



For the Love of Children  
Society of Alberta

January 2014

INDIA

## PASSAGE TO INDIA AID MISSION 2013



FTLOCS members with some of the children from Mountain View School

Report by Neta Sharma

As a first time visitor to India and that too on an aid mission was truly a gratifying, soulful and humbling experience. India is a land of contrasts, but at the same time there is an inherent rhythm to it; from the bustling lifestyle of over populated cities to the serene rural villages; from the breathtaking forts and monuments to the confronting poverty.

Our aid mission to provide ongoing educational support took our team of six members to seven schools/orphanages from Mumbai to nearby areas of Ahmadnagar; from Chandigarh to Delhi and then on to Nepal. On each visit to the schools we were embraced by the children's warm welcome, their compassion and moreover, touched by their resilience and enthusiasm for life despite what little they had.

**Smt. Kamla Mehta Dadar School for the Blind**, in Mumbai, was first on our journey. The school imparts academic education from pre-school to College age students along with a hostel facility for visually impaired girls. FTLOCS has been supporting this school for the past 20 years by providing Braille paper, talking watches/calculators, transistor radios, fans, and mobility canes. To further assist the school FTLOCS provided \$400.00 to equip the library with a new Braille typewriter. It was heartwarming to meet the girls and see how at a young age they are taught everyday life skills, progressing to reading in Braille, computer skills, cooking and more to become independent young ladies like Nikita. I was amazed to see how their disability had not restricted them as they performed various activities for us such as rope acrobatics, folk dancing, and singing.

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ALBERTA

## AFTER THE FLOOD... HELPING COMMUNITIES...

In June Calgary and other communities in Southern Alberta were faced with an immensely challenging time as they dealt with the impact of massive flooding. FTLOCS responded to this emergency by bringing aid to the residents of Siksika and Stoney, the First Nations hit hardest by the flood. Mr. Bahl met with the Siksika and Stoney chiefs and provided financial aid to assist 100 families on the reserves. The Society would also like to acknowledge and thank Calgary and area REALTORS, through their CREB® Charitable Foundation for their very generous \$10,000 grant to further assist the flood victims. The aid has to be sustained for a longer period of time, as it will take some time to help and rebuild these communities.

FTLOCS made a second trip in November, taking a truck loaded with essential supplies (three donated containers of household goods from Loblaw) to the Tsuu T'ina Nation. ❤️



Delivery of supplies to the Tsuu T'ina Nation

Our documentary,  
*For the Love of Children*  
was selected for the  
**Angel Film Award 2013** at  
the Monaco International  
Film Festival.

It received the Best Feature  
Documentary Award and the  
Best Film Award, taking  
the grand prize

**Angel Trophy Award**  
for Best Picture.

See Page 5 for the  
whole story.

*A Passage to India... continued from page 1*

The next day, we travelled by road to Ahmadnagar, visiting **Vioyalaya Vastigruh Orphanage/School** for 60 young boys. FTLOCS has helped this orphanage with educational supplies, a T.V., cricket bats and beds, as the children were sleeping on the concrete floor with just a thin blanket. FTLOCS also spearheaded the project to repair the roof, put in new windows and build a water tank to benefit the children and teachers. On this visit a much needed generator was provided and a new request was made by the children for a slide on their playing field.

We then drove into the old town visiting the **Sant Gadge Mahraj Chhatralya Orphanage**, situated inside a rundown building. As we climbed the narrow stairs leading to the orphanage we found the children living in very poor conditions in a small gym size area where the lighting was poor, no beds for the children and lacking proper water supply. The next day we revisited the orphanage bringing with us light bulbs, a TV, sports equipment, note books, pens and even a lunch treat for the children to enjoy (\$720.00). There is still a need for beds and bedding for the children and concern for sanitation and water supply at the school.

