

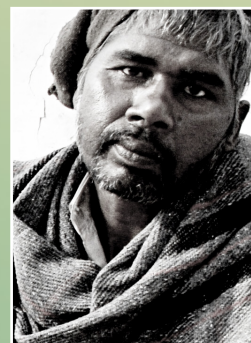


DELHI  
HOUSE  
SOCIETY



# VOICES

July 2013 / Newsletter  
Quarterly Newsletter of  
Delhi House Society



## Welcome Dosto...

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The work of Delhi House Society continues to grow thanks to your support and prayers. We are now working with several hundred families and children across Delhi and collaborate with other organizations to be more effective in partnering with communities on their transformational journey.

Our vision remains the same: to see the lives of the poor transformed: economically, physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually and walking in the fullness of life as purposed by God. Part of our mission to achieve this is to develop more community hubs that are places of blessing and catalysts in the restoration of broken lives, families and communities.

Sewa Ashram continues to be our community hub in Narela that focuses on providing rehabilitative residential care to destitute men, as well as community outreach into the neighboring slums through our Learning Centre, Community Shop and Life Groups. In line with our vision to provide quality care, we are currently undergoing re-development work at Sewa Ashram. All new buildings have been designed with building sustainability in mind, whilst using local materials and techniques.

miHubb, our program based out of our community hub in Jangpura, is a team of young forward thinkers, social entrepreneurs and professionals who are passionate in tackling the myriad challenges faced by the poor and their communities, and committed to being the difference. A major focus of this program is to engage youth in Delhi to be more actively involved in bringing change to their city. The team also works with communities in Meena Bazar and Nizamuddin where they have seen great relationships and rapport built over the last 12 months as evidenced by the growth in our children's development programs.

Thanks again for the ongoing support and being part of this community.

**Team DHS**

## Passing the Torch

While the rest of the world may have discarded these human beings, allowing them to vanish into the fringes of the forgotten, Sewa Ashram is walking straight into those fringes and finding the lost.

( continued on page 3 )

Delhi House Society, registered in Delhi NCR No. S-35565, is a Christian humanitarian development organization that has been faithfully serving the poorest of the poor across Delhi for more than 10 years.

Our vision is to see the lives of the poor transformed: physically intellectually, emotionally, socially, economically and spiritually.

With its two main projects, Sewa Ashram and miHubb, it supports hundreds of families and children on a daily basis, ranging from healthcare to education, income generation to microfinance. In 2010 Delhi House Society was awarded the Mother Teresa Award for Social Justice and was likened to a 'Modern Day Good Samaritan' and in 2012 it was awarded the Quality Standard Certification from VIVA.

## PREETI'S STORY

When we first met nine-year-old Preeti in 2011, her family was living on a roadside near a rubbish dump, without even a temporary shelter. To provide for his family, her father had resorted to begging. They heard about our learning program, and were interested, but it was difficult to see beyond their current desperate situation. When one of our staff invited them to visit the learning centre, they became more comfortable and enrolled their children in the program.

Preeti arrived, with uncombed hair, dirty face, runny nose and a bad odour. We will never forget how wild she looked – but the change came quickly. After only seven months in day care, she was promoted to the non-formal education class, and now she's almost ready to start at a government school. This well-presented, intelligent girl, who wants to be a crime-fighting policewoman when she grows up, has also brought changes to her whole family.

Seeing the way his children were growing, Preeti's father made a promise to himself – he would work hard, and never beg again – and he kept his promise. The family now lives in a small rented home in a Narela slum. Her father works as a casual day labourer and her mother looks after the household.

Both her parents are completely illiterate beyond writing their names, but they have a heart to see their children reach their full potential.



If you were poor, so poor that you lived on a street-side or in a dilapidated slum, what would you say if someone asked you what you needed? Where would you even start?

It's a complicated question. So what should we do? Should we start a health clinic or a feeding program, dealing with their physical needs and ignoring their needs for social support, education, income generation or vocational training?

Or do we set up a job placement agency, assuming that if they have money, everything else will follow?

At Delhi House Society, we believe in caring for the whole person – addressing their physical, spiritual, emotional, intellectual, social and economic needs. We know that we can't do everything, from counselling to education to healthcare and so on, so we connect and partner with those who can. At the centre of all of this are our community development workers – a team of committed people, building relationship and trust among the community, providing a genuine listening ear, and learning and discovering together with the community what their true needs are.

It's a slow process, and a challenging one, but as we discover more about what people truly need, and begin to connect them with those who can provide for their needs, we hope to see genuine, lasting and holistic changes in the communities.

**Steph Dubbeld**  
Program Manager, miHubb



## STORIES OF DEVESHORE – ROBIN RAI

*Deveshore is the Sewa Life Group for community members with special needs. In each edition of this newsletter, we will introduce you to one of the Deveshore group members. We will start with Robin Rai, the group's leader.*

When Robin arrived at Sewa Ashram in 2010, sick with TB, HIV-positive and weak in both legs from childhood polio, he was a troubled man. Robin had faced a lot of problems, and was holding on to a lot of fear. There was no sign of hope for his future. Slowly, as he joined the Sewa Life Group and began to open up, things started to change. When Robin became the first loan recipient of the ashram's self-employment scheme, his life changed even more dramatically. Now, Robin is getting out every day, earning his own income with his mobile tricycle "shop". We have also been able to help Robin arrange the necessary identification documents to enable him to access government benefits.



## PASSING THE TORCH

The staff members here were once forgotten too, and somebody found them. Somebody provided love, compassion and dignity to them, and they're now doing the same for others. The old cycle of destitution has been transformed into a new cycle of restoration.

I look around me and see people who were once mere shells of their current selves. I see them helping others through the same difficulties of life that they once experienced. I watch them giving the same compassion and dignity to others that they were once given.

