



DISTRESSED
CHILDREN &
INFANTS
INTERNATIONAL

DCI Newsletter

Achievement in Junior School Certificate Examination

45 underprivileged children (29 boys, 16 girls) were admitted to Class Nine after finishing the Junior School Certificate Examination in 2011.



Children admitted to class nine

Children of DCI Pre-primary School Enter Grade I

12 boys and 17 girls of **DCI pre-primary school** have successfully advanced to formal govt. primary school in grade one.

At the pre-primary school children are developed physically, socially, emotionally, and linguistically to help them cope with primary school.



Children entered in grade I

158 Children Complete Primary Education!

In January 2012, 158 extremely poor children (82 boys, 76 girls) have been successful in completing primary level education and have entered sixth grade!

On behalf of these children, DCI is grateful to all of our donors who made our work successful with their generous support, allowing us to keep these children in school instead of entering into child labor.



Children completed Primary School

925 million people do not have enough to eat – more than the populations of USA, Canada, and the European Union combined.

Every five seconds, a child dies from hunger-related diseases.

NEWSLETTER TEAM:

Asahi Hoque,
Ian Burzynski,
Simon Bayley

Alif Laila, Well-Known Musician, Becomes Advocate for Distressed Children & Infants International



The well-known American musician Alif Laila has begun to work with Distressed Children & Infants Intl. (DCI) as a Volunteer Advocate.

On January 1st, 2012, DCI Executive Director Dr. Ehsan Hoque officially honored Alif Laila as DCI's newest Advocate. Ms. Laila has begun her cooperation with DCI in the fight for child rights and sight worldwide, and has promised her commitment to this noble mission for many years to come.

The multitalented Alif Laila was initially trained in Indian classical music and sitar in Dhaka,

Bangladesh by the late Ustad Mir Qasem Khan, nephew of legendary maestro Ustad Allaud-din Khan. She graduated from the College of Fine Arts in Dhaka, where she received several awards for her watercolor painting.

In 1988 she moved to the United States. Her intense study of Indian classical music in sitar continued with teachers Partha Chatterjee, Krishna Bhatt, and Kushal Das. Alif Laila has performed in concert at places such as The Smithsonian in Washington DC, Rubin Museum in New York, The Detroit Museum of Arts, The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, The Kerala Arts Society in Kerala, India, the National Museum of Bangladesh, SRA (Sangeet Research Academy) in Kolkata, India, IIC (India International Center) in New Delhi, India, and other venues throughout the world. Alif taught sitar in the University of Maryland and has played in numerous benefit concerts to help women's causes in the Washington DC area. She has given lectures and demonstrations in various universities and schools in the US.

Alif weaves her tones with melody in a tapestry of colors and textures of feelings, originating from the bonding to her cultural heritage and Indian classical music, that crosses all boundaries of culture and genre to free the spirit and soul. To learn more about Alif Laila and her music please visit: <http://aliflailasitar.com> & <http://aliflailasitarmusic.blogspot.com>



“Music has the positive energy to bring peace and joy to all. The philosophy behind my musical endeavors is harmonious with that of Distressed Children & Infants International in striving to make this world a better place for all. The extensive projects and continuous effort of DCI to educate and provide health care to needy children in Bangladesh is truly a strong way to pave the path to a better future for our country, as well as for our world at large. A nominal donation from the more fortunate will make a huge difference to the otherwise unfortunate children who deserve to be self-sufficient and educated individuals like our own children. Please come forward and assist in this noble cause – let's make our **“Journey for Child Rights and Sight”** a

Sun Child Sponsorship Program: DCI Acquires 50 Pre-primary Schools

You may remember that after Cyclone Sidr, DCI rebuilt a school in Patuakhali district, which then became a pre-school for children up to five years of age. Since then we have had a consistent enrollment of 30 children a year. The school has been very successful at providing the basics of pre-primary education for young children who then proceed to state primary schools. This type of education is essential for ensuring that children perform well throughout their academic careers and do not drop out.

