

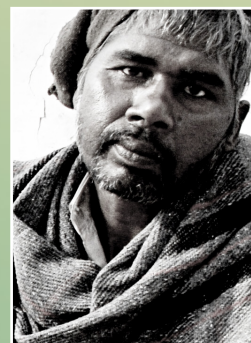


DELHI
HOUSE
SOCIETY



VOICES

Jan 2014 / Newsletter



Greetings

Welcome to the first Delhi House Society Newsletter of 2014.

In this issue we highlight some of the great people working with us. Sarin Thapa is a great story of the kind of transformation Sewa Ashram creates for the community. Sana Siddiqui is one of teachers making a real difference in the lives of 30 street children in Old Delhi. It's impossible to cover the real story behind these amazing people and the work they do in a newsletter - if you are in Delhi, you are always welcome to meet them and watch them in action.

Also in this issue, we have updates on the new ward at Sewa Ashram and a review of the Children's Christmas Party that our crew at Mihubb put on.

Team DHS

Delhi House Society Numbers:

- 82** community members at Sewa Ashram
- 286** Children in Narela Learning Centre
- 21** Children in Narela Day Care
- 45** Homeless Children in Meena Bazar learning Centre
- 41** Children in Remedial Education
- 14** Students in English Class
- 9** Women in Literacy Class
- 12** Women in Sewing Class
- 40** Children in Jangpura After school class
- 25** Children in Bhawana learning Centre
- 2000** Slum Families served by Sewa Life
- 35** Slum Families served by Mihubb

LIVING IN DELHI CAN MAKE YOU DEPRESSED

The pollution, the traffic, the lack of manners and the massive disparity in wealth between rich and poor, the BMWs, Porsches and Range Rovers driving past the...

(cont. on page 2)

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.

SARIN THAPA

Sarin's journey to become the Development Program Coordinator at Sewa Ashram has not been an easy one, but it is a great story of complete transformation.

Sarin first came to the Ashram as a community member suffering from tuberculosis, which left him semi paralyzed, and also from addiction issues. With the help of the dedicated crew at the Ashram he has turned his life around completely. He has now been employed at the Ashram for 6 years and his main roles include creating job opportunities, overseeing life groups, motivation, life planning and helping with the day-to-day running of Sewa Ashram.

"We teach these people to become Good Men - they have the capacity, but lack the opportunity. Sewa Ashram is that opportunity."

Sarin loves his job and he is good at it. He enjoys witnessing the transformation of others; he loves connecting disabled community members to job opportunities. He is emotionally attached to his job and the people he works with. One of the hardest aspects of his job is dealing with community members battling with depression: "Sometimes people leave, they have finished their medication and are medically fine - but spiritually and mentally they are not ready."

A recent highlight for Sarin was the Delhi elections. Most of the community members had never voted before; they had felt they were not



SARIN

valid, not entitled to vote and that their opinion did not matter. Voting was a significant event for community members - it helped them realise that they are a valid part of the greater community.

Sarin Thapa speaks Hindi, English and Nepali so is able to communicate with many people in the surrounding community. He is a key member of our staff and an example of Sewa Ashram transforming destitute men into "Good Men"

LIVING IN DELHI CAN MAKE YOU DEPRESSED (cont. from page 1)

...the beggars at the traffic lights, ignoring their plight. The fact that India has more millionaires, and also more people below the poverty line, than any other country on earth. The corrupt, incompetent and egotistical politicians that "lead" this country and the millions of people that keep voting them in. The human trafficking, the slave labour and the child prostitutes. All these things wear you down with a sense of hopelessness.

Working with street kids can also be depressing. Some kids get addicted to drugs, they won't take their medication and sometimes sell it, they get raped, they just disappear, some refuse to go to school and some die.

I was arrogant enough when I arrived in Delhi to think I could fix some of these problems.

This morning I went for a run.

