

The Toronto-Calcutta Foundation (TCF) held its Annual Gala Dinner on November 14th, 2014. Over 150 guests, volunteers and speakers attended.

Reza Moridi, Ontario minister of Research and Innovation, Training, Colleges and Universities spoke about his trip to India many years ago and his desire to visit Calcutta. Growing up in Iran, they enjoyed tea from Calcutta, he said.

Humanitarian and Lawyer **Lee-Ann Gibbs** (below) spoke about the journey that led to her founding the Sisterhood of Survivors for trafficked women in Nepal. "They call me *dididi*, they are my family", she said.



Cardiac Surgeon and Vanier Scholar **Dr. Saswata Deb** Spoke about healthcare and how NGOs such as TCF play an important role in our society for the marginalized people.

Shirsha Chakraborty entertained guests with her melodious voice from as far as Mumbai via a pre-recorded audio against video projection of the work TCF does in Kolkata.

Monsoon's music **Justin Gray, Jonathan and Andrew Kay** and **Adam Teixeira** played Indian Classical Jazz from their latest CD *Mandala*.

Brendan Cassidy and his group also played jazz music during the early hours of the event.



Brendan Cassidy & Group

Prof. Ananya Mukherjee-Reed and **Saswati Deb** were MCs. Door prizes, a silent auction and dinner added to fun and many guests were heard commentating that they had a great time at the gala sponsored by Sun Life Financial.

TCF raised over \$30,000 and expects more in the coming weeks as the pledges are realized. TCF's program in Toronto includes STAR (Striving Towards a Result-positive) and Girls Space Leadership training for students in grades 6-12.

In Kolkata, India TCF runs schools that provide education from nursery to grade 11, Women's vocational training and certificate programs as well as eye and other health camps and clinics in rural areas for the needy.

For more information, visit www.toronto-calcutta.org.

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