



Raphael Ryder Cheshire International Centre For the Relief of Suffering

NEWSLETTER January to June 2023

We welcome you to another edition of the half-yearly newsletter and also apologize that it is a bit later than scheduled.

There have been some changes in Raphael's Governing Council. Lt. Gen R K Nanavatty (Retd) completed his five-year tenure as Chairperson of the Council and stepped down on 31st March 23. Lt Gen P C Bhardwaj also completed his tenure as Vice-Chairperson at the same time.



Ms Sunita Garware
Chairperson Raphael

Ms Sunita Garware took over as the Chairperson on 1st April 23. A familiar figure at Raphael for many years, as her father lovingly known as 'Rummy' Bakhshi managed affairs at Raphael for over 30 years. Ms Garware has also served on the Governing Council for 16 years. Lt Gen VK Ahluwalia (Retd) accepted the position of Vice-Chairperson also on 1st April 23.

Dr Anoop Dimri joined Raphael as Director Medical. Dr Dimri has extensive work experience in the government healthcare system, having been the Chief Medical Officer in Chamoli and Dehradun districts. He retired as the Additional Director at Directorate General (Medical, Health and Family



Dr. Anoop Kumar Dimri
Director Medical

Welfare Uttarakhand) Dehradun.

Welcome also to Diksha Kundle, Physiotherapist, Prashant and Komal, special educators.

SPECIAL EDUCATION NEWS

43 children in the age group of 0-8 years have attended **The School Readiness** programme this year. The objective of this programme is to prepare children to be accepted in mainstream schools from Class 1. We are delighted that 5 children, 2 with autism, one with Down Syndrome and 2 with Cerebral Palsy have been given admission in regular schools.



Eishani



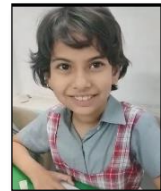
Md. Harnan



Myra



Tejasvi



Aadya

Training Centre: Among many in-service trainings, Raphael hosted a 2-day Continuing Rehabilitation in Education(CRE) workshop from 30 to 31st May on 'Augmentative and Alternative Communication for children with Cerebral Palsy and Multiple Disability.' It was attended by 42 special educators from NGOs in Uttarakhand and other neighbouring States.

Outreach Programmes

43 children are receiving intervention services on Shimla Bypass road in Dehradun through early intervention centres and primary schools. The Outreach B programme covered 4 blocks of Chamoli District, 3 blocks in Champawat District and 4 blocks of District Pauri Garhwal, generating awareness for 371 stakeholders and identified 112 children with special needs.



The District Support Centres in Rudraprayag and Uttarkashi provide homebased services to 22 young children.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Some of our students took part in 'Friendly' matches with two mainstream private residential schools. The Doon School invited our team to play cricket and were astounded by the skills our students showed. Similarly, another team played Basketball with the OASIS School and left the host school quite impressed. We are grateful for the opportunities we received but equally important, it is essential for the students of other schools to change their perceptions on disability.



Friendly Cricket Match at The Doon School



Raphael's students at The Oasis School

Raphael celebrated its 64th Founders' Day with much enthusiasm and we were delighted to have an audience of nearly 700 people which included parents, students from regular schools and local friends of Raphael. The theme of the cultural



programme was "Hum Kisi Se Kam Nahin" (we are no less than anyone else). Dr Jagpreet Singh, Headmaster The Doon School, kindly agreed to be the Chief Guest for the occasion. Apart from the cultural programme each class put up a small exhibition and the guests were escorted from room to room by staff and students who were proud to show off their work. The grand finale was Raphael's version of Natu Natu, the song that won the Oscars this year, and we had everyone tapping their feet and clapping to the music.

Three families, from Bageshwar, Nainital and Meerut, attended the week-long **Intensive Training Residential Programme** with their children. The parents are given an individual detailed home based programmes for their children which includes various activities, videos for domestic activities and speech and sensory activities.



Participants of Dance Competition at New Delhi

In March, 6 students participated in the "Talent and Scope of Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities" at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC) New Delhi and organised by the National Trust of India. They were accompanied by 2 staff members. After the programme they hired a taxi and visited India Gate, Bangla Saheb Gurudwara and other historical monuments which was a first for them.

A two days **Artificial Limb Camp** was organized in collaboration with Shree Bhagwan Mahavir Viklang Shayata Sansthan Samiti on 16th and 17th March. This camp was sponsored by Bajaj Finserv Ltd. A total of 163 appliances were distributed. There were 94 beneficiaries of whom 60 were children and they came from Uttarakhand and UP.



