



Raphael

Ryder Cheshire International Centre

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Newsletter
June 2019

2019 marked Raphael's Diamond Jubilee year. Hard to believe that it has been 60 years since Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder managed to get this bit of forest land from the Indian government to set up an institution whose primary mission would be the relief of suffering. Raphael has grown and we trust the Founders' would be proud of us today. We had hoped that their daughter Elizabeth would be able to attend the celebration. In her message to us she said ".....Mum and Dad's 60th wedding anniversary, they would be so proud to see all that has been achieved by everyone involved in Raphael and the wonderful care offered there." We were saddened to hear of Jeremy's passing recently.



The Founders' Day celebrations were planned for 4th-5th April, though not on as grand a scale as the Golden Jubilee programme.

The school reopened mid-January, after the winter vacation, and there was much excitement as the preparations began. We were overjoyed when we heard that we would have overseas visitors to join us for the celebration—Christine and Graeme Hannan from Australia, Carolyn Tapley and her mum Minna from New Zealand, Trish Twaits also from Australia, and Jamie McCartney from the UK.

The morning of the 4th started with a campus walk-about, Shiv Sadan being the starting point. The old time residents were delighted to take the guests around. Some of the quarters have been renovated and it is remarkable how clean some of them have maintained their simple homes.



This was followed by the 'Unveiling of the Plaque' for the Multi-purpose Therapeutic Centre' that we intend to build. It will include an auditorium, various therapy services and include an Early Intervention and a Sensory room. The honours were done by Christine and Carolyn. It was blessed by three priests - Christian, Muslim and Hindu. Our students sang a rousing 'We Shall Overcome' in Hindi. All the residents, staff and visitors then gathered for a community lunch in the orchard.

On the evening of 5th April, the students put up a cultural show, with much song and dance. As always it was a delight to watch, the students thoroughly



enjoying themselves on stage. In his welcome address the Chairman of the Governing Council, General Nanavatty, announced that Brig Anil Sinha, who had returned for a second innings as Raphael's CEO, would hand over to PriyoLall. Raphael's first woman Chief Executive Officer. Priyo is no stranger to Raphael having spent the better part of 25 years here. Her commitment towards special education has been tremendous and we wish her success in her new role.

The Chief Guest for the day was Lt Gen SM Mehta (Retd.)AVSM, SM, VSM**, CEO The Hans Foundation.



The evening ended with the Indian Military Academy Brass Band, dressed in ceremonial uniform, playing stirring military music and ending with a beautiful rendering of 'Abide With Me.'

We welcome on board, Colonel Vidyotam Hansen, as Raphael's Director Administration & Coordination. Colonel Hansen joined Raphael in March this year.

Our Students Excel

The Flower Show at the Governor's Residence is an annual event every February and includes a painting competition for all school children. Raphael's students are always invited to participate. 14 year old Krishna, who came to Raphael in 2014 when he was found abandoned on the streets of Dehradun, won the third 3rd Prize!



Three cheers also to Mr Kishan Singh Rana, Special Olympics Coach and his pupil –Kamil. Under Kishan's able guidance, Kamil won a silver medal in Basket ball in the Special Olympics held in Abu Dhabi in March 2019. There were more

than 170 participating countries. The games are considered a world class sporting event. They are a catalyst to create greater social inclusion for people with disabilities.

Kamil lives in a small village on the outskirts of Dehradun, Mehuwala, and is enrolled in our Outreach Programme. We congratulate Kamil and Kishan on this excellent achievement. Kamil was accompanied by his father when he went up to receive a token of appreciation from the Chief Guest on Founders' Day and it was a touching moment to see the father so proud of his son.



A day out for our Senior residents

The senior residents look forward to outings as a change from their daily routine. In January they went on a picnic to the MDDA park on Rajpur road. Every minute of the trip was exciting from getting dressed up to boarding the bus, the ride to the park and finally getting to the venue. They enjoyed walking around and seeing the mountains up close. The soft background music being played in the park added to



their happiness, not to mention the juice and chips while sitting under the trees.

