

Newsletter January 2006

Shobhona Bhaduri (1921–2005)



Late Mrs. Mashid, Debraj & Wall

“Tomra sabai ato kasto kare bidesh theke asha, dekho garibder janye kichu karte paro kina.”

Late Shobhona Bhaduri

“Mashima” as she is popularly known, is with us no more. Shobhona Bhaduri passed away in her Kolkata residence on Monday, April 25, 2005, at age 84.

Mashima was instrumental to the creation of The Toronto-Calcutta Foundation (T-CF) since its inception in Kolkata. Mashima and her husband, Dr Rabindra Nath (R.N.) Bhaduri, a general practitioner who later specialized in mental health joined Lumbini Park Hospital in Kolkata. He had a natural quality to help the needy. Mashima and Dr Bhaduri gave part of their home in Naktala (Tollygunge) to the Toronto-Calcutta Foundation enabling us to create the Dr R N Bhaduri Memorial Clinic and Laboratory.

During my last trip to Kolkata I had the fortune to meet Mashima for a brief period. At that time T-CF was extending an extra room in the building for our laboratory.

Because of the construction, she had to vacate her own room and squeeze all her belongings in one corner, leaving her with very little space. Bricks, sand, mortar were scattered everywhere and the workers milled about the place. When I apologized for the inconvenience, she smiled and said “no troubles”. She said “tomra sabai ato kasto kare bidesh theke asha, dekho garibder janye kichu karte paro kina” (try to do something for the unfortunates).

Over a period of nearly 15 years Smt Bhaduri provided gentle and steady support to the T-CF. She was pleased that the laboratory was named after her husband and that T-CF had extended its services to other areas also.

Always humble and modest, Mashima wanted to help those in need. Her generosity and empathy for the less fortunate will keep her memory alive. It is befitting that T-CF carry on her task with equal zeal, with the support of all the members.

We pay our respects to her memory, while renewing our commitment to the work Mashima started.

By Niloy Sen

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“Whatever you do will be insignificant, but it is very important that you do.”

Mahatma Gandhi

The Toronto-Calcutta Foundation Executive Committee

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T-CF Facts File

The Toronto-Calcutta Foundation (T-CF) is a non-profit organization devoted to the well-being of the underprivileged citizens in Kolkata and its surrounding areas. T-CF funds, supports and/or manages projects that address local needs related to health, education or employment skills. Registered with the Ministry of Home Affairs under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, through its Kolkata chapter and in partnership with local communities, T-CF is working towards sustainable development.

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."
Winston Churchill



Major Interventions

- Running 3 rural medical camps in Raghobpur, Ghutari Sharif and Chakjaggaddal treating 100 patients every week.
- 2 preprimary schools are being run for 150 children in Ghutari Sharif and Chakjaggaddal to learn basic English, Bengali and general skills.
- Adolescent education classes caters to about 20 young adults who have dropped out of school and where they are taught basic literacy and needlework skills.

Socio Economic Well-being

- Skills training (sewing) provided to adolescent girls
- Free medication given to underprivileged rural patients
- Garments and clothes distributed among rural poor and school children

- Food provided to children in the schools daily

Health Education

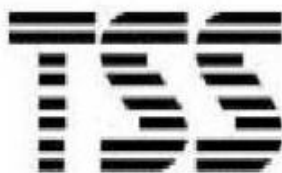
- Conducted 6 Awareness programmes on HIV
- Conducted 3 programmes on pre-natal care
- Conducted a programme on breastfeeding in the month of July 2005
- Conducted Programmes on birth control and family welfare

Others

- Important days were celebrated like:
World AIDS Day
Int'l Women's Day
Independence Day
Republic Day



Toronto Sanskriti Sangstha (TSS) Contributes to T-CF



One of the missions of Toronto Sanskriti Sangstha (TSS) is to create a platform for the youth to compete and present their various talents in forms of music, dance, recitation etc. It is called the "People's Choice" award. The audience participates and determines the winners.

TSS generously donated \$3000 from their fundrais-

ing event in 2004. The donation has gone towards T-CF's general fund, principally for medical field clinics and preschools in the villages and also in support of the Dr. R.N Bhaduri Health Centre in Naktala.

TSS's recognition and support of T-CF's efforts demonstrates that others in Toronto recognize the

various needs of the people in Kolkata and its surrounding villages.

