

DELHI HOUSE

Delhi House Society | Newsletter Spring 2019



Dear friends and supporters of Delhi House,

we are very grateful to all of you for supporting Delhi House with your thoughts, prayers and financial support. Life is such a precious gift, and we quickly forget the importance and value of health and happiness. Working at Sewa Ashram is a constant reminder to me that life is transient and that we experience God's abundant grace at the same time. Sewa Ashram has saved people from the streets with histories of drug abuse, illness, hardship, and despair. Our team consists of many people who came to our Ashram as patients themselves. They can put themselves in the position of the patients and deal with the situation of the individual with love and care. They understand the effects of drug abuse and the way it affects the mind; they know the situation with a disability. They know what it is like to be declared incurably ill but then to be healed by the grace of God. The path of change is challenging because the body has become accustomed to drugs and resists new beginnings. It hurts my heart to see how people come and go. It is a continuous struggle that we passionately lead as a team. We can only do this with perseverance, your support and the grace of God.

I could never have imagined that one day I would work in a service project that ministers to the underprivileged poorest of the poor. By showing God's love and care to these people each of us is living out the biblical story of the Good Samaritan. Sometimes for me, service to others is a small gesture of empathy and kindness; it is a sacrificial commitment that touches and changes another person's life and also transforms one's own life in the process. It is often the case that both giving and receiving goodness and care is challenging. It is unusual among men and can catapult us out of our comfort zone. When I look for ways to serve our patients, I look for the small acts of goodness in everyday life. These are moments of light, and they are often very similar – whether in India or any other country.

Please pray for us and let us inspire you to follow in the footsteps of the Good Samaritan. Help us contribute to bringing a broad smile to the face of a stranger.

With warm blessings,
Keshav Dutt Pandey (Team Leader Delhi House Society)



Staff portrait – Mohini Pandey

Mohini is one of the Delhi House staff and has been married to Keshav (team leader of the Delhi House Society) for 20 years. They have two children.

Since 2015, Mohini has been working at Sewa Ashram as a counselor, facing new challenges every day. Mohini completed her training as a counselor with the financial support of a family from Germany and a lot of motivation.

Mohini offers counseling for the patients in Sewa Ashram. Many patients experience here for the first time in their lives that someone listens to them and is interested in them because otherwise, they are only the “untouchables.” Her work accompanies physical rehabilitation and is an integral part of reintegrating the patient into society.

I once interviewed Mohini about her work and would like to quote her: “I feel honored to have been called to do this work and feel very fortunate to be able to do it. During my work, I feel the change in the patients. I can empathize with the different personalities and understand their hopelessness. After the consultation and

discussions, however, their perspective often changes into a positive one. It encourages me to share a smile with the patients and show them respect. I love the work I do.”

Due to the social differences in India (man/woman, poor/rich, caste system, etc.) she overcomes hurdles again and again. This is anything but self-evident and requires a lot of inner strength. I admire her for this strength and love!

Kathleen Mast

Sonu's odyssey – a patient story



Sonu is a young man we found outside Lok Nayak Hospital. With almost 2000 beds, this hospital is one of the largest and best known in Delhi. Sonu was desperate and helpless because of his physical condition.

Sonu originally comes from the Indian state of Haryana, which borders Delhi to the north. He has no family and has worked since childhood to ensure his daily survival.

One day, on his way to work by bicycle, he had an accident and collided with a car. Unconscious, he was taken to the hospital. Fortunately, he had not suffered a

permanent brain injury but had lost a lot of skin on his left thigh. Also, a chronic hepatitis C infection was diagnosed. After a few hours of treatment, he was referred to a plastic surgeon. Due to his hepatitis C infection, the latter however, refused to treat him and discharged him without treatment.

Sonu was now alone with his thigh wound and had no idea what to do. Within three days the wound was infected and began to hurt. Someone recommended him to a hospital in Delhi, 300km away, and somehow he made it there. But he couldn't find the hospital and ended up at a corner of the Old Delhi Railway Station.

One day a policeman took him to Lok Nayak Hospital. There he received a skin transplant, but after the operation, the hospital immediately sent him out on the street again!

