

Newsletter June 2013 • Edition# 18

Record Number of Eye Camps in 2013

In the last 12 months, TCF delivered over 3000 eye glasses to people who needed them the most. Donors, supporters and volunteers would be pleased to know that this time TCF collaborated with 4 different NGOs (TCA, Arogya Sandhan, Lily Foundation and Ushagram Trust) to deliver 21 eye camps in villages both near and far, surrounding Calcutta. One such eye camp was held jointly with Lily Foundation in Ghatsila, Jharkand, which was about 240 km from Calcutta, on 21 March 2013. Done in co-operation with Jagadish Chandra High School, mostly tribal people attended this eye camp. TCF held 12 eye camps with Arogya Sandhan and 7 eye camps with TCA, TCF's Calcutta chapter. Ushagram Trust also held one eye camp in Ushagram for TCF. In fact, during the period of 2012 - 2013 TCF was able to run more eye camps than ever possible in the history of the charity. It was made possible by your generous support.



Ghatsila eye camp—Patients lined up



Eye camps sponsored by Morgan Bay Capital & ICare

TCA held an eye camp on January 20, 2013 in memory of our friend, the late Dr. Joseph O'Connell. His wife, Professor Kathy O'Connell, was present to witness the eye camp. In appreciation of the eye camp she wrote to one of our directors:

"So glad we could all meet yesterday in such a profound manner. I was deeply touched by the eye Camp, and one could feel Joe's spirit there. TCF is doing such meaningful work, and having the eye camp in Joe's memory with us in attendance was such an appropriate tribute to him. I would very much like to have the banner to show to the family."

In this issue

TCF Held Eye Camps in Record Number	1
A Message from the International Board of Directors Donation via United Way Campaign	2
Brief News TCF Partners with Women's Habitat in Toronto 25th Year Celebration and Annual Dinner Coaching Classes- A New Initiative by TCF TCF's New School in Sundarban with 284 Students	3
TCF Has Come Long Way New Immigrants Seminar by TCF	4
Jennifer Northcote Volunteers for TCF in Calcutta	4
Membership/ Donation form	4



Eye camp in memory of Late Prof. Joseph O'Connell

Join in TCF's 25 Years Celebrations

A Message from the International Board of Directors

When, in 1988 a small group of Torontonians gathered in the grounds of Glendon College, York University to ask 'What can we do for Calcutta?' it seemed a tall order to plant a seed of charity in that city. But twenty five years later, the Toronto-Calcutta Foundation is a sturdy and flourishing plant amid the groves of charity there.

We are not a 'fashionable' charity, with large support from corporations, government, or famous people. We help poor village families, children and young women to meet some of their basic needs for pre-school education, health checks, and skill training. When necessary, we have improved the infrastructure of the schools in cooperation with the village councils. We raise our funds locally with the help of untiring volunteers. In Calcutta, we depend on dedicated staff and local leaders. Unfashionable perhaps, but very much appreciated by children and women otherwise excluded from education and health.

We have travelled far in these years, having had a period of support from the Canadian International Development Agency (1996-8) and the benefit of a guiding partnership with Gems of Hope.

Through trials of various projects we explored what was feasible for an organization of our capacities and funding to accomplish effectively, especially given the distance between Toronto and Calcutta, and the work of many other NGOs in Kolkata (previously known as Calcutta).

We see our core work in sustaining pre-schools in poor villages, delivering basic health services through mobile field clinics, sponsoring eye camps, and enabling women to attain sewing skills as worthwhile endeavours that have stood the test of time.

In recent years, we have gained strength through further partnerships, both in Toronto and in Kolkata, for instance Women's Habitat Etobicoke, RESULTS CANADA, Usha International Sewing School, Serum Thalassaemia Prevention Federation, Rotary Club of Calcutta.

From time to time we have greatly benefited from the visits and field work of medical and educational experts from Canada and the U. K., and volunteers from Toronto. Corporate sponsors have been loyal to our cause, especially Suncor, which began its support from its inception.

And a new venture in education is our support to Uddipan Educational Trust, an arm of Kolkata NGO Arogya Sandhan at Habra, 24 Pagarnas, by way of 40 scholarships to allow deserving students to continue their education.

Our 25th anniversary year is no time to rest on our laurels and congratulate ourselves. Instead we see it as a time to evaluate our projects and renew our planning.

We invite you to join us especially this year in reinforcing the values of generous help to needy people in Kolkata. Please visit our website www.toronto-calcutta.org for details of our projects and more on our history.

We thank all those in Kolkata especially Late Mrs. Sovana Bhaduri who donated her house to TCF for its main administrative and health facility and Toronto who have brought us to this point.

We look forward to the next 25 years when a new generation of interested and dedicated helpers and supporters will step

forward to join in the enthusiasm that has fuelled the Toronto-Calcutta Foundation.

Our core services in Calcutta

The Toronto-Calcutta Association (TCA), a local chapter of TCF, continues to manage our core services in Calcutta and its surrounding areas. TCA's directors, volunteers and paid staff look after 7 medical clinics, numerous eye camps, one pre-school, one elementary school and Uttaran, a sewing school for women. We take this opportunity to thank our TCA directors, volunteers and the staff for their dedication and assistance.



Mathematics Teacher Mr. B. Sarkar



Science Teacher Ms. S. Saha



People who donate to the United Way can name The Toronto-Calcutta Foundation as a registered charity for their contribution. Please see section 4 "to another registered charitable organization" on page 2 of the UW form. Please name Toronto-Calcutta Foundation when you donate.

Brief News

TCF Partners with Women's Habitat (WH)

Again TCF and WH have agreed to organize two projects this year. While WH will provide the expertise to run the two well thought out programs namely "S.T.A.R. (Striving Towards Amazing Results) program for ages 7 to 13 years and "Girlz After School Space" program for ages 13 to 16 years, TCF will fund these programs.

