



Raphael Ryder Cheshire International Centre For the Relief of Suffering

NEWSLETTER JULY TO DECEMBER 2022

We wish all our readers a peaceful & blessed 2023. Happy New Year!

Early Intervention Centre (EIC)



An 'Early Intervention and School Readiness' programme has been implemented in the Therapeutic Centre. We gratefully acknowledge the support received for this project from Bajaj Finserv for one year. The objective of the programme is to create awareness in the community about the importance of early identification and intervention.

Two Smart classes, a pre-primary and a primary, have been set up with 6-8 children in each. The sensory park has been a bight! Individual therapy sessions continue with our in-house physiotherapists and speech therapist, and a visiting occupational therapist.



TB Hospital

Dr. J K Kalhan, Governing Council member and senior retired surgeon, continues to offer his services pro bono while we continue to look for a doctor. To enhance the services offered in the hospital a small ICU has been set up. It has been used a few times but instills a feeling of confidence that in case of an emergency we can deal with it immediately.

Training Centre

Among many other in-service trainings, Raphael hosted a three-day Continuing Rehabilitation in Education (CRE) workshop from 15 to 17 December 22 on "Transition from School to Work: Developing Social Readiness for Transition." The speakers were experts in the field and the 30 participants were special educators from various NGOs.



Children's Day

14th November is observed as Children's Day every year and it is Raphael's annual sports' day. The grounds were beautifully decorated with coloured balloons and streamers, and it looked nothing less than a carnival. The event began with a march past with Col. Biswas taking the salute. This was followed by several track races including a sack race which brought much laughter. There was a special Cerebral Palsy walk and a wheel-chair balloon bursting race. The winners were awarded prizes and almost everyone won at least one prize. The highlight of the day was the cricket match between students and staff, accompanied by a hilarious running commentary.



International Day of Persons with Disability



Raphael organised a 4 km awareness walk in the neighbourhood and were joined by the students of Laxmi Devi Academy School, a regular school located just below Raphael. The walk was a true example of inclusion. 95 students and staff took part in this rally carrying banners like 'See Us,' and 'We are like you.'



Awareness Walk

Vocational Centre



With support from the Rotary Lower Hut, for which we are grateful to Fran Moore we have been able to focus on vocational training. The candle workshop was particularly busy over the Diwali season. An overwhelming 23000 diyas (clay pots filled with wax) were sold this year.



A number of our young adults are being trained in hospitality skills and we are hoping to be able to set up a small 'café' at the vocational centre. The students are learning how to cook and serve and already get 'orders' from parents, teacher trainees and staff!

Outreach Programme

Parent counselling camps were conducted in April in the Districts of Bageshwar, Chamoli, Tehri Garhwal and Rudraprayag. 474 block level workers were sensitized and activities suggested for about 350 children. As part of the Outreach programme Raphael's team assisted with assessment for disability certificates in three blocks of Tehri Garhwal. The two district centres in Rudraprayag and Uttarkashi are providing services to 20 children. The resource persons have surveyed 90 villages in the last six months.



Other Events

The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has its base in Dehradun and has supported several projects at Raphael over many years. Recently a group of ex-officers' wives, donated a semi-automatic washing machine to the Barbara Cottage residents. They also joined our Christmas celebrations where they sang carols, laughed and had a great time with the students.



Some of our students took part in a State level dance competition organised by the Ivy Memorial Integrated Education Society. The students represented Incredible India in their spectacular costumes and showcased the culture of various states through different dances. They won the first prize and we are very proud of them!



Shiv Sadan

The residents were recently provided with new utensils that included a pressure cooker with which they were delighted as it reduces cooking time and the amount of gas consumed. They were also provided with hot water bottles to keep them warm at night.

Visitors

Dr. Paul Ghaie and his wife Anna visited from Australia for 3 days in October 22, Paul is trained in the use of laser acupuncture for chronic pain. Not only did he have a long line of 'patients' especially on his last day, but he taught our therapists how to use the device and left one with them. Anna spent her time in the school and the Early Intervention centre.



Bishop Drennan, a regular visitor to Raphael for more than 30 years spent the month of November at Raphael. A much loved figure amongst staff and students, 'Father Charles,' as he is lovingly known was seen at daily morning exercise with the students. He is so much a part of Raphael that we forget he is a visitor!

Robin Baker spent a month at Raphael in November 22. This is Robin's third visit having first visited Raphael in 1999 and then briefly in 2006. Robin is the Curator at the British Film Institute. He helped us sort out and get on track with social media; he posted on Instagram regularly, created a small promotional film on Raphael and a PowerPoint

presentation to be used for awareness programmes. He has left us with a huge library of photos and videos and we hope to do justice to them. Better still we hope he comes back soon so that he can take over from us for a while!

The Sue Ryder Family of Foundations sponsored Nicole Lorking to visit Raphael for a week in September'22. Nicole had just completed her Bachelor's degree in medicine and was accompanied by Kasun, also a doctor. The Sue Ryder Family of Foundations hopes to send out a few medical students from Bristol University every year for 4-6 weeks as part of their internship programme. We look forward to this new partnership.

We have had a series of young interns these past 6 months which is a great help for the school as we can never have enough hands. Rohan, Pushkar, Ayush, Nirala, Vaishnavi, Sushma, Priya, Sapna, Rinki, Gulafsa, Manjit, Jyoti, Antima & Sonali spent varying amounts of time here, all students in different fields. Thank you all!

Staff News

We welcome the following new members of staff: Surabhi Khanduri—Public Relations Officer, Kanchan Rawat--- Special educator, Rinki Chamoli --- Psychologist

We bade farewell to Mariam Ansari, Special Educator, after 38 years of dedicated service. We wish her a peaceful retirement.

Obituary



Colonel (Doctor) Jai Prakash Gupta, MD (Medicine), FCCP (USA) joined Raphael as Medical Superintendent on 19 April 1989 after a distinguished career in the Indian Army spanning 31 years. He passed away on 05 December 2022. Dr. Gupta re-organized the TB detection and treatment facilities at Raphael. He spent 31 years at Raphael where he worked steadfastly till the age of 89 years and retired on 31 Mar 2020 TB.

15.06.1931 to 05.12.2022

Sonu joined Raphael in July 1982 when he was 8 years old. Though he was on the Autism Spectrum he communicated with brilliant smiles and intense eye contact. His mother left him here and never came back to visit. He passed away in November'22 after a brief illness.



Balma came to Raphael in 1959 and was the oldest resident of Shiv Sadan. She succumbed to throat cancer in September. She was about 80 years old and was a very independent and lively person.



Munna (Guido) was left at Raphael in 1964 and died in September. He was unwell and gradually became very frail and succumbed to an infection. Munna was a very warm person who always liked to make friends.

We gratefully acknowledge all our institutional & individual donors who are too many to mention here, for their continuing support to help us to achieve our mission.

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