On May 5th, our team found him there with another infected wound. Thanks to another operation at Lok Nayak Hospital and subsequent professional care at the Sewa Ashram Clinic, Sonu is now ready for a new life's journey.

Abdul Razzaq – from junkie to entrepreneur



Abdul comes from a lower middle-class family in Maharashtra. He spent his youth with false friends. He left school and started taking drugs. His family tried to help him, but Abdul turned down all attempts and ran away from home.

He stayed in Mumbai for a while before moving to Delhi with a few friends. Nothing could stop him from continuing to consume drugs. Day by day things got worse, and even when he got sick, he had no idea that he had become infected with HIV through dirty needles.

At some point, Sahara, an organization that works with drug addicts, became aware of Abdul and helped him treat his drug addiction. He was able to recover from his addiction and began to help others. He found a girlfriend with similar problems and they married. In the meantime, he became a permanent employee at Sahara. He was

satisfied with his life, had a son and worked with other addicts. He did not consider the risk of relapsing with his drug addiction.

However, a few years later he did relapse. This caused significant problems in his family, so he left home and lived on the streets again. In addition to HIV, he contracted tuberculosis and soon had little strength to walk or even speak. In his distress, he turned back to Sahara, where he was referred to Sewa Ashram.

Abdul has been living at Sewa Ashram since 2009. When he arrived, he could hardly speak or walk at all. It took him almost two years to speak again and to walk with crutches.

After three years at Sewa Ashram, his Life Group encouraged him to open a shop. Since February 2012, he has been running his own mobile business on a tricycle. He says he is now drug-free. He also has a job where people respect him, and he can feel pride and a sense of success in what he is doing.

Meanwhile, he has become a valuable part of our community, and his story encourages and gives hope to many patients.



Suraj and the history of his surgery



Prehistory: Suraj comes to Sewa Ashram

In 2003, the founder of the Sewa Ashram, Ton Snelaert, found a very sick woman and her maybe 3 to 4-year-old son in

front of a big hospital in Delhi. The woman died the same day in the emergency room (probably from tuberculosis), and the boy named Suraj was admitted by us and has been living at our premises with Satya and Suresh ever since.

Suraj was a cheerful boy in his childhood, but he had to struggle with his fate again and again. Like his mother, he also had tuberculosis, and it affected not only his spine but also the spinal cord.

When he was found, the little one could neither sit nor walk. Later he was very mobile, seated in a wheelchair or on his skateboard, but his legs were permanently paralyzed.

An operation seems to become vital

Due to the weak back muscles and the (forced) constant sitting, the spine and thorax were very deformed during the growth process, and the boy sat like the proverbial question mark.

For several years he was in the care of the "Spine Center" in South Delhi, and during a visit, in October 2011 we were advised to have the spine surgically stabilized utilizing a screwed steel plate. Without this operation, the crooked posture, which was already very drastic, would worsen. We wanted to avoid this, of course, because it would not only make sitting difficult at some point but could also lead to massive breathing difficulties and even be life-threatening.

This operation would cost a considerable sum, even for India, approx. 4.5 lakhs (about 6,500 USD). That amount was difficult to finance from our current budget and donations; therefore, we were very grateful for the additional support we received. Through individual donations we finally had the sum together, and the surgery was planned for June 2012. This operation was extremely risky but seemed to be the only option for Suraj.



Hurdles and final steps before the planned surgery

Suraj developed a wound on the coccyx in the spring of 2012 due to constant lying and sitting, which delayed his operation: "Before the wound on the coccyx has healed completely, an operation cannot be thought of, the risk of infection is too great! Be it weeks or months!" That was the statement of the head surgeon at the time. When, after many months of uncertainty, the operation was finally in sight again, the last round of preparations began at the beginning of 2013.

Doubts arise

Shortly before the operation, Suraj was called back in front of the assembled team of orthopedic surgeons to coordinate the details of the operation. When Suraj was called after a long wait, he was bored at the other end of the corridor. As quick as lightning he turned his wheelchair and came shooting up at Dr. Sural, the head doctor, on the rear wheels which made the doctor reconsider. They discussed his case again and were suddenly skeptical: "The instability of his spine gave the teen flexibility that would benefit him in his daily life. If they stiffened his spine as planned, he would lose a lot of agility because he could only move his arms."

