

FUTURE HOPE

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www.futurehope.net

Sixteenth Issue

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2011

Giving Today's Street Children a Better Tomorrow

The Streets of Kolkata 2011



It is April 2011; Kolkata is changing for the better, but not for the poor. The city is much more prosperous; people are getting richer and the middle class is growing fast. However, the need for Future Hope is as great as it was when we started in 1987 as we offer underprivileged children the chance to break out of the cycle of poverty. In this newsletter we tell you about the problems the children encounter on the streets and how Future Hope makes a difference in their lives.

Red Light areas

Very poor and vulnerable girls from the rural areas and as far away as Nepal are trafficked to Kolkata and end up in the red light areas. There are also the children born as a by product of the sex industry. They are loved by their mothers but often have no fathers. The family lives in a single room but when the mother works, she sends the children away, often to the roof or onto the streets, to wait. Children will spend whole nights away from their beds. HIV is an immediate concern for all family members. A number of our children come from Kolkata's red light districts. Often the mothers approach us: they are desperate to give their children a better life. In their turn when the children grow older and do make something of their lives they ask us to help them take their mothers away from the red light district.

Drugs, Glue & Street Children

On the streets, drugs and glue sniffing are increasing problems. Groups of children sit in circles on the station platforms. It looks companionable and peaceful until you realise that these children are sharing a tube of Dendrite.

The glue is squeezed into a cloth which is rolled and inhaled. The drug gives temporary relief from the pain, the hunger and the hopelessness of life on the streets. Glue is highly addictive and very destructive: from the moment a child starts inhaling glue his life expectancy plummets.



Glue sniffing is a real problem

Just this week a 14 year old left the station to come and join us at Future Hope. He was desperate. We brought the boy in during the morning, gave him a thorough health check, a shower and clean clothes. He ate a huge lunch and then, as he began to feel the symptoms of withdrawal, we took him to one of a number of drug rehabilitation centres run by other NGOs in Kolkata. He'll be there for a minimum of six weeks before he rejoins us at Future Hope for a thorough assessment of his educational and other needs.



A street child on Howrah Station

We are working closely with the Kolkata Police and other NGOs to reach out to as many children as possible.

Bustee (slum) Children



Mustaq with 40% burns

Mustaq is 10 months old. His mother Ruby married when she was very young. Her husband doesn't often visit her and he takes no responsibility for their four children. Mustaq was born in a slum, in a shelter just a few feet from one of Kolkata's railway lines. Trains pass within six feet of the hut every few minutes; the children quickly learn to move out of their way. The hut that he shares with his family is the size of a large table. There is a big bed propped up with bricks under which children play while the mother cooks. At night the children and their mother climb on top of the bed to sleep whilst other family members doze below. Blue plastic swathes the hut preventing the monsoon rain from penetrating too far inside and keeping the cold winter wind out.

Last December Mustaq rolled over and knocked a pan of boiling water all over himself; he shrieked in pain, his tender skin peeled off leaving the pink flesh exposed. The baby was taken to a local health-care centre screaming in pain with burns over 40% of his body - his back, head, ears and arms; they could not cope.

Accidents like this are commonplace in Kolkata. They are not the result of carelessness or bad luck, but of poverty. The family's main breadwinner is Rahul, Mustaq's 10 year old brother. He earns 300 rupees a month (under £5) washing dishes in a "hotel" by Sealdah Station. Ruby's two daughters, Poonam 12 and Chadni 8, help at home and all of them are illiterate.

Future Hope is a friend to many slum dwellers in Kolkata: the school educates 144 children from the slums alongside 95 of our resident children. So when tiny Mustaq had the accident his uncle Raju knew where to find help. Mustaq was taken to a good local hospital where he was rehydrated and kept free of infection. He required several skin grafting operations and a 5 month stay in hospital. The wounds have healed and Mustaq is back home but things have not changed. There isn't enough income to provide the milk that Mustaq desperately needs for his further recovery. A tin of baby formula costs Rs180 (almost £3) and should last a couple of weeks. Ruby's choices are desperate. We discovered that she stretches the milk powder to last a month: how else can she feed the other children? Mustaq of course has failed to gain weight and the whole family suffers.



