

## CRS FELLOWSHIP PROJECT

Although CRS has done extensive work with underprivileged communities, there is always scope for innovation which can come only from research. Thus, plans have been put in place to institute a CRS Fellowship Academic Project that will harness outside talent to work towards a common goal: the creation and effective delivery of methods and products in the areas of education, empowerment and health for the maximum benefit of the communities. One example may be to research the efficacy of iron vs protein supplementation in treating iron deficiency anaemia amongst 2-10 year old children living in Kolkata slums. The Fellowship Project will be offered by CRS to an individual who has the necessary expertise and innovative ideas in the relevant research fields. The duration of the Fellowship will be for a minimum of one year and a maximum of two years.

At the end of the Fellowship Project period, the study will be written up as a formal paper – a bit like a PhD thesis – and CRS will then arrange publication in the national and international journals or repute and will submit the project proposal to corporate supporters for implementing based on the conclusions reached. This will raise the CRS profile through positive publicity and income through corporate sponsorship.

The proposal is before the Executive Committee, headed by Bishop Ashoke Biswas, and has received a positive response. Promotion and implementation of the project will be worked out soon.

**Reshmi Mukherji**

## BANKER'S ORDER & GIFT AID?

The Friends of Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service derives its funds from church contributions and individual donations. The raising of funds can be greatly helped by two factors. We carry out administration on a voluntary basis. Regular payments by Banker's Order enables us to build on current donations and to budget and plan ahead. By making a Gift Aid declaration you help us to recover some £2,000 per year from the government to forward to CRS. Current Friends are invited to review their giving. **Send your completed form to Adrian Whalley.**

### Friends of CRS Banker's Order

To.....(Your Bank)  
 at.....  
 .....(Postcode)  
 Please pay the **Friends of Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service**  
 at Sort Code 20-98-57, Account No. 30389226 the sum of  
 £.....(figures) .....(words) on.....(Date of First  
 payment)  
 and thereafter each .....(month, quarter, year)  
 Until otherwise instructed by me. Supercedes any existing order  
 .....(Date)  
 .....(Signature)  
 .....(Your Account Number)

### Gift Aid Declaration

I want the Friends of Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service (Charity Commission No. 266302) to reclaim tax on all donations I have made since 6th April 2000 and on all donations I make in the future.

I note that I should tell the Friends of Calcutta Cathedral Relief Services if I do not pay tax at least equal to the tax reclaimable on my donations.

.....(signed) .....(date)

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### COMMUNICATION BY EMAIL?

Many of you will appreciate that email makes an important contribution to both the speed and cost of communication. If you are able to receive future Newsletters and communication by email, the cost savings will go to CRS in Kolkata.

Please email your address to Adrian Whalley at [adrian@mpswebco.org.uk](mailto:adrian@mpswebco.org.uk). Your address will be kept completely secure with Friends addresses and will not be used for any purpose other than for communications in relation to CRS and its business.



has generously covered the production costs of this Newsletter. The company is a leading independent oil and gas company with interests in Europe, South and South East Asia and Africa and prides itself on the assistance it provides in local infrastructure for the poorer countries in which it operates.



# Friends of Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service

## Newsletter—June 2010

### WORLD CUP HOPEFULS

#### Kolkata Challenge to the Loughborough Emmanuel FC under 10s!



LEFC 'U-10s' squad and coaches

The GB Lane Team at school



The BD Colony Team before the match



The trustees have been thinking creatively about raising funds through non-conventional means and, at the same time, increasing awareness of what CCRS is about. So a Trustee provided the funding to enable CCRS to sponsor the fledgling 'U-10s' squad for the 2009/10 and 2010/11 seasons at Loughborough Emmanuel FC, an FA-affiliated Christian football club that is part of Emmanuel Church's youth work, but open to players from any church or none and any faith or none, regardless of their ability to pay.

LEFC runs teams from 'U-7s' to 'U-18s' and the 'U-10s' compete in the Derby mini league playing 7-a-side and 20 minutes each way. LEFC provides Saturday football in a county where all club youth football takes place on Sundays. CCRS's name, logo and website address appear on the football shirt (and tracksuit) so raising the awareness, CCRS

has almost doubled its initial financial investment already through LEFC child sponsorship, being selected as a church 'favoured charity', a kit money refund and through a collection taken at Leicester City's stadium after my addressing the crowd. And that is just the first season with at least another season of benefits to come. There is planned to be promotions for both the CCRS and LEFC squads on the charity's re-built website and on LEFC's blog – [www.LEFC.org.uk](http://www.LEFC.org.uk). The 'U-10s' had a fantastic first season, winning 13 of their 20 matches and losing only 2. As 'U-11s' next season, the teams move to 9-a-side, so are registering up to 18 players. Re-registration for existing 'U-10s' players will cost £40, for new players it costs £60 (kit and all incls). 18 pairs of socks cost £63, a shirt £11, shorts £4.65 and a track suit £22. If you feel able to support, send a cheque payable to *Emmanuel DCC General* to Adrian. Thanks.