On arrival at the **Smt. Abbot Mayadeve High School and Junior Art's College** in Ahmednagar, we were welcomed like celebrities with flower garlands, a musical/dance procession and greeted by rows of children seated in clean uniforms with smiling faces. We were honoured to be part of the flag raising and lighting of the diya (candle) ceremony to commemorate Republic Day celebrations. As we watched a special cultural show performed by many of the students, it was hard to imagine that the vision of the school was conceived over 30 years ago under a tree and has grown to accommodate over 1,317 students between the ages of 5 and 17. In 2003, a new Canadian Wing was built with FTLOCS's \$15,000.00 funding that included more classrooms, upgraded washroom facilities, computers, educational supplies, and a large feeding hall. A large brick wall was constructed around the school to ensure the safety of all the children and teachers. It was humbling to finally see the primary and secondary school buildings and the completed phase one of the college that FTLOCS over



Sant Gadge Mahraj Orphanage visit

the years has helped build due to the lack of facility in this area and existing poverty. On this visit FTLOCS provided \$20,000.00 in funding for the construction and completion of the second phase of the college.

Our next flight took us to Chandigarh, where we travelled by road to Naraingarh Distt. Ambala, Haryana State to visit the **Mountain View School**, a residential school for parentless, abandoned children. FTLOCS helped build the school which has currently 68 children residing and received clothing, uniforms, educational supplies and funds to sustain their daily living. FTLOCS also provided electricity which was connected by bringing the lines from a far away state. We were very impressed on entering the facility to see the well maintained buildings, gardens, fields of fruits and vegetables and proper living conditions. As we sat amongst the children singing prayers in their temple or playing a game of cricket it was evident to see that the children were well nurtured. Dr. Anand Swami's dream in providing these abandoned children with home-like comforts, education, extracurricular activities and imparting moral and spiritual values to become good human beings is truly a reality.

Our final destination took us to **Gumpa Centre** in Kathmandu, Nepal. Hiking up a steep hill we could see the Centre nestled on top of a

hill. We were given a warm welcome by Toshi Lama (who runs the orphanage) and the residing monks as they presented us with sacred scarves and flowers. FTLOCS helped build this orphanage to help homeless Nepalese and Tibetan children. This Centre currently provides not only a home for 20 children, but food, educational supplies, medical aid and also a place to receive spiritual teachings. The temple is adorned with statues of Buddha and deities and surrounded by colourful paintings on the wall illustrating Buddha's journey. It was truly gratifying to have visited this spiritual home, experience their way of life and bring a little joy in the hearts of many children with our gifts of toys. FTLOCS also provided \$2,000.00 in funding for the Centre's running costs and were pleased to learn that with the addition of the temple and monastery it has become more self-sufficient.

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Gumpa Centre

*A Passage to India... continued from page 2*

The **Shree Hachowk School**, also on the road to the Gumpa Centre, currently has 502 students, with regular and volunteer teachers. FTLOCS has provided educational supplies, school fees, uniforms and on this visit an additional \$2,000.00 to the school for the completion of additional classrooms. In 2003 FTLOCS also built a retaining wall around the school to prevent damage due to landslides. It was very humbling to see the joy on the faces of the children as we distributed toys and pens.

On a day trip to Bhaktapur, a small town about 10 kilometers from Kathmandu, we visited the **Thanka Painting School** that FTLOCS has been supporting by supplying them with good quality canvases, paint brushes and paints. Children living on the streets can come here to learn skills to paint Buddha art and sell their paintings to help provide funds to sustain their daily living and pay for their education. As we toured the small complex we saw the walls decorated with beautiful works of art showcasing the talent, skill and passion the students have for this art form. The school is now self sufficient and currently has 45 students attending.

While in Bhaktapur, we visited the Durbar Square famous for its cultural and historical heritage monuments. It was here that Mr. Bahl was reunited with a former student Suresh Pariyar from the early years of the painting school who expressed an interest in setting up a new painting school. Today with the help of FTLOCS, Suresh is teaching at our new school in Bhaktapur, enabling more destitute children with an opportunity to learn the art of Thanka painting as well as providing basic education.

In addition to the facilities we visited, we also donated \$3,000.00 to Mercy and Grace Orphanage in Andhra Pradesh.

On this aid mission it was evident to see how through FTLOCS's funding initiatives we have truly made a difference in the lives of many deprived, abandoned and orphaned children. We saw the development of new and old schools where children now have better educational facilities and students have access to higher education. By providing essential items, educational supplies and improving their living conditions we are providing many children with a hope for a brighter future. ♥

## CALGARY

# COMMUNITY EVENTS SUPPORTING FTLOCS

The Calgary community opened their hearts again in 2013 and organized fundraising events to raise over \$53,000 for FTLOCS.