DCI prioritizes early childhood education because in our work with elementary school-aged sponsored children we have seen that children from poor backgrounds (due to late start and difficult family situations) have a lot of difficulty working within the fixed curriculum of government primary schools. We believe that in addition to poverty this is one of the major reasons children drop out. Children going to pre-primary school can transition much more easily into the regular school system. Our pre-primary school students show an excellent retention rate.



Terre Des Hommes-Netherlands (TDH-NLs), a large non-government organization based in the Netherlands, has been running similar pre-schools in the Patuakhali region: a total of 50 centers serving 1250 children. Last year TDH changed its area of work and began looking for a partner organization to take over these schools. Due to the necessary benefit pre-primary education provides to the local population and DCI's demonstrated success with its own pre-school, TDH handed over full charge of these schools to DCI instead of closing them down. TDH had already established the curriculum and management processes as well as trained the teachers. DCI would like to keep these schools operational and is therefore looking for dedicated supporters to sponsor individual schools.

Each school (30 children and one teacher) requires only \$600 US annually to operate. We are hoping that as an individual or with a group you will consider supporting one or more of these schools. A donor may dedicate the operation of one or more schools to whomever they wish.

If you are interested to bring critical pre-primary education to children in Bangladesh, you may contribute online through DCI's website (<http://my.distressedchildren.org>) or write a check payable to DCI International and mail to 5 Shipton Court, Cheshire, CT 06410, USA. Please write "Pre-school" in the memo line.

Orphan Support Program: Sun Child Home

10 Children Receive Admission to Kisholoy Girls' School:

Ten orphan girls from DCI's Sun Child Home attended an admission test at Kisholoy Girls' School, Tazmohol Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka. Nine of them qualified for their expected classes/grades and one of them qualified but not the expected class/grade.

The ten children's grades are given below:

Sl. No.	Children's Name	Expected class/grade	Qualified class/grade
01.	Shilpi Akter	2 nd	2 nd
02.	Noor Nahar	2 nd	2 nd
03.	Rubina Akter	2 nd	2 nd
04.	Masuda Khanam	2 nd	2 nd
05.	Asha Moni	2 nd	2 nd
06.	Tahera Khanam	3 rd	3 rd
07.	Sharmin Akter	3 rd	3 rd
08.	Rabeya Khanam	3 rd	3 rd
09.	Ratna Akter	3 rd	3 rd
10.	Farzana Parvin	2 nd	1 st



The remaining eight girls are still attending Sunrise Model School (Kindergarten). One child is too young to go to school. We are proud to inform you that Shilpi and Ratna got 2nd place in class two exam and Asha got 3rd place in class three. These children were on the street just two years ago and are now performing in their classes at a level comparable to ordinary children.

The children are doing great in their extra curricular activities!

Children participated in annual sports and cultural programs at their school, Kisholoy Girls' School & College. Tahera and Farzana won the first prize in '100 meter run' and 'shoe run'. Shilpi won the 2nd prize and Farzana Parvin won the 3rd prize in music.



What Our Visitors Are Saying:



January 12, 2012

We are very impressed with the cleanliness of the orphanage. It is very rewarding to see that children are happy and well fed.

We wish the girls all the best.

—Zebu Islam and Mrs. Shoen Hasan

—Dr. Munirul Islam



January 4, 2012

My wife and I liked the orphanage, especially because in addition to education, the children are taught painting and singing. Also because when children perform well in their grades, they are sent to better schools. We are as a whole impressed with the effort made by DCI in Dhaka, but I regret that I did not have enough time to learn more about these centers this time. I shall definitely take my time to know more during my next visit. We are really impressed to see the orphanage and its services. We wish it success.

—Dr. AKM Shelley Shahabuddin



January 21, 2012

I am very pleased to visit this facility. It is a wonderful program. I am very happy. I will share my feelings in the USA with all my friends and family and will continue my effort to help this mission. Dr. Ehsan and his team are doing a great job. Wishing them all the best,

—Mohd. N. Nabi,
Cromwell, CT



January 5, 2012

Visiting the orphanage is my favorite part about Bangladesh! The girls are so well-mannered and intelligent. I am eager to continue working with these bright and beautiful young ladies. I request all of you to join our effort.

