

# 2019 Activity Reports

## **Report on Existing Activities:**

The main objectives of TCF continue to be the improved status of underprivileged women and children, youth, and health services for seniors and patients with limited means.

### **India**

**Eye Camps:** During the 2018/2019 winter season, TCF ran a record 40 Eye Camps through various agencies in remote regions of West Bengal—Sunderban, North Bengal, Medinipore etc.—where medical facilities are limited. Eye Camps cater to seniors and people with various eye problems. Free eyeglasses are provided, common eye diseases are treated and serious problems including cataracts are referred to specialists. More than 6,000 patients were treated in these eye clinics, and approximately 5,000 patients were provided with free eyeglasses.

These eye camps are sponsored in the name of individuals, their families, and corporate donors for C\$ 500=RS.25000 for each camp. Tax receipts are issued for these donations. The sponsors, who attended these camps, witnessed the benefit received by patients first hand from these camps, and the improvement in vision quality observed in the patients treated at these camps. We encourage you to continue to sponsor these camps, as the benefits clearly improve the quality of life of the needy.

### **Medical Clinics**

The clinics are conducted every month in remote villages surrounding Kolkata (including at our Naktala office) by our sister agency Toronto-Calcutta Association (TCA). Qualified doctors on the payroll of TCA carry out health checks plus diagnostic services for attendees — who are given free medication. Now that the quality of state hospitals has improved, attendance at our clinics is declining. TCA is looking at new areas where our services will be more in demand. TCA is also introducing an eye clinic service twice a week at its Naktala office.

### **Vocational Centre for women**

**Uttaran:** the sewing school run by TCA at Boral for training needy women, now has 24 students. Annually the trainees appear for an examination conducted by the Usha Sewing Machine Company. Successful trainees are issued a completion certificate. TCA helps with the materials and the cost of the examination. The students receive assistance exhibiting and marketing their products. Some past alumni of the program have started their own tailoring businesses and have achieved success. The school is shortly relocating to new premises in Boral to reduce the rental expenses.

**DAS (Development Action Society):** we are at the halfway point of partnering on a sewing school project in Charishwar village in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal. Altogether there are 22 trainees. On completion of their training, the trainees will receive an Artisan card from the Government of India which will facilitate marketing of their products. The project has been visited regularly and is running well. In addition, the women will sit for an examination for professional certification.

**Pre-primary school at Ghutiary Sharif/ Higher Education Program with Uddipan:**

These programs are running well. The toddlers attending Ghutiary Sharif School are provided with a nutritious breakfast.

Under the Uddipan program, the indigent students complete a higher secondary Exam with our assistance. Promising candidates are given coaching classes to prepare and enroll in professional programs like health care, engineering, hotel management etc. A few of them have carved out good career for themselves in these fields. Many of our donors sponsor students to enroll in this field of higher education. Students are provided with snacks during the coaching class.

TCF has agreed to finance coaching classes for grade 9 to 12 students (Science, Math, & English) at Hotar village through the local Shri Shri Sarada Ramakrishna Ashram (SSSRKA). Twenty students will be admitted divided equally between 10 girls and 10 boys in 2019 and subsequent years will add 60 more students to the total of 80 students (40 girls and 40 boys). In-principle approval for the project has been conveyed and SSSRKA has started the project on June 1, 2019 with 20 Grade 9 students.

It is a similar program like Uddipan where 40 girls and 40 boys attend for special coaching classes in English, Science, Mathematics, Spoken English and Computer Training.

**Spastic Society of Calcutta:**

The expansion of this facility has been completed and some funds provided by a donor for the project have been remitted. It will give the disabled clients programs which will improve their livelihood.

**Canada:**

Our close association with Etobicoke Women's Habitat continues with the Girlz Space leadership program, which works to build self-esteem and confidence in young girls from broken families. The program has run for over 5 years and is successful. We have also funded a Micro-Enterprise program for women in 2018 and will fund again in 2019.

In a bid to increase our footprint in Canada, the following new projects have been approved or are being considered.

1. A MOU has been entered in conjunction with the Social Planning Council of Peel to create a training program for new immigrant youths—facilitating their integration into the economic and social fabric of Canada. The initial program will run for one year. To start with, around 100 youths are expected to benefit from this program.
2. Discussion continues with Horizon for Youth, a local NGO, to provide financial assistance to their employment program for homeless youth. We are working with them to refine the program to improve its efficacy before entering a partnership.

## **Strategic Planning**

TCF has been active for over 31 years. Its campaigns have grown in scope and diversified several times during this period. A strategic planning session was held recently and various committees have been formed to improve TCF activities in all aspects, focusing on the experience gained and the changing environment. One important objective of this exercise is to extend the reach of TCF both in Canada and India.

### **General Observation:**

All our projects are monitored closely through periodic reporting and visits. On our end, TCF accounts are annually audited. We endeavor to run an efficient organization and it is run entirely by volunteers.

We are thankful for your continued support. We do not receive any financial support from the government, and depend on individuals such as you to fund our projects and initiatives. In order to allow us to continue our work in Canada and India, please consider making a financial contribution and/or volunteering your time for our various projects.