

For the Love of Children Society of Alberta

Newsletter and 2017/2018 Annual Report

January 2018



38 years of providing help, hope and support to disadvantaged children across the globe.



Ashid Kumar Bahl School, Cusco

Report by Ashid Bahl

In August 2017, Mr. Bahl visited the School as there were several concerns about the reconstruction of the school due to the structural damage caused by the past earthquakes. As a result, the old school had to be demolished and a new complex is being constructed (see page 2 for photos). The children have been relocated to a temporary facility for their continued education.

The Society's contribution thus far towards this project is \$35,374.74. We have partnered with the Municipality of Cusco to raise \$1.5 million for this extensive project together with a grant from Alberta Culture and Tourism/CIP International Development (\$25,000.00).

Volunteering in kind services report, which totaled \$1,548,000.00 for the 2016/2017 fiscal year, reflects all the hours and effort the volunteers provide around the world.

Emajjin Children's Foundation

Emajjin Children's Foundation is dedicated to supporting charities or organizations that help disadvantaged or disabled children reach their potential. (www.emajjin.org)

For The Love of Children Society was chosen as the recipient charity for their 4th Annual Gala held on October 25, 2017. Mr. Bahl was delighted to have joined a gathering of friends and supporters for a great evening of jazz music, great food and a unique auction.

The gala helped raise \$30,000.00 in support of three of the Society's initiatives:

- Rebuilding the Gumpa Centre orphanage in Khatmandu, Nepal that was destroyed in the 2012 earthquake
- Expanding a one-room schoolhouse in Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- Rebuilding a school in Cusco, Peru that was damaged in an earthquake.

A BIG thank you to Jyoti and Anil Sanwalka for organizing a great event and to all the volunteers and committee members that participated to make this a memorable event.



From left to right: Jyoti Sanwalka, Sabina Chhabra, Akersh Bahl, Neela Chhabra, Anil Sanwalka and Ashid Bahl

INTERNATIONAL - UPDATES ON NEW AND ONGOING OVERSEAS PROJECTS



The water well at the Masai Mara School - supplying water to the children

Kangemi School, Kenya: Report by Ashid Bahl

Most of the children come from poverty stricken families. Funding in the amount of \$1,606.00 was previously provided for a printer and school fees for the children and an additional \$500.00 was given this year for this initiative as well. Future requirements for this school consist of kitchen renovations.

2017 KENYA AID

Sanare Masai Mara School project (Ashid Bahl School)

The school is situated in the Rift Valley in the village of Moreso, Kenya where the East African drought prevails with little or no rain for 8 months.

With the Society's previous funding of \$20,500.00 an additional funding of \$16,000.00 (grant from CIP International Development Program) was provided in January for the water project (comprising of water tank, piping and water pump) to cater for the school.

In the future we will be constructing the fourth standard classroom at a cost of \$20,000.00 and installing additional piping to supply water to the entire village.

The Society is matching funds raised by the Scenic Acres School fundraiser for the construction of this fourth classroom.

On our last visit to our **Talek School** in Masai Mara we assessed their immediate and future needs. The Society will be providing the school with a new generator, repainting classrooms and shoes for the children.



New Cusco school under construction



Children attending the Cusco school have been relocated to a temporary facility.

CANADA HELPING LOCAL AND REGIONAL KIDS

Dear Mr. Bahl

My name is Kianna Drewniak, I am a grade 6 student at R.T Alderman School. On Tuesday, November 3rd 2015 we had a field trip to the Aero Space Museum where you gave a heartwarming presentation about For the Love of Children Society. I introduced myself after your remarkable presentation and told my dream about becoming a dentist and traveling the globe to help children who are in need of dental care. It's going to be a long time until I become a dentist. I am inspired to start helping children today. I have an idea and I hope you can help me.

I would like to collect toothbrushes, toothpaste and flossers to donate to children in need. Dental hygiene is very important to learn at an early age. Good oral hygiene can prevent cavities, gum disease, bad breath etc. If I could collect all these items would you help me send them to children that need them most? I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely, Kianna Drewniak

The Society would like to acknowledge our youngest supporter, Kianna Drewniak who collected dental supplies to help our children in Nepal during the earthquake.

Thank you for your support and compassion.



New Recreational Scholarship Program for Kids.

