



Jyoti Children's Development Foundation, Inc.

10S462 Carrington Circle, Burr Ridge, IL 60527; 630-734-9010

Homepage: www.jyotiforchildren.org

UPDATE 2009 – 2010

Dear Friend,

This July marked the completion of 20 successful years of operating the special school for hearing impaired children. We could not have done this without the continued generous support from you. We take this opportunity to sincerely thank you and send you progress report on the school for the past year.



A student undergoing speech therapy

The highlights of 2009/10 school year included:

- We educated 176 deaf and hearing impaired children in grades pre-K through 10. 44 boys and several teachers and staff members lived in residence at the school. The boarding students benefited from before and after school tutoring, sports, and socialization.
- 12 students appeared for their Class X exams and all 12 passed.
- We are working with the students to secure their post-graduation employment.
- We obtained accreditation from the National Institute of Open Schools (NOIS). The accreditation will allow our Class X students to take their examinations on a more flexible basis and reduce the language requirement to two languages (Hindi and English) from the UP requirement of three languages (Hindi, English, and Sanskrit).
- In November our children travelled to the state of Jharkhand at Tatanagar and participated in the National Athletic Games for Hearing Impaired and received numerous awards for winning competitions including 1 Gold medal, 2 Silver medal and 2 bronze medals.
- In December the School celebrated the world handicapped day and organized sports activities such as soccer, volleyball, Javelin and Discus Throw, long and high jump competitions where children from other schools were invited to participate.

- Tia Sawhney, VP of Jyoti Children's Development Foundation (Chicago), visited the school. She spoke on our behalf at a dinner reception at Manoj Agarwal's home and at a meeting of Kanpur Metro Rotary Club. Manoj is a member of our Kanpur Board and Kanpur Metro Rotary Club. See Tia's note at the end of this letter.



One of the routine morning commutes to the School in the School Bus.

- A building construction project was successfully completed which added 5000 square feet of space to the school including a 2000 ft² conference hall, 1000 ft² of veranda, and a science lab, library, computer lab, and cultural facility of 500 ft² each.
- We decided that our next building project will be an expansion of the overcrowded boys' dormitory, kitchen, and dining hall. As a result of Tia's presentation we secured a funding pledge for the kitchen and dining hall from Mr. Mahendra Nigam, a leading citizen of Kanpur.
- Annual hearing tests for every student were completed and the same tests are planned for the next calendar year. A record of these tests is maintained at the school.
- We have continued to develop and rely upon the Kanpur Board and our Kanpur-based fundraising efforts.



Students having lunch in the school canteen

- Starky Foundation of USA donated 109 sets of hearing aids that were provided to the needy students of the school.

- The Rotary Clubs of Minneapolis, Skokie Valley and Kanpur Metro jointly worked to secure \$23,000 of Matching grant from Rotary Foundation towards procuring hearing aids, computer lab and updating vocational training facilities. The grant has recently been approved. Joaquin Mejia, a member of our Chicago Board and an executive with Rotary International, worked tirelessly to make this happen and we thank him for his leadership and support.

Financial Summary:

| Jyoti School Fiscal Year 05/2009-04/2010 | Jyoti Foundation Fiscal Year 05/2009-04/2010 |
|---|---|
| Total Operating Cost : Rs. 1,532,689 | Total Funds Collected : \$23,831 |
| Operating Funds Transferred from US: \$27,000 | Number of donors giving |
| Capital Costs: Rs. Approx. 1,600,000 | \$10,000+: None |
| Capital Funds Transferred from US: \$23,000 | \$5,000-9,999: 1 |
| | \$1,000-4,999: 4 |
| | \$200 -999 : 28 |
| | \$1-199: 59 |

2010/11 Plans:

- We currently house 44 boys in the school dormitory. The need to expand the facility to accommodate more boys is urgently felt. The estimated cost is \$5,000 per room for an 8-room dormitory and \$15,000 for the kitchen and dining expansion. We have already secured funding for the kitchen and dining hall expansion. We now need funds from organizational and individual sponsors to help fund the new dorm rooms.
- After expanding the boys' dormitory, kitchen, and dining facility, we want to build the school's first girl's dormitory. Historically we were not confident that we could adequately assure the security of girl students. We now have sufficient organizational maturity and physical infrastructure, including a 24 hour power supply and reliable phone lines, to take care of the girls. We must, however, have a separate building within the complex to accommodate the girls and the lady teachers/staff who will reside with them. (They will share dining with the boys. We have sized the dining hall accordingly.) The initial building will cost approximately \$50,000. This is a major expansion to our school, but one we consider necessary to providing gender equality and the best possible educational opportunity to our girl students. We need early commitments to get this project from the drawing board to construction.

Your support and renewal of pledge is requested.

Your sustained financial help and support is critical to continuing the program we have undertaken together. As our annual operating expenses have gone up to approximately \$40,000.00, which amounts to about \$250.00 per student, we seek your support to carry forward this project.

Please kindly renew your pledge and, if your budget permits, consider increasing the amount to allow us to continue operating the school. We would also appreciate any one time donation that you can make towards our expansion requirements.

As always, rest assured that 100% of your donations are used in India to operate Jyoti School. Our very few U.S. side expenses are donated in kind.

Please see Tia Sawhney's note (following) about her visit.

We truly appreciate your faithful assistance.

Sincerely,

Board of Jyoti Children's Development Foundation

Dear Donors,

Dr. Dixit asked me to write this note. I am a long-term Jyoti donor and recently became Vice President of the Board. Additionally I am a world traveler who has spent considerable time in India and within the year I expect to get my doctorate degree in public health.

This winter I traveled to India at my own expense and spent two weeks attending to Jyoti business in Kanpur, Noida, and New Delhi. It was my third visit in 5 years to the school. I spent considerable time simply sitting at the school, watching the daily activities and interactions. I ate the canteen food. I checked out every corner of the compound, including the students' toilet and bathing facilities (they were clean and functional). I rode with the students and teachers on one of the daily bus runs.

First and foremost, thank you for your support of this jewel of an institution. Jyoti has been built incrementally over the years. Every rupee has been carefully spent and accounted for. Nothing is extravagant, yet everything is functional, neat, clean, organized, and wrapped with love for the kids. Classes are small – a maximum 12 children per room. The teachers and staff care and work to develop the whole child. Your money has been well spent.

There are two important things to understand about Jyoti children. The first is that other than the fact that they are hearing impaired or deaf, they are otherwise children – no different than your children or mine. They dance in victory, they cry in defeat. They have a wide array of talents. With education, training, encouragement, and love they grow to be functional adults and members of society, valued by their families.

The second thing to understand is that Jyoti is for many the children the only path to an enabled future. There are millions of non-handicapped children in Uttar Pradesh who have little hope of an enabled future. The plight of handicapped children is worse. That's why Dr. Dixit and everyone involved with Jyoti works so hard to operate and expand the school.

We need your help with this process. We need to collect more annual contributions. Our donors are extremely faithful. Once again, thank you. But our contributions have been essentially flat for a number of years while the school has been growing and prices for everything in India, especially teacher salaries, have increased. Furthermore, as noted in Dr. Dixit's letter, the time has come to build a girl's dormitory.

If you can give more on a regular or one-time basis, please do so. Also please consider whether you can help us find new donors. I gave two presentations on behalf of Jyoti while in India and am presenting to a local Illinois Rotary club in two weeks. I am glad to share my presentation with you and your friends or at an organized meeting.

Finally, if you are going to be in India in the future, please take the time to visit Jyoti. You will be so pleased with your investment.

Thank you so much,

Tia

(Tia Goss Sawhney, Evanston, IL, September 2010)

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