

About Us

Contributed by Administrator
Saturday, 01 December 2007
Last Updated Wednesday, 05 May 2010

On a trip to India in 1996, Dutchman Ton Snellaert was anguished by the squalor and utter destitution he saw among the homeless people. Sick, naked men lying on the sidewalks, ignored by those who passed by, conflicted with Ton's sense of social justice and love. Helpless, he turned to the Bible and the following words became a road map for the organization he would create in Delhi over the next decade. "Share your food with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your home. When you see the naked, cover them; and your healing will quickly appear; And those from among you shall raise up the foundation of many generations..."

Ton took these words literally and opened "Delhi House" in December 1997 with room for twelve patients. Together with some other volunteer she started to pick up sick and dying people from the streets of Delhi, and cared for them. Quickly the patient numbers increased. Three years later a larger piece of land was purchased and renamed "Sewa Ashram". Since then more than 3000 people in desperate need have been helped — physically, mentally and spiritually.

In summer 2007, Ton traveled for an indefinite time to Europe and left the Ashram

in the hands of a capable team of successors.

Until now Sewa Ashram was a kind of emergency camp — responsive to the spontaneity of immediate demands, ready to act. It was the moment itself who governed what next should happen without giving time to the staff to breathe. In this way the community of the poor became very crowded and quite complex. Now the Ashram has reached a point where a decision on its future has to be made — time to identify strengths, weaknesses and potentials in order to meet the needs of our growing community.

Sewa Ashram runs on a small budget. All expenses, including medical care, medicine, hospital bills, food, housing, clothing, and the maintenance of the ashram and our ambulances sum up to an amazing daily 3\$ per patient! If for example 250 donors provide an average of 50 US \$ per month we already can do our work.

At Sewa Ashram we try to follow the teachings of Christ. We believe that the very foundation of our work is to love and treat our next, as we would like to be loved and treated. Thus we care for those in desperate need, for our neighbors, and all the members of our team. If this is the base of our work we will be able to recognize the beauty and uniqueness of the people we are working with, complement each other, and become a strong team bound by love – regardless of everyone’s cultural or religious background. Of course, we haven't quite reached this level of true brotherhood, but we strive for it and welcome everybody (see JOIN US) to contribute and learn with us.