



DISTRESSED
CHILDREN &
INFANTS
INTERNATIONAL

DCI Newsletter

DCI celebrates 40 years of Bangladeshi independence with GRAM

GRAM, a Long Island based youth organization, arranged a wonderful program on the occasion of 40th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence. GRAM is one of the very first organizations to support DCI's activities in Bangladesh. As a group they have been sponsoring 10 children through the Sun Child Sponsorship Program since 2006.

GRAM invited two organizations that help underprivileged people in Bangladesh to celebrate the occasion with them - DCI and BRAC. Dr. Hoque presented a report on GRAM's sponsored children. All 10 children remain in the Sun Child support system, and one of them even received government scholarship for high performance! Dr. Hoque expressed his gratitude to GRAM for believing in DCI, which he said was critical for DCI to reach its present state. Currently DCI is supporting 1100 children in Bangladesh and 30 more in India.



Members of GRAM



Guests

All the children are still retained in the system.



Sabana



Gita



Mita

ID	Name	2006	2011
		Class	Class
FK-015	Onamika Rani Das	One	Five
FK-020	Ramjan Ali	Two	Seven
FK-023	Mita Rani Das	Two	Seven
FK-030	Shima Rani Das	Two	Six
NP-006	Sree Uday Chandra	One	Six
Np-009	Rasel Uddin	One	Six
NP-016	Sabana Begum	One	Five
NP-018	Gita Das	One	Five
NP-023	Sree Bijoy Chandra	One	Five
NP-026	Anjoli Rani	One	Six

Got Scholarship in Class V



Ramjan



Onamika



Shima



Uday



Rasel



Anjoli



Bijoy

NEWSLETTER
TEAM:

Asahi Hoque
Ian Burzynski
Simon Bayley

130
million
Children
in
Developing
Countries
are
NOT
in
Primary
School

DCI Los Angeles Chapter participates in BUFLA parade as part of DCI's Child Rights Awareness Campaign

The Bangladesh Unity Federation of Los Angeles (BUFLA), celebrated the Independence Day of Bangladesh on **Saturday, March 26, 2011**. DCI's Los Angeles Chapter joined the parade to celebrate the work of our dedicated volunteers, spread awareness on issue of child labor, and build a larger network to assist underprivileged children and their families in Bangladesh.

The parade assembly began at 2:00 PM at the corner of 3rd street and Normandy Ave. Many DCI volunteers joined the parade or supported by observing the event. In addition, DCI set up a booth at the nearby Shatto Recreation Center for volunteers to discuss DCI's work and encourage others to join. It was great day for a parade and for interacting with



Case Studies from India

"I used to believe blindness was a natural part of growing old, and that it was my fate to lose my vision. My eye pain and blurred vision was so

"With God's blessings, I have clear eyesight...I can take care of myself and am very happy."

bad that I could not move around on my own, or even use the bathroom without help. My husband passed away, so my son had to take care of me. People

in my village talked about Kalinga Eye Hospital and the good doctors who fixed people's vision there. I had low expectations going into the surgery, and thought it would be painful.

From the first day I was at Kalinga, the staff fed us and treated us very kindly. They reminded me of my own children. The food, sleeping areas, and bathrooms were all good and clean. The surgery itself was not painful at all. Even though I have no money, Kalinga Eye Hospital helped me. After my surgery, I do not have eye pain or blurring. With God's blessing, I have clear eyesight and can now take care of myself. I can see my son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren. Today I have returned to Kalinga Eye Hospital for my second eye surgery, because I was very happy after my first eye surgery here. Thanks to Distressed Children & Infants International (DCI) for helping with my eye surgery!" — Ichha Sahoo



ICHHA SAHOO, 70 years old



Rabindra before surgery

Rabindra being examined by optometrist

Being examined by Dr. Nanda

Rabindra with his father after successful surgery

Rabindra Kumar Parida is an 8 year old boy from Jajpur district in the state of Odisha. His parents are daylaborers. Rabindra's problem started when he began to slowly lose his sight, which eventually kept him from going to school and leading a normal life. He also started facing emotional problems as his friends shunned or abused him. His parents assumed it was a permanent disability and that Rabindra could not be helped. By sheer chance he went to an eye camp conducted by Kalinga Eye Institute in the nearby area.

Rabindra was examined by the camp team and was diagnosed as having cataracts in both eyes. He had pre-op vision of 2/60 in both eyes. Rabindra was taken to the base hospital in Dhenkanal and was examined for fitness. After his fitness test he was ready to receive an operation. On January 20th 2011, Dr. Laxmidhar Jena operated on his left eye, using the SICS + IOL method under General Anesthesia (GA). The operation was successful, and Rabindra had post-op vision of 6/60 with pinhole 6/24. He will receive a second operation for his right eye in the coming months.