Mustaq with his mother recovering

Walking around the streets and station areas of Kolkata you will encounter many children working, playing, begging or aimlessly moving around. Experience shows that many of them have a home in the slums, albeit small, where they live with their families. Their parents generally have very tough low paid jobs with long working hours. Some of the mothers are servants in other people's homes and are expected to live-in with their employers.



Some of our dayscholars dropped off to school by their father

The fathers are rickshaw wallahs or daily labourers. Consequently the children are left alone to fend for themselves: they are expected to earn money and are often recruited by local gangs. While the boys are under pressure to work, the girls will be married off at an early age and do the household chores; cleaning cooking and looking after the elderly and younger siblings. Increasingly Future Hope School admits these slum children as day scholars knowing that by giving them a good education they will get opportunities to change their own lives and also the lives of their families.

Recently some of our Future Hope youngsters, who are now in good jobs, have moved their families out of the slums into rented accommodation completely transforming their lives.

Future Hope School 2010 – 2011

For poor children to take advantage of India's growth they need the opportunities provided by a good all round education. In recent years Future Hope has actively upgraded the school, employing motivated and better qualified staff, establishing a special needs department (Fast Track) and a reading scheme, a fully equipped library and engaging a new Principal, Paul Carling, formerly a senior master at Sherborne School in England. The children of Future Hope School now sit both class 10 and class 12 public exams (GCSE and A level equivalents) and many go on to University or attend other further education institutions. Future Hope helps them to find work experience placements and launches the youngsters into the workplace.

The school continues to flourish. This academic year we have 238 students of whom 169 are boys and 70 girls; 144 are day scholars and 95 are resident in our own homes.



Future Hope School

A priority in 2010 was to strengthen the academic side of the school with new initiatives to emphasise the importance of learning skills for both pupils and staff:

- We have introduced EAL (English as an Additional Language) which incorporates a programme of study skills

- The homework timetable has been restructured
- A homework club has been established in the library on 3 weekday afternoons. This has especially benefited the day scholars who may not have the luxury at home of an opportunity for quiet and directed study.

In order to support and strengthen teaching techniques we have held a series of workshops for teachers and house parents on the issues surrounding learning and behavioural problems. We also held a week long observation exercise in which all the teaching staff had a lesson observed by the senior academic team. Both these initiatives show that we are committed to improving the learning of the children and the potential of the staff.

Paul Carling says *"I believe morale among students and staff is high and there is a sense of momentum in the school and that there is a clear sense that there is development and progress"*

Rugby School and Future Hope

Rugby School has for a long time wanted to help a charity in Asia to really make a difference to the education and opportunity of poor children. In March 2010 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Future Hope School and Rugby School. Under the terms of the agreement Rugby School has undertaken to provide advice pro bono to Future Hope School on teaching, curriculum and governance. Rugby School's Governing Body has appointed 3 advisors (Michael Fowle past Chairman of the Governing Body, Patrick Derham Head Master of Rugby School and David Summerscale previously Head Master of Westminster School) to Future Hope School who visit regularly. There have been a number of reciprocal visits between the staff of the two organisations, most notably Shounak Lahiri, Director of Future Hope India has visited Rugby and Patrick Derham has visited Future Hope on several occasions. Patrick Derham says *"It has been an absolute delight to see how Future Hope School has progressed under the care of the Carlings. On my most recent visit in February 2011 it was clear that the school is in excellent fettle. There was a purposeful atmosphere and the children and staff were as always an inspiration. What was particularly pleasing to see was the growing confidence of the children and in particular it was really good to see them being actively involved in the morning Assemblies."*

Part of my visit was spent on helping shape plans for the future and it is fair to say that exciting times lie ahead for all involved with Future Hope."

Where we stand now, April 2011



Jane Manson, Future Hope's Director Fundraising, opening the New Ballygunge Home

We have 151 resident children living with Future Hope divided over seven homes in Kolkata, 2 of which are girls' homes and 5 are for boys. Each home is looked after by local house parents and a cook. All the children attend school or university; some work part time. Thanks to a very generous donation in 2010 all the homes and the school have been decorated. Our Barrackpore village is being expanded, renovated and a skills centre is being designed and built for youngsters who wish to pursue a more vocational career.

Hello...



