



DISTRESSED CHILDREN & INFANTS INTERNATIONAL

Distressed Children & Infants International (DCI), Inc. is a US registered charitable non-profit organization. DCI was founded in 2003 to improve the socio-economic, educational, and health conditions of underprivileged children worldwide. We seek to educate American children about the challenges facing children in other countries and foster in them a desire to take leadership in working for humanitarian causes. DCI is making a difference, one child at a time.

Meet Tripti Rani, DCI Tutor



Tripti Rani is one of 73 tutors employed by DCI. Her husband is a shopkeeper with little income and the family was always struggling. There was no opportunity for her in the area. Since she got the job with DCI, Tripti Rani has received several trainings and is now contributing to her family's well-being. She feels in control of her life and can help her daughters continue their education.

DCI Programs

DCI is working toward its mission through several programs:

- Sun Child Sponsorship Program (SCSP)
- Orphan Support Program
- Health for the Underprivileged Program
- Blindness Prevention Program
- Child Rights Awareness Campaign & Youth Development

To learn more about our programs, please visit: distressedchildren.org

Sun Child Sponsorship Program (SCSP)

SCSP is a comprehensive child sponsorship program designed to give some of the poorest and most vulnerable children the opportunity to become independent and productive citizens. The SCSP reduces school dropout rates through quality education, healthcare, family support and community development. The SCSP has been operating in Bangladesh since 2005 and currently supports 1500 children.



After School Tutorial Support:

We believe that education is the key to breaking the cycle of extreme poverty. But in remote Bangladesh, due to the lack of resources, primary schools run in 4 hour shifts. As a result, children from extremely poor families are often unable to adapt and perform well even after coming to school. SCSP tutor support, started in 2009, offers tutoring to groups of 10-12 children every day after school. It has shown remarkable results in improving academic performance. It also allows close monitoring of the children's overall health and family situation. We hire educated women (minimum SSC passed) from the local area as tutors. Thus we ensure the success of these children at school and at the same time help provide economic independence to underprivileged women. **Activities include:** homework preparation, special counseling for slow learning children, drawing, cultural activities, health and hygiene education, and more.

Take Action, Change a Life, Give Hope

- Sponsor a child in Bangladesh for just \$15 per month and give the gift of education, health and vision care, and income generating opportunity for a child and his or her family
- Support an orphan child for \$50/month
- Sponsor an eye surgery in Bangladesh, India or Nepal for just \$50 and give the gift of sight
- Establish a preschool (in your name) in a remote village of Bangladesh or in a slum of Dhaka for just \$600/year for 50 children
- Sponsor DCI's health clinic for slum residents of Dhaka with a donation of any amount

Visit our web site: www.distressedchildren.org or contact us (Tel#203-272-3869, dcj@cox.net) for more information.

Lives Are Changing!

DCI Orphanage (Sun Child Home)



Children showing off their annual promotion certificate

Bangladesh is one of the poorest countries in the world. When families cannot afford to provide for themselves, thousands of children end up on the streets. In fact, 1 in every 15 children ends up on the streets to fend for themselves. Their bleak outlook, lack of proper nutrition, inadequate water, shelter, and poor sanitation often leave these children vulnerable to the devastating influence of drugs, child trafficking, and the ravages

of disease. DCI is focusing on helping these children through our Orphan Support Program. At present, we are giving full support to 30 street children at our orphanage (Sun Child Home). They are initially home-tutored and then admitted to regular school. We are very proud to announce that all of the girls have already adjusted to regular school and have been promoted to their appropriate grade levels this year!

Children enjoy their free time learning art, dance, singing and much more. Some of the children already participate in local art and dance competitions. Please visit our orphanage and spend a day with the children. We guarantee you will enjoy their company!



Performing at Shishu Academy



Children showing their artwork

Meet Bizle Begum, a Woman Who Changed Her Life



Bizle Begum is a member of DCI's family support group. She lives in Nilphamari district in the northern part of Bangladesh — one of the country's poorest areas. Her family consists of her husband, two sons, and two daughters. Just a few years ago they were in a state of constant financial crisis. Education and healthcare were unobtainable luxuries for them. When DCI came to the village, one of her children (Benzir Babul) received sponsorship and her other children received health care. To increase the family's income, DCI included Bizle Begum in the Family Support Program (FSP). DCI provided her and her husband some business startup money, which they used to start a tea stall at the village market. Both of them are hard working, so within a year they expanded the tea stall to a mini restaurant. Bizle maintains the cash and customers and her husband prepares food and maintains other aspects of the business. Within four years, the family became economically solvent.

