



July/August 2013

Dear Friends and Donors

Donors, Health and Education Create the Cycle of Achievement

It is said that nothing can be achieved without good health, and very little else without a good education. While life always throws up exceptions to the rule, here in Kolkata the other reality is blatantly clear. Thus what lies at the heart of Future Hope's operation is: medicine, food, shelter and education. Donations to Future Hope maintain our safe homes for children, our medical, counseling and educational programs, the purposeful life we create for boys and girls, and the people whose efforts ensure the continued welfare of students to the point of their gaining independence. This is the cycle of achievement that begins with a single donation.

The fact that we rely totally on the goodwill of people for our existence is a humbling reality. I



The teaching Staff 2012/13

wish every donor could see first-hand what together we are accomplishing and how generosity is changing the lives of the most vulnerable children in Kolkata. This is not to say there aren't challenges – visible and invisible –but the power to change lives through patience, love, skill, good routine and opportunities clearly begins with the act of someone giving. Among the outcomes are: being able to enjoy the very youngest children who have joined us from the streets play puzzles together on the floor of the

library or turn brightly coloured pages in a new picture book, for the first time in their lives; being able to sit with a 7 year old who has begun to master phonics and the beginnings of words and sentences (after months of practice) that gives birth to the joy of not only reading but with it imagination, hope and an emergent positive identity; and the satisfaction of knowing that our committed young men and women at university are able to compete on equal footing. Again, we have donors to thank.

On the medical front, all our children have now had basic checkups. Being able to stay on top of health issues is of course crucial to Future Hope meetings its obligations. To change or maintain the health prospects of young children is the starting point of any guaranteed future success. By contrast with developed world standards most of this help comes in the form of basic medicines and treatments still inaccessible to children from impoverished backgrounds.



Junior Boys' Hockey – a picture of good health.

And during this monsoon season comes the bacterial and viral infections and temperatures that can be quite severe on little children. By teaching good personal habits and having an 'alert' medical program for each child, we are able to field sporting teams like the one below. The same cycle of opportunity has been ongoing for 26 years and still helping children who would otherwise have little or no opportunity to benefit from what we hope they will come to regard as their brilliant new century.

FHI Under 19 Rugby Team Remain All India Champions

It was always going to be hard –and it was. But our boys managed to defend their title in Orissa and in doing so dominated the early rounds, survived a very tough semi-final against KISS Rugby Academy and produced possibly their best match of the season in the final to defeat the ‘Jungle Crows’: 27-5. Over 300 players took part in the tournament and ten of our team have been asked to trial for the All India Representative Side. Well done, boys!



Budding Artists

There are many fine examples of art hanging from the walls of Future Hope. One of our most promising artists Jai Mongal has produced a superb piece on an urban setting in black pastel.



Art from all classes will feature in the December 20 Annual Mela. Every child learns to draw and paint.

Cobra wins the inaugural Katie Baddeley Award for Arts

One cannot say enough about the House Plays and the standard set by this current crop of performers, writers and directors. Each play went for about 30 minutes with superb costumes, props and music helping to bring-alive excellent adaptations of well-known classics. The evening was well attended and held in the comfortable surrounds of the Max Mueller Bhavan. Each play had a strong message, some very comical. Cobra (Christmas Carol) won from Elephant (The Return), Panther (Pygmalion) and Tiger (Indian Poem) –all judged to be brilliant.

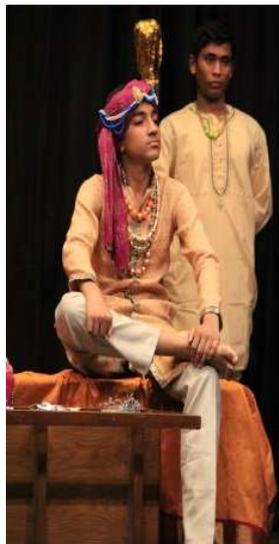
School Captain Rajan Das, who wrote and co-directed Cobra’s adaptation of a Christmas Carol, can be seen proudly holding aloft the Katie Baddeley Award with Bubble Baddeley and the rest of the Cobra cast in support. Surajit Moira, Cobra, won *Best Actor Award* for his far too convincing portrayal of a ghostly figure.



Bubble Baddeley shares in the joy of the Katie Baddeley Award for the Arts.



Tabbassum Aktar got her message across as a vexed school principal in Elephant’s ‘The Return.’



Md. Junaid convinced us he really is a Maharaaja in Tiger’s production ‘Indian Poem.’



Cobra’s Surajit Moira gave everyone sleepless nights as the ghost who says: “You must pay the price!”

Future Hope Makes the Cut for the British Council Plays –Again!

It is always a nervous wait to find out whether a script has been shortlisted for this prestigious drama competition. This year the theme is Shakespeare (450th birthday) and we chose a twist on Hamlet. The troupe is currently practising three days a week and developing what we hope will be a witty interpretation of envy, loyalty, greed and ambition. September 12 is the big day.

Children Prepare for Half Yearly Examinations -September

Sport has been heavily curtailed as we enter the serious season of studying for examination success. Saturday morning classes are being offered and Prep sessions have been, shall we say, more intense than usual. We are delighted that every child is fully occupied and receiving the type of help that is needed to feel good about the experience. Volunteers have helped with studies too.

Thanks to recent volunteers who have helped, with more to come

Louis Bond-Smith (Hong Kong), George Moseley (U.K), Harry Robins (Sherbourne), Alex Roden (Rugby), Charlotte Schmelzer (Hong Kong), Poppy Ogier (France), Anneke Schreurs (Holland), Bubble Baddeley (UK), Tony Riley (UK), Paul Bryant (Rugby Schoolmaster).

We look forward to welcoming Rugby teacher Georgie Dixon, who will be with us from September 17 2013 to June 30 2014, helping with developing new ways of teaching mathematics and interactive education.

Mike Thomson

August 2013

