



# RAPHAEL

RAPHAEL RYDER CHESHIRE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE DEHRADUN, UTTARAKHAND, INDIA

**JULY 2014**

**NEWSLETTER**

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

With the chilling winter months over at long last, better days have spurred all at Raphael to carry on with their various activities with renewed vigour and energy.

We are grateful to all those very kind people who have selflessly continued with their support to us.

At the annual flower show held at Raj Bhawan, the Uttarakhand Governor's residence, our children were invited to participate in the drawing and painting competition. The children enjoyed this activity.

We have restructured our website and the new website was launched on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2014. Soon Raphael will be on 'Face Book' as well through which we shall keep you posted on our day to day important activities.

Whilst presenting this six-monthly news, we sincerely thank all our friends and supporters for their continued encouragement and good wishes.

*Mrs. Raminder Mann*

Raminder Mann

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

We were privileged to have had His Excellency the Governor of Uttarakhand Dr. Aziz Qureshi, as the Chief Guest on the 56<sup>th</sup> Founders day celebrations. In his address he paid a handsome tribute to our Founders and appreciated the entertainment put up by the residents. For the children who have won their IAYP awards, receiving their certificates from His Excellency made them feel very special.

Many of our children are keenly participating in Special Olympics events and in the IAYP programmes. Even though these are relatively new additions in our curriculum they are being received with great enthusiasm.

It is also heartening to see that more of our children are finding avenues for rehabilitation outside. Clearly the immense effort made both by the Day School and the children themselves has made this possible. This encourages us to do even better into the future.

On the mobile outreach front we continue to reach out to communities in the interior of the state. Progress at Thatyur is especially encouraging since we now have a local NGO as partner for regular follow up.

Whilst the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) has long been a supporter, we are grateful to them for providing support for our intellectually disabled female residents and day scholars. We are also indebted to Max India Foundation with whom we celebrated the annual partnership month in March.

Work on the proposed cottage for independent living for boys (on the lines of the very successful Barbara Cottage) is nearing completion. Also for our project to modify the Little White House building to expand our residential capacity for the intellectually disabled, we are in the process of looking for generous Donors.

And finally our grateful thanks to RCA for having invited Raphael to the Biennial Conference held from 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> April 2014. Priyo Lall has returned full of information that was covered and the many ideas discussed. More importantly for old friendships renewed and new ones struck.

On behalf of the Raphael family, my best wishes to all.

*Brijesh Jayal*

Brijesh Jayal

## DAY AND RESIDENTIAL CENTRE

Sachin, Akhil and Devesh have proved their mettle and are now working outside as regular employees. Thanks to their employers for this kind gesture. All the three are enjoying their economic independence. It is heartening news from Vijay Kandhari, who after a successful training in Raphael is working in a bakery, that he is engaged and will soon be married. He is overjoyed at the prospect of leading a family life.

Our rehabilitation process towards the intellectually disabled is gaining ground. Naveen, Kamal, Rajat and Preeti are now living in their homes and helping the family in day-to-day work.

The intellectually disabled children celebrated the onset of spring season by flying kites in the company of their teachers and trainers. They seem to have enjoyed the sport.

### *Story of Divya*



The floods of June 2013 in Uttarakhand had ravaged Kedar Valley in the Garhwal region. Many children were rendered homeless having lost their parents and relatives. One such child aged 7 years named Divya was brought to Raphael in February 2014. Even as late as 7 to 8 months after the fury of floods which rendered Divya homeless, she was in a traumatic state, not being able to speak a single word. The only sound she could make was that of crying.

Our team found her as an intellectually disabled child. We instantaneously adopted Divya as Raphael's girl. With all the love affection and care bestowed on her, Divya is picking up living skills and is able to mix freely among other residents.

## BARBARA COTTAGE

Ashu, Chavi, Pooja and Komal have become fairly independent in their daily living and domestic activities. They enjoy each other's company and love to arrange impromptu parties for their outgoing friends. For this they love making costumes for themselves as well as designing them.

We thank Christine Hannan of Ryder Cheshire Australia for donating a laptop to these girls. Chavi is using it for preparing the six monthly reports that we send to the sponsors.



*Bidding farewell to their friend Neelkarnika. Standing: Pooja, Neelkarnika and Komal Sitting: Chavi & Ashu*



*Chavi with laptop*

Pooja is now ready to be rehabilitated and soon she may shift to her home and be of help to her family members.