25th Year Celebration, Talent Show and Dinner

Saturday, August 24, 2013

Tagore Centre, 140 Millwick Dr, Toronto

Please visit TCF Website for more details.

Annual Gala Dinner and Celebration

Friday, November 15, 2013

Hilton Garden Inn, 3201 Hwy 7 West, Vaughan

Silent Auction, Entertainment and Delicious East

Indian Dinner

Coaching Classes — A New Initiative by TCF



English Teacher Mr. P. Sarkar



Bengali Teacher Mr. S. Dey

The Toronto-Calcutta Foundation has partnered with Uddipan Educational Trust (an arm of Arogya Sandhan Charitable Trust) in Calcutta, India to provide special coaching classes to those students who are not in English medium school and come from not well-off families.

The special coaching for 20 students of grade IX will be for English, Science and Mathematics. In July 2012 ten boys and ten girls were selected. The program will continue for five years. During this period Grade IX students will be selected from the area's high schools each year and they will go through the program until they finish their high school certificate in grade 12.

The objective of this program is to ensure that these students get an equal opportunity to sit for the Joint Entrance examination which ultimately qualifies the student to get admission into Engineering and Medicine at university.

The selection process is carefully designed for fairness and student quality. There is a selection committee which looks at grade VIII marks. They visit the students' homes and interview the parents. And the students also sit for a test as a double check on their suitability for support to go forward in their education.

In 2013 the program now consists of 40 students (20 girls and 20 boys). Those first selected are now in grade X, while a new batch has been selected in grade IX.

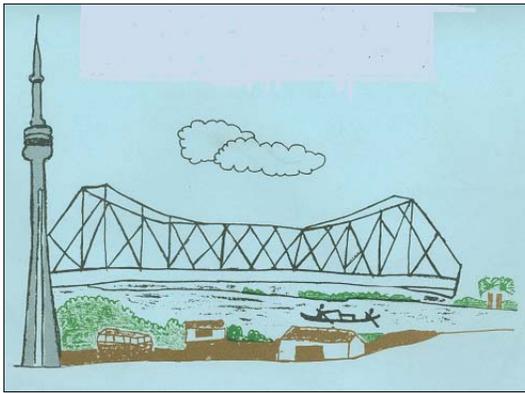
In April 2013, TCF asked the students to participate in a writing competition. Out of forty students, seventeen students participated in the competition. Mrs. Sibani Pal, a long time TCF supporter evaluated the writings and our local auditors Mr. Prabir Sengupta and Mr. Dilip Guhathakurata have distributed the prize money to students in early June.



TCF's New School in Sunderban with 284 Students

TCF is now funding a new school named Baruipur Sitakundu Sneh Kunja (BSSK) in Jharkhali village in Sunderban which is about 240 km away from Calcutta. The area is very underdeveloped and people are mostly fishermen and farmers. The school runs classes from pre-school to grade VIII. TCF recently renovated the washrooms for pupils.

TCF Has Come Long Way



Monidipa (8yrs) and Sudipa(11yrs) Bhattacharyya created this art work for our first fundraising event in Toronto in 1990.

Toronto's CN Tower & Calcutta's Howrah Bridge, Ganges below



TCF first logo for letterhead created in 1989

New Immigrants Seminar by TCF

On the 25th anniversary of the formation of TCF we organized the first of a series of one day free seminar on June 15, 2013 for new immigrants. Seven of the nine new immigrants, who registered for the seminar, attended and were very happy with the information session. We appointed mentors for each person to help them guide through their job search process and the process of settlement in Canada. Debashish Chakravorty, Sudeep Oommen & Aviroop Biswas conducted the seminar.

support along our future journey in this wonderful settlement."

Anubhay Sehgal said, "I really appreciate for the time and efforts put by everyone in making the workshop a successful one. I personally found the workshop very useful for my career progression in Canada."



TCF's first seminar for new immigrants

Soumya Basu, participant wrote, "I wish to sincerely thank you all for organising such a wonderful session which not only gave us a real picture of the Canadian way of life but also makes us feel to have a

Next Seminar on Aug. 24, 2013 at PBCA.

Jennifer Northcote Volunteers for TCF in Calcutta



We really feel honoured to have Jennifer Northcote of Toronto helping TCF. She is a corporate lawyer and has been volunteering for TCF in Calcutta since January 2013. She is assisting TCF in contract negotiations with local NGOs, attending various eye camps, visiting various health clinics and schools. In addition, recently she has produced a video for TCF with her narration and with the help of Paras Chhetri, TCA's Field Co-ordinator.

Jennifer will be in Calcutta till January 2014. During her stay in Calcutta, she will be taking some time off and will be travelling to different parts of India. TCF is very lucky to have her as a volunteer and wishes her all the best and a safe trip back to Toronto next year. Thank you, Jennifer.

Membership/Donation form

Your membership in the Toronto-Calcutta Foundation is needed to help alleviate poverty in Calcutta and its surrounding areas. TCF funds, supports and/or manages projects that address local needs related to health, education or income generation. In partnership with local communities. TCF is working towards sustainable development.

MEMBERS: \$ 25
 SPONSOR A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT: \$400
 SPONSOR AN EYE CAMP: \$500
 DONATION (cheque/cash): \$ _____

Membership entitles you to participate at the TCF annual meeting, voting rights and TCF Newsletter.

Please complete and return to:

The Toronto-Calcutta Foundation
2 Leland Avenue, Toronto, ON M8Z 2X5

Tax receipts are provided for membership and all donations \$10 or over.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____

Postal code _____ Tel: _____

Email _____