



# RAPHAEL

*newsletter*

January 2013

RAPHAEL RYDER CHESHIRE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE DEHRADUN, UTTARAKHAND, INDIA



**KNOW ME FOR MY ABILITIES, NOT MY DISABILITY**



## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

“Heal the world; make it a better place for you and for me and the entire human race”

These words echo the very essence on which Raphael functions, “for the relief of suffering.”

As we celebrate Christmas and New Year, it is time to pen down the happenings of the past six months. But first and foremost, we would like to convey our sincere thanks to The Ryder-Cheshire Australia, Ryder-Cheshire Foundation New Zealand, Swedish Organization for Individual Relief (SOIR), Target TB UK, SARVASHUBHAMKARA UK, REGE Foundation UK, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, Max India Foundation, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation and all other supporters in India and abroad. Your continued support enables us to fulfill our mission of Providing Relief to the Suffering more effectively and efficiently. We are overwhelmed at the efforts of Students of Clarendon College Australia and Students of Ballarat Grammar School in raising funds for children of Raphael. We shall utilize their contribution most meaningfully in children related projects.

Wishing everyone a fantastic New Year and a fabulous Christmas.

Hope you have a great time reading the winter special.



Milee Bahaguna

### MAX INDIA FOUNDATION- RAPHAEL PARTNERSHIP

As part of activities related to Max India Foundation-Raphael Partnership the final dose of immunization against hepatitis B was administered to 250 children living in colonies adjacent to Raphael, in our campus on 18th September 2012. A similar camp was organized on 24th September 2012 at Mussoorie for 240 children with the assistance of Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration where the children were immunized with the final dose.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends,

Just before Christmas Raphael had the heart-warming pleasure of receiving our regular visitor Bishop Charles Drennon on his twentyfifth successive visit to Raphael. This is a proud record for us and we all pray that our successors will record his fiftieth visit! It is a pleasure to share with him his views on the changes that he sees and his thoughts and ideas on our challenging journey ahead. His regular visits and blessings mean a lot to all who are touched by Raphael.

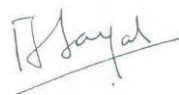
We look forward to Sumit Roy participating in the Special Olympics in Korea soon, ably supported by his coach and mentor Kishan Rana.

Many of our visitors and volunteers have visited our Community Based Rehabilitation programme on the Shimla Bye Pass road. Whilst this continues, we now have plans to commence a regular Mobile Outreach Programme to reach communities in the interior of the State. I am happy to say that the first pilot project was conducted successfully in Thattur a remote Block in the district of Tehri. Lessons learnt will be incorporated in future project planning and we hope to make this a regular feature from the coming financial year.

We hope our efforts to encourage a Disabled Person's Organization take root in the district of Dehra Dun and meet with success. The seeds of the idea came from a group of disabled persons who sought Raphael's guidance on how to become an active self-advocacy group. We propose to continue to support them in their endeavours.

As we approach our next Founder's Day and prepare for the challenges ahead we look back and draw inspiration from our Founders and pray for strength to continue on the path they set for us. In this endeavour my personal thanks and good wishes to all our friends and well-wishers for the tremendous good will and support that they continue to provide to us.

On behalf of the Raphael family I extend our good wishes to you and your families for 2013 and beyond.



Brijesh Jayal

## DAY AND RESIDENTIAL CENTRE

Sumit Roy, with mild intellectual disability has done us proud by getting nominated for participation in Floor Hockey in World Winter Games for the intellectually disabled being held in South Korea in the month of January 2013. His coach and our sports incharge Kishan Singh Rana who will be accompanying him is overjoyed at the success of his effort with Sumit. Detailed report is included at the end of this Newsletter.

With 79 in-house residents and 77 day care children/adults, we now have strength of 156 special children and adults on our roll. The hostel filled to its capacity, has a waiting list. We are examining ways and means to expand our capacity both as a short term and long term measure such that our facility reaches out to everyone desirous of availing our facility.



In observance of the World Mental Health Day which fell on 10th October, Max Super Specialty Hospital in Dehradun organized a painting competition on 14th October 2012 where 12 of our children with intellectual disability enjoyed participation in this creative activity.



Under the supervision and guidance of our coaches, Kishan and Madhu, our children continued to out perform many in Special Olympic events (Softball, Bocce, Badminton, Football and Athletics) by winning five Gold, five Silver and one Bronze medal. Our achievers were Ajay, Dheeraj, Rishabh, Komal, Avanti and Arti.