Inder with some of our girls

Inderpal Kaur Dhanoa

We welcome Inder as new houseparent to the big girls at Rowland Road. She has taken over from Debjani who has looked after the girls for over 10 years and is now moving on with her new aspirations in computing.

Inder has a diploma in Nursing, has worked in several local hospitals and lived for 3 years in Dubai. She is fluent in Punjabi, Hindi and English and a keen hockey player. Presently she is taking a Montessori course in her spare-time. Inder is married and has a daughter.

Debananda Roy arrives and Basudev & Sanchita move

As Basudev and Sanchita (and Richie) move to Ballygunge to take over from Tony, we welcome a new houseparent, Debu, to look after the lively little boys upstairs at Rowland Road. Debu is a qualified social worker with a lot of experience. He is married to Anamika who runs her own fashion business and they have a 2 year old son.

Bondana and Akshay Mohanty

Bondana and Akshay Mohanty are the latest set of new houseparents to arrive at Future Hope and run the recently opened New Ballygunge Home, adjacent to the existing Ballygunge home. This is a small ground floor flat and home to 8 of the 12 to 14 year old boys. Bondana looks after the children whilst her husband works for a local hospital. They have a 6 year old daughter, Rini.

Sayan Mukerji

Sayan joined Future Hope in July 2010 as Director Finance and Administration. Sayan has significant experience in finance and has worked at a senior level for several international companies such as PWC, Avery India, Siemens, Heinz, and Bayer Crops Science both in India and overseas. Sayan is pivotal in helping us to prepare Future Hope for growth and sustainability.

... and Goodbye

Shirley Sheikh

Shirley Sheikh joined Future Hope 12 years ago as confidential secretary. However she was so much more than that—she was always the welcoming, kindly, smiling face of Future Hope. She is missed by children, staff, volunteers and visitors alike. We wish her all the very best in her new role working with her husband in his business. Shirley remains, of course, very much part of our growing Future Hope family.

Tony Mondal

Tony Mondal was with us for over 22 years – in fact he helped found Future Hope. He worked on the streets as well as in the homes and was a houseparent for much of his time. Absolutely wonderful with the children and renowned for his marvellous culinary skills Tony will be very much missed. We wish him a long and happy retirement.



New Ballygunge Home with their new houseparents



Sayan with visitor Ian Botham, organised a chess competition for the children



The Tigerrr...!

The Tigerrr... is Future Hope School's very own newsletter, first published at the beginning of 2010 as two sides of A4 and is now a magnificent publication of 8 and more sides of articles, photographs and art produced, edited and published by the children themselves. To read the Tigerrr... go to our website www.futurehope.net

Our youngsters are moving on...

- Our third batch of CBSE students in FHS appeared for their exams in March 2011; three for class 12 (A Level equivalent) and five for their class 10 (GCSE equivalent). The results are awaited.
- Sumit of St James' School passed Class 10 with a 1st division as did Sanju who attends St Lawrence High School. Santosh and Taheer also passed Class 10 at St Lawrence. Five other youngsters sat for their class 10 exams and two their class 12 exams at St. Lawrence.
- Shanti of the Lake School for Girls passed class 12 with a 1st division and is now studying Hotel Management at the Apeejay Institute of Hospitality in Mumbai. She has gained a 6 months placement in 'The Four Seasons Hotel' in Mumbai starting in June.
- Sunny of the Surendrath Institute also passed his class 12 with a first division and is now studying for an Honours degree at Bongaon College.
- Bijoy graduated with an Honours degree from St Xavier's College and is now taking an MA in Economics at Jadavpur University.
- Anindita has passed her 1st year exam at the International Institute of Hotel Management and is now enjoying a 6 month internship at The Oberoi Grand.
- Banoshree has graduated from Calcutta University. She wants to be a teacher and is now taking an English course to prepare herself to be able to follow a MA in history. She is the first John Kelly Scholar, a fund set up in 2010 in memory of John Kelly, to encourage young people to follow further education.



Amar collects his Master's degree from Sheffield Hallam University in 2010

- Amar has just started a job with Alfatgate Consultancy and travels between the UK and Iraq.
- Lakhi is working hard as an Assistant Manager in a Tea Garden in Assam.
- Sukra is a Teller Operator for HSBC in Assam. He thoroughly enjoys the responsibility and has settled well in his new surroundings.