The educational element is a vital part of this project. In Kolkata, CCRS have set up 'U-10s' squads at both Gobinder Banerjee Lane and Basanti Devy Colonies. They played against each other for the first time at the Municipality grounds at B.D. Colony. The match itself was exciting with an excellent fight put up by the boys from G.B. Lane. However, at the final whistle it was more about the spirit of the game of football bringing together a group of talented youngsters away from the daily drudgery to an hour and a half of pure sporting fun. A link has been established between the boys of the two teams and the LEFC 'U-10' squad through an exchange of cards. We hope that this link will be strengthened through further exchanges and a possible tournament.

**Adrian Whalley**  
**Reshmi Mukherji**

### How about a taste of India in 2011?

With highly appraised trips in 2005 and 2008 under our belt, here is a fabulous opportunity to glimpse what Rig and his team are doing with the funding we are providing and to gain a truly unforgettable experience of what is going on in the developing world.



<b>Dates:</b>	Saturday 5th—Sunday 20th March 2011
<b>Venues:</b>	Kolkata (6 nights) – Chennai (formerly Madras) (3 nights) – Hyderabad (4 nights)
<b>Cost:</b>	Circa £950 per person (travel and suitable a/c accommodation) + supper and spending money
<b>Places:</b>	Strictly limited to 10

Interested? If so, please complete your contact details on the "Expression of Interest" form enclosed and return it to me (details overleaf) by **Saturday 17 July 2010 latest** as these costs have a limited life. I will then be in touch to let you have more detail before asking for financial commitment.

**Adrian Whalley**

## DUM DUM SCHOOL RENOVATION—THE ACTION



The Dum Dum school building after renovation

Class in progress at the Dum Dum school



Renovation of the Dum Dum school building has now been completed with roofing, plastering of walls, whitewashing as well as the full renovation of the toilets. New enrolment has begun at the centre. The children are enjoying studying in their freshly white-washed classrooms replete with new colourful mats to sit on and a shiny new blackboard

to write on. The women's skill training courses in tailoring, embroidery and beautician have resumed. The enrolment numbers are quite high especially for the beautician course. Now all the rooms in the school building can be utilized since they are no longer in a dilapidated condition. Plans are underway to utilize one of the rooms as a

jute bag production cum training centre for Self-Help Group women.

We are so greatly indebted to the friends of the late Esme Prince who so kindly donated £1,100 at her funeral in lieu of flowers for this amazing development.

**Reshmi Mukherji**

## TRAINING CENTRE FOR THE DISABLED AND PRESS (TCDP)



TCDP members participating in a State sports meet



At work in the printing room



The students at the prize distribution ceremony held at CRS

The TCDP programme operates to serve the physically and mentally challenged young adolescents from an underprivileged background. They are constantly mentored at the Centre so that they may reach their greatest potential. Rather than focusing on education, the training takes a more hands-on approach to learning, with the students being taught tailoring, embroidery, candle and paper bag making, jute bags etc. Through this training, the students learn how to use their hands as well as exercise their mental faculties. Most of the current batches of students have a marked degree of mental

retardation rather than physical disabilities which has made learning a slow process. However, the Centre help these young men and women keep themselves meaningfully engaged, empowering them in the process. Their parents are so grateful for the assistance the CRS team is able to give in making their children's lives rewarding.

The members of the TCDP programme also have access to the Printing Press where they learn techniques in letter press, offset and book binding. Most of the work that they engage in is generated through internal print-

ing orders from the Diocese and the schools. Revenue from external sources for printing jobs has fallen due to a competitive market. There is a need for a desktop publishing facility which will help generate increased revenue for the Press. However, plans are in place to extend printing training to field projects. Training in book binding has been taking place in the project areas and efforts are being made to encourage youth to undergo training at the Printing Press to enable them into self employment or engagement in the service sector.

**Reshmi Mukherji**

## G.B. LANE TOILETS

Construction of toilets at G.B. Lane commenced in December 2009 and will be completed soon. Two are being built, the one for the boys located on the ground floor is complete, while the one for girls is on the second floor and is due for completion by the second week of July 2010. The entire second floor of the building has been re-structured in order to fit in the girls toilets. They are so lucky! The part of the building which used to be an open terrace is now being converted into two school rooms to house additional students and to use for other vocational training for community women. The cement work and tiling have been completed and bathroom fixtures installed. It is only the drain-



age system that needs to be put in place for full completion – but I guess that that is rather important? At present, the completion of the boys toilets has given the school children (total 160) access to clean toilet facilities which are being used with pride.

