



Distressed Children & Infants International

Working for the children in need

January, 2009

A note from
SUN CHILD SPONSORSHIP (SCS)
PROGRAM
DIRECTOR
LIMU CHOWDHURY



Inauguration of the newly built Primary School

Dear DCI Sponsors & Volunteers:
With great pride & joy, I sincerely thank you all for your support and contributions throughout the past year. Your hard teamwork and dedication to DCI's mission of providing education, food & shelter for underprivileged children made 2008 a remarkable year. We had the highest number of DCI volunteers and sponsors of all previous years. The economy is poor now, so we need to unite and work even harder to continue our challenging mission. I request all the chapters to be more active and take stronger steps so that we can continue this glorious work. Please join us.

May God the giver of all gifts smile upon you and bless your home and family with happiness, cheer and prosperity. Happy New Year 2009.

-Limu Chowdhury

The East Shaula Primary School was formally opened this January, 2009 after the original school was completely destroyed by Cyclone Sidr in 2007. Reconstruction of the school has been completed with funds received from AGAMI Inc., a California based organization. St. Peters Church of Cheshire, CT is sponsoring a teacher for this newly reconstructed school.

Joining the opening celebration were Mr. Mohammad Shahid, a representative from AGAMI; the local authorities and many villagers whose children are now able to go back to school again. A beautiful show was arranged by the school children to honor the guests.

The school construction was part of DCI's rehabilitation effort after the destruction by Cyclone Sidr in the Patuakhali district.



NEWSLETTER TEAM:

Nina Hoque, Elizabeth Swarsky, Sonia Khan, Molly Preudhomme, Carla Danajovits, Bea Dovin, Barbara Pannone, Robert Swarsky, Chowdhury Salahuddin Mahmood, Daniel Nova, Sabrina Khan, Phil Noel

Contact:

Toll Free# 866-516-7495

E-mail: dci@distressedchildren.org

CHILDHOOD BLINDNESS PREVENTION (CBP) Program

FREE EYE SCREENING CAMP

A free eye screening camp was arranged at Shaula, Patuakhali from January 15-17, 2009. Three doctors from the Ispahani Institute of Ophthalmology volunteered to perform eye screening and treatment for the villagers. Hundreds of people of all ages from the area and nearby villages received treatment in this camp.



Doctors and Organizing Officials

Camp Location: Shaula, Patuakhali, Bangladesh

Date: January 15-17, 2009

Total Patients examined: 978

Diagnosed conditions in: 422

Attending Doctors: 3

Patients came from (Covered Area): South & North Shaula, Karpur-kathi, Baje Sondip, Bashbaria, Bauphal, Patuakhali



Both young and old formed long lines for eye screening

Arranged with the help of:

- Rights and Sight for Children (RSC)
- Ispahani Institute of Ophthalmology
- Terre Des Homes-Netherlands



Julekha Bibi, 70 years old, travelled far to be checked



A large number of infants and young children were examined by the eye doctors





CONGRATULATIONS!
to Mr. Tazin on his recent marriage!



Dr. Shahan Chowdhury with her sponsored child, Rahima
"What a wonderful idea! I like the Sun-Child Program and truly believe in it. I hope with everyone's teamwork and ambition, the vision of helping as many children as possible will come to fruition. Truly inspiring to see what has happened already. Let's do more. I will see you and the children in the field soon!"
- Dr. Shahan Chowdhury, Coppell, Texas



Mr. Tazin Shadid, Director of Health for Underprivileged Program (HUP) of DCI, visited Bangladesh recently. The HUP program is designed to meet the health needs of the underprivileged in the slums of Dhaka and other areas where health care is not easily accessible. He visited the DCI's health center and the nearby slums to understand the slum residents' views and needs. Mr. Shadid is now working to establish another DCI health center in Dhaka.



Andrew Rozario and his sponsored child, Asha
"I am highly pleased to meet my sponsored child, Asha at DCI office, Bangladesh. I believe that to advance our country it is necessary to work with DCI. I am proud to be associated with DCI and I will do whatever possible for me to help Asha to become a productive citizen of Bangladesh. I wish that Asha will carry on her education and complete it with full success and that DCI will carry on this excellent program further" - Andrew Rony Rozario, Arlington, VA



Mr. Mohd. Manzurul Islam (Biplob), DCI Chapter Representative of Sunnyvale, California, recently visited DCI projects in Bangladesh. He met with the DCI Bangladesh team, government officials of Ministry of Social Welfare and the leaders of Sir Salimullah orphanage. Mr. Islam supervised and evaluated the conditions at the orphanage, and is going to help develop the new Orphan Support Program of DCI.



