

# DELHI HOUSE

Delhi House Society | Newsletter December 2022



## Dear friends and supporters of Delhi House,

With this newsletter, we invite you to travel to India again with gratefulness and heart. To hear stories of life at Sewa Ashram and the Learning Center. Stories that are part of a great story in searching passionately for justice and mercy. The framework of this story is laid out in a special way in these dense and powerful wisdom sayings:

„Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.“

I see this hunger and thirst for justice very strongly in our work at Delhi House. There is a longing for a world where people are not disadvantaged by birth and pushed out to the margins of society, finding themselves on the destitute end of a brutal polarity of rich and poor.

A longing for places where every human being is seen and treated with equal dignity and value as a worthy creature. A longing for justice to shine through the stories of hope. One such story is that of Sanju, which you can read in this newsletter. It is stories like Sanju's that "satisfy" me and touch me in a world that is full of injustice.

Living mercy – that is the quintessence of the work in Delhi. I see it in our staff when they reach out in love to the poorest of the poor, when they help them in a practical way at the clinic, when they cook for the community, when they see the potential and beauty in the children from the slums, when they share their stories in the Life Groups and when they care for the sick. Engaging with the stories of people who have been brokenhearted again and again, shapes the heart and keeps it soft. Perhaps above all, it preserves for me the possibility of being merciful with myself and thus coming into the resonant space of a higher mercy. In this way, the giver and receiver of mercy are part of a larger story that unites us.

We are very grateful for your support of this work. Every prayer, every donation and every thought of love makes a difference.

We wish you a happy new year,

**Keshav Dutt Pandey**



*The new Learning Centre before the inauguration*



## Ceremonial inauguration of the new Learning Center – liveliness returns

### Finally – back to normal learning

For two years, school life in Delhi was, for the most part, shut down by the Covid pandemic and online teaching was implemented. What did this mean for the students of our Learning Center? Well, for the children from the slums and the day laborers on large construction sites around Sewa Ashram, this was a difficult time educationally. Homeschooling in these precarious situations worked only too poorly – via Whatsapp to parents' cell phones. Our teachers became outreach workers during this time and now everyone is immensely happy that the restrictions are over. About the same time, we were finally able to inaugurate our new Learning Center with a big celebration. The building is designed intelligently with local building materials and offers a great space for teaching and training. When the building was still empty – shortly before the inauguration at the end of March – I had a first meeting with the teachers and I was very touched by their joyful faces.

### 18 years to the finish

The new Learning Center has a long history. The idea of a project for slum children and the foundation of donations for the project was laid at a wedding in Germany on May 1, 2004. Instead of gifts, the bride and groom, Claudia and Johannes, asked for donations for Delhi House, to be earmarked for a project with underprivileged children.

The honeymoon then led them to Delhi in the blisteringly hot month of May to the Sewa Ashram. They met with Ton and Gaby and were acquainted with the work. Then, everything happened differently than anyone expected! Some paths of life are mysterious and only in retrospect do we perhaps understand the bigger picture. The project for slum children in the center of Delhi failed in 2004, and now, the wedding gift of 18 years ago has finally served its destined purpose. The new Learning Center has been opened! The old building, for which we had to pay high rent, was located opposite Sewa Ashram and was small, dark and uninviting. The new building, which is now on our premises, is a virtual mosaic to which many people have contributed with their heart and soul. The many donors from Germany, Switzerland and the USA, the local team in planning, building and designing, the pedagogical team with the use concept and now the children with their curiosity and liveliness.

### The great feast

Thus, on April 9 of this year, the great moment of the first day of classes was celebrated with a big inauguration party. Not only all contributors as well as many children and guests of honor but also former students of the Learning Center were present. It was wonderful to hear three of the „alumni“ talk about how their life has developed and what a decisive role their time at the Learning Center has played.





*Staff team and children from the Learning Centre at the opening party*

This was the moment when our vision came alive: „The Learning Center exists to provide education, development opportunities and a better life for unprivileged children and their families.“ The proud team of teachers and the beaming construction team, colorful dances by students and a lively crowd of children completed the picture on the festival stage. For us, as the German board of directors, it was a special moment to be back on site after more than two and a half years and to be able to celebrate this festival.

### **Learning by playing**

The empty classrooms have now been filled with second hand school benches that were donated to us locally. And to make it all beautiful, teachers, students and pupils together chose the colors in which the benches were repainted. So, slowly everything became colorful and lively and the classrooms are now cosy. Half a year later, the new playground around the Learning Center has also been built and „animated“. Now, the whole area breathes a playful spirit of moving and learning with joy. May the area be a good place for the development and education of future generations for many years to come.



## Muskan – from the slums to her own school

### **An inspiring story from the Learning Center**

Muskan is a 17-year-old girl who has been a student at our Learning Center for many years. We provide supplementary education to government schools for underprivileged children, as the level of education in the mainstream institutions is often very poor. Muskan has been attending these classes since her family contacted us in 2011. For Muskan, family is a fragile entity. They are from Bihar, the poorest state in India, and came to Delhi in search of a better future. Muskan's father died when she was still young, her mother Geeta makes a living by doing odd jobs and begging. And she has 3 younger brothers and a sister. Thus, even at a young age, a lot of responsibility for the functioning of the family has weighed on her.

