

# DELHI HOUSE

Delhi House Society | Newsletter January 2022



## Dear Friends and Supporters of Delhi House,

during May and June of 2021, we all noticed headlines of the immense COVID-Delta wave in India. There were images of dead people being burned in public parks, and desperate people needing oxygen. What a blessing that many Christian organisations and churches joined together with Delhi House Society to provide short-term, decisive relief (story on next page). It is comforting and encouraging to see Christians stand together in prayer and action so that God's helping hand can be seen.

The Delhi House Society community has been an anchor for many families in Narela. In a year filled with uncertainty and fear, our team leader Keshav Pandey writes:

*"We were able to help thousands of families and give them back a bit of hope and joy. We provided confidence and humanity even in the hardest of times. We thank God for giving us the opportunity to serve the people of Sewa Ashram. 2021 was a year full of challenges in our work among the sick, homeless, and destitute people. Whenever there was a lockdown, we benefited greatly from our prior experience in 2020. We all made it through the year safe and sound. We*

*are thankful that only a few team members and patients were affected. It was also a very difficult year for the entire Ashram team, working to a great extent without days-off or vacations.*

*In addition to our work with the patients and the children of the Ashram Learning Centre (some of them being accompanied online, some at the centre, some at home), we distributed food packages to 750 slum families living around the Ashram Learning Centre. They were all very happy to receive our support in this difficult time of the pandemic. This year we were also able to provide direct financial support to 76 families, to buy food, vegetables, and supplies.*

*We would like to express our overflowing gratitude to all our faithful partners and donors. Without your love, prayers and support, these things would not have been imaginable."*

The entire Delhi House Society would like to join Keshav in this heartfelt thank you and wish you all a blessed 2022!

**Dirk Walliser**



## Sewa Ashram – Second Year of the COVID Pandemic

In December 2020, we had reported in detail about the first COVID year and the first lockdown in an interview with our team leader Keshav Pandey. India went on to experience a quiet COVID winter, but in March 2021, the “Delta Variant” caused case numbers to explode! This led to a dramatic overload of the Indian healthcare system, and a collapse in the supply of medical oxygen.

In April 2021, the Indian Board Members of Delhi House Society gathered with other Christian institutions and churches in Delhi to determine what could be done to alleviate the suffering and to help save lives.

### The COVID Care Centre

Thus, the idea of setting up a private COVID care centre was born. Delhi House Society played a central role: through the society, the donations were channelled and accounted for, and about 100 Christian organisations in Delhi were mobilized to support the treatment centre. We are also one of the few humanitarian aid organisations in Delhi that still has a license to accept donations from abroad. Mount Carmel, a private Christian school, made its rooms available for the COVID treatment centre.

One hundred treatment beds were set-up and some oxygen concentrators were purchased. This prevented us from having to rely on the extremely scarce oxygen tanks. Doctors and nurses from the Christian Emmanuel Hospital Association, whom we have been in contact with for many years, as well as helpers from participating churches took care of the patients. In addition to inpatient care, some patients were also able to receive oxygen at home.

### Successful Conclusion

Over the summer of 2021, the number of COVID cases in India declined sharply, so that we were able to close the COVID care centre in September. The materials, supplies and equipment were stored in case of another outbreak. If there is no need over the next period of time, these commodities will be used at the Sewa Ashram or donated to other organizations.

During the lockdown, in addition to running the COVID Care Centre, we distributed 750 food packages to needy families, especially the families whose children attend our Learning Centre. Everyone was extremely happy to receive such support during this difficult time.

**We sincerely thank all our donors who made this possible! The cost was covered in full.**

### Christoph Burkhardt

	USD	INR
Medical Equipment and Beds	39.954	3.356.174
Medical Consumables	13.260	1.113.807
Personnel costs (doctors, nurses, aides)	36.935	3.102.564
Other operating expenses	10.572	888.009
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>100.721</b>	<b>8.460.555</b>
Local Donations (India)	51.856	4.355.905
Donations from abroad	50.005	4.200.445
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>101.861</b>	<b>8.556.350</b>

Revenue and Expenditures for the COVID Care Centre May – Sept 2021.





