



# RAPHAELE

RAPHAELE RYDER CHESHIRE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE DEHRADUN, UTTARAKHAND, INDIA

**JANUARY 2015**

**NEWSLETTER**

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends and Well Wishers,

All of us at Raphael wish you an eventful and a Happy New Year. With a fond farewell to the past year with its good and not so good we hope for better days, and new resolutions to keep. We have started the year with a 2015 calendar designed by our talented residents of Raphael. The calendar with its drawings and paintings by the budding artists are soon to adorn the walls and classes of Raphael. Certainly a good start to the New year.



*365 days on display!*

We congratulate Mrs. Priyo Lall, Director of Special Education for the prestigious 'Rajiv Gandhi Manav Seva Award' conferred to her by the President of India, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, for services rendered for the welfare of children. She was also awarded the 'Vocational Service Excellence Award' by the Rotary Club of Dehradun, once again for her invaluable contribution to the community.



*Priyo being recognised for her hard work*

We continue to expand the horizon of working with children from different countries in furtherance of which a group of students from the Merchant Taylor School in the UK visited Raphael specifically to interact with our children and residents from Ava Vihar, the Day Centre and Little White House. Prior to their arrival they had raised a substantial sum of money towards the establishment of a Smart Class in Raphael.

The concept of introducing independent living and establishing 'Barbara Cottage' for girls has proven to be a great success. We are happy to have replicated the same concept for the boys now. The boys are overjoyed with their new abode. Nestled amidst the Sal trees with greenery all around, the boys are thrilled to be living a semi-independent life and improving their daily life skills.

We thank all our well wishers, sponsors and volunteers for their good wishes and consistent support. We hope that the coming year is a wonderful year for all of you, as it is for us at Raphael.

*Mrs. Raminder Mann*

Raminder Mann

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It is a matter of immense pride and joy to the Raphael family that Mrs. Priyo Lall should be conferred a prestigious award by the President of India for her contribution towards welfare of children. Her devotion to service is best exemplified by her decision to donate the entire cash component of the award to Raphael and another social cause. Well-done Priyo!

We were fortunate in receiving a number of volunteers this year and look forward to this trend continuing. Equally it was refreshing to receive a team of students and Teachers from Merchant Taylor School in the UK who not only spent time with us, but also donated funds towards us setting up a Smart Class-our first effort at a new approach to learning. We look forward to continuing visits by them in the future.

Our efforts at setting up an independent living facility for boys, on the lines of Barbara Cottage, have finally borne fruit with completion of the facility. In another first, it will be Bharat, an old time Cerebral Palsy resident, who will take on the responsibility of Housefather.

Our Mobile Outreach programme continues to make steady progress and reach communities, which otherwise would not have had access to such facilities. Because problems and challenges change with locations, we are having to evolve a specific model community-wise, so our mobile team has plenty of work to do!

As we look forward to our next Founders' Day, we are fortunate to have with us Kisni, Bhaglu and Khunka who still recall fondly their association with our Founders and the start of Raphael's challenging journey. A journey that would not have been possible without the active support and encouragement of Raphael's supporters and well wishers in India and overseas more specifically Australia, New Zealand and the UK.

On behalf of the Raphael family, I extend our good wishes to you and your families for 2015 and beyond

*Brijesh Jayal*  
Brijesh Jayal

## DAY & RESIDENTIAL CENTRE

Devesh Chhetri from the Day and Residential Centre has been rehabilitated in an office in town, with a reasonable salary. The salary has brought him and his family not only great joy but more importantly, financial security.

We are grateful to the Doon Girls and Boys School for finding employment for a number of our residents.

Sachin Barthwal's skill in gardening paid off. He has found himself a job in the Doon Girls School as an assistant gardener.

Dheeraj Uniyal is now assisting as a helper in the examination Hall of the same school. All these children are enjoying the confidence of earning for themselves.

A Community Exposure Programme has been initiated by the Special Education Wing to sensitize the local community when the intellectually disabled mingle with the community. The children's first big exposure was at the Big Bazaar, a large market place in town. The success was instant. Some of the employees of the Big Bazaar have now decided to celebrate their birthdays with the residents of Ava Vihar after this enjoyable interaction with our children.



*Boys out to sensitize the public*

## BARBARA COTTAGE

Anchal, Pooja and Komal, girls who lived in the Barbara Cottage have been successfully rehabilitated. They are living with their parents now and are a great help to them in their daily household chores.

This example and success of independent living is being tried out on the boys now and a similar Cottage for the boys has been recently completed. Sonu, Rishab, Saurabh and Shivam have been admitted into it. Bharat an old time Cerebral Palsy resident has been entrusted to look after the boys and train them.

Chavi, Ashu and Mamta along with the other residents of Raphael were taken to see a 3D animation film in the Silver City Mall in town. This was indeed a unique experience for the girls.

