



DISTRESSED  
CHILDREN &  
INFANTS  
INTERNATIONAL

**Nearly one billion people in this world lack access to safe water and 2.5 billion do not have satisfactory sanitation**

**NEWSLETTER TEAM:**

Asahi Hoque  
Ian Burzynski  
Simon Bayley

# DCI Newsletter

## DCI Provides Stipends for Poor and Meritorious Students to Continue Their Education

A function for scholarship distribution was organized on August 22, 2011 at Bauphal Upazilla Auditorium. Upazilla Vice Chairman Mr. Samsul Haque attended as Chief Guest. Officials of different department and School teachers from different schools also attended.

We provided Tk. 5000 for each child as a stipend for admission in Higher Secondary Education. A total of thirty children received the stipend, and were selected based on their SSC results and family's financial condition. The fund for this scholarship was provided by Sharmeen Parvez (20 children) and Lora Chowdhury (10 children).



Children and teachers at the ceremony



Guests speaking on the occasion



A Sun Child receiving supplies



Children of DCI School

### Supplies for Sun Children

The second round of Sun Child Sponsorship supplies was provided in the months of August and September. The supplies were given to children in DCI's Patuakhali, Feni, Habiganj, and Nilphamary projects — 1100 children in total. Sponsored children receive a stipend for education, school uniforms, bags, shoes, education materials, and hygienic products. Teachers, guardians, and School Management Committee members were present for the distribution.

# Children of Sun Child Home Visit Shishu Mela Park and Dhaka Zoo

DCI's orphanage, the **Sun Child Home**, is at present housing 18 children. The main objective of the program is to allow orphans to grow properly with appropriate care and become productive, confident and self-reliant citizens in the future. Orphans receive lodging, healthcare, education, and all basic necessities at the orphanage. Recently the children visited Shishu Mela, a children's park, and also visited the Dhaka Zoo. Everyone had a lot of fun on this occasion.



## Children on different rides at Shishu Mela children's park



## Children at the Dhaka Zoo



## Dr. Naima Naheed and her son Teebro visit their sponsored



Dr. Naima and Tibro meet Maruf, their sponsored child



Dr. N. Naheed and her son also visited the Sun Child Home for Orphans while in Mohammadpur, Dhaka, and spent some time with the children. The children gave them some performances like dances, songs, and rhymes.



The children of Sun Child Home give a performance

"It was my dream for a long time to do something for unprivileged children, but I did not know how to go about it. Last year I got a call from Mukta, my friend who lives in Germany. She informed me about DCI and its organizer Dr. Ehsan Hoque. I went to the website immediately and found lots of information there. I was given an option to pick a child to sponsor. My son Teebro became even more interested than me to choose a child. He found a very sweet boy named Maruf Hossain, age six, who lives in Potuakhali. This year we had a plan to visit Potuakhali, when we were in Bangladesh, but we were very busy during our trip and had to drop the idea. I asked DCI's liaison officer Mr. Humayun whether it would be possible to bring Maruf to Dhaka for a visit. He made a quick arrangement and set up an appointment with me.

On June 25th we went to Mohammadpur to see Maruf Hossain. I was surprised to see such a nice and healthy boy - you can't even imagine. Under DCI's program he and his friends are getting a proper education and a regular check-up by an MBBS doctor. I was wondering how the children would get help with their homework when their parents are uneducated, and was surprised to hear that they also receive tutoring through an after-school program. I encouraged Maruf to get first place in his class. I want to conclude by saying that all of this is possible due to Dr. Ehsan and his team members' relentless effort. I am spending only few dollars a month, but the satisfaction I am getting in return is beyond measure."

### Dr. Naima Naheed wrote her feelings in a guestbook—

It was a great pleasure to meet these children. They have lots of opportunities here. I had a dream to see such an organization. Today my dream is fulfilled.

**Dr. Naima Naheed**  
Elgin, SC, USA  
6/25/2011

## Journey for Child Rights & Sight Event in Oregon



Taslema Sultana at DCI Booth



Performance by American Idol participant

As a part of the **Journey for Child Rights & Sight**, a group of Intel employees led by Taslema Sultana volunteered for Distressed Children and Infants International (DCI) at the Cure Kids Jam and Festival in Hillsboro, Oregon. The event took place on August 6th, 2011 in Hillsboro, Oregon and was attended by approximately 2000.

Volunteers raised awareness about DCI's mission during the Cure JM Concert hosted by the Cure JM Foundation. The Cure JM Foundation raised money and awareness for the Immune Disease of Juvenile Myositis that affects children 18 and under. Intel partnered with United Way and two children's charities (Cure JM and the local Ronald McDonald House) to host the event. DCI's booth was sponsored by the Inn at Seaside ([www.innatseaside.com](http://www.innatseaside.com)).

Volunteers distributed flyers and displayed DCI banners to raise awareness and educate visitors about DCI. Volunteers also offered the "Give a Hand Package" of the Inn at Seaside. By staying at the hotel with this package, \$50.00 of the guest's payment is automatically donated to DCI.