## STATE NODAL AGENCY CENTRE (SNAC)

Our work as State Nodal Agency Centre for National Trust in Uttarakhand appears to have created an everlasting impression in the minds of National Trust who wants us to continue for yet another tenure till March 2017. Priyo continues to work closely with various government officials to assist in implementing many of the welfare schemes for the disabled launched by the National Trust.

## COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION (CBR)

Divya, Anjana and Nirmala our Resource persons have put their heart and soul in this programme. 99 children on the Shimla bypass are presently benefitting from our programme. Our Early Intervention team, which goes to the CBR area two to three times in a week, has brought in tremendous improvement in the lives of smaller children.

## MOBILE OUTREACH PROGRAMME

The Outreach programme in Thatyur is gradually getting stabilized and now we are working there in unison with the local NGO. We have included two other areas in Uttarakhand, one in Nainital District and the other in Udham Singh Nagar District for our Mobile Outreach Programme. The District Magistrates of both these districts have shown great enthusiasm towards our programme, one of the key factors towards success of such programmes.

## RESOURCE CUM TRAINING CENTRE

Efforts continue to provide greater exposure to both our teacher and the student communities in the field of special education. Lata and Maninder, our two senior Special Educators attended the National Conference on Employment and Independent Living at the National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped at Secunderabad. As part of our curriculum we sent 13 of our students attending course on MR along with two faculty members on an educational tour to Shimla where they were able to visit two special schools.

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Our children continue to excel in Special Olympic events. Thirteen boys and five girls participated in a sports meet at Jyoti School, Rishikesh. Fourteen of the aspiring sports persons performed outstandingly and brought in Gold Medals. The other tally included 11 Silver and 4 Bronze Medals. In an Athletic meet at Delhi, Devesh won a Gold Medal and a Silver Medal whereas Megha had to be contented with a Bronze.

## TB HOSPITAL

The highlight has been treatment of Drug Resistant patients and commendations to Dr Gupta, for having successfully treated 50 such patients in the last seven years.

## CHRONIC WARD

Chatru, Bhola, Sudip, and Pritam are plowing through the challenges of disability marvelously. Chatru and Pritam are also coping cheerfully by keeping themselves involved with their stitching and macramé (a form of textile-making using knotting) Bhola and Sudip seek each other's company in the evenings to watch television together.



*Chatru, Sudip, Bhola and Pritam*

## SHIV SADAN

The 38 residents of Shiv Sadan are living happily in each other's company. Age is catching up with most of them. The men folk share the burden of household chores with their wives who now find it difficult to manage their domestic work by themselves. The weaving unit of the Rehabilitative Workshop with the help of Shiv Sadan residents is now manufacturing better marketable products. Recently the residents enjoyed a picnic to 'Dak Patthar', a picturesque tourist spot with luscious greenery and lawns nestled amongst the Shivalik Ranges. For the men and women it was a great change from their mundane routine.



*Lunchtime and fun time for residents of Shiv Sadan on a picnic to Dak Patthar*

## LITTLE WHITE HOUSE

Month of March saw the children going home excitedly to celebrate Holi with their family members. After a busy routine the children went for summer holidays in June and are now back to their schedule.

Three children, Malti, Sanchita and Savita after clearing their 12<sup>th</sup> Class with 1<sup>st</sup> Division marks have sought admission in a Nursing Course. In the 10<sup>th</sup> Board Examination out of six students we had Husanbano, Priya and Barkha getting a 1<sup>st</sup> Division. All these 6 children as also the others have been promoted to the next level. Reema of Class X brought glory to Raphael by winning the overall Rolling Trophy for best performance in academics along with a cash prize.

The senior LWH girls performed an exhilarating Rajasthani folk dance during the Founder's Day celebrations. Vibrant, vigorous and graceful, they created the magic and mystery of the stark deserts of Rajasthan in all its moods.



*L to R: Tara, Santoshi, Reema, Priyanka, Pooja and Meena*

## REHABILITATIVE WORKSHOP

The highlight of this term was the participation of our young intellectually disabled adults in voting during General Elections to the Indian Parliament. There was much excitement and sense of achievement on their part. The six young adults, Sumit Roy, Poonam, Roopa, Akhil, Virender and Dheeraj who voted were, aware of their voting rights and who they wished to vote for. We were very happy to see that their awareness had been created by listening to their parents and teachers and of course the television. The encouragement accorded to these six voters should hopefully now encourage others to take similar interest in the future. The production activity in the workshop is carrying on at the usual pace.



