



ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA METROPOLITAN

Club Regn. No. : 043290002/3842 • Charter Recd. : 17.06.1986



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

RY : 23-24

**METRO
VOICE**

<https://rccalcuttametropolitan.rotaryindia.org>

PRESIDENT : RAKESH KUMAR GOEL - HONY. SECRETARY : RUNJHUN GUPTA - EDITOR : SASHI DHACHOLIA

1657TH REGULAR MEETING

VOL 38, NO. 03

15 August 2023

Celebrating

77th



**INDEPENDENCE
DAY**

ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA METROPOLITAN

commenced its enduring mission of service to humanity in 1986.

Also started its **LEGS FOR LEGLESS** project, same year with the

MAHAVIR SEVA SADAN



AUGUST - MEMBERSHIP AND EXTENSION MONTH



He ensured the Club joining with Mahavir Seva Sadan as Partner in Service since inception of both i.e., 38 years ago. His vision paved way for successful association with MSS. A big respect and admiration for you.

Leg for Legless is Rotary Club of Calcutta Metropolitan's first flagship project, started from the very first year of its charter. As a part of our Community Service Project same year, we joined hands with Mahavir Seva Sadan and continued till this date as both have same object to serve humanity.

Jaipur foot I will term, as a miracle foot. It transforms and impacts the life of the beneficiary in many ways. After using the limb, the beneficiary can run, play or do all work like a normal person. Jaipur Foot is extremely unique, user friendly, works in all environments and cost effective. Each limb is customised to suit the user, and the best part is. replacement is done free whenever needed. There is a constant research work for betterment and phenomenal changes are carried from time to time keeping in mind the comfort and utility of the user.

A humble beginning of Mahavir Seva Sadan from a small 200 sq ft garage, today Mahavir Seva Sadan has expanded its wings in many spheres. Besides providing Jaipur Foot, Mahavir Seva Sadan caters the needs of Polio victims providing free Callipers, there is an Eye check-up unit, Physiotherapy, Diagnostic facilities, Homeopathy Vocational Training etc. On the top is service to C.P. children.

Providing prosthetics is helping the poorest of poor. Statistics reveal that 90 to 95% beneficiaries are poor. Major causes of losing limbs are accidents, medical reasons or some time born with deformity. Thus, Jaipur Foot transforms life turn disability to ability. This is the best gift you can give to a physically challenged.

Mahavir Seva Sadan is building a comprehensive C.P. Children Hospital at Joka, West Bengal with all facilities.

The work is in progress this is a very audacious and challenging goal, we hope with support from several Organisations, generous individuals and team work. Mahavir Seva Sadan aspires to be one of the finest service centres for C.P. Children in India.

In the past our club has successfully completed several limb and polio projects in association with Mahavir Seva Sadan with the help of Global and Matching grants, support from several Organisations and generous individuals. More is yet to be done as members of both the organisations are committed to serve humanity and contemplate several projects for the service to physically challenged.



His vision 38 years back and determination put Mahavir Seva Sadan where it stands, a pioneer institution in India today. He ensured MSS journey with Rotary Club of Calcutta Metropolitan carried on without any interruption since inception. A rare feat and Hats off to Shri Mehta.

Mahavir Seva Sadan was built in the year 1985. The journey started with the setting up of an artificial limb manufacturing unit, a first of its kind in eastern India, adopting the world-renowned Jaipur foot technology.

What started as a small manufacturing unit in a 200 sq. ft. basement area has over the years bloomed into a 20,000 sq. ft. compound with various other services for the physically challenged, especially the underprivileged. A fully equipped physiotherapy department is being run by renowned physiotherapists. In addition to the limbs and callipers, we started manufacturing artificial hands too. A vocational training unit was set up to impart various skills to the physically challenged to enable them to gain employment based on their aptitude. Our eye care unit provides free spectacles and cataract operations. A fully equipped mobile eye care van reaches the remotest of villages to help the poor with primary eye ailments. A diagnostic centre has been set up to provide free tests such as CT scan, ECG, USG, Digital, X ray, Pathology, etc. A fully equipped mobile workshop for manufacturing limbs, calliper and artificial hands has travelled to various parts of India and also internationally and provided our services by reaching to the patients in their area.

In the year 2013, another marvellous chapter ensued when Mahavir Sava Sadan established a cerebral palsy unit.

The outstanding work at this unit by qualified therapists and specialist doctors yielded positive outcomes. More than 900 children were registered in the first three years, along with over 15,000 visits by such patients.

