

Shadhika News

Shadhika: a foundation with great aspirations • Occasional Communiqué • March 2006

DEAR FRIENDS OF SHADHIKA

We are very happy to report that Shadhika's projects are off to a great start in 2006. Board members visited all the projects during early January 2006 and spent considerable time reviewing each project's progress and plans for the year. Your generous contributions are making a huge difference in the lives of women and children in Kolkata.

PROJECT NEWS

Paripurnata

PARIPURNATA PROVIDES TRANSITIONAL HOUSING AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING for women released from mental hospitals. This year Paripurnata is

New Paripurnata Building



moving into a new building, partly funded by Shadhika, that will make possible a threefold increase in the number of women they can serve. Paripurnata is unique among agencies serving this population in providing continuing care for women after they have graduated from the rehab facility, care that has been shown to be essential for the long-term success of their clients. Shadhika's support has been critical to their success.

New Light

NEW LIGHT IS A CHILD CARE CENTER AND EVENING SCHOOL for the children of sex workers in Kolkata's oldest red light district. In the past year New Light has established a shelter for teenage girls to keep them out of sex work. In the coming year New Light plans on caring for 120 children at the child care center and expanding the shelter. New Light has attracted international attention for their groundbreaking work (see below for details).

Monimala

MONIMALA, THE NEWEST SHADHIKA PROJECT, is a preschool and after-school tutoring program to prepare children living in dire slums for public school. During the past year they found a permanent space for their program and set up a board of directors. In the coming year they plan to expand the preschool program and include parenting education and medical care.



Monimala children

SB Devi

SB DEVI CONTINUES TO GROW their program of free medical care for the destitute. Their clinic provides prenatal, pediatric, and family planning care to about 50 patients per day. With funds from Shadhika they are completing a building that will house a night child care center, modeled after the New Light crèche, for the children of sex workers in another red light district. The Shadhika board has fostered cooperation among the projects we fund which is now coming to fruition, a very exciting development.

Uddami

UDDAMI PROVIDES COMPUTER AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING to help older children from orphanages find jobs and avoid a life on the streets. They have started a spoken English class as this is a key skill for young people with computer training. A number of their graduates have found work as computer teachers, and Uddami is being asked to share their curriculum with other organizations. Uddami has a five year plan to become self-supporting by using revenue from their new for-profit venture designing websites, databases, and other computer systems to finance their educational work.

— IN THE NEWS —

TWO SHADHIKA SUPPORTED PROJECTS have recently garnered impressive media attention.

SB DEVI CLINIC

Progeria is a very rare, incurable genetic disease which causes extremely rapid aging. Children with progeria rarely survive their teens, and there

SHADHIKA MELA TO BE HELD APRIL 23, 2006

SHADHIKA'S ANNUAL MELA is around the corner and will take place at a new location. Mark your calendar for this year's Mela event held at Avenidas on Sunday, April 23, 2006, from 3 PM to 6 PM. The Mela is Shadhika's annual get-together and fundraiser.

We are delighted to announce that this year's event will feature a performance by members of THE CHITRESH DAS DANCE COMPANY, established and directed by world renowned Kathak artist Pandit Chitresh Das.

The event will also feature a boutique with beautiful, high-quality, hand-crafted scarves, jewelry and trinkets. And don't forget about our annual silent auction, with exciting items like getaways to hot vacation spots, gourmet dinners, and luxurious spa treatments.

And of course, every dollar you spend goes directly to one of the worthy projects we support. What better reason to come join us this year at the MELA. *See you there!*

are only a few known random cases in the world. It is therefore a medical rarity that a family with five children suffering from progeria was discovered near Kolkata. SB Devi Clinic's Dr. Chandon Chattopadhyay has been treating the children and their story is documented in the short film '80 year-old Children'. The children are amazingly cheerful and graceful in their acceptance of both poverty and disease, impressively so, given how most of us complain at the slightest discomfort in our lives. The British newspaper, *The Times*, has a moving and uplifting review which may be read online at: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,26430-2038561,00.html>. Another account of the documentary is also available at: http://web.channel4.com/health/microsites/0-9/80_year_old_children/index.html. (The documentary may also be viewed at www.ifilm.com).

NEW LIGHT

RENOWNED COLUMNIST, NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF, wrote an Op-Ed piece in *The New York Times* (January 22, 2006) about brothels in South Asia and what can be done to help the women and children caught in their grip. In particular, he mentions the wonderful work done by Urmi Basu, founder of New Light, the school that provides food, education and hope to the children of sex workers. He calls her "the abolitionist of the 21st century". A short film on Ms. Basu and aid groups that fight trafficking is available on <http://topics.nytimes.com/top/opinion/editorialsandoped/oped/columnists/nicholasdkristof/index.html> titled *Courage in India*.

Shadhika is proud to continue supporting the work done by dedicated leaders like Dr. Chandon Chattopadhyay and Urmi Basu.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Shadhika is a zero overhead foundation. There is no paid staff, and Shadhika's board members cover all fundraising, administrative and publicity related costs. Every penny of your contributions goes directly to projects we support.

Please mail your contributions to:

Shadhika, Inc.

3790 El Camino Real • Palo Alto, CA 94306

*For more information,
contact Shadhika:*

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Kristof interviewing Urmi



Shadhika is a non-profit U.S. foundation whose mission is to assist needy women, children, and their families in India to acquire shelter, education, health care and employment by providing selective financial assistance to social service agencies in India. The name *Shadhika* means “One who has great aspirations.”

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Juthica Stangl, *President* • Monika Agarwal
Julie Basu • Kim Burnett • Clifford Colvin
Sharon Hofstedt • Usha Sekar • Maureen Sheehan
Anondo Stangl • Peter Stangl, Secretary / Treasurer

Origins

SHADHIKA was started in 1990 by Juthica Stangl, a native of Calcutta, currently a resident of California, and was formally incorporated in 1992. 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.

Shadhika depends upon individual and corporate donations to maintain and expand its services. Our success to date has been impressive, and with your help we can continue to build on our accomplishments.

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NEWSLETTER DESIGN COURTESY OF AMY EASTWOOD