

Partners in Aid

# Newsletter

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September  
2013

**WORLD FOOD DAY** is celebrated every year around the world on 16 October in honour of the date of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. As our readers know, the Pickering family has a World Food Day event in February or March, and invite their family and friends for a dinner in outer Melbourne at Bayles. Up to 90 people attend this dinner each year. Joy Handy arranges a luncheon in Bright with great support from Simone of Simone's Bright, and has a great response from her local community (see the News section of this newsletter for more information). Cam, a supporter in Western Australia has been selling chocolates and we are sure there are others who have given it some thought, but perhaps not had the time to do something about it. There are many ways to make a contribution.



**What you might like to do** - you could supply a morning tea, lunch, or dinner and ask your family, friends and acquaintances for a donation for Partners in Aid. Individual receipts can be arranged for those who wish to receive one. Newsletters or an information flyer are available from the office – telephone 03 9704 6315 or email [admin@partnersinaid.org.au](mailto:admin@partnersinaid.org.au). People are not automatically put on a mailing list if they participate.

Ideas for World Food Day events include:

- A morning tea at your Work place
- Interest groups such as Parents and Friends, Probus, U3A, Service Clubs, could have a lunch or dinner
- Schools could have a free dress day for the whole school and ask for a gold coin donation
- A classroom could have activities, around the theme of children in other countries, cook food, and make a donation

A guest speaker is available where possible.

**Partners in Aid would like to thank all our donors, sponsors and friends for their generosity and continued support of our work.**

*Please help us spread the word about Partners in Aid by passing this newsletter on to family, friends and colleagues once you have read it.*

*Thank you.*

## PROJECT SYNOPSES

Our December newsletter will contain detailed project reports; the following is a brief synopsis for each of our current projects.

### **ABWU -**

The All Bengal Women's Union run a home for girls and young women in Kolkata, India. We support their vocational training and provide sponsorships for individual girls. Refer to the article later in this newsletter for current events.

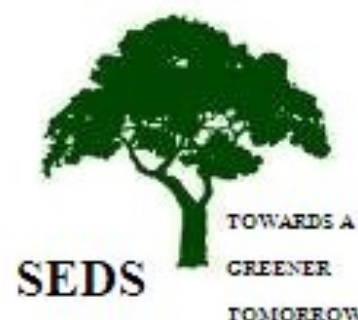


### **SEDS -**

The Social Education and Development Society, situated in central southern India, was formed over 32 years ago by Rajen and Manil Joshua. Partners in Aid's primary project focus, since our involvement began in 1990, has been in the field of watershed management. Over the years, we have included tree planting, bund wall repairs, fish seeding, women's self-help groups and employment of older citizens to look after the new plantation stops of tamarind trees. More recently, we have been involved in supporting an exciting low carbon farming initiative.

### **SEDS Child Sponsorship**

There are currently 200 children attending school in the SEDS area of development work. Partners in Aid commenced a child sponsorship programme in 1995, after five years of working with SEDS. The children selected for the programme have come from villages where watershed management has been carried out, and where VOs (village organisations) have been established to make decisions for the betterment of their entire community.



### **Symbiosis**

Symbiosis is an NGO operating a range of community development initiatives in Bangladesh. Its main aim is to promote human



development in harmony with the environment, with a special emphasis on promoting social and economic empowerment amongst the poor and marginalised, to allow people to live with dignity. With the help of funding from Partners in Aid Symbiosis delivers a Technical Training and Information Support program (TTIS) which provides vocational training in sewing skills to both men and women from local communities. In addition to the technical skills, participants also learn about a range of issues including health and hygiene, and take part in savings groups. Partners in Aid has also funded the Jamuna River Development Project, which enables Symbiosis to provide support to a community living on a sandbar in the river. The sandbar is being shifted downstream due to erosion caused by monsoonal flooding, making it one of the most precarious environments in Bangladesh. A detailed report on this unique project will be provided in the December newsletter.

**ABWU (All Bengal Women's Union)  
Kolkata, India (Joy Handly &  
Anne-Marie Maltby)  
Report from ABWU Children's Welfare Home**



The latest reports from Children's Home have just arrived. They have such a busy schedule here it is hard to 'keep up'!

