



## Carolyn's Indian odyssey

Carolyn Parsons is the public programs manager of the Australian National Botanic Gardens. She is also a survivor of breast cancer, and after months of treatment, Carolyn is determined to make the most of her new lease on life.

As a member of an organization called Amazon Heart, Carolyn is taking part in their 2006 India Odyssey. She and three other breast cancer survivors have decided to take up the Odyssey challenge, and are currently working on a construction project in Mandurai, Tamil Nadu, building a cottage for children left orphaned by AIDS and the 2004 tsunami.



*The Amazon Heart team and locals dig in to get the job done*

"Confronting cancer has made me enjoy the moment more and realise that many people have far greater challenges than me. Now, eighteen months later, and back in full-time work, my situation has instigated another assessment of what is important to me. I believe the world needs repairing on many levels and I want to make a small difference," Carolyn said, before she left Australia for the experience of a lifetime.

All members of the Amazon Heart Odyssey team have paid their own way to India, and have raised funds for the cottage construction project, as well as to support local micro-finance programs and breast cancer projects for disadvantaged women in the Mandurai region. The group will also meet with local breast cancer survivors,

to share their experiences and talk about the importance of support and bonding with their fellow survivors.

You can follow Carolyn's journey at <http://ahodysseyblog.amazonheart.org>

Or donate to the cause at <http://www.amazonheart.org/ahodyssey/donate.htm>



*Carolyn with young Katrina, a resident at the orphanage*

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