

SHADHIKA FUNDS THREE NEW ORGANIZATIONS

Thanks to each one of you, Shadhika had banner years of fund raising in 2000 and 2001. The Board decided that we could now start supporting some additional projects. Accordingly, Juthica and Peter went to Calcutta in January 2002 to explore leads. They spent most of the month contacting and evaluating several new initiatives referred to us by friends familiar with Shadhika's mission and focus. Of course, there are many more worthwhile and excellent projects than we are able to assist. It is a difficult and demanding task to select the most deserving ones from among many candidates. In our best judgment the following three projects come closest to matching Shadhika's mission and are also the best developed and most reliably organized ones among our contacts.

NEW LIGHT

Khaligat is a notorious quarter in Calcutta. It is one of the poorest neighborhoods of the City. Mother Teresa's original Hospice for the Dying is in this quarter, as is one of the busiest red light districts in India. Urmi Basu, a trained social worker and dedicated women's advocate, has become concerned with the plight of the large population of sex workers in Khaligat. These women live in unimaginably crowded slum conditions and ply their trade with their children often watching. As a rule, their daughters follow in their footsteps once

they reach age 14 or 15. Using three available rooms in an old temple, and without any



SAVE THIS DATE:

**SUNDAY
SEPT 8, 2002
3 - 6 PM**

**SHADHIKA
FUND
RAISING
'MELA'
AT THE
STANGLS'**

Further details to follow

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Puja & Shibani, two of the children at New Light

funding, Urmi started an evening creche/nursery school/youth program last year, designed to insulate some of the children from their mothers' work environment.

Operating during prime "working hours", from 6 pm to 10 pm, the New Light Creche provides a safe haven to over 30 children, including some babies and toddlers. The older children receive school instruction from volunteer teachers. Shadhika will fund furnishing the creche and provide operating expenses for a year.

SB DEVI CLINIC

The S.B. Devi Charity Home was started before the turn of the century by an idealistic, wealthy, and progressive Bengali woman to help the poorest in Calcutta. The home included a one-room clinic where limited medical care was available to those without resources. The lady's grandson is a recently board-certified Swiss-Bengali pediatrician. During his medical training and residency in Basel he decided to devote a few years to the continuation of his grandmother's project. He raised funds in Switzerland and organized contacts in Calcutta. As a result, they have recently inaugurated a new and well-equipped full service clinic at the site of the old Charity

Home. Free medical and pharmaceutical care will be available from volunteer practitioners in three parallel systems: homeopathic, ayurvedic, and Western -- according to patients' preferences. Shadhika will provide funding to develop and maintain an electronic technical reference library for the clinic.

UDDAMI COMPUTER TRAINING CENTER

Finally, during their visit Peter & Juthica met two Americans, both India enthusiasts, who moved to Calcutta last year. Brian is a computer engineer, Alison is a special education teacher. They decided to launch a project based on their expertise and experience. The result is a free computer school, which they started on their own funds with a few donations from friends. They take students primarily from local orphanages. Their curriculum trains students in word processing, spread sheet and database applications, and web design. These are skills in high demand, which would be unattainable for these orphans without access to the free Uddami center. Graduates are readily employable in jobs



One-on-one instruction at Uddami Center

that they otherwise would have no hope of getting. Two young women who recently completed the course are beginning to work at Uddami, helping train other orphans. Shadhika will fund their stipends plus supplies and equipment for this year.

BACKGROUND

Shadhika was launched in 1990 by Juthica Stangl, a native of Calcutta, currently a resident of California, and was formally incorporated in 1992. Shadhika is a non-profit U.S. foundation whose mission is to support women and children disenfranchised by India's social system and to help them get re-integrated into society. The name 'Shadhika' means 'One who has great aspirations'. Its original purpose was to facilitate the release of women from Calcutta prison's "non-criminal insane" block, and to finance the establishment of a facility where they could start their rehabilitation. In addition to the mentally ill, a significant number of prison inmates were married women who had been deserted or been declared "insane" by their husband's family, in order to end the marriage. Typical reasons for this might be failure to deliver the agreed-upon dowry to the groom, or to produce a male child in time.

In 1992 Shadhika provided its first grant to establish Paripurnata Half-Way Home in Calcutta. Paripurnata is a small facility housing up to nine women at a time. Over the years some 70 women have been rehabilitated here, and now either hold jobs or have been reunited with their families. Plans are under way, and funding is partially complete, for a new and larger physical facility.

In addition to its continued support of Paripurnata, in 1999 Shadhika was able to start supporting two additional institutions.

HOPE SCHOOL

is a non-profit school for the disabled in the state of Bengal, one of the relatively few such institutions in India. In 1999 Shadhika helped them launch a program to train selected candidates in crafts with a goal to make them employable and self-sufficient. The project

focused on training promising disabled students to be future teachers of weaving, knitting, and tailoring, so they can help other disabled children attain independence. Shadhika financed the purchase of equipment, training materials, and teacher salaries. Our current project with HOPE School involves their new computer laboratory/class room, where we provide consultants to advise school faculty on how best to integrate computing into their curriculum, as well as financing the acquisition of appropriate software designed for the instruction of children with various disabilities.

Last year HOPE School got a major gift of computer equipment from another foundation. They installed two fully networked computer instructional labs in both venues of HOPE School. In this coming year Shadhika will fund the acquisition of instructional software for the labs, designed to teach typing, word processing, and other skills according to students' abilities.

PUNJABI HOSPITAL

is a small rural hospital/clinic near Varanasi. It is the only health care facility in an area with a population of about 300,000 people. Our first project with the hospital targeted two of the most pressing problems in rural India: infant morbidity and the need for family planning. Prospective mothers in area were offered biweekly "camps" consisting of pre- and post-natal health and nutrition education as well as family planning training. The two-year program also included the training of one or two women in most villages of the service area to serve as resource persons. They helped with practical issues of nutrition, family planning, and served as liaisons to the hospital if needed. In all, 38 "camps" were organized and 479 women completed the program. There were significantly fewer birth complications and early infancy morbidity cases than in prior

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years. Another result of the program is a heightened awareness among village women of birth control as an option in managing their lives.

In this coming fiscal year, we will continue to support the hospital's family planning programs. In addition, Shadhika funds will

WE NEED YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

Funding a project carries with it an implicit responsibility -- we are counted on to continue funding in future years. We select projects only after intensive personal review and detailed analysis and we have a high degree of confidence that funds are used strictly for approved purposes.

Having to withdraw support from a worthwhile project because of lack of funds would represent a failure on Shadhika's part. So we depend on your continued support to sustain what we started, so as not frustrate the dedicated entrepreneurs who run our projects. Our accomplishments are too small to make a global difference, but they are significant in the lives of those we work with. If our projects do not survive, our charges may not find an equal opportunity.

Shadhika is a "zero overhead" foundation. There is no paid staff, and Shadhika's board members pay for all fund raising, administrative, and publicity related expenses. Every penny of each contribution to Shadhika goes directly to the projects we support. Our success to

help the hospital finance the provision of birth control methods to women who request it, including the provision of in-hospital tubal ligation procedures for women with two or more children.

*'Shadhika' means
'One who has great aspirations'*

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date has been impressive, and with your help we can continue to build on our accomplishments.

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