



NEWSLETTER
MAY 2017

RAPHAEL

RAPHAEL RYDER CHESHIRE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE DEHRADUN, UTTARAKHAND, INDIA

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As always, this has been a busy period when preparations for the Founders' Day take priority over other activities in the Raphael community. This year our Chief Guest was Mrs. Mohini Daljeet Singh, Chief Executive, Max India Foundation (MIF). The Guest of Honour was her husband Lt. Gen. Daljeet Singh (Retd.), a highly decorated erstwhile Army Commander. Quite by chance, a part of the entertainment put up by the children involved their trooping across the stage in military fatigues and behaving in a very soldierly manner! I am not sure whether the General approved of their drill standards, but he sure gave them a hearty handshake later!

Mrs Mohini Daljeet Singh is no stranger to Raphael. It was Mr Analjit Singh, Chairman Emeritus of MIF and Mrs Daljeet Singh, who had in 2010 conceptualized the idea of the MIF-Raphael Partnership Month – an idea that over the years has evolved and grown. The Max Group has recently set up a modern Hospital in Dehra Dun, Raphael has benefitted richly from the medical expertise of Max Hospitals. In her speech the Chief Guest struck a personal note mentioning that there were two similarities that drew her personally close to Raphael. First, that the Founders' Day on the 5 April also happens to be her birthday and second, that her first name was also the name of the road on which Raphael is located. Not to be outdone, the children presented her with a surprise cake and sang Happy Birthday at tea time!

We were delighted that Air Commodore Peter Newton and Mrs Helen Newton visited Raphael in February this year. With the long association between RCA and Raphael, it was illuminating to be able to elicit their views on where they see Raphael today and ways to strengthen the bonds between Raphael and RCA in the future.

Since Peter, along with Carolyn Tapley, had been involved in planning for the John Hunt Mobile Outreach Programme (JHMOP), it was useful for Peter and Helen to see a bit of the Pilot Mobile Outreach Project at Thatyur. The JHMOP has now made a beginning and we hope that through the generous bequest of John Hunt, children with special needs in the remote parts of the State will also have access to Raphael's relief and rehabilitation facilities.

Other important visitors were Mr Analjit Singh, Chairman Emeritus Max Group accompanied by Mr. Najeeb Jung, Ex Lieutenant Governor of Delhi. Baroness Dorothea Friesen of Austria also visited in March. She held her solo Exhibition of watercolours titled 'Nostalgic Glimpses of India', in Dehradun. Through these paintings, she expressed her immense love and attachment for the life and culture of India. She generously donated the sale proceeds of her paintings to Raphael.

We are sorry that Col. Mann, who has over the years been a pillar of strength in all the planning and execution of work services in the Campus in a purely honorary capacity, has decided to retire. We thank him and will miss him.

I want to thank all our supporters and well-wishers - institutional and individual - both overseas and in India for their continuing encouragement and support as well as the Governing Council for their guidance. Finally my thanks to all the staff members under the leadership of Brig Arun Bhatnagar, for taking care of those under our sacred charge.

My best wishes to all,

Brijesh Jayal

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

'You may call God love, you may call God goodness, but the best name of God is compassion.' **Meister Eckhart**

Dear Friends, Sponsors and Supporters,

After the intense winter chill, we welcomed the joyful and reviving spring. The trees burst forth in fresh green leaves and blossoms of many hues. However, the spring has been short this year and we have had an early advent of summer. The air is sweet with the scent of the litchi and mango and the citron blossoms. The clear notes of the Koel - the Cuckoo – are joyful in our wooded campus.

I, Archana, have taken over from Mrs Rami Mann as Editor of the Raphael Newsletter. It will be my endeavour to meet the high standards set by her. I shall continue to share through the Newsletter the news and stories of our small joys, successes and achievements with our extended family of sponsors, friends and well-wishers. Another change is that henceforth the Raphael Newsletter will be published in the months of May and November instead of January and July.

During their short visit to Raphael in February, Air Cdre. Peter Newton, Former National President, RCA and Mrs Helen Newton reviewed the various activities on the campus. They also joined our Mobile Outreach and CBR teams to visit these centres. Visits by friends like Peter and Helen offer an opportunity to rejuvenate and strengthen our long association and share ideas of striving together to fulfill the vision of our Founders.

The 59th Founders' Day was celebrated with the usual zest and vigour. The young enthusiastic participants won accolades from the audience for their outstanding performances.

The Raphael family sincerely thanks sponsors, friends and well-wishers across the world for their trust in our work and their continued support and encouragement.