Rabindra has now recovered and has started going back to school. He has also regained confidence to go out and play along with his friends. For Rabindra's parents this was a gift they never believed they could receive. Rabindra is one among 36 children who have received their sight back this quarter thanks to DCI's partnership with Kalinga Eye Hospital.

Dr. Chowdhury Ahsan Shiplu visits DCI Bangladesh



On February 28, 2011, Dr. Chowdhury Ahsan Shiplu visited Distressed Children & Infants International's office at Mohammadi Housing Ltd, Dhaka, along with his brother in law and nephew. DCI Liaison Officer Mr. Humayun Kabir briefed them about DCI's activities in Bangladesh:

"I'm highly impressed to see all the beautiful faces. They are in one word - wonderful. I wish all possible success to this great organization" — **Chowdhury Ahsan, PhD**

"This is really impressive. Hope and insaallah it will go far" — **Dr. Tanvir**

Mr. Adnan & Ms. Nadia Mahmud visit DCI Bangladesh

Mr. Adnan Mahmud and Ms. Nadia Mahmud, the founders of Jolkona Foundation, visited DCI's Bangladesh office, Health for Underprivileged Program (HUP) and Sun Child Homes for orphans on May 10, 2011. The main objective of their visit was to meet DCI's Bangladesh team and develop a good partnership between the two organizations. Already Jolkona is supporting several of DCI's projects. We are looking forward to working more with Jolkona in the future.



Health Care for Underprivileged Program

Rina Akter's Story



Rina with her daughter

Rina Akter, now 18, was put up for adoption at 3 months old as her parents were too poor to keep her. She lived with her adopted parents in Chittagong. Rina's adopted mother died when she was 12 years old. Her adopted father later remarried and it was no longer possible for Rina to live with him. She came to Dhaka 6 years ago to live with one of her neighbors and working as a maid servant at Mohammadi Housing Ltd, Mohammadpur, Dhaka. In time she found work in a garment factory but because of the poor salary she went to being a maid servant, this time at Salimullah Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka. After working there for some time, they arranged her marriage.

Rina was living with her husband at Beribadh slum in Mohammadpur, Dhaka. We got Rina's name from our pregnant mother's list. She was 5 months pregnant and in poor physical condition. Social workers had advised her to come to our Healthcare Center. The doctor gave her the medicine she needed and advised her to contact the Child & Maternity Clinic, but she could not afford to attend. Her husband is a day-laborer and was unable to accompany her. DCI Social Workers took her to BRAC Delivery center and ensured she received necessary checkups and vaccinations. On March 12, 2011, Rina gave birth to a baby girl at the center. Both Rina and her baby are doing quite well. The DCI Social Workers are taking care of her postnatal checkups and following her progress.



DCI's field officer at Rina's house. Rina with her daughter

Amisha Dash's Story



Amisha Dash is a student in the fifth standard. Her father, Santos, is a businessman from Cuttack, while her mother is a housewife. Amisha has *squint*, a condition formally known as strabismus where one of the muscles in the eye is stronger or weaker than the other, therefore causing the eye to be pulled in a direction different to what should be the normal line of vision. This misalignment of the eyes develops during childhood and is generally only treatable four to six months after its onset. If not, loss of vision is inevitable. This turned out to be the case with Amisha.

With squint, Amisha began to experience a loss of vision that made it difficult to read at school or concentrate and study at home, affecting her academic performance. In addition to this, the social and psychological effects were hard: why were everybody else's eyes so perfect while hers were not? Was everybody laughing at her because she didn't look right?



Worried, Amisha's parents took her to an ophthalmologist in Cuttack, who did not have adequate instruments for surgery. Luckily, Amisha's parents came to know of **Distressed Children & Infants International (DCI)'s Blindness Prevention Program** through Kalinga Eye Hospital. They decided to bring their daughter to the hospital on June 17th. The same day, she was examined by Dr. Kothari and was declared fit for surgery, with vision of 2/60 in her left eye, and 6/9 in her right eye. The following day Amisha underwent a successful surgery in both eyes to correct her misalignment. She was discharged a few days later.

Amisha's eyesight will not improve from the surgery, but at least now her vision will not degrade any more than it already has. With glasses in order to correct the remaining refractive error, she should be able to continue her schooling and normal childhood successfully.

Amisha's parents said: "We are fortunate that we could receive the help of Distressed Children & Infants International (DCI) blindness prevention program for Amisha. Our whole family recites prayers of thankfulness to DCI and wishes they could help more and more children who have no ability to go to a doctor. We had no other means to help our daughter, and for their generosity, we are humbled."