- Sujoy Roy is a financial analyst with HSBC in Canary Wharf, London. He is extremely hard working and ambitious.
- Nizam and his wife Runa are in Bangalore. Nizam works for ANZ Grindleys.
- Bikash Jha is taking an Engineering Foundation course at Greenwich University in London. His grades are so good he can convert to an honours degree.
- Shefali has married and works as a medical secretary in the AMRI hospital.



Lakshmi and Sanjay with their son Suman

- Sanjay and Lakshmi had a baby boy, Suman, in September 2010. Sanjay was assistant coach to the Indian Commonwealth Games Rugby team in Delhi. He is currently coaching the Future Hope Harlequins.
- Ajay works for Highlife Management a company that promotes sport all over India.
- Joydev has been posted to the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Dubai and is working as a chef in the Arabic kitchen.
- Deepak does marketing research for Bajaj Auto in Pune.
- Bikash Mondal and Kanhai Gaipai work for Decathlon in Bangalore marketing sports equipment.
- Chotu is working for Hotel Hindustan International, servicing the cable televisions.
- Nagraj and Kakalimanna became proud parents to a baby boy, Rohan, last December. Nagraj is working in a generator company.



Rehana and Jeeban bought their own home

- Jeeban, together with his wife, Rehana, is the first of our alumni to apply for a mortgage and buy his own home. They are both teachers in good local schools and they have a 2 year old son Rehan.

The Future Hope Sports Foundation and School Project at Rajarhat

Nine years ago The Daily Telegraph selected Future Hope as their featured charity and raised the first funds for the development of sports facilities for the children of Future Hope. We identified land at Rajarhat on the outskirts of Kolkata and with the hugely generous help of several individuals and companies over the years we are now in the final stages of securing the required 21 acres.



India is booming, but living on the streets remains unchanged

India is booming. We are witnessing unprecedented economic growth. When we first identified the land in Rajarhat, it was a rural area with poor infrastructure and some miles from the city. Today amongst others we have the Delhi Public School operating just along the road and a brand new Intercontinental Hotel going up a little further away, served by a new six lane highway. The city is coming to Rajarhat!

The Future Hope Sports Foundation and School will be a centre of excellence both on the extensive sports pitches and in the classroom. Children will arrive from the streets damaged by abuse, violence, drugs, malnutrition and neglect and will be offered a loving secure home, medical aid and an all round education but most of all the opportunity to benefit from India's booming economy.



The girls' hockey team coached by volunteers

Right from the beginning we realised that the energy and resourcefulness of our former street children could be very effectively channelled on the sports field.

As they learned the key life skills of trust, teamwork, self discipline and concentration through rugby, football, cricket and hockey, they began to enjoy significant success and the pride and self confidence that accompany it.

In 2010 the girls' football team and the boys' rugby teams, have enjoyed great success in Kolkata and beyond. The Under 16s and the Under 20s Rugby teams are both national champions.



Our Future Hope under 16 National Champions

The project is designed to be built in stages over the next 10 years, to ensure a slow and steady growth without losing the family ethos that Future Hope is renowned for and also to allow us the time to raise the required funds. Our priority is building the new Future Hope School, as our current premises at Rowland Road is full to bursting with no room for further expansion. Simultaneously, the first sports field will be built to give the children the opportunity to play, train and let off steam.

We will also build a residential home for the younger children who will live on site.

The architects at BDP in London have provided us with the planning, help and advice completely free of charge throughout the process.



Our dream plan for Rajarhat

Medical Care at Future Hope

Malnourishment, scabies, boils, skin diseases, burns, infections, diarrhoea, tuberculosis, typhoid, STDs, leprosy, neurological problems and addiction are all conditions from which the children can be suffering when they first arrive at Future Hope. Treating these problems and maintaining good health thereafter are important factors in the day-to-day running of the homes.

The first priority is to establish a picture of each child's medical needs by running a number of blood, urine and stool tests, doing a chest X-ray and performing the Mantoux test to check for TB. We then ensure the children are fully immunized: DPT, Polio, MMR, Hepatitis B and Typhoid vaccines are routinely given. To help to boost their strength and levels of immunity we provide vitamins and other supplements and will prescribe a high protein diet when necessary.