(cont. on page 3)



NEW WARD AT SEWA ASHRAM

After months of planning and work by the crew at Sewa Ashram, the new ward has opened. The ward will host up to 24 community members and will provide valuable space for rehabilitation work and medical treatment.

Not only is the finished product a great asset to the community, but the planning and building process was an amazing learning opportunity for the staff and community involved. Site Manager Prakash Chandra Arya and his team supervised the job from site clearing to the final coats of paint. In this time they all developed skills that will make them much more employable.



NEW PERSPECTIVE

On my first day at DHS, I was asked to go with the team to their project in Old Delhi. After a short twenty minute drive through the madness that is Delhi traffic we arrived at our destination. It was in the center of the hustle and bustle of a busy street. On either side hawkers sang their wares. As we made our way towards the homeless shelter where we would be interacting with the kids, we were greeted by friendly smiles from various people whom the team had been building relationships. At last we had arrived at a vast empty ground dwarfed by the mosque that rose spiraling into the sky.

On the left stood two small blue shacks, one for the women and the other for the men. I was told this was where the people slept, huddled together like sardines in a can. In the center of the field burned piles of garbage that gave off the putrid stench of burning plastic and rubber. The grim circumstances were shattered by the smiling faces of the children who came running up to greet us. "Bhiya aap kasai ho?" (How are you big brother?) "Aajh hum kya karenge?" (What will we do today?) "Aajh hum cricket khallenge", replied Sam (DHS staff) to the eager children (We will play cricket today). They burst forth with excitement - one grabbed the bat the other the wickets

and went running out into the fields. Among the burning ashes of the garbage piles we set up our game. With rowdy shouting the children called their friends who came running all shapes, sizes and ages. Two teams were swiftly formed and the match was begun. The children beamed with the joy of playing a simple game. It was an amazing sight to see the contrast of the smiling children in this desolate place.



Two hours flew by and the game was over. I was sad to leave these sweet faces behind. It is amazing how something as simple as a game of cricket can make such a big impact on the life of a child. Sam told me that this was only one of the few things they did with the children. Normally they taught them discipline, hygiene and helped educate them. It was a privilege for me to spend a day with the team and the children they interacted with.

Ashwin Chacko



SANA SIDDIQUI

Sana joined DHS nine months ago. She teaches the street children in our Meena Bazaar project in Old Delhi. She educates these street kids about a variety of things from general subjects such as Math, English, Hindi, General Knowledge, Art and Craft to the basic necessities for a healthy childhood such as hygiene and building relationships.

Sana feels it is a privilege to serve the children and she loves how much they enjoy being a part of these classes. The children appreciate having someone to look out for them and just show a little bit of love. You can see the joy in her face as she talks about the children she teaches.

LIVING IN DELHI CAN MAKE YOU DEPRESSED (cont. from page 2)

I don't like running but I do it because I like playing rugby and I really like eating. I ran through a local park and as I passed a mini-slum, where about 10 families were living under scraps of canvas, not only did I feel guilty for needing to run but also depressed because there really was nothing I could do for these people that would help them out in the long term. As I was striding I was getting more and more depressed.

I bumped into a friend and we starting chatting. I explained how I was feeling and he had these very wise words for me. One of the biggest lies the Devil tells you is "you can fix everything". This is not true, but "you can help one person at a time".

As I jogged off, I lengthened my stride I realised that I work for an organisation that not only saves lives, but it transforms lives as well. I thought about the street kids and the destitute men and I remembered that without our love, our caring, our medical attention, our teaching and our food, some of these people would be dead. It's that simple.

Instead of being dead, these people, with our help will go on to live purposeful lives, contributing positively to society. Sure we are still going to lose some and that hurts unbelievably, but I know that I am actually helping them, simply by showing them that I care.

Living in Delhi can be so fulfilling.