Mr. M. Harun Roshid (first from left), DCI Chapter Representative of Georgia, recently visited DCI projects in Bangladesh. He took the initiative to develop the Hobigonj project of DCI. He has begun to make a video documentary on DCI's Sun-Child Sponsorship Program. Mr. Roshid's documentary team includes renowned writer, Mr. Imdadul Hoque Milon and a representative of Channel-S, a popular TV Channel in England, Mr. Shahid Rayhan.



"I am very impressed with the progress of DCI. This is my second visit to DCI project in Bangladesh to meet my sponsored child, Shamina Akter. I am very happy to be a part of DCI's work and I would continue to be involved with DCI to make a change together in Bangladesh. I also like to invite everybody to join this Noble effort. Thank you all so very much and appreciate all of your hard work."
-Javed Rahman, Atlanta, Georgia

YOUTH VOLUNTEER IN BANGLADESH



“I have to play a role in making changes” said Saika Belal Nitol a junior at the College of William & Mary. Recently Nitol visited Bangladesh and volunteered for DCI. This is what she felt in her own words.

“I worked as a volunteer in the DCI’s Health Center in Dhaka. It is a small free clinic that offers treatment to those living in the nearby slums, or working as servants. As a volunteer, I had the unique opportunity to work directly with the patients and the doctor. I had the opportunity to learn how a free clinic works and the work and resource inputs that go towards making an urban free clinic functional. But more importantly, through my direct interaction with the residents of slum, I saw first-hand the health problems and hardships that plague the poor. These are people living, eating, sleeping and bathing in most of Dhaka’s garbage. They were drinking dirty water. They were washing their clothes and pots and pans in the same water that they bathe in and also use as their toilet. I cannot put into words the extent of need and suffering that I saw there but I know that it showed me how desperately

change must take place. And I was happy to see that DCI is a part of the change that needs to happen. I saw that the people in even the innermost parts of the slums were familiar with DCI workers. I was happy to see that the DCI team is very effective and carries out their work with complete dedication and passion.

I also went on a trip to northern part of Bangladesh to visit a school in a rural village. This was my most uplifting experience and one that I will always treasure. I had the chance to celebrate Friendship Day with the children in this school. I am truly honored by the genuine friendship they showed me. Most of the children in this school were sponsored children. I had a wonderful time talking to them about what they learn in school, what they do for pastime, what they want to be when they grow up, etc. I was truly inspired by DCI’s work that day because it showed me that even in a place where education is not always easily accessible, and the future of children is bound to be like that of their parents due to lack of opportunity, there is a way to effectively allow families to continue unhampered with their livelihoods and at the same time allow their children to acquire an education and make their way towards a brighter hope-filled future. I am forever indebted to DCI for all that I learned, the beautiful time I spent and the heartfelt inspiration that I took away from my trip.” -*Saika Belal Nitol, College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA*

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.

GET INVOLVED NOW & JOIN OUR EFFORT:

For volunteering opportunities in the following areas:

- Administrative & Coordinating work
- Fundraising & Grant writing
- Website maintenance/Graphic Design
- Video Editing, Media and Publicity.
- Event planning and organizing
- Enlisting new sponsor/donors
- Start new DCI chapters

DONATING NOW

Please make your check payable to DCI and send it to;

Distressed Children & Infants International (DCI)
5 SHIPTON COURT, CHESHIRE, CT 06410

Or, go online: www.distressedchildren.org
and click on **DONATE** to make a secure donation through PayPal.

DCI is IRS 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. Your entire contribution to DCI is fully tax-deductible.



Mrs. Bea Dovin, DCI Texas Chapter Coordinator, organized a Christmas party for the DCI youth volunteers on December 24th, 2008

CONTACT:

Distressed Children & Infants International (DCI)
5 Shipton Court, Cheshire, CT 06410, USA
Phone# 203-376-6351, Toll Free# 866-516-7495
E-mail: dci@distressedchildren.org
www.distressedchildren.org

CORPORATE MATCHING:

Many corporations/companies will match portions of employee donation to the employee's chosen charities. Please consult with your HR department concerning matching programs to maximize your contributions towards **Distressed Children & Infants International (DCI)**.

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