## STATE NODAL AGENCY CENTRE (SNAC)

At the behest of Chairperson National Trust, we hosted a two day SNAC review meeting which was attended by representatives from 25 State Nodal Agency Centres across the country. The meeting discussed disability related issues and participants shared their experiences particularly related to difficulties faced in programme is making good progress. We are now carrying out this project in cooperation with an implementing National Trust programmes. The concluding session of the event was a meeting between officials from Uttarakhand State Government, the National Trust and SNAC Uttarakhand (Raphael). One of the highlights of the programme was a very successful video conference held with the District Magistrates of all 13 districts of Uttarakhand.

## COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION

90 children who are on our roll in the Community Based Rehabilitation Programme are getting regular inputs from our Special Educators and Physiotherapists. Having seen the positive impact of early intervention on children in the age group of 0 to 6 years, the local primary school in Mehwalaha has given us a room to conduct the early intervention programme where 8 children in the age group of 0-6 years attend regularly.



*Catching them young*

## MOBILE OUTREACH PROGRAMME

The Mobile Outreach Programme has benefited 100 children in the last 6 months. Parents, Anganwadi workers and special educators numbering 75 have received training on early identification and intervention planning through this programme. The Thatyur (a remote village in Tehri Garhwal) NGO (SAMVEDNA). A similar programme has also been extended to another remote area in Kashipur in the Udham Singh Nagar District and is being coordinated by the District Officials.

## RESOURCE CUM TRAINING CENTRE

We continue our contribution towards turning out fully trained professionals in the field of intellectual disability through different courses. Those trained by us find quick and easy placement in the special schools across the country and add to the pool of this valuable human resource.

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Komal, Sachin and Guarav represented the Uttarakhand team in the National Bocce Championship which was held at Patna in Bihar and Megha and Dheeraj represented the State Team in the Badminton Championship held in Mumbai. Both teams achieved 4th positions. A good performance and we are proud of them.

## TB HOSPITAL

Dr Gupta and his team are living up to their reputation of the management of our TB hospital built over many years of successful hard and dedicated work. The hospital admission rate has remained at an annual average of



approximately 300 patients.

Despite establishment of a number of Diagnostic Cum Treatment Centres by the State Government under the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP), our hospital continues to be thronged by patients from far and wide.

*Recovering in the TB Ward*

## CHRONIC WARD

Chatru, Pritam, Bhola and Sudeep remain cheerful. Chatru continues to stitch and knit coir bags and make money occasionally, and spending it on his personal requirements.

Sudeep still enjoys dragging himself in the corridors of the Administrative Block and attracting attention. Bhola is showing signs of age whereas Pritam continues to make regular trips on his customized two wheeler scooter to meet his family and friends.



*Sudeep basking in the sun*

## SHIV SADAN

The residents of Shiv Sadan are older and frailer but remain happy and contented. Kisni, Bhaglu and Khunka, the residents of 1959 vintage from the times when Raphael was established remain alert and cheerful.

## LITTLE WHITE HOUSE (LWH)

Besides following their own routine which remains packed, the LWH children find time to provide the much needed help to Rehabilitative Workshop during pre Diwali production activities.

The students from Merchant Taylor School, UK were very impressed with the talents of the Little White House girls when they performed in a dance programme.

As part of Christmas celebrations, six of our boys participated in the Choir singing programme organized at the historical Christ Church in Mussoorie.

## RAPHAEL MAX-INDIA FOUNDATION (MIF) PARTNERSHIP

The strong partnership and ties between Raphael and MIF continues to grow stronger with each passing year. In a jointly set up camp in the Raphael Campus from 25th to 28th November 2014 for distribution of artificial limbs, the MIF in collaboration with Manav Seva Sannidhi distributed artificial limbs to over 300 disabled persons from Uttarakhand. Ms Mohini Daljeet Singh, Chief Executive Officer, MIF, Ms Archana Pandey, Senior Director- Max India Enterprises at Dehradun, Ms Abhilasha Singhvi from Manav Seva Sannidhi and Brig Ranbir Brar also from MIF left no stone unturned to organize this unmatched cause. There were many patients who left their crutches and walked independently on their prosthetic feet after many years.

Our children and adults also benefitted from this camp wherein 7 children from Ava Vihar, 4 from Day Centre, 5 from CBR, 2 from Shiv Sadan and Geeta from the Liaison office were given new replacements with contemporary calipers, splints and shoes.



*Ready for a new look*



*Confident of giving up crutches*

## REHABILITATIVE WORKSHOP



*Terry lends a helping hand*

Mrs. Anjali Kalra, Manager of the Rehabilitative Workshop has been kept busy throughout the year with various activities in the workshop. The place has taken on a new look with items displayed attractively, drawing many customers to it. In search

for more display units Anjali tells us of her unique experience with the shop owner of the furniture store where she had identified a display unit suitable for her workshop. The piece being beyond the budget of Raphael, she was amazed and gratified when the shop owner offered to pay the difference himself. It transpired that Mr. Gurpreet Gambhir the shop owner was an ex-student of Welham Boys School in Dehradun, and had worked many a time as a volunteer in Raphael. The place and the residents had left an indelible impression on him. His fond memories of the place prompted this spontaneous act of generosity. We thank Mr. Gambhir, and hope that many emulate his example.