With best wishes,

Archana Madhwal

DAY AND RESIDENTIAL CENTRE

Mid-January saw our Ava Vihar residents returning from their homes after the winter vacation. The National Flag hoisting on Republic Day was celebrated with zest and enthusiasm and was followed by singing of patriotic songs and distribution of sweets. Another highlight was a cultural programme put up by the residents, students and volunteers in honour of Air Cdre. Peter Newton and Mrs Helen Newton of RCA.

Our students along with teacher trainees and staff participated in Awareness Programmes on Down Syndrome Day and World Autism Day to sensitize the community.



Awareness Rally on Down Syndrome Day
21 April 2017

On 23 April, 19 students participated in the Terry Fox Run, entitled Marathon of Hope. The Doon School had organised the event, to commemorate the extraordinary feat of Canadian national Terry Fox (1958-1981), who ran 5373 kms. in 142 days with an artificial leg, to raise money for Cancer Research.

BARBARA AND MARTYN COTTAGES (Assisted Independent Living Projects)

Rekha, the new resident at Barbara Cottage, has settled down well. Under the guidance of their Supervisor, the girls perform their daily chores. They are also taught basic cooking and housekeeping skills. Coinciding with the theme of Founders' Day "Glimpses of Uttarakhand", the girls had put up a stall of two Uttarakhand sweet delicacies 'jhangore ke kheer' (a Garhwali dish, made from coarse grain millet cooked with sugar and milk) and 'ghuguti' (a Kumaoni dish made of jaggery and rice flour), cooked by them. The preparations were appreciated by all.

The constant friendly tussle for supremacy between the monkeys and the four residents of Martyn Cottage continues. The boys enthusiastically participated in a Pilot Eco project of composting the huge mass of leaves that are shed from the numerous Sal trees on the campus.

MOBILE OUTREACH PROGRAMME (MOP)

Since 2014, our Pilot MOP (PMOP), supported by REGE Foundation, UK, has been successfully fulfilling the objectives of creating awareness about disability, identifying developmental delays, counselling families of children with disability, providing services, referrals, early intervention and home based programmes and training of local resource persons.

A generous bequest from Late Mr John Hunt of New Zealand, enabled the launching of John Hunt Mobile Outreach Programme (JHMOP) to commemorate his memory. This fledgling programme is an extension of PMOP (Pilot Mobile Outreach Programme) which has similar objectives and enlarges the footprint into more remote areas of Uttarakhand reaching out to a larger cross-section of persons with special needs. In its maiden visit from 22-25 March, the MOP team trained 120 Anganwadi workers in Haldwani and assessed 19 children in Bazpur.



Assessment of Children in
Haldwani

COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION (CBR)

The CBR project continues to reach out to the special children in villages around Dehradun. Currently 80 students are on our rolls, with 48 attending Government Primary Schools, 25 benefitting from our Early Intervention Centres and 7 receiving Home Based Programme. Another Early Intervention Centre supported by REGE Foundation UK, has recently been made functional in Jattowala.

NATIONAL TRUST

After completing two terms as State Nodal Agency Centre, Raphael relinquished this role, as per the National Trust Policy. For the first time NT approved part funding of two of our projects under the Vikaas (Day Scholars) Scheme and Gharaunda (Home for adults) Scheme.

RESOURCE CUM TRAINING CENTRE

The Resource Centre conducted 10 Assessments and held remedial sessions for 37 children with learning difficulties during this period.

16 students of 2015 batch, along with faculty members visited Navjivni School of Special Education and the School for Deaf and Blind at Patiala in February 2017, as part of an educational tour.

TB HOSPITAL

The TB hospital is a busy centre and an asset to the city and adjoining areas including neighbouring states. From January to April, 875 OPD cases were treated. This included 88 non-tubercular patients. The average bed occupancy was 62%.

CHRONIC WARD

Despite the challenges of disability, the residents of Chronic Ward, Sudeep, Chatru and Pritam keep themselves engaged in productive work. Chatru and Pritam tailor dresses for nurses and children of Ava Vihar and do tassel making for the Rehabilitative Workshop. Sudeep - despite a higher degree of disability - remains cheerful and enjoys the company of other residents, visitors and volunteers.

SHIV SADAN

During winters in Shiv Sadan, one can see the pleasant scene of the resident families performing domestic chores like chopping vegetables, or hanging out their washing in the warm sunshine. There is always much warmth and friendliness shown towards visitors.

Holi, the festival of colours, saw them enjoying smearing colours of Holi on each other and dancing till their weary feet could take no more.

LITTLE WHITE HOUSE

Of the six residents (children of Leprosy parentage), Reema and Pooja cleared their class XII Board Examination with flying colours. Prem too did well in his class X Board Examination.

Unfortunately Buppi came down with chicken pox and couldn't take his Board examination.