Ensuring that the festivities of Diwali become a far more special occasion, it is now a tradition that a parent's meet is organized just before the Diwali break. This year about 80 parents attended. Anchal's mother narrated to the other parents the achievements of her daughter who has now picked up independent living skills in a big measure, after having spent

almost two years in the Barbara Cottage and now helping in daily household activities. All the other parents felt motivated learning of her experience.

Kudos to Arjit, a high functioning lad on the Autistic Spectrum for having written so well on the inside of this year's Christmas and New Year card.

## BARBARA COTTAGE

It is heartwarming to see the girls housed at Barbara Cottage, proving to be sufficiently independent. They can be seen performing practically all household chores with elan. We often see them knitting outside while enjoying the winter sun. They love offering tea to visitors who drop by.

## COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION

146 children are under our care in this programme, 30 of whom receive early intervention services. Significant improvement in many children is visible. It is good to see parents take keen interest and infact they do not like their child to miss even a single day



## MOBILE OUTREACH PROJECT

There are very few places in Utrkhand where meaningful services are provided to children with special needs. As part of expansion of our outreach programme, we have travelled to several districts to create awareness and we have now started a pilot project on our first mobile outreach programme. The project has been started in Thattur, a remote block of Tehri district which is about 2 hours drive from Dehradun. 2 special educators and a physiotherapist spent 3 days on the site and attended to 32 children with special needs. The project will be ongoing and the team will continue to visit the site and monitor these children.





## DISABLED PERSONS ORGANIZATION

As part of our efforts to encourage independent adults with disabilities to form a self advocacy group, 9 adults with disabilities, all working in different fields have been meeting at Raphael to take the concept further. The group has made a list of difficulties that the disabled community comes across in the day to day living and they hope to put these up to the concerned Government Officials for a favourable response.

## MEETING OF REGISTERED NGO'S

As the State Nodal Agency Centre for Uttarakhand we organized a meeting of NGOs in the State who are registered with the National Trust. This was attended by representatives from Grameen Chhetra Vikas Samiti, Amar Shaheed, Navbharat Manav Vikas Sansthan, UNECESS Research and Development Society, Indira Rashtriya Chetna Sansthan. A brief presentation was made on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and the paradigm shift towards disability. This was followed by a discussion on the schemes of the National Trust.

## HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Developing Human Resource in the field of Disability Management effectively is the surest way of ensuring that we stay true to our mission of providing relief to the suffering.

The regular courses continue to run to full capacity. At any given time we have between 50 to 100 students in the training centre.

Payal, the coordinator and her team conducted a workshop on Specific Learning Difficulties where 15 teachers and parents attended. Presently 53 children with specific learning difficulties are undergoing remediation, either in their own school or at our Resource Room. Some of our teachers are receiving advanced training on Autism at "Arunima" in Mussoorie. We also successfully conducted a two day programme on skill development in Early Childhood for all our staff in November.



## REHABILITATIVE WORKSHOP

As usual Diwali time was a busy time for us. Production peaked in the month of October and November. We participated in various fetes during this time and the response was extremely encouraging. Most of the packaging work of diyas and candles was done by apprentices at the workshop.

New product range like silk stoles, runners and mats in various bright colours have been introduced in the weaving workshop. After conducting training for able-bodied people, three ladies have joined the workshop as weavers.



## INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR YOUNG PEOPLE (IAYP)

As we had reported in our 2012 July issue of the Newsletter, 29 children with intellectual disability had received the bronze award. Out of these 14 children will now work towards the silver and 5 new children will attempt to achieve the bronze. Those working for the silver award need to complete 16 hours of work in skill, service and recreation, while those doing the bronze will have to complete 12 hours.

Twenty six children of the Little White House also completed the International Award for Young People and they too qualified for the award of bronze medal. Patrus and Shalini Kapil with other volunteers helped the children set up tents in the Raphael campus. The children also had a night out in a small village (Purukul). The adventure activities included rappelling, walking on the Burma Bridge, mock river crossing, making fire and cooking. The children thoroughly enjoyed all the activities. It was a great experience for all of them.

## FESTIVALS

As usual the festive season coincided with autumn and early part of winter when the weather remained pleasant. The three important festivals, Dussehra, Diwali and Christmas were celebrated during the period with a great deal of enthusiasm. Dussehra, which symbolizes destruction of evil by Goddess Durga and victory of virtue was celebrated with gaiety.

