



The Toronto-Calcutta Foundation

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Newsletter July 2009

Thank you for supporting us for 21 years

Our success stories

Eye Camp

Since our last newsletter, eight more eye camps have been held at Ghutiari Sarif (GS), Langal Baria, Bakultala, Ashoke Nagar and Ushagram (which is about 100 km away from Naktala). We decided on these villages because there are more needy poor there than we find nowadays around Naktala. Dr. Kundu has done excellent work as the eye surgeon at these camps under the leadership of Dr. Arun Sengupta, VP & secretary of TCA, Calcutta Chapter.



Eye Camp with TCF's Director Bidya Gupta

Field Medical Camps

Both Dr. Dilip Bhattacharjee and Dr. Shukla Banerjee at Ghutiari Sarif and Boral field medical clinics are in high demand (over 70 people present weekly); so much so that the doctors are stretched, so we are trying to get an additional doctor for each of these areas. However, we need to raise funds to achieve this. We have been helped by the donation of medicines from Dr. T.K. Chowdhury & Sri Arunava Chakrabarty as well as from our doctors. We are very grateful for this. Sri-mati Aparna Das Gupta has made a useful contribution by designing medical cards for each patient who attends the field camps. Now doctors can review these cards before seeing the patients.

The pre-elementary schools

The schools at Ghutiari Sarif and Chakjagaddal continue to fulfill their missions. Lately the tiffin we have been able to supply has improved because of the involvement of some of the mothers, a very welcome development. Productive sessions of the mothers' committees have been held. The school uniform/bags programme is much appreciated. We hope to make improvements in the

lum of drawing among the students by distributing coloured pencils and paper as prizes at the games events. Prayas school in Ghutiari Sarif held their annual sports event at the end of December 2008 and Nivedita Pathabhavan in Chakjagad-dal had its indoor sports event day in late January (this school has no playground suitable for outdoor games).

Uttaran Vocational Training Centre for women

The centre at Boral started in March 2008 and we are now teaching our second batch of students. Currently there are six continuing and twenty five new students, taught by two instructors with a part time assistant. Several of the First batch of students have started their own businesses, having purchased sewing machines. Some, however, did not complete their training due to the pressure of family circumstances.

New website

Our website has been redesigned by Glenn Richardson and we hope that it is now easier to use. It includes new features such as eleven short videos showing our pre-schools, the Uttaran Vocational Training Centre at Boral, the distribution of school uniforms, an eye camp and some workshops. A PowerPoint presentation with recent photos can be found on the home page.

Booth at North American Bengali Conference

TCF organized a successful booth at the North American Bengali Conference held in Toronto July, 2008. We ran a video continually (this video can be seen on our website), distributed newsletters, displayed recent photographs, talked to those who visited the booth, and received donations. In addition, a PowerPoint presentation was made during interval times on each day, catching an audience of between 6,000 and 8,000 people.



Sports day at Ghutiari Sarif. January 2009

teaching and the equipment available for it. In particular we would like to improve the teacher/student ratio by hiring more teachers. Lately we have promoted the curricu-

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Key staff in Calcutta



Palash Das (second from left) holds the position of Coordinator. He looks after the pre-schools, visiting them once a month, and compiling data as needed. He assists the doctors with the field clinics twice a week, and contributes to medicine management. He also coordinates pre-school activities and monitors performance of teachers. Palash performs all outside work such as banking, purchasing of materials for both Uttaran and Naktala. Palash Das has been with TCF since 2006.

« Uniform distribution day

Kabita Kar (in the middle) joined TCF in 1991. Currently, she helps our Calcutta operations in many ways including supervision of Uttaran Vocational Training Centre. Kabita assists field clinics (medicine management and disbursement and checking blood pressure). She also maintains patient attendance book, records of field trips and Naktala cash receipts. In addition to this if there are any eye camps she helps in organizing the camps.

TCF staff visit to school »



Mita Pal (in the left) started with TCF in 1994. She attends our Naktala clinic every morning. In addition to that she maintains the stock register of medicine and arranges medicine for that day's field clinic. She also looks after the office and other supplies. When medicine stock depletes she prepares the medicine list for reorder. Other activity includes attending the field clinic.

« TCF staff at medical camp

Include The Toronto-Calcutta Foundation (TCF) in your will or trust

Including a bequest to The Toronto-Calcutta Foundation (TCF) is an easy way to make a difference. It does not affect your current cash flow or assets. It is easy to change if your circumstances change. And, it may save you estate taxes later. Best of all, you will have the satisfaction that goes with leaving a legacy that will outlast you towards benefiting the poor and the impoverished.

To illustrate how easy it is, here is some bequest language (only fill what is necessary):

"I, _____ (Your name and address) give _____ (dollars, a specific asset, or a percent of your asset) to The Toronto-Calcutta Foundation located in Toronto, Ontario, Canada to be used for _____ (its general purpose as decided by its TCF Toronto Board of Directors) or (state specific purpose).

I have consulted my attorney". My consent to this arrangement is confirmed by my signature provided below.