—Lora Chowdhury
Miss Teen TX Int'l

The Journey for Child Rights & Sight

Press Conference Held by DCI Goodwill Ambassador Babita in Bangladesh



On January 14th, 2012, DCI and its Goodwill Ambassador, renowned Bangladeshi actress Babita Akhter, held a press conference in Dhaka. In addition to Babita, the conference was attended by DCI Vice President Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed, DCI advisor Dr. Ruby Hossain, and representatives of DCI Bangladesh. Here is what Babita had to say:

“As Goodwill Ambassador of DCI, I travelled to the USA on the 1st of September, 2011. DCI is a US non-profit working for underprivileged children and families in Bangladesh. They have child sponsorship programs and health programs for village children, street orphans, and slum residents. It is a

small organization with a genuine interest in helping the poor. I was amazed to see that it runs on practically 100% volunteer work and all their accounting is published on the web for everyone to see. Another unique thing is that DCI involves youth in all its activities. This connects young Bangladeshi Americans to their roots in Bangladesh.

I previously spoke at DCI’s Conference on Child Rights & Sight at Yale University in New Haven, CT. Here I met many people who are working to find solutions to the problems of poverty that so many face everyday. As a Goodwill Ambassador my job is to create awareness about the needs of the poor people of Bangladesh and encourage everybody to get involved in whatever capacity they can. With this purpose in mind, DCI arranged a series of programs in different U.S. states where it has chapters called the “Journey for Child Rights & Sight”. As part of this journey I travelled to Chicago, New York, Maryland, Philadelphia, Michigan, California, and Canada. Many people came to meet me at these programs. It is truly heartwarming to see that people so far away from here, people from all walks of life, are thinking of ways to help Bangladesh. My resolve to work for the needy has been renewed and strengthened. Please let us forget our differences and focus on helping the needy. Let’s grow as nation together.”

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DCI Partners with Trumbull Rotary Club



On January 20, 2012 Trumbull Rotary Club invited DCI’s Executive Director Dr. Hoque to present DCI’s work at a morning breakfast seminar in support of DCI’s efforts for child rights and sight.

The meeting was attended by the Rotary club members including Mr. Anis, a dedicated supporter of DCI. After the meeting, the Trumbull Rotary Club agreed to sponsor three children through DCI.

Health for Underprivileged Program

Forida Begum's Successful Treatment

Forida Begum, age 20, is living at Porabari slum in Kallyanpur, Dhaka. She got married when she was 15 and now has a two year old daughter. She often suffered from chest pain and breathing problems. DCI's HUP staff met her during a field survey and she described her situation. The HUP staff then took her to the clinic. After the examination, the doctor referred her to Ibn Sina Medical College Hospital. A specialist doctor advised her to have a blood test and chest X-ray. They referred her to the National Heart & Chest Institute, but Forida was not able to receive treatment due to financial hardship. DCI took her to the National Heart & Chest Institute and provided total financial support to do the tests. The doctor identified that Forida is suffering from tuberculosis.

Forida received 6 months of free medicine from the government hospital and DCI provided the rest of her medicine from our Health Clinic. Our HUP staff is regularly following up on her condition and helping her take her medicine according to the doctor's advice. We are happy to announce that her condition has shown much improvement!



SPECIAL THANKS to all our contributors, donors, and supporters for your commitment to DCI's programs and mission. Together we can change the world, one child at a time. We welcome you to DCI, and we look forward to working with you in this most important mission.

CORPORATE MATCHING:

Many corporations/companies will match portions of employee donations to charity. Please consult your HR department to determine if your employer will match your contribution to **Distressed Children & Infants International (DCI)**.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The success of DCI's projects relies on your passion and generosity. The work that DCI is doing on behalf of impoverished children would not be possible without your support.