Twenty two ex-LWH students are presently pursuing professional courses in various institutes across India, with 15 being sponsored by Sarvasubhamkara, UK, 6 by RCA and 1 by Ryder Cheshire Foundation (Canterbury), New Zealand. Our sincere gratitude to all the generous donors.

MAX-RAPHAEL PARTNERSHIP MONTH

With each passing year, the Max-Raphael Partnership has grown from strength to strength. 273 children and adults benefitted from the Multi - specialty Medical Camp held on the Raphael Campus in February. Four Medical specialists - Dr. Rohit Srivastava (Pediatrician), Dr. Anupal Deka (ENT), Dr. Rahul Sharma (General Surgery) and Dr. Talla Praveen (Internal Medicine) - along with the staff and volunteers from Max Group provided free consultation, diagnostic tests and medicines.

An Epilepsy review Camp was held on 23 March 2017 by Dr. Goel, Neurologist from Max Hospital, Dehradun. 35 of our children were examined by him on this day.



Ava Vihar Children with Dr Goel

A 4 day "Artificial Limb and Polio Caliper Camp" was conducted by MIF, Manav Seva Sannidhi (MSS) and Raphael in April. This Annual Camp aims to provide limb prosthesis to needy patients. Doctors, technicians, volunteers, patients and their families were housed on the Raphael Campus for four days while customized limbs were fabricated for each beneficiary, who individually practiced to use his/her prosthesis and walk independently. It is worth mentioning that a majority of MSS volunteers have been beneficiaries of such camps themselves. Though now involved in their own vocations, they, in a spirit of service, volunteer to help others who are similarly challenged.



Being Measured for Prosthesis

At the conclusion of the Camp, the doctors, technicians, volunteers and organizers experience a sense of satisfaction having facilitated 250 individuals commence an independent and dignified phase of their lives.

REHABILITATIVE INITIATIVES

Presently 17 young adults with special needs are engaged in Candle making, Paper bag making and Block printing. These handicrafts are greatly appreciated at the stalls set up on the Founders' Day.

We are happy to report that one young adult has found placement at Club Mahindra Resorts, Mussoorie as a Bell boy. He has adjusted well in his new job and his employers are pleased with his performance. Another young lad has been placed at Doon Girls School Dehradun as an apprentice gardener. Our Special thanks to Club Mahindra and Doon Girls School for opening opportunities for our students with special needs. We remain optimistic and hopeful that more establishments will come forward to support our endeavour.

59th FOUNDERS' DAY



Volunteers Ben Ardagh and Jennifer Croker of New Zealand



Cultural Programme



Lt Gen Daljeet Singh giving away the IAYP Awards



Chief Guest Mrs Mohini Daljeet Singh

On the occasion of the 59th Founders' Day, Air Marshal B.D. Jayal (Retd.), Chairman, in his Welcome Address paid homage to the Founders, Group Captain Leonard Cheshire and Lady Sue Ryder, for their spirit of compassion and service. He also recognized the major contributions of Gen. Ranbir Bakhshi, former Chairperson of Raphael. He extended his gratitude to erstwhile Chairpersons and all members of the Council for nurturing Raphael over the decades. He welcomed the Chief Guest, Mrs Mohini Daljeet Singh, Chief Executive of MIF and Guest of Honour Lt. Gen. Daljeet Singh, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd.). He lauded the success of the MIF and Raphael Partnership since the past 7 years. He appreciated the initiatives of MIF in healthcare for the underprivileged and on other social issues across the nation and particularly in Uttarakhand.

He acknowledged the continued support of the Government of India, the State Government and the local administration. He also thanked Raphael's long term supporters from abroad, Indian Corporates, individual donors and well-wishers and supporters for their generosity and continued support.

The theme of the Founders' Day Cultural Program was 'Glimpses of Uttarakhand', a kaleidoscope of culture, tradition and folklore of the State. As in earlier years, the Raphael participants - children, young adults with special needs, Teacher Trainees and residents - were joined by Volunteers and students from Him Jyoti School and Doon Girls School. Guests, parents and supporters who braved inclement weather to attend the programme, were treated to a fine cultural performance and enthusiastically applauded each performance.

In her Address, the Chief Guest lauded the efforts of Raphael for the disabled and the underprivileged. She urged individuals and organizations to come forward and contribute their bit to help the less privileged. She was deeply appreciative of Raphael's commitment towards its mission of providing 'Relief to the Suffering'. Her announcement about doubling the contribution of the MIF towards the Raphael MIF partnership was received with enthusiastic applause.

The Guest of Honour, Gen. Daljeet Singh, gave away the IAYP Awards to the deserving special children and Commendations to employees completing 25 years of distinguished service at Raphael.