Girls appearing for their Yellow Belt in Karate appeared before external examiners in the ABWU Auditorium. Four of the girls were unwell with fever, but insisted in doing their exam which shows great commitment on their part. Three girls were selected to take part in the first Open Women's Karate championship organised by the All India Shotokan Kyogi Karate Association. Priyanka Ghosh, one of our sponsored girls not only stood first in the exams but also received second prize in the below 13 years category at the championships competition. This is quite an achievement not only for Priyanka but for all three girls as they are competing with other students from all walks of life.



Injuda Majumdar, another of our sponsored girls has excelled in her year 10 Madhyamik exams taking first place. She wants to study computer applications and economics for her Higher Secondary studies. As these subjects are not available at ABWU, she has been accepted into Beltala Girls School Hostel where she will Board and study, returning to ABWU in holiday times.

A Computer Lab has commenced this month with much pomp and ceremony and approximately 25 girls will undertake training for a period of 6 months in two batches. A new Craft teacher has been employed to do creative activities with classes 3 – 6. She has already introduced new ideas for greeting cards and our sponsors will see the results of these at Christmas.

Home searches conducted for some girls have brought happy endings with a few of the girls being restored to their families through Court order. ABWU have been instructed to do a follow up of the girls for at least a year after returning to family. A new Child Protection Committee has been set up to address issues faced on a daily basis at the Home with representatives from the girls, management, residential carers, school teachers and the Child Protection Unit.

The hockey teams continue to be very competitive in all their games with 28 participating in Women's Hockey League with the senior group winning Runners Up Trophy.

Some girls attended an exhibition/workshop on Earth Day where they learnt to make paper jewellery using old magazines. Girls from the Special Education class went to Victoria Memorial Museum on World Environment Day helping paint tree trunks in the gardens and were commended for their enthusiasm.



The Runners Up!

Five girls have successfully completed their trek to Tumling for Gold Level in the International Award for Young People (formally known as Duke of Edinburgh Award). They all went to New Delhi in July to receive their certificates.

## **Young Women at ABWU—After Care Home Reach for the Sky**

We have been absolutely delighted with Annual Reports of some of the young ladies at the ACH.

For those who are not familiar with the 'set up' at ABWU, girls are in Children's Welfare Home from an early age until turning 18, when they are transferred to ACH. By then they have completed their Year 10 Madhyamik Exam and continue their study at ACH or go into Vocational training.

Those who are still studying continue their Secondary education and on completion some go on to start a University Degree, Nursing or some other training for future employment. As these girls are the first generation in their families to be given the opportunity of an education, they do not reach these goals as quickly as in Australia and are usually older when starting Primary School. We would like to share some of their outstanding results.

**PRATIMA DAS:** Pratima has now completed her Paramedical training with N.G.Medicare Pathology & Nursing Home and has been taken on as a permanent staff member with monthly salary of Rs.2350/- which is roughly \$44. Pratima is currently looking to get Government hostel accommodation. When this happens, she will be totally independent.

**MINA DHEKI:** Mina is continuing her studies in Government Nursing & Midwifery training and has successfully completed her 1<sup>st</sup> semester. As GNM is science based she is studying hard to continue to cope with the syllabus.



**ANAMIKA SAHA:** Anamika has successfully completed her B.A/ B.Sc. Degree, and has applied for a Government job. This can take a little time and rather just 'hang around' waiting; she has enrolled for a one year teacher training course..... another string to her bow!

**REKHA BAI:** Rekha is an orphan and at the tender age of 8 or 9 she had Open Heart Surgery. She made the decision herself at that time to wait and have the surgery after her exams. Joy saw her some months later and she proudly showed off her scar! She has made a remarkable recovery and has studied hard constantly to have now appeared for her final Year 12 exams. What an achievement!

**TANUJA SARDER:** Tanuja has successfully completed her Paramedical training Certificate. The Certificate is a treasured achievement. She is now undertaking Advanced Paramedical Training in a private nursing home and it is expected she will be successful in achieving her goal of full time employment when completed.

**KALPANA BANERJEE:** Kalpana has worked very hard in all her studies since quite young. She is now undertaking a Government Auxiliary Nursing & Midwifery Course where she is doing extremely well - her hard work is continuing to pay off for her.