### FIRST ROWDY

A **BIG** thank you also goes out to everyone at **FirstEnergy Capital Corp.** for their generous donation of \$51,728.78 from the proceeds of their 2013 FirstRowdy Event. FTLOCS thanks everyone who participated to make this event a success and for helping us empower disadvantaged children around the world.

### CBSA+YYC GOLF TOURNAMENT

We would like to thank **Canada Border Services Agency and Calgary International Airport** and all who participated at their annual Golf Tournament in September for helping to raise \$1,150. The monies raised through this event will go towards our new school for the Masai tribe in the Rift Valley, in the village of Mareso in Kenya, East Africa.

### WRESTLING FOR A GOOD CAUSE

FTLOCS would also like to acknowledge and thank **Mr. B.J. Annis and The Next Generation Wrestling** at the Victoria Pavilion, Stampede Wrestling for their donation of \$725.00 from their 50/50 draw proceeds at their event on 22nd Feb, 2013. ♥

## THANK YOU

**to our key sponsors in the past year. We are humbled by your belief in our mission to improve the quality of life of many disadvantaged children around the world**

ATB Financial, Bashir Somani, CREB Charitable Foundation, EllisDon Construction Services Inc., FirstEnergy Capital Corp., Glen Rumpel – Rumpel Family Charitable Fund, G. S. Attariwala, Homes By Avi (Canada) Inc., Jagjiwan S. Mangat and family, Jamie Strain c/o Sandlewood Developments Ltd., Leonard B. Smith, Mike Shaikh, Mukesh & Kalpna Patel, Neena Hardman, Owen Hart Foundation Fund (The Calgary Foundation's Grant), Drs. Ronald M. Young & Lilly Wouters, Sam Kolias (Boardwalk Charitable Trust Fund).

### VALENTINE'S DINNER AND DANCE GALA

A musical night featuring Ek Jhalak Band accompanied by Calgary's renowned singers, a unique Fashion show, dinner and entertainment. Thank you to all the volunteers, donors and sponsors and Neena Hardman for hosting this event and helping to spotlight the Society's programs and accomplishments. The funds raised through your generosity are helping us to provide ongoing educational support in the construction of the **Ahmednagar Junior College** at the existing site of the primary and secondary school that the Society has helped build at a cost of \$42,000.00. ♥

### FOR THE LOVE OF CHILDREN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**ASIA****ORISSA, INDIA**

A children's home providing care to 30 orphaned and destitute children between the ages of 5 to 15 years. Street children doing hard physical labour, coming from poor families now have a home that looks after their basic needs in addition to providing quality education and medical care. Since 2004 FTLOCS has extended a helping hand to meet the requirements of the home such as food, blankets, beds/bed sheets, rent and educational needs.

In April this year we provide \$1,000.00 to the orphanage to help them purchase a motorcycle through a generous donation made by Jagjiwan Mangat and family. This valuable transportation will assist in carrying supplies for the children and also serves as an ambulance in case the children need to receive immediate medical attention in this very remote district of Gajapati.

**TACLOBAN, PHILIPPINES**

In December 2013 FTLOCS learned about the Church of Redemptorist Community in Tacloban that survived the devastation of Typhoon Haiyan. The church provides a place of safety and refuge for over 3,000 people who have lost their homes belongings. The landscape around this church is stripped bare and city streets have been flattened. In Tacloban alone, 90% of the buildings are either destroyed or damaged and over half a million people are now homeless. Thousands have died. In the interim the Church desperately needed funds to buy food for the people. They have not received much help due to their remote location—the only way to get to them is by boat. FTLOCS's funding of \$5,000.00 has helped Father Leo Armada with the purchase and distribution of food and water, as well other essentials such medicine. In January 2014, Mr. Bahl visited the Church to provide further funding.

**UPDATE (January 2014)**

Our team just returned from our mission in Tacloban to further assess the current status of the typhoon victims and address their future needs. We have been helping the Re-

demptorist Church provide food, water and medicine to the 2,000 homeless people, including children that sought refuge there. The Spanish-built church weathered the typhoon unlike others that received extensive damage. Father Leo Armada who was in charge of the wellbeing of the victims said it was overwhelming to accommodate such a large number of people, many of whom had to sleep on the prayer benches in the main hall of the church.