They have also purchased a small piece of land for their own shelter. Bizle Begum is so grateful for this change.

Lives Are Changing!

SCSP Family Support

DCI's sponsorship program does not stop at providing education and healthcare for children. It also increases family income through a family support project that operates in all four of the SCSP's operation areas (Patuakhali, Feni, Habiganj and Nilphamari districts), supporting a total of 603 mothers in 36 groups. Every week they meet to discuss their essential needs, facilitated by DCI officers. As an Income Generating Activity (IGA), the mothers deposit money in this program's common fund and withdraw money as needed. All loans are interest free. The money is disbursed according to need and the motivation of the mothers to change their life situation. So far, money has been distributed for small business development, purchasing livestock, rickshaws, or land, and repairing homes.

Visiting DCI Projects



In January 2013, I visited DCI's Dhaka Orphanage, slum area along with their day care and medical clinic. I was very pleased to see the confidence of the orphanage girls. Even the little kids of the day care are very smart – they introduced themselves to us and talked to us without any hesitation. It was nice to see how DCI is changing the lives of little children. The slum appeared to be clean and well organized – which was beyond my expectation. I was pleased to see the details of support for pregnant women from record keeping to medical support and also in creating awareness. Overall, it was a very motivating experience. I am proud that I am involved.

Taslema Sultana, USA

Meet Golapi, a Slum Resident

Golapi has been living in the Kallyanpur Porabari slum for the last 10 years. She is living with her husband, two daughters and one son. Her husband was a driver but lost his job and couldn't find any permanent work. The family was going through a crisis. Golapi herself could not look for a job outside her area because she had small children. She was very frustrated and expressed her problem to the DCI social workers during their visit to her home. A DCI officer identified that she has one very good skill—she can sew. To prove her interest, the family was asked to come up with some money and was promised that if they were able to, Golapi would be provided full support to set up her business. Golapi really wanted to stand on her own feet and with her husband's help, she did collect and save enough money. DCI then set up her business. Since DCI gets many patients at the clinic, DCI also helped publicize her business news among the community. Because of her hard work, she is doing very well. Today if you visit her, most often you'll see a long line in front of her shop!



Blindness Prevention



DCI launched its Blindness Prevention Program in 2007, with the objective of preventing and treating vision loss among underprivileged populations in Bangladesh and India. During the last year, DCI arranged 6 eye screening camps where 1522 patients were screened and 243 people received cataract surgeries.

Health for Underprivileged



DCI operates a health clinic at the Kallyanpur Porabari slum in Dhaka. The clinic supports the general health needs of the 9000 slum residents and provides free medicine to the patients. The clinic also gives pre- and post-natal care and ensures hospital delivery.

Join Our Effort!

Bits & Pieces

Federation of Bangladesh Associations of North America (**FOBANA**) has awarded its “**Outstanding Community Service Award**” to **DCI** and **Dr. Ehsan Hoque**. The award was presented at a ceremony at the 2013 FOBANA convention in Atlanta on August 31st, 2013.



130 boys and 155 girls from 10 Sun Child Pre-Schools have successfully completed their lessons for 2012.

Babita Akhtar, internationally acclaimed Bangladeshi actress, calls for support for DCI's mission to protect the rights and vision of underprivileged children.



DCI hosted a “Press Conference on Child Rights & Sight” in Toronto on July 19, 2013. The event was attended by numerous media representatives from the Toronto area. Actress Babita Akhtar and DCI's Executive Director Dr. Ehsan Hoque were the special guests at the gathering. They discussed DCI's initiatives for underprivileged children and ways to get involved. In addition, they announced the initiation of operations for DCI-Canada. Mr. Shahid Khandker, the main organizer and host of this DCI event, welcomed all of the guests and opened the press conference. Babita Akhtar, a Goodwill Ambassador for DCI, is currently campaigning throughout the world for DCI's mission to protect child rights and prevent child labor.



DCI's Program Coordinator **Asahi Hoque** spent the months of June and July in Bangladesh doing research on maternal health with the Holster Scholar Award from University of Connecticut (UCONN).



American Party

Volunteers from the USA Dr. Beverly Questad, Emily, and Cindy arranged an “American party” for the children at the Sun Child Home.

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DCI is a 501 (c) (3) (IRS Tax Exempt) Non-profit organization. Any contribution to DCI is fully tax-deductible!

www.distressedchildren.org