**MAUMITA DAS:** Maumita has really excelled! She is in her final year of study for a diploma in Electrical Engineering. In her last semester she secured 83% marks putting her in 2<sup>nd</sup> position in her class. She has been selected into Mahindra Campus as a Programme Trainee where she may join on completion of her final semester results. She is also preparing for an interview at another campus. Meanwhile she has



completed her Computer Aided Design Course from Jadavpu University (Department of Electronics and Accreditation of Computer Courses). That is some achievement!

MONI PAL: Moni is in her final year of Radiology! She has completed her final Theory exams and practical classes are continuing. She has worked hard and always received good results.

MALIKA SHARMA: Malika is preparing to sit Primary School teacher's entrance exams. We wish her well.

JOYEETA ROY: Joyeeta has successfully completed her secondary education and has commenced her B.A. She is studying Elective Bengali, Education, Political Science, English and compulsory Bengali. She attends morning college and is also attending a Sales Training Course with FMCG products. 'FMCG' are Fast Moving Consumer Goods. This may give her some work while studying and is a fairly new concept; as are shopping malls!!

MITA DAS: Many of you will be familiar with Mita who is blind and orphan. She has completed 3 years at University of Fine Arts in Vocal Music and is now in her final year of her B.A. It is hoped that she can get a job in a Government Department and be able to teach music privately. That is some achievement for a girl who arrived at ABWU at the age of 5 with no knowledge of any family she had thankfully been picked up off the streets by authorities. She is totally independent getting herself to university on trams, buses etc., and we are sure this is because she obviously had to learn to survive on the streets at a very young age.

Comment from Joy: Having had almost 29 years involvement with ABWU I have over the years seen more and more girls being able to take on further education. This is no easy task and much gratitude must go to all their teachers, tutors, ABWU members who are constantly encouraging all girls to do their very best and mentor them all continually. Also their councillors play a big part in their achievements. Of course, the generosity of the sponsors at Partners in Aid plays a huge roll in what level of education they can follow as there is no 'free education' in Kolkata and books etc can be quite costly. So a big thank you to all our very loyal and supportive sponsors many who have been supporting girls for over 30 years!

Suffice to say that I am very very proud of 'my girls'. Of the 20 young women we sponsor at After Care, 13 have achieved very high standards this past year!

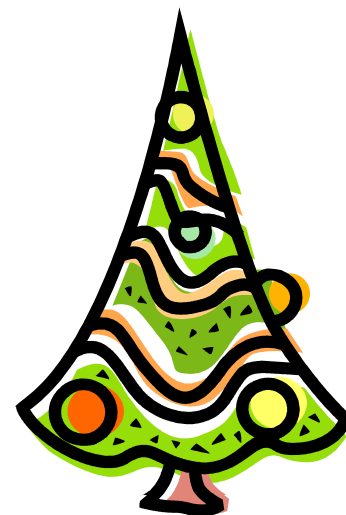
Where I live, in Bright, not a week would go by without someone in the street asking me how are your girls. Alpine Women's Group members refer to them simply as 'Joy's Girls'!

Anyone wanting further information can contact either Joy (03 5755 1344) or Anne-Marie (03 94298598).



## It's starting to feel a lot like Christmas...

It's only September, but Christmas is coming, so why not consider making a donation to one of our projects as an alternative to buying a traditional gift for family or friends? You'll be making a very positive difference to the lives and prospects of disadvantaged and vulnerable people, while avoiding the shopping hustle and bustle and queuing for a parking space too!



You can also make a general project donation if you prefer.

We are happy to provide a gift certificate on request; simply tick the relevant box on the donation form.

Here are some ideas for each of our project areas:

### **ABWU, India**

Any donation towards:

- ◆ The orphans' holiday fund
- ◆ Sewing supplies
- ◆ School text books

### **SEDS, India**

- ◆ Fish fingerlings \$10 per 1,000
- ◆ Trees \$10 each
- ◆ Sewing machines \$110 each

### **Symbiosis, Bangladesh**

- ◆ Tree planting and care \$50 per 100
- ◆ Writing materials and books for school \$15 per set



## What is Workplace Giving?

Workplace giving is a cost effective fundraising initiative, allowing employees to donate to charity from their pre-tax income, through their employer's payroll system.