Diwali followed 20 days after Dussehra. It is by far the biggest and the brightest of all Hindu festivals. The illumination of homes with lights and the skies with firecrackers is an expression of



obeisance to the heavens for the attainment of health, wealth, knowledge, peace and prosperity. Residents of Raphael celebrated this festival by lighting up the buildings and burning fire crackers. They enjoyed a special meal organized on the occasion.

And then came Christmas celebrations which lasted for several days. Groups of children from different schools and organizations sang carols at Raphael on different days preceding Christmas. A special meal for the residents marked the culmination of Christmas celebrations.



## SHIV SADAN

Residents of Shiv Sadan are doing well despite old age problems troubling a few of them. Our doctor is able to attend to those problems and keep them in good spirits. He visits them regularly. Family members of our Shiv Sadan residents keep visiting them on and off and the residents look forward to such visits. The weavers of Shiv Sadan have upgraded their skills and beautiful stoles, table mats and runners woven by them are in good demand.

## RAPHAEL TB HOSPITAL

During the period between July to November 1422 cases were seen in OPD and 123 cases were admitted in the TB Hospital. As can be gauged from the numbers we have had an active and hectic time. Many patients came with very advanced stage of Pulmonary TB. Proper attention and medication has ensured quick recovery in many patients. Infact some of them required blood transfusion as well, for speedy recovery.

With the support of Target TB, the Hospital now has a six bedded Multi Drug Resistant TB Ward as per the DOTS Plus programme guidelines.





Ms Nikki Jeffery, Director Target Tuberculosis, UK and Dr. Malik Parmar, National Consultant - Drug Resistant (DR) Tuberculosis, from Directorate General Health Services, Government of India TB wing, visited us in October 2012. Their visit was aimed to assess the services rendered by Raphael to Drug Resistant (DR) TB cases. Our work was well appreciated.

## CHRONIC WARD

Bhola, Chatru, Sudeep and Pritam are often seen enjoying the winter sun. Chatru as always is a great help at the workshop. All the newly designed tablemats are given a finishing touch by him. Sudeep keeps himself busy calling up his girl friends from the Chairman's or CEO's telephone. Bhola and Pritam are in good spirits. These chronic patients always welcome volunteers and visitors with a smile. Children from the Little White House often visit them and take them out for evening strolls on their wheelchairs.



## LITTLE WHITE HOUSE

The children of the Little White House are back after the winter holidays. They look fresh and are all set to prepare for their final examination in March. Most of the children have done fairly well in their half yearly examination. Usha Chettri and Champa



Nautiyal joined the Christian Mission Hospital for nursing training in September 2012. Geeta has been appointed as games captain of her school. Recently a few children went to Mussoorie to participate in the choir at the historical Christ Church. 8 children (4 boys and 4 girls) will be taking their 12th class Board Examinations after which they will proceed for technical education that will help them to settle down in life.

## SPONSOR A MEAL SCHEME

“Sponsor a meal” scheme is an ongoing highly popular scheme. While the earlier sponsors of this scheme are continuing with it, many new sponsors have been coming forth. We thank all the sponsors for their continuous support of the scheme.



## BADHTE KADAM IV

As part of the mass awareness programmes, in the capacity of State Nodal Agency Centre in Uttarakhand and on behalf of the National Trust, we coordinated the activities for Badhte Kadam IV wherein a team of 4 volunteers (all from Raphael) travelled to Thattayur, Chamba, Fakot, Bilon, Dugadda in Uttarakhand. About 600 people were sensitized and made aware of the different programmes of the National Trust in all fields of disability. The team travelled as much as 14 hours a day to reach some of the remote areas.





## VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS



This time of the year has seen many overseas volunteers as well as visitors coming to Raphael. Our residents and day scholars look forward to interacting with them keeping them lively and excited.

Jamie McCartney was here for about three months. Children at Ava Vihar became really very fond of him. Michael and Kathy spent some time at Raphael and enjoyed their experience.



David Searl, a volunteer from Australia was in Raphael for about three months. David was a great help at the workshop and enjoyed shouldering responsibilities like supervision of the manufacture of

more importantly manning stalls whenever we went out for sale of our products.

Nikky Jeffrey- Director Target TB was here for her annual trip related to monitoring and evaluation of our TB work. Amelia Hogan from Australia visited us and stayed for ten days.