Dave Mollard

For her, the most exciting thing about her job is to see the transformation in the children's lives. As an example she uses the story of Suraj, he was a scruffy little kid who joined her class; he could not read or write and seemed like a lost case. Suraj went to a Government school every day yet he still did not even know his ABCs. Over the past few months there has been a vast improvement, he now knows his ABCs and has progressed further to names of the fruits and days of the weeks. Suraj not only has improved his education and his self discipline, but due to Sana's teaching on hygiene has become neater and cleaner as well. Sana loves working with DHS as she is making an impact on the lives of children who have nothing, striving to give them an opportunity for a better life.



THE DELHI CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY 2013

800 underprivileged kids having fun, being shown love and respect and sharing the Christmas message of hope. That was the goal we wrote on the whiteboard in August.

With the help of a crew of about 80 volunteers and some generous donations from New Zealand and other parts of the world we met and even exceeded that goal.

The Party started early at 10 am at Thagaraj Stadium when the first of 40 buses turned up full of kids, many of whom have not been in a sports stadium before. The look of wonder on their faces as they saw the grandstand, the athletics tracks and of course, the bouncy castles was a real pleasure to witness.

A band and clown act warmed up the growing crowd and the buzz of over 800 kids was contagious. The talent quest revealed some truly gifted kids who need more opportunities like this to express themselves.

"...800 underprivileged kids having fun, being shown love and respect and sharing the Christmas message of hope... that was the goal we wrote..."

In keeping with the Indian theme the guys delivering the food for lunch were stuck in traffic and were 30 minutes late, which is actually on time by Indian standards. After 1000 lunch boxes were ransacked, stomachs were full and it was time for the fun and games. The kids were split up into 4 groups and were sent to different stations for sports, fun stalls, performance stage and more fun stalls. Two hours of mad crazy fun throwing balls, firing crossbows, lucky dips, inflatable slides, dancing, singing and 10 pin bowling.

A very well tanned Santa Claus turned up from his home in the Congo and gave every kid a school backpack as a present before the stage was turned into a dance floor and the Bollywood tunes were blasted all over the neighbourhood.

For me the highlights were many but here are a few that really stood out.

Watching the awesome senior pupils from Metro Delhi International School showing so much love to kids who don't get much of it.

The street kids from our project in Old Delhi all washed, wearing clean clothes and having the confidence to perform

in front of 1000 people.

Getting to work with an amazing crew of volunteers who truly have big hearts.

Sharing the Christmas message of hope for the hopeless.

Thank you to everyone that donated time, money and love to this project. Let's not stop at 800 kids, next year lets do it for 1600!!!!!!

Dave Mollard



Volunteers



Follow us on facebook:
facebook.com/
delhihouse.org

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

US Donors:

Checks payable to:
'Sunnyside Fellowship'
c/o Dr. Mark Grussendorf
5505 Heritage Hills Cir
Fredericksburg, VA
22407-0104

Please notate your
check: 'Sewa Ashram'

European Donors:

Please use the following
information for wire
transfer: Recipient: Delhi
House e.V., Waldsaum 33,

45134 Essen, Germany
IBAN: DE97
6601007506145097 50
BIC: PBNKDEFF (Postbank
Karlsruhe).
To receive a receipt in
German language for income tax
deduction, send an email to
office@delhihouse.de with your
address details. The receipt will be
accepted by German tax authorities.
For other countries please check
with your local tax office.

New Zealand Donors:

Cheques payable to:
Cry for the World Foundation
29 Kahira Crescent
Papamoa Tauranga 3118 NZ
Bank account details for direct
deposits at ANZ: Account
Name: Cry for the World
Foundation
Account Number:
01 0819 0374190 30
Branch: 37 Rotherham St,
Riccarton, Christchurch

Australian Donors:

Checks payable to:
'Opportunity
International Australia'
Level 4, 220 George Street
Sydney NSW 2000 Please
mark your donation
"Sewa Ashram" Foundation
You can also make a
donation by visiting www.sewaashram.gofundraise.com.au. All donations are
tax deductible.