The decision

After intensive consideration of the pros and cons, they advised Suraj against surgery at this time. Nevertheless, they would be willing to operate if we insisted. So they discharged us with time for reflection. Suraj was supposed to make the decision himself, as he was old enough to understand the implications and it was his future at stake. He finally decided against the operation.

Development time with question marks and a wheelchair race

Now a time of observing and waiting began, how the spinal column would develop in the growth process and whether the operation would become nevertheless necessary. The decision seemed to have given Suraj an inner kick to accept his situation and actively take care of his body. So he started training for a wheelchair race in the Delhi Half Marathon. He trained intensively for months almost daily for the 4km long race by tying an old car tire to his wheelchair and pulling it as a ballast to build up his muscles. An invitation to a wheelchair sports group seemed to give him even more motivation.

The race on 15th of December in 2013, was a big event for Suraj and gave him a lot of momentum.



Continuous training

To support the positive physical development of Suraj, we decided to invest part of the money collected for him in a physiotherapist who specializes in such cases at the „Spine Center“ in South Delhi. Suraj went there regularly for two years for treatment – with a particular focus on exercising, which he can also do independently at home. In 2014, he participated again in the wheelchair race in Delhi, and his physical condition has developed very positively over time.

Outlook

Suraj is now about 18 years old, and his physical growth process is mostly complete. There has been no deterioration in his physical situation. In February, he will take the 12th-grade final exams and then finish school. He is an intelligent teenager and wants to do a technical education at the Indian Technological Institute.

In light of his physical mobility and an increased zest for life, we are very grateful that he finally decided against the operation.

Dirk Walliser



Impressions from the Learning Center



Lunch at the Learning Center



Celebration of the Indian Festival of Lights

Solar power for the Sewa Ashram



The Rotary Club of Delhi donated a solar power plant to the Sewa Ashram last year. The plant has an output of 16kWp (16000 W peak). The generated electricity is fed into the public grid and credited to our electricity bill. We hope to be able to cover a considerable part of the electricity costs of the Sewa Ashram in the future.

Numbers and statistics


Dear friends and supporters,

We would like to give you information about our funding and how the money is used since this is a vital aspect of the sustainability of our work. Delhi House Society is funded by donors from 6 countries: Germany, Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand, USA and India. The bank details for all six countries except Australia as well as the contact details of the organizations that issue tax-deductible donation receipts for the donors from each country can be found on the last page of this newsletter. We are looking for a new partner organisation in Australia. We make sure that the administrative costs are as low as possible and that all donations are used for their intended purpose. Our foreign organizations forward 97% – 100% of the donations received directly to the Delhi House Society in India.


The following two tables show the total international origin and use of funds of Delhi House. The tables document that we used earmarked donations according to their purpose. Only the two Learning Centers: Narela and Bawana, had a small surplus of allocated funds that were used elsewhere.

The construction of the patient buildings, the clinic, the multi-purpose kitchen, office, and guest accommodation have been completed. We are now planning the development of the new „Community & Learning Center.“ This will transform the Sewa Ashram Campus from a purely clinical area into a campus for the Delhi House community, which also includes families and children. The physical separation of patient and community area that will be possible with the new buildings will provide patients with more privacy and families and children with security. For the next construction phase, earmarked donations have already been received, and donation promises made, so that we are confident that the remaining amount (approx. 25.000 € or 28.000 USD) will come together and that we can start construction this year.

Christoph Burkhardt

Revenues and expenses of the Delhi House Society India by projects 			
1.4.17-31.3.18	Revenues	Expenses	Projekt-shortfall/overlap
Project	INR	INR	INR
Non-earmarked(*)	3.501.424	(*)	3.501.421
Sewa Ashram	4.013.541	-7.048.523	-3.034.982
CP-1	857.012	-1.322.654	-465.642
CP-2	406.928	-623.921	-216.993
LC(*) Narela	1.653.165	-1.506.266	146.899
LC(*) Bawana	528.869	-505.354	23.515
Total	10.960.939	-11.006.718	-45.779

(*) LC = Learning Center. Non-earmarked = Donations without allocation to a project and interest income. Expenditure unallocated to a project was allocated to the projects in proportion to the project expenses.