Encouraged by positive results of these patients, we have envisioned an expansive medical establishment. MSS Rehabilitation and Research Centre is being set up keeping in mind the specific needs of the children suffering from cerebral palsy. Facilities that will be offered include the most sought-after therapies like physiotherapy, occupational therapy, hydrotherapy, speech therapy and music therapy. It will come with a hi-tech artificial limb manufacturing and fitment centre, a sensory park, early intervention and school readiness

programs, expert counselling, special education, inclusive education, vocational training, residential facility for cerebral palsy children with a parent training institute for special teachers and many more provisions. Alongside this will stand a multi-speciality medical centre, comprising of a state-of-the-art diagnostic centre, physiotherapy department, homeopathy department, eye care unit, ENT, dental care unit. One block of this gigantic project site will be a building with facilities such as an ultra-modern kitchen storeroom, dining space, residential accommodation for resident doctors, mini gym, and an expensive open space for a mini zoo and play area. The MSS Rehabilitation and Research Centre is a dream project of enormous proportions. Our vision is to restore the dignity of each human life.

It was indeed a pleasant coincidence that both RCCM and MSS were chartered in the same year. The association that started since first year has over a period of 38 years grown from strength to strength. The months of January and August every year are sponsored by RCCM under their permanent project "Leg for Legless". With the active support and cooperation of RCCM, MSS has successfully organised several camps not only in various states of India but also in Nepal and Malaysia. Under its matching grants program, RCCM has supported MSS in providing artificial limbs, callipers and hands in large numbers. RCCM is currently providing equipment's and other support to the Cerebral Palsy for an amount of Rs.75 lacs under its matching grants project.

We sincerely hope that our journey of service with RCCM will continue smoothly and successfully and together we will be able provide various services to the physically challenged, especially the under privileged.

We also take this opportunity to express our best wishes and deep gratitude to all the distinguished members of RCCM.

J S Mehta
President Emeritus
Mahavir Seva Sadan

MAHAVIR SEVA SADAN PROJECTS



MSS building at Ekbalpore



New Building at Joka for Rehabilitation of Cerebral Palsy



Opening of Cerebral Palsy unit at Ekbalpore



Children suffering from Cerebral Palsy



Patients fitted with Artificial Limbs



Children unit for Cerebral Palsy



A view of Gym for CP children unit at Ekbalpore



Artificial Limb of both leg



A young doctor offered his services free 38 years back every Sunday without any interruption. Such was dedication to serve the humanity, which is Service above Self. We are proud of you and keep serving the humanity.

United in Compassion: The Enduring Partnership of RCCM and MSS

The history of our partnership between the Rotary Club of Calcutta Metropolitan (RCCM) and Mahavir Seva Sadan (MSS) has been a journey of compassion and profound impact. Both organizations started around 1985 and in a sense were destined to collaborate. With the establishment of MSS under the visionary guidance of Shri J S Mehta, my association as an honorary member as medical director for their prosthetics project has been truly rewarding. Together, we have worked tirelessly to make a positive difference in the lives of those less fortunate.

"I have always believed that service to others is the highest calling, and through our collaboration, we have been able to touch countless lives," emphasizes the significance of our united efforts in empowering individuals with disabilities.

Our history is replete with significant milestones, from modest beginnings of MSS in a basement on Kabir Road, Calcutta, to the acquisition of a dedicated space on Ekbalpur Lane in 1994. These milestones symbolize our shared dedication to expanding our reach and enhancing the lives of those in need.

Beyond the physical assistance of providing artificial limbs, RCCM's vision extended to nurturing the potential of handicapped children through a scholarship program. "Education is a powerful tool that can break the chains of limitation," speaks volumes about the transformative power of education in shaping a brighter future for the less privileged.

Throughout our journey, we have encountered challenges, but our unyielding commitment and the support of RCCM and MSS members have fuelled our determination to continue making a meaningful impact.

Our partnership's significance is not confined to the local communities in Calcutta; it has transcended borders

through various Global Grant projects, reaching neighbouring Nepal and Malaysia. The words, "Together, we can create a wave of change that knows no bounds," ring true as we witness the far-reaching effects of our collaboration.

The heart-warming stories of transformation and resilience we have witnessed fuel our drive to do more. "Every life touched is a testament to the power of unity and compassion," highlights the impact of collective action in creating a more inclusive and caring world.

In conclusion, the enduring partnership between RCCM and MSS stands as a powerful example of what can be achieved when compassionate souls come together for a noble cause. As we forge ahead, I am inspired by the words, "We are but a ripple in the ocean of humanity, but our collective efforts create waves of change that touch lives far and wide."

Through our shared vision, dedication, and compassion, we will continue to make a lasting difference in the lives of those in need, empowering them to embrace their uniqueness and lead fulfilling lives.



