

# Shadhika News

*Shadhika: a foundation with great aspirations • Occasional Communiqué • AUGUST 2003*

**W**E ARE HAPPY to report that Shadhika's projects are thriving and continuing to make a difference to Calcutta's neediest. Thanks to your fine support we have been able to help assure their ongoing viability and progress. Juthica and Peter returned to Calcutta in January this year for a family wedding and took the opportunity to briefly revisit each of our projects.

Here is a summary of news:

## *Child at New Light*



## **New Light**

**M**s. BASU received funding from a Spanish foundation to construct a second story addition to the temple housing the Khaligat crèche/nursery school in the red-light district. When we were visiting it was still under construction – it is now completed. The additional space allows a significant expansion of the program, including keeping the smallest children all night, much better space for the evening school for older children, and a training program for teen boys in making shoes. School age children, who had just stayed in the street before, are now enrolled in regular schools and outfitted with the required uniforms by New Light. There are regular visits by doctors for consultation both for children and their mothers, including AIDS education and screening. New Light is aggressively promoting the integration of residents with the neighboring community, thus providing a chance for children and youths to look outside the sex trade for their futures.

## **Uddami**

**T**HE COMPUTER SCHOOL has upgraded their furniture and with Shadhika's help is in the process of installing two additional work stations. This will permit them to increase their enrollment. Several trainees have succeeded in getting jobs using their newly learned skills, without which they would never have had this opportunity. Of their current enrollees 38% are girls and young women, a result of proactive recruitment.