The programme concluded with a 'Vote of Thanks' by Brig. Arun Bhatnagar, CEO.

The words of some of the volunteers capture the spirit of the Founders' Day Programme.

Jasper Craib, of UK summed up the zest and enthusiasm of the spirit of Founders' Day: *"The kids love dancing so much, and I couldn't help but be swept along by the infectious excitement of it all"*.

Jennifer Croker of New Zealand calls participating in the Founders' Day: *"...an experience within itself.....and being a part of this was a special experience."*

OUR SUPPORTERS

Our sincere thanks go to the Ryder-Cheshire Australia, Ryder-Cheshire Foundation (Canterbury) New Zealand, Sarvashubamkara, UK, REGE Foundation, UK, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, The National Trust, State Government of Uttarakhand, Oil & Natural Gas Commission, Max India Foundation, The Hans Foundation, Sir Ratan Tata Trust, Radiant Group of Companies, Ramesh Garware Charitable Trust, Punj Charitable Trust and all our individual supporters and donors in India and abroad. We earnestly thank each one for their benevolent support and belief in our work. We deeply value this relationship and hope for your continued support for our endeavours.

VOLUNTEERS

Indian Volunteers/Interns, local Social Organisations and Volunteers from overseas, who come to Raphael bring with them the unique gifts of their own personalities and talents. While Raphael residents benefit from their knowledge and expertise, these volunteers carry back enriching experiences and memories and a strong bond forged with the staff and students of Raphael.

Several volunteers in the past few months have contributed to Raphael in their own ways. In their own words:

Ben Ardagh (New Zealand): *"... all in all I have to take my hat off to Raphael and its many wonderful staff for creating a community where kids of differing disabilities can reach their full potential and for giving me the opportunity to be a part of it. Hopefully it's not too long before I am able to come back again."*



Ben Ardagh - Volunteer from NZ at an Early Intervention Centre

Jennifer Croker (New Zealand): *"The teachers, staff, teaching students and other volunteers all work so hard to make Raphael the success that it is..."*

She further adds: *"The children/students are a joy to be around, their faces light up with the smallest acknowledgement and are the people who make this place truly special."*

Marplena Castellanos (USA): *"Thanks Raphael for all the love, for giving me the chance to help, to learn, to enjoy and to grow"*.

VISITORS

We were privileged to receive some eminent visitors during this period.

It was an honour to host Air Cmde. Peter Newton and his wife Helen in February. They were happy to see the many improvements since their last visit to Raphael in 2009.



*Mr. Analjit Singh and Mr Najeeb Jung
Ex Lt Gov. of Delhi*



*Air Cmde. Peter Newton
and Mrs Helen Newton
on their visit to Thatyur*

Mr. Analjit Singh, Founder and Chairman Emeritus, Max Group of Companies accompanied by Mr Najeeb Jung Ex Lieutenant Governor of Delhi visited Raphael in March 2017

Baroness Dorothea Friesen of Austria - a well-known artist and an Indophile - visited Raphael on the 21 March 2017 and appreciated the work being done here.



Baroness Dorothea Friesen and a painting

Jane Forster the Sponsorship Secretary, United Kingdom was in Raphael from 23 March to 8 April.

STAFF NEWS

Mrs Priyo Lall, Director Special Education, superannuated on 30th April, after completing 22 years of service in Raphael. She added a feather to Raphael's Cap when she was conferred the prestigious Rajiv Gandhi Manav Seva Award by the President of India in 2014. Raphael would continue to benefit from her expertise and vast experience, as Priyo has rejoined the Raphael team as a Consultant. We wish her an equally rewarding and satisfying second innings as Director (Development).

Raphael bids 'Adieu' to the following members of our team:

Colonel Mann, a veteran Civil Engineer, who has been rendering technical advice in planning and execution of work services in Raphael, has opted for retirement. We thank him for his immense contribution and wish him the very best.

Mrs Raminder Mann, the Public Relation Manager at Raphael for the past four years, has also opted to retire. With her considerate and charming personality and amenable nature, she was able to create a harmonious relationship with Sponsorship Secretaries, Donors and supporters. Raphael shall miss her gracious presence. We wish her good health and happiness.

Ms. Neha Kakkar, Head of HRD Special Education, who had served with the Raphael staff for eight years, has resigned. Raphael wishes her a bright future.

OBITUARY

Bhagalu, passed away peacefully on 31 May, at the age of 90. He was one of our first residents who had come to Raphael in 1959. May the Almighty grant peace to the departed soul. Bhagalu will be deeply missed by the Raphael family.



Bhagalu

Our thanks to EBD, Dehradun for their assistance in publishing of this newsletter.