MESSAGE – PDG RTN DEEPA WILLINGHAM



A Hearty Congratulations

Dear Past President Sohanji & President Rakesh:

I begin this message with a hearty congratulation to a club whose members exemplify the concept of "Service Above Self"! I cannot tell you how grateful I still feel about honourable deceased PDG Vijay Bhandari for bringing the Rotary Club of Calcutta Metropolitan (RCCM) into my life! Each and every one of you and your spouses are my sources of inspiration to do my share to fulfill the Rotary dream...a dream to have a world without polio, a world where illiteracy and extreme poverty are matters of distant memory, a world where creating centres such as - Mahavir Seva Sadan (MSS) - help people regain their mobility, dignity and become self-respecting and productive members of our society! I can name many other kinds of services you, the members of RCCM, are engaged in - but today I want to focus on your club's creation and support of MSS.

You may have noticed that each time I come to Kolkata with a group of high school students and Rotarian/non-Rotarian adults, I always include visitation to MSS in our itinerary. This is because I want the visitors, particularly the young ones, to experience another kind of humanitarian work that is changing human lives in a profound way! I want them to understand what Bill Gates, Sr. meant when he said, **"Back when Rotary became involved with polio, most people thought volunteer organizations were about tackling projects down the street or across town - not across the world. Rotary changed all that, and in the process, you reminded us that there is no human problem so daunting that it can't be overcome by people."**

You did not accept people's handicaps as too "daunting"! You took up the challenge and created prosthetics (artificial legs and hands), calipers, molded shoes etc. and you went about fixing what others may have thought unfixable. Like PACE Learning Centre (PLC) you created another magical place, and you called it Mahavir Seva Sadan! All I can say is "BRAVO!"

YIRS,
Deepadi

MESSAGE – PP RTN JAMES "JIM" LEWIS



His vision & support for Polio survivors is unmatched. A Polio survivor and behind all Matching and Global Grants on Physically & Mentally Challenged projects with the Club and also around the world. A big salute to Lord Jim as we fondly call him

Why Should We Help Our Fellow Man?

Who helped me when I was a 5 year old child, my brother was 3 years old. Before the Polio vaccine by Dr. Salk and then Dr. Sabin. We both came down with the Poliomyelitis a very infectious disease. The virus had been killing people and crippling children and adults for 3,000 years.

At that time in August of 1948, it was hot and the virus was all over the world. Who helped us first? My parents! My father and mother took us to a large county hospital in Los Angeles, California, we did not see our parents again for 2 months. The hospital nurses and doctors were very nice and did everything they could to make our young life comfortable as possible trying to get over Polio. My brother was not paralyzed, thank God, but I was. We got better, but the experience left us with thoughts of why us? We were the only ones in the neighborhood that got sick.

I am sure where ever we go in the world we can find the same situation with children and adults that have disabilities from diseases or from birth.

We must help our fellow man!!! In Rotary we can do just that with money from donations made to The Rotary Foundation, District and Global Grants are the tool to use.

When I first traveled to Kolkata, India in 2007 and participated in a Polio NID, walked the streets and alleys of the villages, I saw first hand the need to help, in so many ways.

I was taken at that time to visit the RC of Calcutta Metropolitan, a few more clubs also, but RCCM stood out to be the club to work with. Jayanta Chatterji was the the key person!! The friendship grew from the start, when my wife Carol and I visited the girls school in Piyali Junction Your club and other clubs and my club, RC of Moorpark, we are now Sister Clubs, started putting together Matching Grants and now, Global Grants for the school. We have returned a number of times now and our way of helping is to get our clubs, both in the USA and India to work together for our fellow man. For children and adults, who need Artificial Limbs, Calipers and legs for the legless. Grants to help Polio Survivors and those suffering from Post Polio Syndrome. Children and adults that suffer from Cerebral Palsy, must have rehabilitation to help them everyday. We have done that!

We have held summits to address Polio Survivors and will continue to do so.

WE Create Hope in the World!!! Because we care and because we are Rotarians and we want to help make life better for our fellowman.

Congratulations RCCM thank you for believing in us.

James "Jim" Lewis
PP RC of Moorpark
International Service Chair
D 5240 Polio Plus Chair

A HISTORY OF POLIO BY PP RTN JAMES "JIM" LEWIS



Polio, or poliomyelitis, is a paralyzing and potentially deadly infectious disease that most commonly affects children under the age of 5, and is caused by the poliovirus. The virus spreads from person to person, typically through contaminated water. It can then attack the nervous system. Years after recovery, post-polio syndrome may occur, with a slow development of muscle weakness similar to that which the person had during the initial infection.

Polio has been on the earth for thousands of years, with depictions disease in ancient art, such as in the carvings inside an ancient Egyptian pyramid, portraying a priest with a withered leg.