## Staff Portrait – Savita Sarin Thapa

Savita is the director of our Ashram Learning Centre. She was born in Delhi and grew up in a Hindu family with two younger brothers. She attended a private school until grade 7 and then transferred to a government school where she graduated. At the same time, the company where her father worked, closed down and the family's economic situation was very tight. For this reason, Savita and her brother opted to tutor children. At first they taught from home; later they rented a room because there was such a tremendous need. Today, the need is even greater.

### **Savita's Love For Children**

Savita never thought she would become a teacher. One day, Gaby – a staff member at Sewa Ashram – stood in front of her looking for a Hindi teacher for children. A short time later, Savita started working at the Ashram. In the beginning, there were several challenges to overcome. There was little shelter for women and children, hardly any sewerage (hygiene), and personal mentoring was also non-existent. However, this did not deter Savita, she simply continued on her path. After teaching for several years, she took heart and began professional teacher training.

Today, her work at the Learning Centre brings her tremendous joy and variety. She coordinates the school programs, builds relationships with students and their families, provides a safe environment, and of course, teaches. Savita loves her work very much. I am always delighted to see how lovingly, yet consistently, she teaches the children. She does not only educate them, she instils values and great content in their lives.

### **There Is One More Love... Her Husband Sarin**

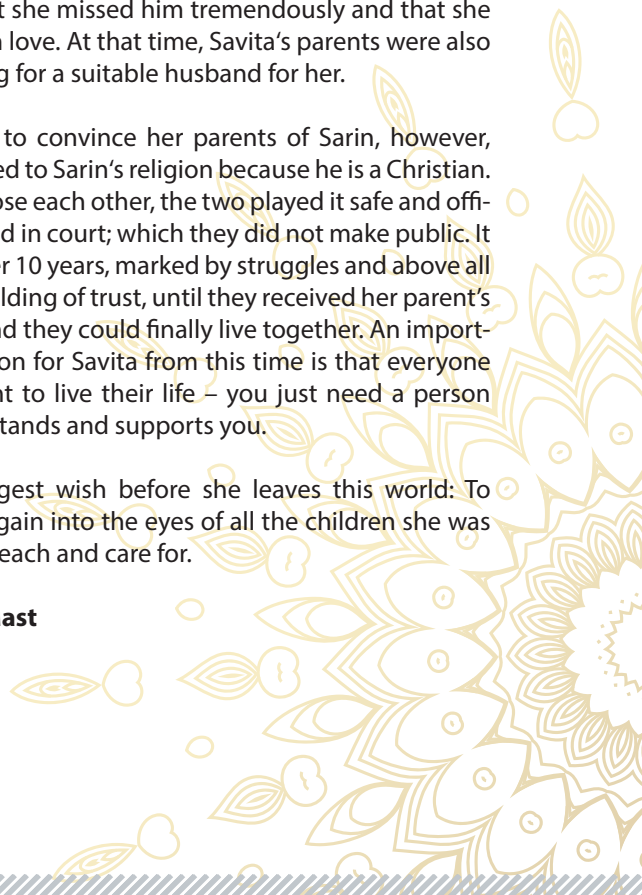
Sarin came to Sewa Ashram as a patient and it was Savita's job to drive him to the doctor. She was just learning to drive; therefore, the drive was filled with great anxiety for Sarin. One has to keep in mind that the road traffic in Delhi makes very special demands on a driver.

Some time passed before the two met again. Sarin was now healthy and working at Sewa Ashram and after a change of leadership they had to work together frequently. This gave them the opportunity to get to know each other better. One day, Sarin travelled to his home country Nepal. That was the moment when Savita realized that she missed him tremendously and that she had fallen in love. At that time, Savita's parents were also busy looking for a suitable husband for her.

It was easy to convince her parents of Sarin, however, they objected to Sarin's religion because he is a Christian. Fearing to lose each other, the two played it safe and officially married in court; which they did not make public. It took another 10 years, marked by struggles and above all the slow building of trust, until they received her parent's blessings and they could finally live together. An important realization for Savita from this time is that everyone has the right to live their life – you just need a person who understands and supports you.

Savita's biggest wish before she leaves this world: To look once again into the eyes of all the children she was allowed to teach and care for.

**Kathleen Mast**







## The Life of Maan Bahadur – A Short Obituary

Maan Bahadur came to Sewa Ashram on January 28, 2002, with paraplegia. He is from the mountainous region of Nepal and came to India in search for work when he was 15 years old. He was actually interested in a job in the Indian Army, but was turned down. Immediately after, he started working in a railway canteen.

