

Change is a Challenge in Naktala

Our headquarters is the Dr. R. N. Bhaduri Memorial Clinic in Naktala, south-east Calcutta. The clinic, housed in rooms of Srimati Sovona Bhaduri in Naktala, has recently been painted. It has a waiting room, consulting room, laboratory and a small office. The space, however, is not enough to run our varied services efficiently.

Our regular medical staff are comprised of two physicians (Dr J.B. Saha and Dr Shukla Bannerjee) , a pathologist (Dr A. Banerjee), a nurse (Ms Kabita Kar), a lab technician (Mr Jana Chakraborty), and a field clinic assistant (Ms Mita Pal). Also, specialists in ear, nose, throat problems, eyes and cardiology visit on a rotating basis.

Our invaluable volunteer medicos are Dr Suchira Ghosh (who runs the field clinics) and Dr Ranajit Sinha (dental camps).

Discussions are taking place with the trustee of Srimati Bhaduri's estate with regard to the right of the T-CF to operate the clinic on the property. We are hoping to soon have a legal agreement that will make the clinic secure. Srimati Bhaduri has agreed to our building an extension to add another room to the clinic. We very much need donations to make this possible.

Changes are taking place in the Naktala area. Many of the very poor people who lived as squatters nearby have moved, or been moved, elsewhere. The area is being 'gentrified.' This poses a challenge to T-CF regarding offering services to needy people out of the clinic. We take the view that patients who can afford it should pay modest amounts for services and thus help to subsidize what we offer in Naktala and elsewhere to very poor residents.

The Calcutta Chapter will advertise the clinic more widely in and around Naktala to be sure that poorer people understand that they will receive medical services free of charge.

Renewal in Garia

Long-time donors will recall that T-CF started an HIV/STD/AIDS program for sex workers in the Garia district of south Calcutta in 1994, with program funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). In addition to prevention education, we were able to improve working conditions for the women, especially through the provision of toilets and washing facilities. That assistance was greatly valued, and the women hoped T-CF would return.



T-CF is glad to announce that we are about to renew this important work in Garia. We are

very pleased to have the help with this from Dr Amitabha Chakraborty, a founding member of T-CF's Calcutta chapter. Dr Chakraborty, whose initial training was at Toronto General Hospital, has experience in HIV/STD/AIDS medical work in Calcutta.

Raghunathpur Village

The Toronto-Calcutta Foundation has been working with villagers in Raghunathpur, to the south east of the city's fringe, for eight years. Dr Suchira Ghosh, assisted by one of our trainees and a teacher, run women's literacy classes and a medical clinic twice a week. Dr Ghosh has run occasional eye clinics and Dr Ranjit Sinha, our voluntary dentist, has run dental camps.

The villagers of Raghunathpur now know the benefits of classes and clinics and, owing to improved levels of income, are in less need of assistance. So we are scaling down the work there to begin help for another village. Most of the fringe villages of Calcutta, especially those not close to a main road, often have no medical services and no access to government programs for adult literacy. There are many such villages and few organizations that can offer help to them.



The Toronto-Calcutta Foundation

Registered with governments of Canada and India

A newsletter on the current affairs of the T-CF

July 2002



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T-CF'S LATEST PROJECT Prayas at Ghutiarisharif village

This largely Muslim village, before the Canning station in 24 Parganas, has many young undernourished children who have no pre-school education. The T-CF project *Prayas* (meaning 'Striving') runs a school for 3-5 year-old, with a free healthy meal every day staffed by two local teachers, Albasto Laskar and Noor Nihar Bibi. There are now over one hundred enthusiastic children attending daily.

Dr Dilip Bhattacharya and his assistant Mita Pal go twice weekly to run a medical clinic and Dr Suchira Ghosh has offered an eye camp. More than a hundred and fifty villagers seek medical services on each visit, which has necessitated a ticket system since the T-CF team can usually only see 50-75 people in each clinic. The most needy patients receive free medicines as far as we can afford them.

Local leaders are very supportive of T-CF's efforts, having given *Prayas* use of the primary school from 6am to 9am, and allowing the health clinics to operate out of the Panchayat (local government) office. There is a local committee that advises the T-CF team on the village needs.

We want to expand on the services offered here and welcome any donations earmarked for Ghutiarisharif.

The Toronto-Calcutta Association has changed its name to **The Toronto-Calcutta Foundation** with a new logo.

Calcutta is now known as Kolkata



School Building



Free Medical Camp

T-CF's next Fundraising event

**14th Anniversary
Fundraising
Event**

Members and the Board of Directors of the Toronto-Calcutta Foundation cordially invite you to join us in the fun to prepare this event. Bring your ideas, expertise, skills and of course your enthusiasm. Also, don't hesitate to bring more helping hands!

Our Plan

- Musical performance
- Gourmet Dinner
- Film

And lots more

**Saturday
September 28, 2002
7.00 P.M.**

**Earth Sciences Centre
University of Toronto
5 Bancroft Avenue**
(Between Willcocks and Russel Street)
East of Spadina Crescent

**Our Entertainer
Cyrus Sundar Singh**
A well known Toronto
Singer, Songwriter &
Poet



Please check our website or Contact Dipak Adhikari 905-816-1961 or Manjurika Das 416-491-9281

Special Tribute

T-CF would like to thank Anoucha Villavarayan, our past president for her great contribution to T-CF. Although Anoucha is no longer on the board, she remains an advisor and supporter of our work. Thank you Anoucha.

Editor : Dr. Christine Furedy
Designer : Biswajit Nayak

Mission Statement

“The Toronto-Calcutta Foundation (T-CF) is a non-profit organization helping to alleviate poverty in Calcutta and its surrounding areas. T-CF funds, supports and / or manages projects that address local needs related to health, education or income generation. In partnership with local communities, T-CF is working towards sustainable development.”

Donation via United Way

People who donate to the United Way can name The Toronto-Calcutta Foundation as a designated charity for their contribution. In some cases, if the donation is made through a company, The Toronto-Calcutta Foundation receives not only the employee's donation, but also the company's matching amount.



Our Mailing Address

Donors should write their donation amount along with the following on their United Way pledge form:



The Toronto-Calcutta Foundation
2 Leland Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
Canada, M8Z 2X5

Charitable Registration # BN 88824 3391 RR0001

Membership Application

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

Annual Membership	\$25
5 Year Membership	\$100
Benefactor	\$500
Donation (cheque/cash):	\$_____

Membership entitles you to :

Voting privileges at the T-CF annual meeting

T-CF newsletter

Please complete and return form 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 _____

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Postal code _____ Tel () _____

email _____