*Workshop apprentices Sumit Roy at the back with Poonam, Roopa, Akhil, & Virender*



*Holi being played at Raphael Campus*

## FESTIVALS

We celebrated Holi on 17<sup>th</sup> March in the usual traditional style. Applying colours and embracing each other marked the celebrations accompanied with singing and dancing.

This joyous festival was

very much enjoyed by Susan Mackerras and other volunteers who certainly got a taste of Indian culture.

## INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR YOUNG PEOPLE (IAYP)

With abundant encouragement from the staff the children participating in the IAYP programme are now gearing up to reach higher levels of the award.



*L to R: Akhil, Dheeraj, Ajay, Devesh and Naveen with their IAYP Instructor Asim Nath*

## FOUNDERS' DAY

Months of preparations had gone in to celebrate our 56<sup>th</sup> Founder's Day on the 5<sup>th</sup> April 2014. His Excellency the Governor of Uttarakhand Dr. Aziz Qureshi, accepted our invitation to be the Chief Guest on this occasion. Air Marshal Jayal welcomed the Chief Guest and other invitees and after paying a tribute to the Founders briefly presented the activities and achievements of the last one-year. The children performance of aerobics, play on Cinderella and a well synchronized Rajasthani Folk Dance kept the audience enthralled. Keeping to the rhythm of the Dance, we had the children dancing to a contemporary number. The beat could not

be resisted by the visiting children from other schools. Him Jyoti and Doon Girls School joined in the merriment with vitality. Raphael children kept the audience spellbound with a skit on environment degradation.



*Dr. Quershi being received by  
ir Marshal BD Jayal*

Dr. Quershi in his address lauded the efforts of Raphael in working for the disabled and the underprivileged and paid handsome tribute to our Founders. The recipients of the IAYP certificates felt elated to receive their awards at the hands of the Governor.

The celebrations concluded with the visitors going around the stalls which had displays of products made by the workshop and participating in the fun games organized by the children.



*A group dance performance*

## RCABIENNIAL CONFERENCE

On invitation of RCA, our head of Special Education Mrs. Priyo Lall, accompanied by her husband, Radesh Lall attended the Biennial Conference held at Sydney between 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> April 2014. On return she has shared her most memorable experiences with one and all. We are indebted to RCA for inviting Raphael to be represented at this all important event where experiences are shared and friendships struck.

## SUPPORT FROM ONGC

We are grateful to the ONGC for their support from time to time. Their support to female residents and day scholars has indeed been a very noble gesture.

## RAPHAEL-MAX-INDIA FOUNDATION PARTNERSHIP

The Raphael-MIF partnership benefitted 402 children with MMR Vaccination on Shimla Bypass. The programme also successfully completed immunization against Hepatitis B in respect of approximately 600 children in the remote areas of Garhwal region where medical facilities are not easily accessible. We also organized a seminar on disability related issues as part of the partnership activities.

## VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS

It was a pleasure to have Susan Mackerras, Sponsor Secretary from Australia at Raphael in February and March. Susie joined us for Founder's Day celebrations. We also had Elizabeth and Kane from New Zealand spending about a month of interaction with our residents and day scholars. Both of them enjoyed working with our permanent adults when the other residents had gone home for their summer holidays.



*Susan Mackerras,  
Sponsor Secretary from Australia*

In their words: *"What a privilege it is for us to work with permanent residents in Ava Vihar – they are so beautiful, special and talented. Thank you for the privilege"*.



*Kane with the young music enthusiasts*

They made a special mention of the 'fantastic' time and meals at the Volunteer's Mess.



*Elisabeth helping in in the Art Class*

## STAFF NEWS

We bade farewell to Payal our HRD Coordinator who left us in February. Our congratulations to Neha for assuming the reins from Payal. We welcome Special Educator Savita Thakur in our fold.

## OBITUARY

We are deeply saddened to inform the passing away of Deviki, a resident of Shiv Sadan on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2014. May her soul rest in peace.

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*Please visit our new website:*

***www.raphael-ryder-cheshire.org***