You will recall what the toilet (in the singular) looked like in late 2008 – see photograph from page 4 of December 2008 edition. Eighteen months later, it is great to see such a radical transformation thanks entirely to the great kindness of several "Friends". Thank you to those concerned.

**Reshmi Mukherji**

## CCRS' SELF-HELP GROUP (SHG) CASE STUDY I



Sutapa receiving the Third Prize for excellence in tailoring and embroidery from the local Councillor at Pallymangal

Sutapa lives in the Saheb Mohol area of Pallymangal in a one room tenement with her husband, two children and mother in law. Soon after her marriage Sutapa's husband took to drinking. His alcoholism led him to quit his job and also to inflict violence on his wife and children. However, Sutapa did not allow her domestic and economic problems to interfere with her will to succeed. She joined CRS' skill training programme as well as a SHG group. She now earns an income taking orders for garments as well as selling nail polish in bulk. Furthermore, she works for the Kolkata Municipal Corporation's 100-Day Scheme which adds to her income. The income she earns has allowed her to enroll her children in school. Sutapa herself has enrolled in Rabindra Open University and hopes to appear for the Madhyamik examination (equivalent to O Levels) next year.

**Reshmi Mukherji**

## CCRS' SHG CASE STUDY II



Shanti Tikadar lives in Sangraminagar village (Canning) along with her sister, son, daughter in-law and a small grandchild. It was difficult for her to support her family owing to her poor financial situation. Her son was a chronic tuberculosis patient whom she could not afford to treat with the meagre income available. She and her daughter-in-law earned as domestic helps. She was facing extreme difficulty when she coincidentally met up with the coordinator of the CRS' SHG (or women's empowerment group) who helped her and advised her how to save small amounts. She was able to take a loan of Rs.10000/- and set up a food vending stall. Shanti and her daughter in-law work very hard to run the small business. She is now able to support both herself and her family. An excellent example of micro-finance at work.

**Reshmi Mukherji**

Shanti Tikader in front of their vending stall in Sangraminagar

## CRS FIELD STAFF

The field staff form a core component of CRS' programme division. Indeed it is the work that they put in with the community members through home visits, meetings and group discussions which make our programme possible. Starting this fiscal year, the field staff have been assigned to be part of "core teams" rather than being responsible for any one area. The idea is to foster team spirit within the groups whilst also maintaining a healthy dose of competition between the teams.

Each of the staff has their unique perspective on the work that they do. For Theodora Gomes (Education), it is the home visits that she likes best as she thinks that it allows her to connect with the community members. By visiting people's homes she can understand their greatest needs and then work to address these.



Kuheli Dasgupta's (Education) focus lies in imparting quality education in the schools. Asit Dutta (Health) enjoys liaising with doctors, hospitals and NGOs to bring innovations into the programme through health camps etc. while Dipali Das (Health) prefers working in the clinics. Ratna Chakraborty (Empowerment) loves her work with community women, finding them various income generation schemes. According to Ms Manjusree Paul (Empowerment), empowering community women is a priority. She loves to hold exhibitions to display the women's work and runs various skills training sessions. She dreams of opening a boutique at one of the centres. Let's hope she can persevere on to make this possible!

**Reshmi Mukherji**

## THE IMPACT OF THE FOOTBALL INITIATIVE IN KOLKATA

This year CRS initiated two football teams at B.D. Colony and G.B. Lane. The idea behind forming the teams was as a tool for development of the community children as well as to make it a platform for awareness for the footballers of Loughborough Emmanuel Football Club of the situation of underprivileged children in the slums so they could contribute towards their development. The platform also culturally links children in both the continents. Sports in general and football in particular - and more so in Calcutta - has always been an excellent way of keeping children off the streets and hence away from violence,

drugs etc. The concept has been used by the UN as a development initiative for children.

The introduction of this novel concept has been greeted with much enthusiasm by the respective schools. The children are extremely excited to have their own school teams. The first match was held in December 2009 at the B.D. Colony grounds and was a successful endeavour in fostering team spirit and sportsmanship among these children. More matches are planned.

For fundraising, the teams have been in communication with their counterparts - the LEFC U-10 team in the UK. The LEFC players have made contributions for CRS for the children as they have learned more about their new "friends" in Calcutta. We hope to build this bridge between the young footballers as we look towards a better and brighter future for CRS and the children!

**Dr Alfred**  
**CRS Executive Committee**