Your signature _____

Date of signature _____

Location where you currently live _____

****Note:** Always consult with your attorney before proceeding. Inform your loved ones about your desire. If you want, you may send us a copy of your instructions for our records.

Moving Forward By Giving Back

For more information call Tapan Mazumder, Secretary, International Executive

Phone number: 416-466-0126, e-mail: mazumder_tapan@hotmail.com

Official Address of TCF: 2 Leland Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M8Z 2X5

Our success stories II

On a 'Diwali' night in Toronto, Niloy Sen and I appealed to you to support The Toronto-Calcutta Foundation's efforts to organize eye camps with the objective of providing quality service for periodical check-ups, treatment, the distribution of free pairs of glasses, and prescription of medicines to people in need in the villages around Calcutta. We are very happy to inform you that eighty percent of these eye camps have been successfully completed at Ushagram, about 100 km from Naktala and Ghutiari Sarif village. The remaining twenty percent will be held by the end of this year.

One of TCF's directors, Balarko Gupta, who attended one of the camps wrote: "My words cannot describe the joy and happiness expressed by the people when they were able to read a newspaper, some for the very first time."

We have served more than 20 villages, seen approximately 2000 patients and distributed approximately 1500 pair of glasses. This was only possible due to your generous support and the sincere dedication of our Calcutta staff and doctors led by Dr. Arun Sen-gupta, VP & Secretary, TCA (Calcutta Chapter).

In addition we held two successful thalassemia camps, to raise awareness of this sometimes deadly inherited blood disorder in remote villages such as Ghutiari Sarif and Ushagram. A large number of young people were tested. Dr. Sengupta again took a leading role in promoting this campaign.

In 2009-2010 our goal is to promote our Vocational Training Centre school for women called 'Uttaran' at Boral which will empower women with skills and, we hope, enable them to find work. Approximately 30 students, between the ages of 16 to 42 are receiving training from our qualified and experienced trainers in this trade. TCF does not charge the trainees for lessons and materials.

The second project in the planning stages is the concept of a 'signature village' which means adopting a village to provide a range of facilities. We have selected Boral area for this purpose, because here we find a large number of people living below the poverty line. We already run two field health clinics there as well as the sewing centre.

Currently, we are exploring a site in Bokultala which is in the interior of Boral, collecting the relevant information for a pre-elementary school.

We are appealing to you to donate funds for the Toronto Calcutta Foundation projects.

Arun Chakravarty

Fundraising events

Youth talent show, 2008

Many young people participated in the event and we had about 150 people. Show was followed by a dinner. It was held at Tagore Centre, Toronto. We raised about \$5000 to 6000.

Movie premiere

With the help of many volunteers and supporters TCF held a fundraising event by screening a Toronto Premiere of a feature film "Piyalir Password", a fast-paced suspense thriller, on July 5, 2009. The hall was full and we raised \$2400 from the showing. Many thanks to our MC, patrons, supporters and volunteers

Upcoming fundraising

Youth Talent Show and dinner
Tagore Centre
150 Millwick Drive, Toronto
Saturday August 22, 2009



Tickets
\$25.00 per person
\$100.00 a couple
 (with \$50.00 tax receipt)

Sponsor an activity

Contribute to Uttaran

We encourage students to enroll at Uttaran Vocational Training Centre for women by giving them a payment to offset the loss of earnings from their usual work. You can support Uttaran by sponsoring students, or donating for equipments. Donor's will be notified with the students' progress or how the equipments are used.

For further information how to sponsor please contact Arun Chakravarty at 416-762-3259

Please sponsor pre-schooler for a year



Each year between the two schools we get about 130-150 students. For these students we provide school uniforms, school bags, sweaters, school supplies and tiffin. The cost to provide all these is about \$75 per student per year.

Students' progress report cards will be communicated to the donor on half-yearly basis.

If you want to sponsor a student please contact Arun Chakravarty at 416-762-3259.



Travelling to Calcutta? Please visit our projects sites! Volunteer in Toronto!

The visits of TCF members, and other supporters and volunteers, to Calcutta have brought about better monitoring and co-ordination between TCF in Toronto and the Calcutta board. Improvements have been made in the management at Naktala. If you are traveling to Calcutta in the near future, please take the time to visit our project sites and let us know what you think. We guarantee the experience will be one like never before. If you would like to help the TCF Chapter in Toronto, please join our dynamic group of members. Your input will be valued to the growth and development of TCF. For more information to become more involved with the activities of TCF, please contact:

Niloy Sen (n.sen@sympatico.ca) and Arun Chakravarty (Arun.c@sympatico.ca)



TCF is please to announce their on-line donation feature on the website. You can now donate to TCF online easily and safely via PayPal!

Please visit: <http://www.toronto-calcutta.org/donate.html>

Membership and donation form

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.

MEMBERS: \$25

DONATION (cheque/cash): \$ _____

Membership entitles you to:

- Visiting privileges at the T-CF annual meeting and voting rights
- 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 _____

Charitable Registration # BN 88824 3391 RR0001

Please visit www.toronto-calcutta.org for more information

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