The Society has initiated a Scholarship program for children with low family income to continue receiving karate lessons at the Woodbine Karate School. Our member Yuri Isachovich is facilitating this program and has currently two students that are being helped with this initiative. FTLOCS has committed to help them with 6 months of lessons at a cost of \$1,140.00 and recently another \$1,000.00 was donated for the same as well as purchase of class equipment.

Mr. Bahl continues to share his passion of bringing hope and positive changes in the lives of children through his inspirational talks to schools. He encourages these students to make a difference globally and locally. His talks are comprised of stories from his aid missions that facilitate youth awareness of development issues and encourage them to become global citizens.

CANADA HELPING LOCAL AND REGIONAL KIDS

Each year, we help local and regional kids with medical care, education, and sometimes just a bit of cheer. The following are a few examples.

Christmas Cheer

Jamal, single parent originally from Trinidad Tobago lost his wife in 2013 and has 3 children, 13, 7 and 4 year old. We received a request from Norm Barron, who has adopted this family that is in a very difficult place financially. In December 2016 the Society bought food and essentials in the amount of \$244.83 to help this family over the Christmas holidays.

Candace Martin and family had their house burn down on Christmas Day and they lost a lot of their personal belongings, furniture etc. The Society paid \$5,000.00 for food, clothing and essentials as they were only partially covered by insurance. This aid was a joint effort with the Society and Martha Hart/Owen Hart Foundation.

Improving Quality of Life

Mathew, father to a 21-month-old daughter, is struggling with all costs of being a single parent. A funding request of \$1,000.00 was paid to cover the cost for daycare expenses to Tiny Tykes Creative Child Care Center.

Specialized equipment and nutrition

Arianna, a 4-year-old girl with a diagnosis of Hypoxic Ischemic Encephalopathic Brain Injury. Due to her brain injury she is fully dependent on caregivers for all mobility, transfers, care and activities of daily living. She cannot hold her head up and needs extensive physical support to sit up with almost no voluntary movement in her hands and legs.

A request from Qi Creative Inc. Success Coaching for funding a specialized car seat as the family has very limited finances and are on Income Support. FTLOCS provided the family with a R82 Pilot Booster Seat at a cost of \$780.00 (car seat designed for children with disabilities and provides support to kids up to 12 years of age).

The Society also provides life-sustaining products such as specialized formula that is vital for infants that are suffering from a failure to thrive as well as a variety of medical issues.

Turner Valley students... 'Dare to Dream'

On October 31, 2017, Turner Valley School held the grand opening celebration of their new playground. For the Love of Children Society was happy to contribute \$1,000.00 to help the students achieve their goal.

"The message is much like the one you shared with them...the difference one person can make. They are on a mission to make a difference",
Becky Mowatt, Turner Valley PTA - president



December 5, 2017, Mr. Bahl at the Prime Minister's Volunteer Awards held at the Parliament.

Calgary Community Events Supporting FTLOCS



Sarah McLachlan Concert – December 2017

A joint fundraiser with Martha Hart/The Owen Hart Foundation. Some of the proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards helping our school in Cambodia.

Movie Night Fundraiser

On March 2nd, The Scenic Acres School held a fundraiser at their school with the showing of the Society's award winning film "For the Love of Children Movie". Around 100 parents and children came out to watch the movie in their support for raising funds to help build the 4th standard classroom for the Masai Mara School in Kenya. Prior to this there were other fundraising initiatives the children were engaged in that also generated funds for our charity. The school presented the Society with a cheque for \$2,298.30 and an additional cheque in the amount of \$1,000.00 was also donated by Mr. Jeremy Maslen at the showing as he was touched by our efforts to help the less fortunate around the world. The school will continue to raise funds to accomplish the above project with the generous support from the Principal, and our members; Georgie Lyons and Ron McNeill.

Birdies for Kids presented by AltaLink (BFK)

In 2017, Canyon Meadows Golf and Country Club hosted their 5th annual Shaw Charity Classic, one of the largest and most successful world-class sporting events held in the City of Calgary. Birdies for Kids presented by AltaLink (BFK) is a non-profit program run under the Calgary Shaw Charity Classic Foundation helping to raise much-needed dollars for local Alberta charities and provide matching funds for each charity involved.

For the Love of Children Society was one of the participating charities this year; with the matching funds from this program of \$13,805 and the kind donations of our loyal supporters, we were able to raise \$54,169.75.

Kim Hunter and Ashid Bahl at the Birdies for Kids Fundraiser



Thank you to our member, Gigi Cheng for her fundraising initiatives in 2017 that helped raise \$7,000.00 for the Society