A beneficiary of Artificial Limb Camp

The theme for Down Syndrome Day observed on 21st March this year was “With Us Not for Us.” The students, residents and the staff of Raphael dressed in yellow and blue participated in a walk to raise awareness about Down Syndrome. The hostel buildings were also lit up in yellow and blue.



An Awareness Walk by Raphael's students

International Award for Young People: (IAYP) Twenty-three students completed the residential project and adventure journey on 27–29 March at Maldevta.



Students participating in activities of IAYP Camp

They undertook activities such as the Burma Bridge, river crossing, high rope walking. The students also helped with cooking. It gave a valuable exposure to the students and it helps a lot in shaping their personalities. They received gold, silver and bronze medals.

International Wheelchair Day was observed on 1st April. Wheelchair users and other students celebrated the day with a host of activities that included a wheelchair dance, wheelchair track race, wheelchair cricket and a ball game. Mr Philip Burrett, Education Consultant, was kind enough to be the Chief Guest for the programme.



An older resident enjoying an activity

The **Terry Fox Run** is an annual non-competitive charity event held around the world to raise money for cancer research. It is organized by The Doon School every year on 14th April. This year 30 students from Raphael took part.



Dr Dimri examined a resident

On 11th May Dr Dimri and Dr Bhatia from Smiling Ages Dental Clinic, Dehradun did a free check-up for 48 students. Seven were given further treatment at their clinic. We are so grateful to them.

From 17th to 19th May, Mr Ashok Kumar, Director General Police, arranged for a team from Uttarakhand police to train our female staff, teacher trainees and students in **self-defence methods**.



Self defence techniques



Residents at Golden Temple

4 young males with borderline disability are being trained as helpers and are currently receiving a small stipend. Accompanied by 2 special educators, they were taken on a 3-day **outing to Amritsar** where they then visited the Golden Temple, Jallianwala Bagh, and Atari- Wagah Border. They also enjoyed the different food which was a novelty for them.

On 30th June, a workshop on ‘**Celebrating Gender and Sexuality: Embracing Diversity**’ was conducted by Dr. Sakshi Mangain, Founder UTH- United for Transgender Health. This was attended by the special educators and administrative staff. Not issues that are talked about, this short interaction gave everyone something to think about.



Dr. Sakshi conducting workshop

World Environment Day is observed on June 5, every year to remind people to save nature and the earth by controlling their non-environmentally friendly activities. On the occasion of The World Environment Day this year, Indian Forest Service Probationers Dehradun undertook a plantation drive at Raphael and planted 50 medicinal & flowering trees

SHIV SADAN

GiveIndia, India’s largest donation platform enables individuals and institutions to donate funds to chosen causes, chose to run a fund-raising campaign for Raphael’s leprosy colony. It was three hectic days of shooting and re-taking hundreds of shots but the residents of the colony were delighted. More so because Shiv Sadan requires a huge amount of renovation and they understood that all funds raised would be used for this work. While they are all aging, most of them remain in reasonably good health. Two new residents joined this year. Sarla lived in a leprosy colony in Punjab. She lost her husband a few years ago and gradually the colony she lived in wound down. She is extremely grateful to be living here. Bhim walked in off the road; he had some oozing wounds and is receiving treatment. It took him a while to settle down but he is happy now.

OBITUARY

Subhash came to Raphael in 1997. Always cheerful, he would greet every visitor with a “what is your name?” He had not been well for a few months and become very frail. He spent the last year in the geriatric centre and finally succumbed to his illness on 22nd May.



Subhash



Bishalla

We were sorry to lose **Bishalla** and **Ganju** earlier this year. Bishalla came to Raphael in 1963. She had become very frail and could barely look after herself; Ganju had a stroke about a year ago and finally died of a cardiac arrest. He came to Raphael in 1984.



Ganju

TB HOSPITAL

We remain eternally grateful to Dr Kalhan who helped take care of the hospital every day for almost a year. Dr Dimri took over on 1st April 23. About 30 patients visit the OPD every day and at any given time 9-10 patients are admitted in the hospital.

DONORS: We are always indebted and thankful to our donors for their contributions:



Renovation at Shiv Sadan



Items donated by Garware Fulflex Social Foundation



Donors from January to June 2023

Jan 23	Feb 23	Mar 23	Apr 23	May 23	June 23
Ms Divya Jyoti Jagrati	Mr Manik Kapoor	Mr Kamal Sehgal	Ms Neelam Misal	Mr Kamal Sehgal	Ms Shashi Kapoor
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Links



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Stay tuned for more updates on Raphael's 65th Founders' Day celebration on Friday, 5th April 2024.