In such situations, we also support families through Sewa Ashram, which we have done for many years. Muskan has developed wonderfully over the years. She has always been very hardworking - both at school and at home, but also in the slum community where she lives. Our teachers say she is a really kind, sincere, brave and intelligent girl.

### **Muskan's vision**

Despite the modest circumstances from which she comes, she has developed great ambitions and dreams for her life. She would like to become a teacher and build her own school one day. Today, she already helps other children from the slums and has a big heart for older people. She finished school this year and has started working on a bachelor's degree (as a correspondence course which in India is possible). This costs less than attending



University but requires a lot of discipline. We will finance the tuition fees for the course through the Learning Center because otherwise she would not be able to study.

We believe she is well on her way to being able to live a full life beyond poverty and will be a blessing to many people. Stories like Muskan's make our hearts beat faster for the work of the Learning Center.

**Savita Thapa**

## Employee Portrait: Sanju Rawat – an orphan finds a new family

Sanju's family is originally from Uttarakhand (North India), but he himself was born and raised in Delhi. He says he has a hard time remembering his parents. His father was a truck driver who was often on the road. Both parents died when Sanju was still very young. His sister lived with relatives in a small village and he grew up with his uncle in Delhi. Sanju says he never went to school

and can't remember playing with any friends. What he does remember is that when he was about 10 years old, he worked in a tea store to survive.

### **A child's story that will make you cry**

A boy who grows up without his parents and – instead of going to school – is forced into child labor. A child who was supposed to play

with a ball, is cleaning and working in a tea store. When Sanju was a few years older, the money he earned was no longer enough to support his uncle and himself. So, he went to work in a textile factory under devastating conditions. He worked continuously with chemicals for the production of clothes. Gradually, health problems appeared, such as weight loss and loss of appetite, etc.





Sanju shortly after his arrival at Sewa Ashram



Sanju as a 19-year-old in 2008



Sanju (3rd from left) on the Himalaya Tour 2015

At one point, his relatives saw that Sanju was sick, so they put him in a dark room and treated him very roughly. Now, he was completely isolated, and had hardly any strength to walk and lived only in this room.

### Breaking out into another life

One day, in desperation, it became too much for him and he decided to run away from “home” to seek proper treatment for his condition. Somehow, he managed to get out of the house and reached the nearby “Sanjaya Gandhi” hospital. Here fate was more favorable to him and Sanju met people who provided the money to take him to a better hospital. He had to spend the first night outside the hospital, but the next morning he was admitted to the emergency room. He was treated and had surgery because fluid had accumulated in his chest. Thus, his path out of the dark and godforsaken room had been set for a better future. And there in the hospital, his destiny was given a further nudge when he met employees of Delhi House.

### Sanju becomes part of Sewa Ashram

In 2000, after being discharged from the hospital, he made his way to Sewa Ashram. This was during the founding years of Sewa Ashram in Narela and so Sanju became part of Sewa Ashram history from the start. Most importantly, he found a new family in the community. With a tube in his chest, he helped build Sewa Ashram. He liked to work in the kitchen and so was often found there. Having fun together with the others and escaping into daydreams

after work was his daily routine. His shy character made him a little different from the others. In time, Sanju matured and grew into a young man and valuable employee in the Ashram.

### Stories in the Himalayas

I (Dirk) remember well a tour to which we invited 4 employees of Sewa Ashram. The team chose the four lucky ones who had never ever been on vacation. Together, we took 2 motorcycles and our jeep to the heights of the Spiti Valley in the Himalayas to explore a new route for our travel company Headrush Adventures. (Headrush offers motorcycle tours in the Himalayas and donates all profits to Delhi House). In the evenings, everyone shared their life stories and I will never forget the evening with Sanju. He had tears in his eyes after telling his story. His story touched us deeply. And the fact that his story is worth listening to and has become a story of hope and confidence for others was very overwhelming for him. Together we blessed him and said a prayer – especially for his wish to find a wife.

### The heart's desire comes true

Sanju then contacted his relatives to get documents about his parentage and birth. He found out that he was born on 15/12/1988. For the first time in his life, he celebrated a birthday party! And that was not the only cause for celebration – on November 4, 2017, his wishes and prayers for a family of his own came true. He started down the path to married life together with his wife Kushmita. In India, the initiation of relationships

usually happens much differently than in our culture. Family mediation efforts are the key to a successful marriage initiation. But what to do if, like Sanju, you don't have a biological family? The ashram's new family helped out here. The wife of our accountant Suresh had a nice sister who was introduced to Sanju one day. The rest is history.

At Sewa Ashram, Sanju is now mainly involved in the construction and maintenance of the buildings, a job which he enjoys very much. Thus, the clinic, the patient buildings and the new learning center have a good piece of “Sanju” in them.