Visitors at DCI projects in Bangladesh



Fatema & Ziauddin Ahmed visiting DCI projects

January 9, 2012

This is a great endeavor for supporting orphans and provides an excellent opportunity for improving their lives. I hope many people will take the opportunity to support this humane venture.

—Ziauddin Ahmed MD
Philadelphia, USA

The work being done here by DCI at this orphanage is amazing. The children are great and doing great learning in dance, art, and language. I fully hope these children will grow up to be fine women with the capacity for leadership in their lives.

—Fatema Ahmed MD
Philadelphia, USA

Dear friends,

My two sons Sajid and Akif have been sponsoring two children in Bangladesh, named Ferdous Akter and Zannat Hawlader, for the last few years through DCI. Through this child sponsorship program my children are learning about Bangladesh, how other people live in the world, and so many other things. It has helped the children to open their eyes to the outside world. They now know that there are children who really have nothing and that they can help them. Sajid and Akif are learning to appreciate what they have and are learning compassion for others. I am thankful for DCI's effort not only for helping the disadvantaged but also for thinking of ways to involve our children in the process. It really is an excellent program. If you have children, I think this is the best program to get them involved in. It's just \$15 per month! Buy a piggy bank for your child to save money as a family project. They can save \$15 per month individually, or together as a family. I promise you that your children will get a lot of benefit from this, and the whole family, too.

—Soma Raqib Haque



Soma & family with DCI children

Announcements

2012 Dues

ALL Sponsors: DCI requests that all sponsors pay sponsorship dues for 2012 by June (\$180/yr)

All Donors: You can donate at any time for the following causes:

Support an after-school tutor: \$25/month, \$300/yr (1 tutor for 10 children)

Help a family become independent through income generating activity

- \$100 buys a goat and \$250 buys a cow for a family to improve their livelihood and nutrition
- \$600 buys a duck farm of 300 birds for a poor family
- \$1000 can establish a grocery store for a poor family

Give the gift of sight

- \$50 can provide eye surgery for an individual and \$500 can provide an eye screening camp for 300-500 people

Help with safe water & latrine

- \$100 can purchase a shallow tube well and \$1000 a deep tube well, which will provide safe drinking water for a community
- A ring slab latrine can be provided for \$150 to improve community health and sanitation

Any Zakat contributions: per your specific interest or to our general fund

2012 Conference on Child Rights & Sight

Organized by: Distressed Children & Infants International (DCI)

Co-Organizers: Yale University, Yale UNICEF, Rights & Sight for Children (RSC), Diabetic Association of Bangladesh (DAB), The Hunger Project (THP), Eye Surgery Associates (ESA), BADHAN
BIRDEM Auditorium, Dhaka, Bangladesh, Friday, December 21, 2012

On behalf of **Distressed Children & Infants International (DCI)**, we cordially invite you, your family, and friends to join our **4th Conference on Child Rights and Sight** being held on Friday, December 21, 2012 at BIRDEM Auditorium in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Register by August 30 to secure the lowest registration fees. Save the date as it is never too early to plan for a great event!

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS:

We encourage you to submit an abstract for possible oral or poster presentation. The conference will focus on issues of child rights, child labor, poverty alleviation, blindness prevention, empowering the underprivileged through education, public health, mental and physical well-being of youth, leadership, teamwork, and volunteering. Click here to submit an abstract and to find abstract guidelines and related information: <http://www.distressedchildren.org/>

QUESTIONS?

E-mail Zia Mannan (zia@distressedchildren.org) or call us at 203-272-3869 (USA), 88-01727264688 (Bangladesh) to learn more about exhibitions and sponsorship opportunities, or for any additional questions you may have about the conference.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Abstract Submission Deadline: August 30, 2012
Registration Deadline (at reduced rate): August 30, 2012
Media Registration Deadline: September 30, 2012
Registration Cancellations Deadline: August 26, 2011

www.distressedchildren.org