## VISIT OF OFFICER TRAINEES

A group of 290 Officer Trainees of 87th Foundation Course from the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration in Mussoorie visited Raphael on the 20th and 21st of September. Accompanied by some of the faculty members and staff the aim of their visit was to observe our multifaceted activities pertaining to providing relief to the suffering. This is an annual curriculum undertaken by the Academy in Mussoorie to study and familiarize themselves in the disability sector. The trainees were able to interact with the residents and appreciate efforts towards the fulfillment of our mission of 'Providing Relief to the Suffering'. This is always an important event in our calendar, more so as the trainees move on to take up senior positions in State and Central governments and we hope that this visit sensitizes them to the needs of those who suffer.

## STAFF NEWS

We welcome Diksha (faculty in the Resource centre), Nandika (Special Educator), Mukesh (Ward Boy), Pratibha (Ward Sahayika) and Rajesh (Cook) in our fold. We wish good luck to Milee (New Manager PR) and Sabah (Principal Day Centre) on joining Raphael.

Our good wishes to Reena (Manager PR), Janki (Special Educator), Prem (Cook) and Anjana (CBR Teacher) on leaving Raphael.

## OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that we inform of the sad demise of Raju a resident of Ava Vihar on the 11th January 2013. May his soul rest in peace.

## 25 YEARS OF LOVE AND SUPPORT

Bishop Charles Drennan came for a slightly longer period this time. This visit also marked his 25 consecutive annual visits to Raphael. Prior to his departure and to show our deep gratitude for his love for Raphael we organized a farewell lunch in the Orchard. His feelings were aptly conveyed in our visitor's book where he wrote:-

*"Twenty five years ago, I visited Raphael for the first time and so warm was the welcome I immediately felt at home. A quarter of century on, Raphael has become my "second home" and so I keep returning to visit friends and rest in the spirit of compassion and care that permeates all its various parts. Without in anyway neglecting fundamental compassion, Raphael has over this period of time greatly strengthened professional development of staff. This commitment has led to a focus on rehabilitation of residents and rural community outreach programmes. Both are great signs of Raphael's everlasting achievements. May God continue to bless abundantly all those who live and serve here."*



## SUMIT ROY SCALES THE PEAK

Sumit Roy was born on 20th September, 1991, in a family of modest means. As he grew up, his parents noticed that he was not able to perform his daily living skills independently and that there was a need for intervention of Disability Specialists. His father could not afford money on a private attendant to look after his son and accordingly decided to get him admitted to a special school. He visited Raphael and expressed a desire for his son's admission in Raphael. After due assessment lasting for 3 to 4 days, Sumit Roy was diagnosed with mild intellectual disability and was admitted to Raphael's Special Day Centre School on 26th April 2002. Sumit Roy's interest and potential towards sports activities was noticeable right from the beginning and all efforts were constantly made to encourage his interest.

On admission to Raphael's Day Centre School, Sumit, after the initial education and training was shifted to the Rehabilitative Workshop, where he started learning and developing his skill in 'Paper Bag' making. Soon he became an effective member of the 'Paper Bag Production Team'. Simultaneously, his interest in sports activities continued to receive encouragement by Raphael's sports incharge, Kishan Singh Rana. Sumit started attending sports camps organized at different places under the aegis of Special Olympics. He showed an extra ordinary aptitude for 'Floor Hockey' and in all Special Olympics Camps he excelled in this particular sport. In 2008 he was short-listed after going through a series of selection processes, to participate in the Winter World Games for the Intellectually Disabled. However, in the final selection he was not able to make it in that year. Not discouraged he and his coach Kishan Rana took it as a challenge. While Sumit continued to work in Raphael's Rehabilitative Workshop. Kishan ensured that he did not lose interest in sports activities. The opportunity offered itself again. Selection process for the Winter World Games scheduled to be held in 2013, commenced in second half of 2012.

This time Kishan Rana, Sumit's mentor did not leave any stone unturned to prepare Sumit for the mega event and the famous saying that 'Hard work always gets rewarded' proved itself for Sumit. Raphael received the much awaited intimation that Sumit Roy and his coach Kishan Singh Rana had been selected to participate as part of a 16 member Indian team in World Winter Games to be held in South Korea in January 2013. What a proud day for Sumit, his coach, his parents and for Raphael. Sumit has added a feather not only in his cap but in the caps of all his friends, well wishers and supporters. The entire Raphael family wishes him a grand success in the ensuing World Olympics.



**EVERY CHILD IS GIFTED. THEY JUST UNWRAP THEIR PACKAGES AT DIFFERENT TIMES.**

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