After a few years, he returned to his homeland and got married there. With his wife, he returned to Delhi to work and a few years later they had two girls. Tragically, during the birth of their third child, his wife passed away. Now it became too difficult for Maan Bahadur to continue working and take care of his one-year old and two-year old daughters. Maan Bahadur decided to take his children back home to his parents in Nepal. He returned to Delhi, but suffered greatly from loneliness and began to drink. For a few years he still supported his family financially.

### The Path to the Sewa Ashram

However, his alcohol addiction grew stronger and stronger, and at some point he stopped supporting them. In 2002, he fell from the roof of his canteen and broke his spine. He was hospitalized and underwent surgery, but unfortunately it was unsuccessful. He was now completely paralyzed. Since he had no one in the hospital to take care of him, he was referred to Sewa Ashram. Here Maan Bahadur became part of the

community and experienced healing and restoration in many ways – yet, his paralysis accompanied him for the rest of his days. As part of a Life Group and also a „caretaker“ for new patients, he played a fatherly role to many. Whether making jewellery or selling used clothing at the market, he was involved with the Ashram in many ways.

### Family Reunion

Perhaps the most emotionally significant experience for him in the last 20 years was the family reunion in 2010. It was a great desire of his heart to travel to Nepal, and so the



*Maan Bahadur when he came to the Ashram in 2002.*

Sewa Ashram team made it possible for him to make the long journey to his homeland.

It had been 23 years since he had left Nepal and now five of us left Sewa Ashram at 5:20 am on May 17, 2010, to embark on a journey to his home village. After 2 days we reached Rupaidiha, a village on the India-Nepal border. Lengthy border controls kept us in suspense until we were finally able to enter Nepal. Two nights and many kilometres later, we finally started at 7 am to climb the Himalayan mountains towards Barpak, the home village of Maan Bahadur. However, halfway there, our car got stuck in the mud. We therefore had to turn our car around and wait for better weather. We were drinking tea when suddenly an ambulance drove past us. Maan Bahadur recognized his sister and she recognized him – a moment of complete surprise and joy at the same time. Also in the ambulance were Maan Bahadur's brother, who had also been paralyzed for a few months, and two nephews.

Emotions filled the air – Maan Bahadur was incredibly happy to see his family. This situation was simply unbelievable. A miracle?

The next day, however, the conditions didn't look any better – the locals told us that it had been raining for the last two days and it wouldn't





## Weddings – Former Children Take Wings

This year we celebrated two weddings. According to Indian culture marriage is an essential milestone of being an adult after school and an education. Poonam and Monu were the lucky ones. Below you can see them with their respective spouses, on their big day.

**Dirk Walliser**

be advisable to go up the mountain. But we decided to at least give it a try. We set off around 10:30 am and our car struggled up the sodden roads over hill and dale – until it finally went on strike and we were stranded again. After 4 hours of waiting, we were finally able to get into another jeep and continue the journey, finally reaching Barpak at 10:30 pm.

When we reached the village, almost all of Maan Bahadur's relatives came running to meet us. Maan Bahadur's mother's house was a bit further into the village and the road was finally too difficult to drive on. Therefore, we stopped at his sister's house, which was only a few meters ahead. The whole family was gathered there, except for his mother, his younger daughter, and a brother who was in Malaysia.

The situation was emotionally overwhelming. Tears of joy at the reunion ran down the faces of Maan Bahadur and his relatives. We needed an early night's rest, because we were extremely tired and exhausted. The next morning, his mother and other daughter also came to visit.

I felt like I was in the movies when I saw Maan Bahadur sitting with his two daughters. His daughters are married and one even had a cute baby in her arms. We saw Maan Bahadur playing with his grandchild and the great joy of it on his face. It felt like all was right with the world for a moment.

### Farewell

Maan Bahadur lived off this reunion for the rest of his days, especially during the times when he was struggling with health issues. Unfortunately, Maan Bahadur's health increasingly deteriorated throughout 2021. He began his final journey to our Heavenly Father on November 14, 2021.

Before his death, we were still able to pray together and he was at peace. The community of Sewa Ashram says goodbye to our brother Maan Bahadur after almost 20 years with great sadness but also filled with gratitude and love.