### Sarin Thapa/Dirk Stefan Walliser





## "Fit for Life" – a small fitness park for patients

In the course of the construction of our new playground and the creation of playground equipment, we came across a company that manufactures outdoor fitness and rehabilitation equipment. Here, the patients, as well as staff at Sewa Ashram can exercise. The muscular vitality of the patients suffers due to the long hours of bedrest needed for healing and rehabilitation. So, the establishment of a small

fitness park was well supported by our physiotherapist. In mid-November, the "Sewa Ashram Fitness Center" was inaugurated with the enthusiasm of our patients.

## Taj Mahal – Discoveries at the most beautiful building in India



Days in Sewa Ashram can grow a bit long and monotonous in the course of the rehabilitation period (6 months on average). Although, there are various activities in the ashram including watching cricket and Bollywood movies together on TV, the radius for physical activity during this time is limited to our small compound.

### Trip to the Taj Mahal

So, the idea was born to take with the already fitter patients, who could endure a trip "outside" on a nice excursion to the most famous building in India, the Taj Mahal, which none of the people who had lived on the

street had ever seen in person. So off we went to Agra (about 120 km away), where the legendary mausoleum the Mogul ruler Shah Jahan had built for his favorite wife could be admired.

### Craftsmanship and monumental splendor

Anyone who has ever been there cannot escape the fascination of this beautiful building – as if straight from "1001 Nights". In 1648, after 16 years of construction by about 20,000 workers, the Taj Mahal was completed. Building materials, such as the white marble, had been brought in from India and other

parts of Asia with the help of about 1000 elephants. Twenty-eight different types of precious and semi-precious stones were embedded in the marble. The magnificence perfection the craftsmanship is still overwhelming today.




# 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 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 financial 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).

Delhi House Society India 	1.4.2021 – 31.3.2022	1.4.2020 – 31.3.2021
<b>Annual Financial Statement</b>	INR	INR
<b>Regular Donations</b>	17.129.455	14.170.687
Donations from Germany	8.865.871	10.029.702
Donations from Switzerland	5.806.239	2.967.727
Donations from Australia	164.071	–
Donations from New Zealand	821.545	807.776
Donations from USA	855.805	174.441
Donations from India	615.924	191.041
<b>COVID Relief Donations</b>	<b>10.630.246</b>	–
Donations from India	4.355.905	–
Donations from abroad (DE, CH, US, MY, TW)	6.274.341	–
<b>Other Income</b>	<b>374.333</b>	<b>52.516</b>
Interest on bank accounts	374.333	47.516
Miscellaneous	–	5.000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>28.134.034</b>	<b>14.223.203</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenditure (excl. Investments)</b>	<b>20.802.174</b>	<b>8.951.377</b>
<b>Operating result</b>	<b>7.331.860</b>	<b>5.271.826</b>
Liquidity at fiscal year start (1.4.)	3.180.523	1.282.316
+ Cash Flow from Operations	7.302.166	5.273.133
– Cash Flow from Investments	–2.510.023	–3.374.926
Liquidity at fiscal year end (31.3.)	7.972.666	3.180.523

## ADULT EDUCATION IN LEARNING CENTER (Nov. 2022)

- Sewing Class: **14**
- Adult Women Literacy Class: **10**

## NO OF KIDS IN LEARNING CENTER (Januar – November 2022)

- Day Care (2 – 5 yrs): **15**
- Non-Formal Education (6 – 12 yrs): **31**
- Remedial Education (6 – 12 yrs): **59**





## Delhi House Society India Revenues and Expenses by Projects

April 21 – March 22	Revenues	Expenses	Shortfall/ overlap
Project	INR	INR	INR
Non-earmarked (*)	6.614.422	(*)	6.614.422
Sewa Ashram	4.614.167	7.833.267	-3.219'100
CP-1	871.629	1.039.089	-167.460
CP-2	424.229	305'145	119.084
LC(*) Narela	761.475	597.583	163.892
LC(*) Bawana	821.545	811.704	9.841
COVID Relief	11.246.170	8.826.615	2.419.556
Love Delhi Project	2'780'396	1'388'771	1'391'625
<b>Total</b>	<b>28.134.034</b>	<b>20.802.174</b>	<b>7.331.860</b>

(\*) LC = Learning Center;

Non-earmarked = Donations without allocation to a project and interest income.

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

## PATIENT STATISTICS

(January – November 2022)

- Patient pick up from road side: **41**
  - Patient self-came from road side: **84**
  - Patient refer from hospitals and other NGO: **6**
- TOTAL NUMBER OF NEW PATIENT: 131**

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- Critical patient admitted to hospital: **22**
  - Patient discharge after completed treatment: **51**
  - Patient shifted to other NGO for rehabilitation: **10**
  - Patient walk away from during the treatment: **21**
  - Patient death during treatment: **18**

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: IBAN CH07 0900 0000 3051 5590 9, Contact [verein@jayaho.ch](mailto:verein@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.