In the early 20th century, polio was one of the most feared diseases in the industrialized world. It paralyzed hundreds of thousands of children every year. Effective vaccines against polio were introduced by Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin, in the 1950s and 60s. Polio was

brought under control and practically eliminated as a public health problem in the United States and other countries. As of 1979, the United States was polio free; in 1988 the global polio eradication initiatives began. Since then more than 25 billion children have immunized, Thanks to the cooperation more than 200 countries, backed by an international investment of more than US\$11 billion. The timeline of the history of polio may be found at www.polio.org, as well as www.endpolio.org.

Today, only two countries have not stopped polio. They are Pakistan and Afghanistan. Many factors contribute to their inability to eradicate this disease. Rotary international, the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control, UNICEF, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation have been largely responsible for the success of polio eradication in all the other countries. Rotary has been working to eradicate polio for more than 30 years. Our goal of ridding the world of this disease is closer than ever. As a founding partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, we've reduced polio cases by 99.9 percent since our first project to vaccinate children in the Philippines in 1979.

We've helped immunize more than 2.5 billion children in 122 countries. So far, Rotary has contributed more than \$1.8 billion toward eradicating the disease worldwide. But it's crucial to continue working to keep other countries polio-free. If all eradication efforts stopped today, within 10 years, polio could paralyze as many as 200,000 children each year.

You, as Rotarians, are important to the world - Please continue to fight for the eradication of polio!

ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA METROPOLITAN PROJECTS FOR PHYSICALLY & MENTALLY CHALLENGED PERSONS (as on 15.08.2023)

Sl no	MG/GG no	Name of the Project	Project Cost in \$	Project Cost in INR	Remarks
LEG FOR LEGLESS					
Under Matching Grants					
1	7155	Calipers and shoes for Polio victims	18000		
2	13990	Artificial limbs	20000		
3	18865	Jaipur limbs and Polio Calipers	19084		
4	21660	Artificial limbs and Calipers	48000		
5	23521	Artificial limbs and Calipers	34000		
6	70741	Artificial limbs and Calipers	54479	2621488	
7	77399	Artificial limbs and Calipers	60827	3106134	
			254390		
Under Global Grants					
1	15-28467	Leg for Legless	55419	3792198	
Polio Corrective Surgeries					
1	14-11658	Rehabilitation of Post Polio Syndrome Survivors	86048	9761429	Open
Cerebral Palsy Children					
1	19-80213	Rehabilitation of CP Children	107144	7500000	Open
			503001	21053627	

UPON SEEING THE CRAWLING GIRL WITH POLIO

(Kolkata, India - 2013)
by Carol Lewis



My smog-scarred eyes
witness raw, be-sandaed palms
crawl, while crooked and callused
knees crack on broken bits of brick.
The dry road dust settles in;
your grave, seared eyes,
like coal before it's mined,
bear a secret for me to cradle, a wish
within my power to unearth, with which to gift
you like a diamond,
before my humbled feet bear your darkness
away with me, and I pen it
in the polio-free country
where I belong.

My heart is scarred
as my ear leans closer,
feels you shiver, shiver...I
hear what's been burrowed just
above your hollow belly
- your hope, swelling -
not for bread nor beauty but
for the right stolen by preventable malady;
the right to rise, independent
from the tainted dust, to balance,
to stand tall
and see on your precious feet
your hand-shoes
where they belong.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT RTN RAKESH KUMAR GOEL



Our club had just come into being and it was probably just the 3rd or 4th RWM when it all happened. I so vividly remember when our charter member PP Rtn Sohanraj Singhvi stood up and told us about Mahavir Seva Sadan and its commitment to provide free artificial legs to persons who don't have or have lost leg/legs for whatever reason. Till then we had heard only about Jaipur Foot. Some organisation doing it right here, so close to us, excited the members and we all expressed our desire to know more about MSS and its activities. Sohanraj ji then invited the founder of MSS, Shri J S Mehtaji, who came to our RWM and briefed us all about MSS and its commitment towards rehabilitation of Legless persons by providing them with artificial legs and train them in its use. He also told us that MSS gives these legs totally free of cost and with a lifetime warranty of its free repair/replacement in case of such need.

That moment blossomed into a relationship between RCCM and MSS which has only grown with the time and I hope and pray that more and more beneficiaries get advantage of this relationship between two organisations who have a common motto of "Service Above Self".