Two months after the typhoon, most of the people from the church have been taken in by relatives, friends or neighbours, who also generously provided the basic essentials. The generosity and compassion of the people will be the key factor to help with reconstruction efforts in an area where some people continue to live in what is left of their homes.

Most of the roads are cleared and electricity is restored in some areas. Some schools have resumed classes for the children, even this means having them held in temporary tents. There is some normality in the city as businesses are slowly opening to the public.

Ashid with kids in Tacloban



People have received money from aid relief agencies and the government relief fund. People think that it is a lot of money for people who lived on low incomes. This has resulted people to shift away from concentrating on the rebuilding efforts, as they are busy spending the money to purchase things that they never were able to have before. Some say it has made them lazy to clear the rubble or help with the reconstruction efforts.

Food, water and medicine are now more available. There are a few temporary homes being built, but they are not yet finished. The opening of the airport has helped to bring in the aid workers and the very much-needed emergency equipment.

We visited and gave gifts to a temporary shelter for children and their families to make their Christmas happen for them. These children showed us their school, which suffered extensive damage, and told us how they didn't like seeing their classrooms destroyed. We visited another school in Cauayan-Isabela that we have been supporting for many years and were glad that it was not affected by the typhoon. *continued to page 5*

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## AFRICA

### MORESO, KENYA

Our new Sanare Masai Mara School project (Ashid Bahl School) in the Rift Valley, Moreso, Kenya is rapidly emerging thanks to donor commitment and their generous funding. Ashid and Tina Bahl made a short trip to Kenya this year to see firsthand the progress on the school and to ensure the contractor was proceeding according to the contract.

Daniel Teyiaa, our agent has been working hard to get things going for the school and has done a great job. The school now has 3 classrooms, an office, 2 toilets, furniture, teaching and school supplies. With the school being in close proximity to the village children now have access to an education apart from tending their herds. The Society also recently provided ample food, water and medical supplies to assist more than 1.000 residents in the village and surrounding area that were affected by the drought season.

## AMERICAS

### HONDURAS

The new school situated in Patuca, Olancho, in south central Honduras provides over 200 students with the opportunity to



Ashid and Tina at the Sanare Masai Mara School

go to school. This elementary school is in an area where there are more students and not enough available spots in the government schools. This school in particular caters to the most vulnerable children who would otherwise be denied an education; children who attend here are not required to get uniforms for example because the parents cannot afford them. Uniforms are a requirement in the public schools in Honduras, and thus many children are ineligible because they cannot afford them.

The area does not have any industry and relies primarily on agriculture thus unemployment is very high around 60% and the government does not cover the cost for students to attend school. (Update by Corina Varela)

## HAITI

FTLOCS funding of \$15,000.00 to date for the Haiti Project has helped build the new Haiti School that is part of our existing orphanage. Dorsainvil, our agent has been instrumental in gathering supplies to start the school for the children. A water tank plus pump was also provided for the children due to contamination. Prakash, a volunteer visited the orphanage/school providing much needed food like rice, beans, oil, sugar, pasta, spaghetti etc. that could be just sufficient for a month. ❤️



Children at the new Haiti School

## AND THE WINNER IS... DOCUMENTARY WINS AT MONACO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

The documentary "For the Love of Children", directed by Ashid Bahl and produced by James A. Sinclair, won the coveted Angel Trophy Award at the Angel Film-Awards Monaco International Film Festival held in December 2013. The film also won the award for Best Feature Documentary, which was announced by the AFA Jury President and universally praised by two-time Oscar nominated, Palme d'Or winning film director Roland Joffé.

Shot around the world during his aid visits with underprivileged and disaster-affected children and their families, the film is about Ashid's life journey to help the less fortunate around the world. It shows that even one person can make a big difference to bring about peace and stability in this world.

The Angel Film Awards celebrates non-violent films, and its mission is "to entertain, inform, inspire, encourage and educate". It honours artists who, "through their creative work, actively increase awareness, provide multiple viewpoints, address complex social issues". For more information on the film and screenings, please visit [fortheloveofchildrenmovie.com](http://fortheloveofchildrenmovie.com).