DCI's **Journey for Child Rights & Sight** is a call to action for our youth and global community, to inspire them to service for underprivileged children and humanity. DCI is organizing and participating in many events throughout the country to promote its mission of protecting child rights and preventing child labor. For more details please visit [distressedchildren.org](http://distressedchildren.org).



Kids are having fun at the festival, DCI banner in the stage





# Orphan Support Program

## Ritu, a Street Child, Takes Shelter in DCI's Sun Child Home

It is truly unfortunate when a child is without parental care. When Ritu was 5 years old her father remarried and abandoned the family without providing any material support. Ritu's mother then remarried, but the step-father also left after some time. The mother took a job as a day-laborer. Most of the time she worked at night and Ritu stayed alone at home. Ritu had no chance to go to school and over time she became very physically weak. Ritu's mother again got married, but Ritu's new stepfather would not tolerate her, so she was sent away to work as a domestic servant.



Ritu's mother heard about DCI's Sun Child Home from ASD (a non-government organization). We gathered all types of information about Ritu. Her mother told us her history and she was very anxious about her daughter's future. We admitted Ritu to our home for orphans. Now she is going to school regularly. Besides her school and education she is drawing, dancing, singing, and playing with her friends.

In Bangladesh there are many unfortunate girls like Ritu. DCI is trying to remove them from these situations, but with our capacity we are only able to help a few girls from among thousands of unfortunate children. So many remain in dire conditions without a future, without even the dream of a better life.



Ritu is playing with her friends (ball in the hand)

## What Parents Say:



The Sun Child Sponsorship program is a great program. I have been involved with DCI since its inception. I am supporting DCI programs from my heart and I appreciate the work that DCI is doing for these poor underprivileged children. I want to request all of you to join us and ask your friends to get involved with DCI activities. Please join us with your contribution of time, money, ideas or expertise. We need your support and involvement to make our mission a success.

—Sharmeen Parvez,  
Prosper, TX



My son Mahin Mursalin writes our sponsored kids regularly and gets so excited to get a letter in the mail from Bangladesh. It is an amazing program that changed our daily life.

—Rownak Alin,  
New York



Something amazing happened to our children. It created some new feelings in the hearts of our children. It opened their eyes to the pain of the rest of the world, showed them how the majority of children live and most importantly, motivated them to think of others. Compassion for others was born in their young hearts the day we rescued a child from poverty by sponsoring through Sun-Child Sponsorship Program by sending \$15 a month to meet basic needs.

—Nahid Sharmin, South Glastonbury, CT



Sun-Child Sponsorship is a great program. This is an easy and powerful way for American youth to start giving back to less fortunate children around the world. Through participating in the Sun Child Sponsorship Program as a team of co-sponsors, American children can learn about the hardships of the many children in the world and work together to help them. In the process they develop compassion, a greater sense of responsibility, appreciation of another culture, and gratitude for what they have. If you have children and would like them to become involved in charitable work, this is an excellent program for them.

Rawshon S Mostofa (Shaon), Azusa, CA

# Young Cowboy Becomes a Student



In this world it is difficult to imagine a situation more miserable than a child losing their mother. But perhaps even more ill-fated are those children who have a mother but are deprived of her contact through force of circumstance. The main cause of such circumstances is poverty. 11+ years old Ibrahim Hossain is a representative of this unfortunate population. He currently lives with his 60+ years old grandmother. When Ibrahim was two months old, his father abandoned their family. During that day his grandmother was very hopeless with her sick daughter and her kids. They had no income source to feed and provide treatment for Ibrahim's mother. *"Having no alternative I had to sell my only arable land,"* says Ibrahim's grandmother. *"After losing everything I was involved in begging for us to survive."*

Ibrahim's mother Runu Begum also sought work for income. But there was no opportunity in the village. When Ibrahim was 18 months old, she moved to the capital city of Dhaka and found work as a garments worker with the help of a relative. Ibrahim was left with his grandmother. Time passed with great difficulty for them. Ibrahim began work in the village as a cowboy when he was just 7 years old. The next year, DCI started its **Sun Child Sponsorship Program** in the nearby school, and after observing this family's desperate condition, included him in the program.

From that point Ibrahim began his education, and has received essential support from DCI such as school and hygiene materials, a stipend, and after school tutoring. Now Ibrahim is a student in Grade 4 and *"he has no need to go work and we have no tension regarding his future,"* says his grandmother. Ibrahim can now realize the fullness of life and he is determined about his future. *"I did not get any opportunity to live with my mother. Whenever I was ill, I longed for her so much, but there was nothing we could do,"* Ibrahim expressed with regret. *"After completing my education I will get a job so that I can rescue my mother from garments work and stay close with her,"* he informed us with full confidence.



**Ibrahim and his grandmother**

In Bangladesh, there are so many children like Ibrahim, who are growing up without parental care and in extreme poverty. They need to start work very early in their childhood and do not receive proper education. At present 10% of children never go to school due to poverty. They need our special attention.

We request all our DCI friends to take responsibility for the education of at least one child or orphan. They are our future leaders. We cannot conceive of a prosperous world while ignoring these vulnerable children. Together we can ensure the proper growth of such children and prepare them to be responsible and prosperous citizens.

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