Forthcoming Events

CLUB

- 19.08.2023** Plantation of 1000 Mangrove Trees at Sundarban with RC of Calcutta Pointers. We will start at 6.00 PM at Outside the Southwind Housing Complex (first gate) which 1 KM after crossing the Kamalgazi Flyover on the left.
- 19.08.2023** Workshop for Menstrual Hygiene by SHEABLE Foundation at PACE Learning Centre at 9.30 AM at PACE Learning Centre.
- 26.08.2023** Regular Meeting at CSC at 2.00 PM. Guest speaker is PDG Rtn Ravi Sehgal and the topic will be "WHO TOUCHED YOU"
- 02.09.2023** Hosting "Meet of Thyroid Cancer Survivors & Post thyroidectomy Patients" to observe Cancer Awareness Month at 6.00 PM at Rotary Sadan
- 09.09.2023** Regular Meeting at CSC at 2.00 PM
- 23.09.2023** Regular Meeting at CSC at 2.00 PM

FROM THE DESK OF EDITOR RTN SASHI DHACHOLIA



It is always a challenging job to work on Special edition of Metro Voice as it needs lot of research and collecting data and photos. This is the third Special edition of Metro Voice on "Leg for Legless" under my editorship on the request of PP Rtn Sohanraj Singhvi. To talk about Mahavir Seva Sadan, it gives me pride to write about them as our Club association with them is 38 years old. A rare feat and very few could continue with this journey for such a long period. The journey of MSS is incredible as they started from small room to high rise building. Truly remarkable.

The persons behind is their President Emeritus Shri J S Mehta and the team and our Past President Rtn Sohanraj Singhvi, who had a vision to do "Leg for Legless" project with MSS since inception. Like MSS, we have also look forward with them doing various projects like "Rehabilitation of Cerebral Palsy Children and Rehabilitation of Post-Polio survivors" apart from usual "providing Artificial Limbs and Callipers under "Leg for Legless" project.

We hope to continue with this leagacy in coming years also.

Regards,

Sashi Dhacholia

THE 4 WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say, or do:

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

- 18.08.2023** PP Rtn Harsh V Rungta
21.08.2023 Rtn Dr Mary D'Cruz
24.08.2023 Rtn Rakesh Kumar Goel
25.08.2023 Rtn Vivek Bajaj



LEGS FOR LEGLESS AND OTHER CHALLENGES ~ OUR JOURNEY

LEGS FOR LEGLESS

One of Rotary Club of Calcutta Metropolitan's (RCCM) flagship project since its inception, 35 years ago, has been the "LEGS FOR LEGLESS" project along with its partners in service - Mahavir Seva Sadan (MSS).

"In this age of selfishness, selfless service is the only soap that truly purifies." Mata Amritanandamayi. At Mahavir Seva Sadan (MSS) you will meet a plethora of such purified souls.

Let's have a brief look at the journey of RCCM and MSS in the last 4 decades together.

More than three decades ago a small group of young persons decided that they should assist people with physical challenges. After a long relentless search, the best they could find was the 'JAIPUR FOOT'. After visiting Jaipur and under of Sri D.R.Mehta the program was launched in a small workshop at 5, Kabir Road Kolkata on 23rd January 1985. That this technology was the best, is now evident since even after 35 years, this prosthesis is being used the world over AND has won numerous prizes. It has completed almost 35 years of selfless service to underprivileged and physically challenged. The main objective of MSS is the social rehabilitation of Physically Challenged persons to enable them to regain their dignity and self-respect and bring them to the main stream of society. These people started earning their livelihood and supporting their families while earning their due respect and honour in the society.

MSS is a pioneering service organization in Eastern India for fulfilling all the requirement of orthopedically challenged persons particularly for manufacture, fitment and free supply of Artificial Limbs, Callipers, Moulded / Surgical shoes etc. Not only do we provide the prosthetics free of cost we also provide lifelong service and free replacements. In addition, MSS provides facilities viz Free Artificial Limb Unit, Mobile Workshop, Physiotherapy Department, Diagnostic Centre, Homeopathy Clinic, Cerebral Palsy Unit for Children, Polio Correction Camp, Eye Care Clinic and Vocational Training Centre. All under one roof. MSS has thus emerged as a Temple of Service for the less fortunate children of God.

Whatever may be the cause, a feeling of despondency creeps into the mind of the challenged. This is the time they need us to stand by them and help them to restore mobility and their confidence in themselves. MSS's entire effort is vindicated when they come back winners in life.

The characteristic of MSS is that the people who are manufacturing the artificial limbs are themselves beneficiaries who have been provided limbs by MSS and are working with full dedication and commitment towards their fellow brethren.

The total number of beneficiaries of various free services provided by MSS exceeds 165,000. Recovery has been effected even in very critical cases like bilateral damage of Limbs from Hip. A person who was earlier crawling can now walk normally and be a productive member of the society. This is nothing short of miracle. This is MSS, this is RCCM. Proud Partners. The idea is to

make the beneficiaries independent so that they can earn independently and maintain their families. The whole process is friendly and the goal is make them physically strong and financially independent.