Ashid with the Angel Trophy Award

## 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.**

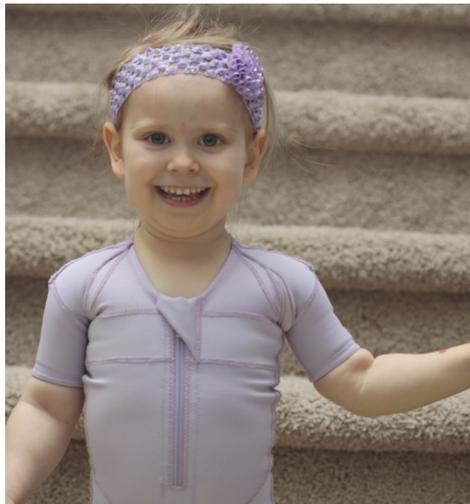
### ALBERTA CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

- A request from Alberta Children's Hospital Dental Clinic for \$1,155.84 in funding was provided to cover the cost of dental bills for a young child, age 5 who had dental work done at the clinic due to an infection and abscess. A family with a low income who had drawn from their benefits still needed to cover costs incurred by expensive dental bills.
- Funding in the amount of \$600.00 was provided to assist a Aidan Grogan's family with medical expenses during Aidan's stay at the Children's Hospital in Vancouver. Aidan is recovering well, having gone from being at 67% of his proper weight and losing more each week, to turning it around and now is over 85% of his proper weight.

- Emily, a four year old girl has a diagnosis of cerebral palsy with right sided weakness (Right Hemiparetic). Her orthotic specialist identified concerns with her abnormal spinal alignment/posture, her anterior inferior ribs sticking out, difficulty grabbing, releasing and rotating her hand making self care and play difficult. Funding in the amount of \$2,000.00 to purchase Dynamic Movement Orthosis, specifically a custom made orthotic suit and arm sleeve for Emily was provided to the family. The full body suit will promote optimal postural alignment for functional movement skills and help

prevent a fixed deformity in the future as Emily grows. The hand/wrist/arm sleeve will help to reposition her right upper limb/hand for better upper limb function & fine motor abilities. Emily has a very engaged family who have invested in researching and accessing therapies for their daughter which can cost up to \$10,000.00.

*"We are very excited to be able to start this therapy! Now, 3 weeks later, we are still seeing the improvements in posture as well as improvements in shoulder and scapula positioning. Her Physiotherapy assistant was very pleased with how the suit is assisting." Thanks again for your assistance, Stephanie ♥*



Emily with her orthotic suit and a big smile

### SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER

Christmas can be an especially difficult time for low income families with children. In December 2012, FTLOCS was happy to provide two single moms with gift cards totaling \$450.00 to help purchase clothing, diapers and gifts for their children.

Also in December 2012, with the annual donation from **Bow Cycle's Bikes for Kids Program**, we were able to deliver 30 bicycles to children at the Tsuu T'ina Nation along with Wal-Mart gift cards to twelve needy families. *"Again thank-you so much. You have brought hope to families who felt they had nothing"* —Corrine Eagletail-Frazier, Tsuu Tina Health Services

### FTLOCS AERO SPACE SCHOOL AND MUSEUM

For the Love of Children Aero Space School is a valuable component of the Museum's educational goals; allowing students an opportunity to attend the United Space School in Houston and helping sustain a learning foundation for students with the Museum's Campus Calgary programs. The week long Campus Calgary programs are an amazing launching pad to a lifelong love of learning. Using their specialized staff and resources, teachers bring their classroom to the Museum.

FTLOCS's funding of \$26,800.00 for the 2012/2013 school year will help support the Museum's educational programs including teachers' salaries and student transportation enabling many schools to participate.

*"The program is designed for students to utilize the museum as a vehicle as a means to explore the stories surrounding the aircraft and the important events of the time. An open mind will bring everyone that much closer to valuing all that this museum has to offer. Thank you for your continued support of this amazing program. I know that this program has at least affected 22 students in a very positive way!"*—Heather Lai, Westmount Charter School, Calgary.

For The Love of Children Society has been helping children in Canada and around the world for over 30 years. We have 76 schools and orphanages around the world and help war-torn countries and countries hit with natural disasters. We support children in areas including Haiti, India, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Kashmir, Afghanistan, and Peru.

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation, please make your cheque payable to:

**For the Love of Children Society of Alberta**  
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