"I have a new hope in life," the HIV patient concluded. "And we all need to do the same for others."

This new cycle of restoration inspires me. The passion I see all around me is contagious. And the willingness to spread this sense of hope pushes me to do the same, in big ways and small.

My own efforts may seem insignificant and easy to overlook, but each one adds

up. And along the way, lives are changed, even if I'm not around to see the end result...at least not in this lifetime.

(Taken from Stephen Crane's article "The Transformative Power of Compassion")

## CONSTRUCTION TEAM



The day we broke ground was an exciting and also daunting day. We were about to embark on a construction project with a team made up of predominately staff and ex-patients who had little if any construction experience – especially to the level of quality we were after. We would all be working well beyond our comfort zones – however this can be the best place if you want to grow.

( continued on page 4 )



( Our Construction Team Working )

### 1. Sowing is a Choice.

The sower knows what to sow and what not to – it his crop.

### 2. The Sower knows his crop.

Sowing is an investment, so the sower is careful. He is equipped to sow and reap in accordance with the nature of his crop. He has the land, has the right equipment, understands the calendar, knows the cultivation schedule, and knows the water and nutrients necessary for the crop to yield its intended result. If he is careless, if his stewardship falters, he stands to lose everything.

### 3. You reap what you sow.

Simple enough, you won't get apples if you plant tomatoes, no matter how hard you wish for them.

### 4. You reap much more than you sown.

One single seed yields hundreds to thousands of its kind.

### 5. You reap in a different season than you sow.

Winter wheat crops in Kansas are sown in September or October for harvest in June. Plants don't germinate overnight and consequences are often delayed.

Let us all sow good crops in good time and wait for the harvest. If we sow, and try to force the harvest in our own strength, it doesn't work. It's that simple.

May God bless you all.

## KISHORI LAL

Twenty years ago, after being told too many times to stop drinking, Kishori Lal left his home, wife and children, and moved to Delhi. He stayed with family for a week, before cutting off all ties and moving into Old Delhi Railway Station. After his first night there, he discovered that all his possessions had been stolen. With no other options now available, he began to work as a day labourer – working hard in the daytime, and drinking hard at night.



Kishori Lal came to Sewa Ashram complaining of severe abdominal pain. X-rays revealed "acute abdomen", including intestinal perforation, and immediate surgical intervention was crucial. Kishori had no one left to help, so Sewa Ashram attendants were sent with him to provide round-the-clock care – collecting test results, arranging medical supplies, changing dressings, taking care of basic nursing and nutritional needs, and sleeping on the hospital floor at his bedside.

After repeated surgeries, the doctors were honest – Kishori's prognosis was poor. It was awful to see him in such pain, too weak to talk. However, he was finally discharged, and even started to walk. He was told to gain 5kg before having yet another surgery. Sadly, last Saturday, Kishori's situation was critical again – he lost consciousness twice and needed readmission.

Our attendants were with Kishori Lal in hospital for more than two months. They were with him in his suffering, fears and pain – praying for him and encouraging him through the most difficult times. Could the love of these people, who have been through similar experiences themselves, be used by God to reveal himself to Kishori?

Please pray for Kishori – that God would intervene in his life, bring healing and restoration.

**Keshav Pandey**  
DHS Team Leader

I will be the first to admit, that although externally I projected confidence in the ability of our team to deliver, internally I was quite sceptical.

It's experiences like this that disrupt your underlying default beliefs about people and their capacity and can have a profound impact on your worldview moving forward. I have been amazed at the commitment and enthusiasm of our team and their ability to learn and implement that learning.

Our team led by the courageous Prakash continue to do an awesome job on their first build. A team made up of people who society had already discarded – lepers, mentally impaired, destitutes and illiterates. And yet these people have proven tremendous capacity to tackle a project like this.

I believe that a big part of the success thus far (we have at the time of writing completed the basement roof/ground floor slab) is us trying to live out some of the core values of Delhi House Society namely:

- People First - People are our highest priority.
- Leadership - Leadership is servant hood. We listen, learn and serve.
- Collaboration - One Team One Dream.

My perception on people has been rocked. I hope to no longer pigeon hole people based on their education, social

**“...experiences like this that disrupt your underlying beliefs...and can have a profound impact on your worldview moving forward”.**

status or cultural background. The great thing about property development is that you can tangibly see the work evolve and can celebrate milestones on the way. However there are many more intangible milestones that we as a team are experiencing that in my opinion are far more valuable.

Good Times,  
**Raymond Jourdan**

### THE LEARNING CENTRE

Firstly, I would like to give thanks to the Lord and to Sewa Ashram for giving me the opportunity to become a small part of the education programmes at our Learning Centre.

The Learning Centre was founded in 2009. The first year was a time of learning, where we faced many obstacles like poor hygiene and health issues among the children, poor environments for the children to grow, poor nutrition, low motivation among both children and parents, and irregular attendance.

The next year, we were better equipped to face these challenges – we had better admission processes, we began to visit the community regularly, made relationships with children and their parents, organised health camps, and arranged parents' meetings.

The third year was even more organised. We could see changes in the children and parents – more motivation and awareness among the parents, improvements in health and hygiene, developing relationships between the learning centre staff and the community, and increasing regularity in attendance. Parents also started to open up more with us, both about their problems and their ideas for the classes and their community.

In 2013, we will see what new challenges arise. So please pray for us, that we can help the children in all the areas of development – not just in education but also physical, emotional, social, spiritual and economic development. Thanks!

**Savita**



Learning Centre



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Delhi House Society exists to see the lives of the poor transformed: physically, socially, economically, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually. We thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to care for our brothers and sisters in India. For more details on how you can partner with us please visit our website [www.delhihouse.org](http://www.delhihouse.org)

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