## FESTIVALS

Come October and everyone is geared for the festive season. Dusherra was celebrated with the lighting of the effigy of Ravana. The children were thrilled to see the fireworks bursting from inside the effigy. Diwali followed 20 days later when most of the children from Ava Vihar and LWH went home to spend the festival with their families. Those who remained behind, along with the residents of Shiv Sadan celebrated Diwali in the traditional style. All buildings were lighted and the entire atmosphere as in every year wore a festive look.



*Diwali: best enjoyed by children*

Choir singing by children of LWH with children joining from other schools in town marked the Christmas celebrations. A befitting end to the year.

## IAYP (INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR YOUNG PEOPLE)

IAYP officials, Mr. Priyank Kumar Gupta and Bivujit Mukhoty organized an adventure camp from the 3rd to the 6th Dec 14 for the Silver Level aspirants of the IAYP. 27 children from Ava Vihar and 13 children from Little White House completed their adventure course in order to become eligible for the Silver Level Award.



First day of the camp was spent in tent pitching in the Raphael's campus and learning the intricacies of different rope knots used in all outdoor pursuits. The next day children and their



instructors moved to Maldevta for an exciting two days of adventure filled experience. River crossing with a strong current, single rope Bridge crossing, Jungle walks / Trekking and self survival cooking on twigs collected from the forest grounds was an

*Witnessing fun filled Zorbing*

exhilarating experience. The awardees enjoyed witnessing a new sport Zorbing, a thrilling experience for them. With so much activity, the children went exhausted to bed.

## VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS

We have had a welcome spate of volunteers and visitors during this period. Their contributions and dedicated efforts are much appreciated. They have left behind many fond memories.

Students from the Merchant Taylor School in the UK visited Raphael to interact with the children and residents. A total of eight students and three masters who visited, divided themselves in two groups. One group placed themselves at the Purkul School in Dehradun and the other at Raphael. The students participated in fun games with the children and taught the residents to paint and draw. The walls of Ava Vihar dormitories are adorned with drawings made by the children and visiting students.



*Students from Merchant Taylor School, U.K.*

300 Indian Administrative Service probationers from the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, visited Raphael, in September, 2014. Disability issues and its awareness, forms a part of their curriculum.

Bishop Charles Drennan from New Zealand, his 27th visit to Raphael in November, was as always welcomed warmly by Raphael. It is always a pleasure to see how much he enjoys his visits to Raphael as much as we enjoy his being with us.

As a part of the International Day for People with disability, Dr. Tsering Wangchuk, Health Minister, Department of health (Central Tibetan Administration) Dharamshala (H P) visited Raphael on 4th Dec. 2014. He was given a conducted tour of our various departments and activities in the campus.

Dr. Wangchuk was deeply impressed with our work. This is what he wrote in our Visitor's Book - "Thank you all for your kind reception. I am very much impressed with what you are doing here and faculties at your Institute. I learned a lot from your experiences. I am sure that we will keep in touch to learn from you".

The visiting volunteers have penned down a few lines on their experience and impressions during their volunteering time at Raphael.

Jamie McCartney from U K says "My fifth visit to Raphael in two years – which speaks volumes in itself."

Karen Whelan from Australia observes: "I have asked to be able to have updates on Divya – the little girl amongst all these special people who have spun a web around my heart"

Karen Cowton from Australia: "I hope that we all make the effort to keep in touch as friendships such as ours are not built overnight but grow from sharing an amazing experience, that experience has been "Raphael."

David Searl from Ballard advises: "Take time out on weekends to travel, its amazing how far you can go on INDIAN RAILWAYS. Enjoy the time that Raphael will give you".

Bruce Barrett from Victoria noted: "Raphael has opened my eyes. Why have I waited so long? In my case it is a very one sided affair. I have received much more than I have given".

Linda Cork from Australia says: "On arriving in India for the first time I wanted to rush out and buy a sari! I couldn't do wearing a sari justice as the ladies here in India are so beautiful at wearing them. It has been a lifetime experience of being part of Raphael. For this we give a thousand thanks. (Even though I go home without a sari!!)"



*Linda and Terry Cork with Chattru*

Bob Segrave from Tasmania:

"I have greatly enjoyed my time with residents and staff. Raphael has a great ambience and the dedication and compassion of staff is an inspiration. I've been amazed at how happy the residents are – it's a credit to the organization. My advice: take time to assess how you can contribute".



*Bob Segrave in the Rehabilitation Workshop*

## STAFF NEWS

Promotions / New designations:

Ms. Neha Kakkar from Faculty to Head of HRD \* Ms. Saba Saeed from Principal Day Centre to Head of Projects \* Ms. Lata Chamoli from Supervisor Day Centre to Principal Day Centre. Our Congratulations to all of them.

Resignations:

Mrs. Anupama Thapliyal, Coordinator Projects

New Appointments:

Mrs. Anupama Thapliyal as a Counsellor

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