

# Empower the Children

Fall 2007

## ♥ Compassion in Action

Thirty university students from all over the USA kicked off the New Year with a volunteer experience in Kolkata by visiting the **Preyrona School** and **Prabartak Home**. They were traveling with Jim Hagan of Castleton State College, Vermont, and were on their way to Darjeeling and Sikkim to study India's spiritual traditions of Jainism, Hinduism and Buddhism.

Jim's motivation for bringing these students to ETC was very clear. "I wanted them to experience '*compassion in action*' so that their study of the spiritual traditions would be more meaningful."



Dennis Mahoney, Rosalie and Colleen Bardelli

This proved to be the case, as two weeks later on their way home, half of the students chose to spend their only free day at **Preyrona School**. To the children's delight, the university students put on a puppet show and afterwards helped each child make a sock puppet.

Upon returning to Vermont, volunteer Colleen Bardelli contacted Dennis Mahoney, Director of Global Village Community. Through their joint efforts, Rosalie was invited to address a student forum in May. The program was well received. Rosalie says, "Contrary to many people's belief, college students are very interested in world affairs. They are eager to learn about the plight of people living in developing countries and of the many opportunities to serve."