Annual Financial Statement 		
Delhi House Society India	1.4.2016 – 31.3.2017 INR	1.4.2017 – 31.3.2018 INR
Donations from Germany	6.572.749	6.166.001
Donations from Switzerland	1.578.221	2.048.901
Donations from Australia	939.934	925.183
Donations from New Zealand	916.188	793.495
Donations from USA	297.070	610.518
Donations from India	275.957	222.721
Interest on fixed-term deposits	399.847	174.947
Interest on current accounts	8.715	19.173
Total income	10.988.681	10.960.939
Total expenditure	-11.381.51	-11.373.808
Operating result	-392.830	-412.869
construction investments included in the result (*)	399.421	367.090
Operating result excluding construction investments	6.591	-45.779
construction investments not included in operating result	1.836.169	1.913.338
Total construction investments	2.235.590	2.280.428
Additions to reserves	0	0
Release of reserves	1.829.578	1.454.442
Remaining reserves	3.939.237	2.484.795

(*) According to Indian accounting principles, certain construction costs are included in the annual result, but most of them are capitalised in the balance sheet instead.

STATISTICS (APRIL 2017 – MARCH 2018)

- **137** admitted patients at the Sewa Ashram
- **58** former patients are cared for in Life Groups
- **78** slum children are cared for in 2 learning centres (**39** of which with target school entry (non-formal education) and **39** of which in remedial education))
- **21** adults in sewing, English and read/write courses
- **9** teenagers in families
- **7** young adults in vocational training

Then and Now – Sewa Ashram 2001 and 2018



laying of the foundation stones



from left to right: patient buildings 1 and 2, garden with clinic, kitchen with office and guest apartment

Delhi House Society exists to see the lives of the poor transformed: physically, socially, economically, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually. We thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to care for our brothers and sisters in India. For more details on how you can partner with us please visit our website www.delhihouse.org

US DONORS: Checks payable to: 'Sunnyside Fellowship' c/o Dr. Mark Grussendorf 5505 Heritage Hills Cir Fredericksburg, VA 22407-0104. Please note your check: 'Sewa Ashram'. Please contact markgrussendorf@hotmail.com regarding receipt for income tax deduction.

NEW ZEALAND DONORS: Cheques payable to: Cry for the World Foundation, 29 Kahira Crescent Papamoa, Tauranga 3118 NZ, Bank account details for direct deposits at ANZ: Account Name: Cry for the World Foundation, Account Number: 01 0819 0374190 30 Branch: 37 Rotherham St, Riccarton, Christchurch. Please contact vickiathol@gmail.com regarding receipt for income tax deduction.

AUSTRALIAN DONORS: Unfortunately we are currently unable to provide tax receipts for Australian donors. We are looking for a new partner organisation in Australia. Please contact Raymond Jourdan, raymond.jordan@yourcorner.com.au

EUROPEAN DONORS: Please use the following information for wire transfer: Recipient: Delhi House e.V., Waldsaum 33, D-45134 Essen, Germany IBAN: DE97 6601007506145097 50 BIC: PBNKDEFF (Postbank Karlsruhe). Please contact office@delhihouse.de regarding receipt for income tax deduction.

SWISS DONORS: Recipient: Verein JayaHo, 3000 Bern. Account: PC 30-515590-9. Please note the donation usage „Delhi House“. To receive a receipt in German language for income tax deduction, send an email to office@delhihouse.de with your address details.

INDIAN DONORS: Recipient: Delhi House Society. Bank Account No: 380902010006469. Name of the Bank: UNION BANK OF INDIA (Address : I-2/16, Ram Saraswati House, ANSARI ROAD DARYAGANJ, NEW DELHI-110 002, Phone: 011 – 23269690 / 23275391, email: ansari@unionbankofindia.com). MICR Code: 110026024. IFSC Code: UBIN0538094. SWIFT CODE: UBININBB. BRANCH CODE: 538094. Income Tax 80 G rebate -NQ.DIT (E) I/DEL-DE22513-22032011 2763 dated 22/03/2011