It is a unique feat in today's world that both RCCM and MSS have been associated for more than 38 years. Incidentally both started their activities in the same year and are continuing the "Legs for Legless" project with same vigour and spirit. The credit goes to Shri J S Mehta of MSS and PP Rtn Sohanraj Singhvi and Dr. V. K. Nevatia of RCCM, who together carried this flagship project smoothly. We are grateful to all of them. MSS has transformed from a very humble beginning with a small workshop to today's multi-storied building with myriad facilities which offer free of cost services for the lifetimes of all beneficiaries.

Our achievement in this project are that every year in January and August we sponsor and provide FREE artificial limbs, callipers to Polio victims, prosthetics hand and scholarship to the physically challenged persons to take life forward. Several camps were held for Polio corrective surgery. Rotary Sports for physically challenged persons in cooperation with MSS was also organized. We have also distributed wheel chairs, tricycles to those in need. The meritorious children of many of their families were also given cash scholarships to support their education.

The major factor is that we guarantee lifelong service to the beneficiaries, who are provided with artificial limbs, callipers to Polio victims and prosthetics hand, free replacement in case any damage in future.

We have several Matching/Global grant projects with MSS with the support from International Rotary Clubs, Rotary Foundation and others. Apart from holding camps at MSS venue, several outreach camps were held at Champahati, Tarakeswar, Durgapur, Naihati, Purulia, Jhargram, Jasidih, Sonarpur, Tuticorn and Simurali. Apart from state of West Bengal, we have also conducted camps with the support of MSS in other states. More importantly, this project was taken to Malaysia and Nepal. We proudly can say that we have provided more than FREE 35,000 artificial limbs, callipers etc till date. Leg for Legless Project was selected as one of the Rotary Centennial Projects. An honour for our club. This project has also brought several awards/recognitions for us. Any visitor to this project feels like visiting a temple. Dignitaries from all spheres of life have appreciated this noble project.

We are grateful to our International/ Indian partners because of them, it was possible to execute various projects, and they are RC of Moorpark, RC of Thousand Oaks, RC of Lake Elsinore, RC of Metro City New York, RC of Singapore, RC of Pasir Gudang, RC of Calcutta Maiden, RC of Taft, RC of Pismo Beach, RC of Moorpark Morning, RC of Cayucos Seaside, RC of China Lake, RC of Conejo Valley, RC of Goleta Noontime, RC of Lososos, RC of Ojai, RC of Ojai West, RC of Santa Yenz Valley, RC of Sini Valley, RC of Tehachajse, RC of Wasco, RC of Pasadena, RC of Montebello, RC of Santa Maria-Breakfast, RC of Grover Beach, RI District-3291, 5240, 3240, 3310 and 5300 and others like RC of Gary Grove, USA, RC of Medicine Hat, Canada, RC

LEGS FOR LEGLESS AND OTHER CHALLENGES ~ OUR JOURNEY

of Southport Links, UK, RC of St.John's, Canada, RC of Plainsboro, USA as overall participation from USA, UK, Canada, Singapore and Malaysia.

Do you know, who is the person who singly handily ensure participation of more than 18 International Clubs for Global Grants projects is none other than our PP Rtn Jim Lewis from Rotary Club of Moorpark, California, USA. He is himself is polio survivor. His sheer passion and dedication ensured so many projects worldwide for physically challenged. You can make it out from the above names, how he brought various International Clubs and Rotary International to participate in these projects.

So far, projects involvement both completed/open is approx. US\$ 503,001 which comes to INR- 3.50 crores on current Indian value with the help from Rotary International, International and Indian partners and various District of Rotary throughout the world as per detail are attached.

Our Leg for Legless projects for providing Artificial Limbs, Callipers, prosthetics hand , wheel chairs, tricycles and scholarship to physically challenged students is running smoothly which gradually will make especially Kolkata Crutches free very soon.

Our own Rtn Dr V K Nevatia, Orthopaedic Surgeon and Medical Director of Mahavir Seva Sadan has played very important role in executing the project. He deserved big salute from all of us. PP Rtn Sohanraj Singhvi, as usual, played a fatherly role for our association with MSS. A big salute to him.



LEGS FOR LEGLESS AND OTHER CHALLENGES ~ OUR JOURNEY



LEGS FOR LEGLESS AND OTHER CHALLENGES ~ OUR JOURNEY



REHABILITATION OF POST-POLIO SYNDROME SURVIVORS

When India prepares to be certified as a polio free country after the statutory period of 3 years of zero reporting, this project aims at addressing the huge footprints this dreaded disease has left behind. This Humanitarian project is designed to address the needs of polio survivors in West Bengal, Assam and other states of North Eastern region of our country, India. Hundreds of polio survivors live in West Bengal and in the neighbouring states. Many of these survivors with different degrees of disability are living in despair with little hope of any future life that is meaningful and worthwhile. The socio-economic factors made it worse for them. They are dependent on their family for support for the whole life, the family who is already overburdened with a large family to support. Many of these families are large with only a few bread earners. This project will help address this problem. The project will correct their disability to the extent possible or provide other kind of support to make them able to live independently.