Dr Sarkar and Viraf on duty

We have a dedicated medical administrator, Viraf, who works closely with the houseparents and children to ensure that all the medical problems are being addressed. Dr Sarkar, an Accident and Emergency doctor from a good local hospital, visits Future Hope daily for an hour or two and this, combined with our medical room, which is equipped with frequently used medicines, all first aid supplies, an examination couch, a small steriliser and a fridge to store vaccines, means that the sick children can usually be treated at home. For the more complicated matters we need to rely on specialised doctors and hospitals, all of which costs money. One can never predict when a medical emergency will arrive and therefore the cost can vary hugely from month to month.

Increasing support in India.

We are very happy to tell you that support for Future Hope is growing within India. Large Indian businesses are taking on Corporate Social Responsibility.

We are very proud and grateful that a group of local friends from the business community have bought us a new girls' home which is being renovated as we write. We intend to move the girls there in about six weeks time.

The new home will house twenty seven girls and will ensure that we can help even more girls in future.

Tim was invited to join a British Council course in London led by Kolkata's Commissioner of Police along with other senior policemen and members of the board of the Premier League Football Clubs in Kolkata. The course showed how the British Police use football to reduce crime dramatically amongst young people in the very underprivileged inner city areas of the UK. The scheme is called KICKZ and mirrors the Kolkata Police's own schemes (Nabodisha and Para football) to engage with disenchanted youth in the city.

The Kolkata Knight Riders, the local Indian Premier League (IPL) cricket side from the city, have again invited our children to be their ball-boys and girls for all home games. There are seventy very excited youngsters.

Fundraising and Supporter Events

As ever, the day to day running costs of Future Hope come from individuals and families all over the world. Running costs are the most crucial and yet the most difficult funds to raise.

We are very grateful to our fundraisers who get themselves sponsored to trek, climb, cycle, swim and run for Future Hope. To support them, or to set up your own Future Hope Sponsor page, go to www.justgiving.com/futurehope

Our sincere thanks go to all the supporters who have set up annual or monthly Standing Order Donations which provide Future Hope with a secure and regular source of income which enables us to budget for our ever growing ongoing expenses.

This year friends held a Bootie Ball in Tokyo, a Fashion Show in Singapore, and dinners in Dubai, Hong Kong and Singapore.

On 26th March 2011, Rugby School hosted a fabulous Black Tie Dinner for 150 people in the atmospheric Temple Speech Room. The entire evening was completely sponsored and all money raised was for the day to day care of Future Hope's children.



Rugby School Dinner for Future Hope

Tim visited a number of Schools in the UK, Singapore and Hong Kong. Many schools are now supporting Future Hope with donations in kind, funds and informal links with the children.

How You Can Help

The best and cheapest way to follow the progress of the Future Hope children is by signing up to receive our bimonthly email newsletter. You can do so through our website, www.futurehope.net.

This email is no more than an A4 letter that updates you with the latest news, stories and fundraising activities. It also provides you with links for further news available on our website.

1. Keep in Touch

Sign up for our new online newsletter.
Go to
www.futurehope.net

2. Make a Donation Online

Future Hope has a Just Giving page:
www.justgiving.com/futurehope
or go to
www.futurehope.net/donate.html

4. Our Wish List

In 2011 it will cost £300,000 to run Future Hope. Running costs are the most difficult funds to raise and we are deeply grateful to all of you who are helping to transform the lives of Future Hope's children.

Monthly Standing Orders to feed and educate the children.

Food	£30 per month per child
Lunch and tiffin for our 144 dayscholars	£150 per week
Everything for a month... School, home, food etc.	£80 per child in one of our homes

Mustaq's hospital expenses	Rs 176,250 (£ 2520)
Mustaq's skin grafting operation	Rs 134,145 (£ 1915)
General Medical costs per month, including our doctor and medical administrator	Rs 60,000/month (£ 850)
School stationary for a year	Rs 90,000 (£ 1300)
Black school shoes for girls and boys size 12 (small) and up	Rs 450 (£ 6.50) per pair
Money to buy additional books for our Reading Scheme and reference books for the library locally. Please contact erica@futurehope.net	
Lifeguard training for 5 youngsters	Rs 7,500 (£110)
4 Large Cooking Gas rings for the homes	Rs 2,200 (£30) each

3. Contact Future Hope

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