T-CF also collaborates with TSS by finding event locations, sponsoring their programmes and helping in other ways.

Therefore, T-CF and TSS compliment each other and will continue to work in collaboration in the future.

Best of Luck to Chris Furedy: A Key Member of T-CF

Chris Furedy has been a valuable contributor to the Toronto-Calcutta Foundation for several years. She has served on the International Executive and has held the position of Secretary for the past 5 years. Chris became involved with the foundation because of its practical approach to development programmes.

Chris's early research work focused on the late nineteenth century history of Calcutta and since the 1980s she has worked on the social aspects of solid waste management and waste recycling in developing countries, with an emphasis on Asian cities. Her more recent research interests include the reuse of urban organic wastes, community participation in solid waste management, waste-to-energy projects, and urban agriculture.

Chris has been a consultant for the United Nations Environment Program, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, and the Interna-

tional Development Research Centre where she has contributed to international research projects on solid waste management.

Besides her research on waste management, she has been interested in issues of higher education. In the 1970's she was the Director of the Teaching Skills Program at York University and she received an award for contributing to instructional development from the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (1977). Her papers in this area relate to critical thinking and the improvement of lecturing.

Chris is a member of the Society for Academic Freedom and Scholarship (www.safs.ca), which promotes academic freedom and the merit principle in academic decisions, and she served as the editor of its newsletter from 1995-2000. Throughout her involvement with the Toronto-Calcutta Foundation, Chris has provided leadership and guidance to young volunteers and has been a dedicated International Executive member. Chris has retired to live in Sydney, Australia but will keep in touch with advice and help with communications. She will be missed from Toronto and we thank her for her work over the years.

By Dolon Chakravarty



Chris became involved with the foundation because of its practical approach to development programs.



Heart felt thanks to you, Chris.

Fundraising 2005

On October 21st, 2005, TCF had the honour of presenting Pramita Mallick, a well renowned vocal artist from Kolkata accompanied by Siddharta Bhattacharjee on tabla. Pramita amazed the full house by singing traditional Classical and Rabindra Sangeet with her melodious voice. The successful event

raised over \$1000 for TCF. We thank all those who attended to support the good causes of TCF. We are also grateful to Sunor Energy Inc. and its employees for their on-going financial support. Employees donate funds to TCF through the United Way Campaign every year.



T-CF Fights Against AIDS

Current estimates are at 5.1 million people which would give India the dubious distinction of being the country with the highest number of HIV infected people. As a result, HIV was ranked as the leading disease burden in India in 2002 by the World Health Organization. Lack of discussion makes it difficult to correctly identify people at risk, develop and employ a national prevention strategy and to reduce barriers that prevent HIV positive people from both disclosing their condition

and seeking treatment for it. The Kolkata team comprising Kabita Kar, Mita Pal and Dr. Bhattacharyya visit a health centre in Boral to give oral and poster presentations to sex workers, who live in the village or operate in various places in south Calcutta. It is really a awareness programme and during this time condoms are distributed to them. Reading materials are supplied to the workers to encourage the development of their reading and writing skills.

door to door in the Boral locality to make them aware of HIV and safe sex considering most of their husbands are vulnerable to HIV because of their occupations of being truck drivers or engaging in types of job where they remain outside for a long period of time. Thus T-CF is one of the primary global initiatives that are focusing on creating awareness on the magnitude of the HIV situation in India.

At least 5.1 million people are living with HIV/AIDS in India, a figure second only to South Africa's.



For more Information, Please visit our website
www.toronto-calcutta.org

MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

<p>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.</p> <p>MEMBERS: \$25 DONATION (cheque/cash): \$ _____</p> <p>Membership entitles you to:</p> <p>Participation and voting rights at the T-CF Annual General meeting</p> <p>T-CF Newsletter</p>	<p>Please complete and return form to the following address and make cheque payable to:</p> <p>The Toronto-Calcutta Foundation 2 Leland Avenue, Toronto, ON M8Z 2X5</p> <p>Tax receipts are provided for membership and for all donations \$10 or over.</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ Province _____</p> <p>Postal code _____ Tel() _____</p>
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People who donate to the United Way can name the Toronto-Calcutta Foundation as a designated charity for their contribution.



Charitable Registration # BN 88824 3391 RR0001

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