The objectives of the Global Grant is to identify polio victims in the community as mentioned, address the medical needs of the person and provide the medical help by polio corrective surgeries. Physiotherapy where needed after surgery will be given. Calipers (braces) will be given to those who can't be operated or who can't walk even after the surgery. Wheelchairs and tricycles are needed for those whose disabilities are beyond the scope of the surgery or calipers. The patients will be provided with free sustainable care on a permanent basis. During the course of the project, the scope of the project was increased and the children suffering from congenital foot deformities were also included in the program and were given the opportunities to get benefited.

This project is brain child of PP Rtn Jim Lewis of Rotary Club of Moorpark, California, USA who single handedly arranged various International partners to contribute

and participate in this project. PP Rtn Jim Lewis is himself is polio survivor. He is always concerned with any matter related to polio and comes forward to help them. This project came under Global Grants # 14-11658 amounting to US\$ 1,44,343 which to INR-88,05,000/-. Against this grant, we have done the following: -

- 1696 nos Callipers to Polio victims
- 68 nos Tricycles to physically handicapped
- 15 nos Wheel Chair to physically handicapped
- 381 nos of Surgeries to Polio affected

Our challenge came while doing the project "Rehabilitation of Post-Polio Syndrome Survivors" to locate patients for Polio Corrective surgeries but thanks of Lions Club, we were able to complete the project in time and it was a huge success. This is first time in Kolkata that both Rotary and Lions came together to do the project to serve the mankind.

We are grateful to main partner Rotary Club of Moorpark, California, USA and other clubs from USA like- RC of Moorpark, RC of Pasir Gudang, RC of Calcutta Maiden, RC of Taft, RC of Pismo Beach, RC of Moorpark Morning, RC of Cayucos Seaside, RC of China Lake, RC of Conejo Valley, RC of Goleta Noontime, RC of Lososos, RC of Ojai, RC of Ojai West, RC of Santa Yenz Valley, RC of Sini Valley, RC of Tehachajse, RC of Wasco, RC of Pasadena, RC of Montebello, RC of Santa Maria-Breakfast, RC of Grover Beach, RI District-3291, 5240, 3240, 3310 and 5300 and others.

We are thankful to our own Rtn Dr V K Nevatia, who played a major role for the completion of this project particularly arranging and doing the surgeries and bringing Lions Club to complete the surgeries for the first time with Rotary in District-3291.



LEGS FOR LEGLESS AND OTHER CHALLENGES ~ OUR JOURNEY



REHABILITATION OF CEREBRAL PALSY CHILDREN

This project is to address the sufferings of those who are physically and mentally challenged because of diseases like cerebral palsy.

There are several children born with disability since birth. Their brain got affected while they were in womb because of their mother getting affected while they are pregnant. These children suffer from cerebral palsy which leads to many disabilities including retarded mental development, inability to perform day to day work on their own. They are dependent on someone who can help them to survive. This project will help them by addressing their diseases. This project will provide rehabilitation to these children by expert technician with the help of machines so that they can become independent and lead normal life.

Polio is on verge of eradication from this planet. But, it has left many foot prints. The patients who have survived this dreaded disease have been suffering from disabilities which needed to be addressed by either polio corrective surgery, callipers, foot etc. This project will take care of these needs. Many persons get involved in accidents and become disabled. They get amputation of their legs or lose their hands. This project will address these needs.

We have also commenced with the ground breaking of our "Rehabilitation of Cerebral Palsy Children" which will provide necessary equipment for rehabilitation of Cerebral Palsy children and to provide vocational training to the staff to handle the necessary equipment. This project will start soon.

LEGS FOR LEGLESS AND OTHER CHALLENGES ~ OUR JOURNEY

Again this project comes under Global Grants US# 1,07,144 which comes to INR- 75,00,000/-. This project will commence soon.

Here again, PP Rtn Jim Lewis of Rotary Club of Moorpark, California, USA played a major role as International partner in this project. Our International partner is Rotary Club of Moorpark Morning. Rtn Dr V K Nevtia will ensure proper implementation of this project.