Other Activities

On 3rd December, World Disability Day, 20 students were invited to the National Institute for the Orthopedically Handicapped in Dehradun to participate in the day's programme. This consisted of games, dances and a Hoopla competition! They enjoyed the candy floss and sandwiches and had a fun day out.



Later in December, a friendly cricket match was organized between the students of Arunima (Project for Autism) and Raphael. Although the visiting team won the match, there was a great feeling of healthy competition and camaraderie.



Just before the school closed for the winter break, Christmas was celebrated with the



nativity scene staged by the residents and 'Santa' distributing sweets to all. The children helped in decorating the Christmas tree while the teachers sang carols.

On 26th January, India's Republic Day, the CEO unfurled the flag as everyone joined in to sing the national anthem. Some of the older students did a march past the flag, saluting it, while the younger ones waved the flags that they had made in class.

On 23 February, the local Red Cross Society held a workshop on 'First Aid for Epilepsy'. They demonstrated what to do as soon as a child has a fit until the doctor arrives. They also advised on measures to take to prevent the child hurting him/herself during a seizure. This was attended by all the staff.





The festival of colour, Holi, marks the advent of spring and is celebrated in March every year. Residents and staff putting coloured powder on one another, and at the end of it there is not a recognizable face.

A two-day **Continuing Rehabilitation Education** programme on 'The Role of Play in Early Childhood in Development Disabilities' was held on 25-26 March 2019. It was attended by 30 special educators working in different special schools. Some of the topics covered were 'How to Make Cost Effective Aids,' 'Teaching Parents to Facilitate and Participate in Play,' and 'New Trends in Children's Play.'



42 teacher trainees, students from the Arpan Society, Haryana, visited Raphael on 10 April as part of the compulsory educational tour for their special education course. They interacted with our teacher trainees and visited the school to look at our teaching methods.



On 26 April, The Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music And Culture Amongst Youth (SPICMACAY), arranged a Satriyya dance performance by Meenakshi Medhi. Satriyya is a classical Indian dance that originated in the eastern state of Assam. The students loved her facial expressions and much to their delight, she brought some of the younger students on stage and demonstrated a few steps for them to perform with her. The applause was deafening!



A workshop on the Prevention of Children from Sexual Offence Act was held for all staff in Raphael. Rizwan Ali, legal advisor for the Latika Roy Foundation was the guest speaker.

Partnering with the State Government

On 04 February, a State Level Coordination Committee meeting was held at the State Government Secretariat, attended by senior officials of The National Trust, some bureaucrats, and NGOs from neighbouring districts were invited. Mrs Priyo Lall represented Raphael. The State Disability Commissioner, through a video conference, explained Raphael's outreach programmes to all District Magistrates of the State. It was suggested that this outreach programme can help sensitize all major stakeholders to the needs of persons with disability and also help implement government schemes that are in place.



Outreach Programmes

For ease of reference, the Outreach programmes are now referred to as Outreach (A) that includes all of Dehradun district, and Outreach (B) that refers to all districts outside Dehradun. We have made some progress in working with the State government to help achieve our outreach goals. Without the assistance of the civil authorities it is difficult to schedule programmes at the district level. To this end, the Integrated Child Development Scheme (Ministry of Women & Child Development) has given a directive to all districts of Uttarakhand that will facilitate Raphael's outreach work for children below the age of 6 years. Thus in the last couple of months the outreach team has 18 awareness programmes in Dehradun district for 600 grassroot level workers, and 6 programmes in Haridwar district for 420 workers.

At the same time, the Inclusive Education Department has signed a 3 year Memorandum of Understanding with Raphael to promote our work with children with special needs in the age group of 6 -18 years , who are enrolled in government primary schools.

Claire-Louise and Nik, trustees of the REGE Foundation who fund the Outreach programme in Dehradun district, visited in April this year and were able to see the work in progress.

There has not been much work in the other districts of Uttarakhand in the last 6 months due to a Code of Conduct imposed because of the national elections.

DETECTION, CONTROL AND TREATMENT OF TB

Approximately 1500 patients have been seen in the Outpatient department in the last 6 months and the average monthly occupancy in the hospital was 70 %.