### *Why donate through Workplace Giving?*

Workplace Giving is a win-win-win for workers, employers and charities. No matter how small the amount, employees donate to their charities of choice from those included in their organisation's Workplace Giving program. Employers enjoy greater staff engagement and retention. Charities gain reliable, regular funds.

### *How to donate through Workplace Giving*

Some workplaces already have workplace giving programs in place. Check with your payroll officer to see if your workplace has a program that allows donations to Partners in Aid. If not, then you could encourage them to set up a program with Charities Aid Foundation Australia ([www.cafaustralia.org.au](http://www.cafaustralia.org.au)). Partners in Aid is registered with CAF to receive workplace giving. If they have a program, but it does not include Partners in Aid, please let us know at [admin@partnersinaid.org.au](mailto:admin@partnersinaid.org.au) and we will try to add our organisation. Your board is currently looking to register with other organisations in an effort to expand the impact we can have with our partners in India and Bangladesh.



## **NEWS**



### **Annual Lunch in Bright (Joy Handly)**

Once again Patrizia and Anthony Simone of Simone's restaurant in Bright are donating their wonderful pasta for our luncheon for the 14<sup>th</sup> year! That is a huge commitment and we are eternally grateful to them.

The lunch will be held at the property of Steve and Heather McNamara who allow us to literally take over their garden and kitchen. They insist on doing all the set up which is a huge job and we are very thankful of that as Barrie and I are not getting any younger!

The lunch will be held on **Monday 18 November** from 12 noon at Ellendale Holiday Units, Delaney Ave, Bright. Tickets are \$25. Several of our donors/sponsors now attend this event and it is lovely for me to see long time friends through Partners in Aid make the journey. For further information please contact me (Joy) direct 03 5755 1344.

### **2013 Annual General Meeting**

The 2013 AGM will be held at 3.30pm on **Saturday 19 October** in Narre Warren. For more details and to register your attendance please contact the office on 03 9704 6315 or email us: [admin@partnersinaid.org.au](mailto:admin@partnersinaid.org.au).

### **Partners in Aid joins forces with Goodwill Wine**

You can now enjoy quality wine and support Partners in Aid projects at the same time.

We have joined Goodwill Wine [www.goodwillwine.com.au](http://www.goodwillwine.com.au) to offer high quality wines at excellent prices. For every case of wine sold, a proportion goes directly to Partners in Aid, with no overhead costs.

Goodwill Wine has been established to support charities and not-for-profit organisations and we are pleased that we are able to join the worthy list of affiliated organisations.

For further details go to <http://www.goodwillwine.com.au/charities/partners-in-aid> – great Christmas presents along with a gift voucher!

**We would like to thank Computer Initiatives, who help us keep our administration costs low by kindly providing their services at a reduced rate:**

- **Computer Initiatives, Berwick, 9707 4850 (Tim Moore)**



# Partners in Aid Donation Form



## Donations

I would like to make a general donation to Partners in Aid

\$	<input type="checkbox"/>
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I would like to make a donation to a project:

ABWU (orphans trip/sewing supplies/books/project support)

\$	<input type="checkbox"/>
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SEDS (fish fingerlings/trees/sewing machines/project support)

\$	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Symbiosis Bangladesh (books & writing materials/trees/project support)

\$	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Gift cert  
required?

## Child Sponsorship

I would like to begin/continue (please circle) to sponsor a child at ABWU/  
SEDS (Please circle and note in the box number of children you would like to  
sponsor)

Please tick the appropriate payment box:

3 months = \$60

6 months = \$120

12 months = \$240

**Total Amount enclosed  
(membership, donations and child sponsorship)**

\$
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If paying by EFT please email [admin@partnersinaid.org.au](mailto:admin@partnersinaid.org.au) for bank account  
details. If paying by cheque make it out to Partners in Aid and send to PO Box  
42, Narre Warren LPO, VIC 3805

Name for receipt: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (for internal use and occasional updates): \_\_\_\_\_

Gifts of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible (receipt will be issued)

***Thank you for your support***