



FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

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AT LAST! We are finally doing what so many have advised, putting news out by email! We have had a number of inquiries as to our newsletter and where is it. The sad fact of the matter is that with the cost of printing and postage FFC just does not have the funds to allocate towards printing up a newsletter and we then came up with the solution to send out regular news to all on email and print for the few who are not. SO THIS IS OUR FIRST.



B for Brahmagiri

Brahmagiri has been featured in previous newsletters, and he has come a long way dealing with the obstacles he has had to face. At right, Brahmagiri is seen proudly showing off the progress he has made learning to write.



Maggie Hutton and Katrina D'urzo volunteered with us early this year. They went to work with our Special Needs class, trying to find new things the students could do. After a lot of brainstorming, they started a workshop to make necklaces of papier mache beads covered with our medleri silk. They put together a group from our Special Needs class, and they are now turning out lovely jewellery which will be sold at our craft sales. At left, the Special Needs group is shown making the papier mache beads, which are shown in the photo above.

For more news and photos, or to buy craft articles to support FFC, please visit our website at www.familiesforchildren.ca

INDIA

A few years ago a decision was made that over the years FFC would become a home for mentally and physically challenged children. We will still take in orphaned children on a case by case basis. To this end we decided to build a center for training our young adults with special needs in skills that would be unique and marketable. The new House of Hope Training Centre is being built on land bought many years ago by Audrey Timmerman's London, Ontario donors.



Jessica Dornhofer, at left, is from California and she recently spent time at the FFC site in India. "I have always wanted to go to India...I decided to sign up to study in India through Best Semester. Through this class I was able to intern, and the college placed me at Families for Children. Once my studying came to an end, I could not imagine leaving the children I fell in love with. I then asked to stay at Families for Children once my studies were finished. Thankfully I was able to because I could not imagine never seeing those beautiful children again." In fact, Jessica will be returning to India with her cousin in June of next year.

Sue Dutton and her son, Tim, have been regular visitors to the FFC India project, and were there again in June. Below, Tim Dutton walking with the FFC children. Sue wrote to say that Tim has now been to the India project four times.



Sue Dutton wrote to say that in June, our first FFC Elementary School graduates, shown above, began Grade 6 at Pandit Nehru School, an English medium, fee-paying matriculation school. Although our elementary school is now registered, we could never register as a secondary school due to increased regulations at this level. Nevertheless, we have sent 3 boys and 4 girls out to Pandit Nehru and all are reported to be doing well. The children were very excited to show me their new uniforms and wear shoes all day for the first time. Two days a week they wear an impractical all-white ensemble and the other days are in green.

BANGLADESH

Zulki, shown at right, is a local Bangladeshi student who volunteered at the FFC school in Dhaka for a month, working as a teacher and becoming friends with the children and the staff. Eliza has passed on the word that Zulki did a wonderful job, and that the children need more mentors like him. For their part the children thoroughly enjoyed their time with Zulki.



Sandra has started a new program of long distance cooking lessons via Skype for six of our Special Care girls in Dhaka. Every week the girls would tackle a new cooking project with Sandra providing instructions via Skype. Sometimes the girls would try out Canadian recipes, everything from cookies to pizza, and sometimes they would work on traditional Bangladesh dishes. At left, the proud cooks in Dhaka are shown displaying the results of their latest kitchen creation.



The Catch-Up class idea, to take in a group of fourteen children from the slums who were extremely disadvantaged and because of various hardships had never been able to attend school, has been a great success, and the Catch-up kids have taken full advantage of the opportunity to go to school and study along with our other children. The staff at the FFC school in Dhaka had a meeting with the parents of the Catch-Up class students, who come daily to the FFC school, at which the students showed their report cards and explained their school results to their parents. At right Kajol, whose mother died, explains her school results to her grandmother.



At left, Linda Rosas from BC (front), Muriel Hemmes (middle), and Eliza Rahman, head of the FFC school, visited the slum where the "Catch Up" kids live. None of these children had been to school before, and were destined to work to help their families. We called them the "Catch Up" kids because they love learning and have caught right up to the other students. They enjoy a noon-day meal with our children, and in January they will receive their FFC school uniforms.



VOLUNTEERS AND FUND-RAISING

Trish Heyland has held a very successful sale, raising over \$1000 in support of FFC. She had people show up on the first day and return the next day with friends, and as soon as she put everything away more people showed up and she had to put the items back on display.

Liz Jarvos and Judy Begg, shown at right, held their Christmas sale in Victoria, and as Liz told it, Judy "had all her neighbours, her church group, her golfing group, her 'stitch & bitch' group, her exercise group, her swimming group and the ladies from the hospital auxiliary group come to the sale." The final tally for their sale was over \$8000.

Audrey Timmerman has reported another amazingly successful Dinnerless Dinner. This year Audrey's wonderful friends contributed over \$30,000 towards the cause of supporting FFC.

Sheila Verkamp and Zoe Stratigakos raised over \$1000 from their sale at the St Jean Brebeuf church in LaSalle, Quebec.

Heather Rider has sent along a picture of the beautiful wine glasses her girls, Stephanie and Courtney, have been hand-painting. They have been selling them at their craft sales for several years to help raise money for FFC. The hand-painted wine glasses have become very popular and they are now going to sell them in Toronto as well. If you would like to order a set, (\$20 for a set of four), please contact Heather at h rider999@gmail.com.



The photo at left of Ali Cherniak with her brood of babies personifies our wonderful volunteers and their love of our dear children. At her feet is Sofika, autistic and blind; next is Jayashree missing part of her left arm; sucking her fingers is Kalyani, with vitiligo, a skin condition, (and so turned down by local families for adoption); at Ali's right shoulder is Sivaskathi who was severely malnourished; and Deepa (blind) is on Alis left shoulder having a hearty laugh and very comfortable and very contented to lie there.

And special thanks to all our volunteers and donors, and to Jody for his work on the web site and newsletters. Sandra Simpson



To make a donation online, Canadians can click on CanadaHelps on our website. Americans can click on JustGive.