**Sarin Thapa with Dirk Walliser**



On the left wedding picture you see Monu with his wife and on the right Poonam with her husband.





## Almost Finished – The new Delhi House Learning Centre will soon be filled with children's voices and laughter

After two adventurous years – in terms of construction and external circumstances – we are now ready to inaugurate our new learning centre. We are almost finished with the construction – only doors, windows and some electrical finishes are missing on the structural side. We have spent approximately 90'000 USD (67 lakh INR). The furniture is still missing, but for this we can collect donations in India. We are very grateful for the great financial support from our wonderful donors abroad. Since we finance the building only from special donations and not from operational needs, our supporters are, so to speak, the living building blocks for this project. Unfortunately, monetary donations for such projects do not exist in the Indian culture – even in Christian circles.

On April 9, 2022, there will be a festive ceremony to highlight the inauguration date of our new learning centre. This date also coincides with the new Indian school year. As part of our annual board week, we hope that the entire German board will participate in this grand celebration.

It has been 2 long years since one of us was there. Below you will find a small portrait of a student who will enliven the Delhi House Learning Centre in 2022.

### When will the first floor with the community centre be finished?

Attentive readers of our last two newsletters may have noticed that the building was actually planned as a two-storey structure. With the donations we have received, we were able to build the basement and ground floor. The upper floor (1st floor in India) as a community centre with offices, a large meeting room, education rooms, and training rooms for former patients will cost approximately 68.000 USD (51 lakh INR) more. This is based on our current construction costs – including a photovoltaic system on the roof. We trust God, that the money will be available at the right time, and that we will be able to complete the construction.

**Dirk Walliser**



## A story from the Learning Center

Today, I would like to introduce you to Parveen, a 13-year-old boy who always has a big smile. He came with his family from Bihar, the poorest Indian state. A few years ago, his family came to Delhi in hope of finding work and a way to provide a better education and a better life for their children.

Parveen lives in a small hut with his mother and four older brothers and sisters – his father died when he was a few months old. His mother has a mild mental disorder, and he and his two brothers have learning disabilities. There is no one in the family who can earn money and the family has a very hard time. Suffering is a constant companion. Parveen's mother often told the children

that she went to the market to sell vegetables – in reality, she went there to beg. Only through the help of neighbours was the family able to survive.

Parveen is now in the 6th grade at the government school and has been coming to the Learning Centre for a year. We want to support him with targeted remedial classes, since children like him fall through the cracks at the government school. He is a slow learner, but in mathematics (his favourite subject) he has made tremendous progress. Parveen is a very outgoing child. He loves all kinds of games and sports, but especially cricket. He dreams of becoming a policeman one day. We hope and pray that we can help to realize the original dream of this family: to give the children a better education and a better life.

**Keshav Pandey with Dirk Walliser**



# Numbers and statistics

Dear Friends and Supporters, every year we would like to inform you about how our work is financed and how we use the funds. Delhi House Society is funded by donations from 6 countries: Germany, Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, and India. The bank details 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 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

**Important news for our supporters in Australia:** we have finally found a new Australian partner organization that forwards donations to India and issues receipts for tax deduction in Australia.

Delhi House Society India	1.4.2020 – 31.3.2021	1.4.2019 – 31.3.2020
Annual Financial Statement	INR	INR
Donations from Germany	8.283.627	7.084.923
Donations from Switzerland	2.967.727	2.598.990
Donations from Australia		214.470
Donations from New Zealand	807.776	945.129
Donations from USA	174.441	109.046
Donations from India	195.152	163.118
Interest on fixed-term deposits	–	–
Interest on bank accounts	51.038	32.828
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>12.479.761</b>	<b>11.148.504</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>8.815.120</b>	<b>9.524.706</b>
<b>Operating result</b>	<b>3.664.641</b>	<b>1.623.798</b>
Liquidity at fiscal year start (1.4.)	1.282.315	1.191.147
+ Cash Flow from Operations	3.320.194	1.324.784
– Cash Flow from Investments	–3.165.429	–1.233.616
Liquidity at fiscal year end (31.3.)	1.437.080	1.282.315

95–100% of the donations received, to our work in India, directly.