Most patients come to the hospital from Dehradun and neighbouring districts. In March, Mohd Sajid, whose brother-in-law had been treated for TB at Raphael, came from

Delhi to get himself treated. Sajid was admitted to the hospital for a month, discharged on recovery and also referred to the local primary health centre for continuing treatment. Sajid was very happy with the treatment provided to him at Raphael.

SHIV SADAN

The 31 residents of Shiv Sadan are keeping reasonably well. Some of the living quarters have been renovated while others are in the process of being completed. They are delighted with the repairs that are being done. Some of the residents took an active part in the Founders' Day cultural programme, playing the 'dhol', a two-headed traditional drum that provides a beat.

OTHER NEWS

We are happy to share that Raphael has been donated two new buses and we would like to thank Garware Bestech Trust for this gesture. One will be used as a school bus for day scholars and will replace the old one. The second bus is to be modified to work as a 'mobile clinic' for the outreach programmes.

Raphael is taking its campus cleaning activities seriously and one day in the month we spend about 2 -3 hours scouring the campus for plastic and other non- biodegradable waste.

Volunteers/ Interns

Ray and Lynne Coulton from Australia visited Raphael for a month in February. Ray helped with repair and maintenance work on campus. He had this to say about Raphael' Just amazing – totally different to anything I had seen prior, especially with these very disabled kids. The kids all seem to enjoy it here, helped hugely by the very dedicated group of teachers here.'

Lynne, a special educator of 26 years, said 'that in no way did this prepare me for the extensive special needs of the children in Raphael.....I am full of admiration for the general ambience of Raphael and the loving, caring, tolerant and patient attitude of staff vis-a-vis the students.'

Patricia Firth and her daughter Julie Page, both from Australia, also visited in February. Patricia has had a long association with Raphael and this was her third visit. On her visit this time she said lots had changed for the good in Raphael and was happy to be here.

Julie worked with Ray and helped with repair work on campus. She said, 'Raphael was a beautiful, serene haven from all the noise and bustle of India.'



45-day internship with us, starting in March. Aditi Singh from Mount Carmel College, Bangalore also did a 40-day internship. Both students said they had learnt a lot and we, in turn, benefitted from their time here.

Two speech therapists from the Himalayan Institute of Medical Sciences, Dehradun are presently completing a 6 month internship in the day school. The Institute has selected Raphael for the students to do the required internship we are the only center recognized by the Rehabilitation Council of India. Two young girls, from Delhi University, and Graphic Era University, Dehradun, are at also presently completing their internship.

Nishita Singh, a student from Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences, Allahabad completed her

Lt. Gen. RK Nanavatty, (Retd.)
Honorary Chairman

Lt. Gen. PC Bhardwaj (Retd.)
Honorary Vice Chairman

Mrs Priyo Lall
Chief Executive Officer

Col. (Dr.) JP Gupta, (Retd.)
Director Medical

Col. V Hansen (Retd.)
Director Admin &Coord.

Mrs AnupamaThapliyal
Director Special Education

Dr. SudhirPeshin
Medical Superintendent

Mrs Nikita Rastogi
Accounts Officer

Ms Archana Madhwal
Manager PR & Marketing

Raphael depends entirely on donations to meet its running costs. All services are provided free. We are grateful to our donors, past and present. Support RAPHAEL in its quest of providing "relief to the suffering" by donating a sum of money in one of several ways:

- A minimum sum of Rs 365.00 – Rs 1.00 for every day in the year – on any day of your choosing each year to the RAPHAEL General Fund.
- A sum of Rs 5000.00 to sponsor a special meal for the 170 residents in RAPHAEL on any special day of your choosing
- A sum of Rs 2700.00 to support a cured (burnt out) Leprosy Patient with acute disabilities in the Life-long Care Programme for a period of 30 days.
- A sum of Rs 4750.00 to support a TB patient admitted in the TB Hospital for a period of 15 days.
- A sum of Rs 6400.00 to support the education and training of a child in residence with intellectual and associated disabilities for a period of 30 days
- A sum of Rs 3600.00 to support the education and training of a child with intellectual and associated disabilities in the day school for a period of 30 days