways.

Among the beneficiaries are nearly 100 boys and 65 girls, some of them orphaned, others from families who are too poor to look after them. They live in a simple but vibrant hostel, and are supported by you: our supporters in the UK.

This is their story....

## CHRIST FOR ALL IN ANDHRA PRADESH Registered Charity No.326663



It costs a minimum of just £5 a month to sponsor a child in the Gollapudi hostels. This will pay for accommodation, including the care of the wardens and other staff and three healthy meals a day. It also covers school expenses and other incidental costs, such as Christmas gifts and clothing.

The Firs School sponsors six children. Every month there is a collection. The school keeps children well informed so that they will be able to identify with the needs of others. Part of our aim as a school is to encourage children to feel a sense of responsibility towards those who are less fortunate than themselves.



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# Child Sponsorship



The hostel children always have a smile for you...

## Gollapudi offers hope to many families

The children at the Gollapudi hostels come mostly from desperately poor families in the rural villages of the Khammam District, where many people rely on subsistence farming to survive. Others work as shepherds, or as day labourers for larger landowners or businessmen. For them a steady income is impossible to secure. Families are large, often without enough food to go round; education is in many cases a luxury low down on parents' list of priorities. To send even just one child to the hostels to be cared for and given a place at school can make a difference to a whole family, not just for a limited few years, but for generations to come as doors are opened to a brighter future. ...



The girls are cheerful even when going about their daily chores.

## A day in the lives of the Gollapudi children



Homework is diligently done outside the hostel rooms.

The day starts early in rural India, and the children in the Gollapudi hostels roll up their sleeping mats as the sun rises beyond the paddy fields. After a cold wash, they meet to pray and sing songs. Coming from all different religions, some accept Jesus as their Lord; others consider Him in their own way among their many Hindu Gods or alongside their Muslim beliefs. All enjoy the fellowship of a loving extended family.

The boys and girls join each other from their separate accommodation to walk to the nearby government school. Azariah pays an extra teacher there to ensure that the children are all able to attend, learning their lessons from a chalk board and scoring impressively

well in their end of term exams.

Some stay only to gain a primary education, while others go on to complete their secondary studies and are maybe even supported into university.

Arriving back at the hostels in the afternoon, the girls wash their clothes by the water pump (the boys have theirs done for them). They then settle down to their homework, sitting in rows on the dusty ground in the hostel yard. They move into a circle for a dinner of rice and vegetable curry,



before indulging in a game of kabadi or chase, and then turning in for the night.

**The accommodation is simple: the children's possessions are kept in metal boxes and they sleep on bamboo mats.**

There is an infectious sense of joy and a touching camaraderie within the hostels. The children of all ages quickly adapt to the welcoming environment, learning to live together and help each other as they grow into confident, capable young adults. Whatever awaits them in the years to come, they know that they have been given a great start at Gollapudi...