The two tables show the total international origin and use of Delhi House funds. The Indian financial year always begins on 1st of April, the figures shown therefore refer to the period 1.4. – 31.3. The tables document the origin of the donations by country, the amount of the investments, and the ratio of earmarked donations and expenditures for the respective projects (all numbers in Indian rupees).

## Christoph Burkhardt

### Delhi House Society India Revenues and Expenses by Projects

April 20 – March 21	Revenues	Expenses	Shortfall/overlap
Project	INR	INR	INR
Non-earmarked (*)	3.777.190	(*)	3.777.190
Sewa Ashram	4.267.313	6.110.371	–1.843.058
CP-1	853.225	942.578	–89.353
CP-2	410.484	332.053	78.431
LC(*) Narela	2.377.636	4.157.909	–1.780.27
LC(*) Bawana	604.607	712.331	–107.725
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.290.455</b>	<b>12.255.243</b>	<b>35.211</b>

(\*) 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. Contact for Questions: [christoph@delhihouse.de](mailto:christoph@delhihouse.de)

## PATIENT STATISTICS

(January 2021 – October 2021)

- Patients picked up from the road side: **25**
  - Patients who came in from the road side: **38**
  - Patients referred from hospitals and other NGO: **10**
- TOTAL NUMBER OF NEW PATIENTS: 73**

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- Critical patients admitted to hospitals: **13**
  - Patients discharged after completed treatment: **23**
  - Patients shifted to other NGO for rehabilitation: **8**
  - Patients who walked away during the treatment: **10**
  - Patient deaths during treatment: **13**

Learning Center 2021	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
<b>Online Study</b>												
Day Care	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	10	10	12	12
Non-Formal Education	25	26	24	24	24	1	1	1	–	–	–	–
Remedial Education	42	42	42	42	42	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
<b>Face-to-face Study</b>												
Day Care	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Formal Education	0	0	0	0	0	23	23	23	24	20	24	24
Remedial Education	0	0	0	0	0	35	35	39	42	42	42	42

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](http://www.delhihouse.org)

**INDIAN RESIDENTS & INR PAYMENTS ONLY:** All Indian contributions made to Delhi House Society are eligible for tax deduction of 50% u/s 80G of the Income Tax Act 1961. Make a direct deposit in INR to Delhi House Society, Account No 380902010006469, Union bank of India, Ansari Road Branch, Dariyaganj, Delhi. IFSC code: UBIN0538094. Contact [office@delhihouse.org](mailto:office@delhihouse.org) and supply full name, address, Pan Number and Mobile number of the contributor, else it will be treated as anonymous and will be subject to taxation.

**EUROPEAN RESIDENTS (EUR):** Make a SEPA direct deposit in EUR to Delhi House e.V., Waldsaum 33, 45134 Essen, Germany. IBAN: DE97 6601007506145097 50 BIC: PBNKDEFF (Postbank Karlsruhe). Contact [office@delhihouse.de](mailto:office@delhihouse.de) to receive a receipt in German language for income tax deduction.

**SWISS RESIDENTS (CHF):** Make a direct deposit in CHF to Verein JayaHo, 3000 Bern. Account: PC 305155909, Contact [pia@jayaho.ch](mailto:pia@jayaho.ch) to receive a receipt in German language for income tax deduction.

**NEW ZEALAND RESIDENTS (NZD):** Make a direct deposit in NZD at ANZ for Cry for the World Foundation, Account: 01 0819 0374190 30, Branch: 37, Rotherham St, Riccarton, Christchurch.

**AUSTRALIAN RESIDENTS (AUD):** Go to the webpage of our partner Interserve Australia <https://interserve.org.au/give/> and select "Interserve worker or Project" in the "I would like to give"-drop down, enter the Recipient Number 1299.82 and "Delhi House Society", Select "Once-off" or "Regularly" in the Type of giving space and then the required information is provided/asked for, depending on choices made. Giving can be via credit/debit card, bank transfer or cheque.

**DONORS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES:** It is required by law (FCRA) that you send us a copy of your passport to [office@delhihouse.org](mailto:office@delhihouse.org). Then you can make an international bank transfer in your own currency (not in INR) to Delhi House Society, Account No: 40001325500, Branch Code 00691, IFSC: SBIN0000691, SWIFT: SBININBB104. FCRA Cell, 4th Floor, STATE BANK OF INDIA, New Delhi Main, Branch, 11 Sansad Marg, New Delhi-110 001.