HEARTFELT THANKS

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO OUR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS IN SERVICE FOR EXECUTION OF VARIOUS MATCHING AND GLOBAL GRANTS PROJECTS ON "PHYSICALLY & MENTALLY CHALLENGED" FROM TIME TO TIME. FROM USA, CANADA, UK, MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE

1. RC of Moorpark	17. RC of Pasadena
2. RC of Moorpark Morning	18. RC of Monte bello
3. RC of Taft	19. RC of Santa Maria-Breakfast
4. RC of Pismo Beach (Five cities)	20. RC of Grover Beach
5. RC of Cayucos-Seaside	21. R I District- 5240, 3310 and 5300 OF USA
6. RC of China Lake	22. RC of Gary Grove
7. RC of Conejo Valley	23. RC of Plainsboro
8. RC of Goleta Noontime	24. RC of Lake Elsinore
9. RC of Los Osos	25. RC of Metro New York City
10. RC of Ojai	26. RC of Pismo Beach
11. RC of Ojai West	27. RC OF Medicine Hat, Canada
12. RC of Santa Ynez Valley	28. RC of St John's, Canada
13. RC of Simi Valley	29. RC of Southport Links, UK
14. RC of Tehachajse	30. RC of Singapore
15. RC of Thousand Oaks	31. RC of Pasir Gudang, Malaysia
16. RC of Wasco	

"PRODIGY MOTHER AND PRODIGY CHILD" A TALK BY GUEST SPEAKER DR GOURI KUMRA ON 29.07.2023

'Maternal and Child health' theme of the Rotary for the month of July, was celebrated with the presence of the speaker Dr Gouri Kumar, a renowned Obstetrician, and a Gynaecologist with 35 years of experience. She spoke on Prodigy Mother and Prodigy child.

We invited ladies from the Inner wheel of Calcutta Metropolitan as special guests to benefit from the speaker and the session along with the members and their spouses.

President Rakesh Goel then invited PP Rtn Gaurang Jalan to introduce the Guest Speaker Dr Gouri Kumra and invited her to speak.

Dr Gouri Kumra made the session extremely interactive and shared her message in a very innovative way. She said how it's so important for both men and women to have synergies that lead to a prodigy child. It's not just the mother and not just the father. She highlighted that it is the high emotional quotient that makes for a Prodigy mother and it is reflected in a woman's poise and for a man in how he shows up especially with respect to decision making. She further explained the importance of knowing our Archi type, whether we are sensory, or aesthetic or feelers and learning how to use that to reach our complete authentic self so we can make the right decisions during the testing times. She gave the

example of how 'Vidhur', the character from Mahabharat was able to take a strong stance during 'Draupadi Vastrharan' even though he came from humble beginnings because he was aligned with his Archi type.

She did a practical exercise of asking members to emote through the drawings and she shared her analysis of the members and their possible areas of pain or concern. She said happiness is an internal work and it is important to find a way to be happy. She said 'google' addiction is not the best way and she shared a concept of creating cards with positive messages that can be used the entire day to motivate oneself and others. Members and guests were given an experience of picking a message through their cards. Overall, the session was very engaging and members and guests were left smiling.

PP Rtn Naresh Goyal gave the vote of thanks, highlighting the association with the guest speaker for last 35 years, starting their professional journey together.

President Rakesh Kumar Goel requested Secretary Rtn Runjhun Gupta to give a token of gratitude to guest speaker.

By Secretary: Rtn Runjhun Gupta

GLIMPSE OF REGULAR MEETING IN PROGRESS ON 29.07.2023



MINUTES OF THE 1ST CLUB ASSEMBLY OF RY 2023-2024 OF ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA METROPOLITAN HELD ON SATURDAY, THE 29TH JULY, 2023 AT 3.15 PM AT CALCUTTA SWIMMING CLUB, 1, STRAND ROAD, KOLKATA-700-001

1. President Rtn Rakesh Kumar Goel called the 1st Club Assembly of RY-2023-2024 to order.
2. The purpose of calling the 1st Club Assembly is so that respective Directors/Chairmen let the members know about the proposed programs or projects during the current year subject to the approval of the Board.
3. President informed that both AG and ZS of Zone-16 could not attend the meeting due to pre-occupation.
4. President request PP Rtn Gaurang Jalan, Chairman & Director-Club Administration to present his objectives for the year:
 - To hold at least 24 Regular Meetings
 - To hold 4 Club Assembly
 - To hold Annual Meeting
 - To hold Board Meeting every month
 - To hold 4 Trust Meetings
 - To hold Joint Meetings with other Clubs and Institutions
 - To bring High-profile Guest speakers in our Regular Meetings
 - To publish Club Bulletin-Metro Voice in every Regular meeting which includes special edition of MV for special projects
 - To publish Souvenir preferably on 15.8.2023 to bring much needed funds both for the Club and Trust
 - In today's world digital is playing very important role, hence our Club website and all Rotary websites should be updated regularly
 - To improve the overall Club attendance particularly by involving each member in some activity
 - To send Birthday and Marriage Anniversary Cards with flower bouquet to each member. He informed that this practice is already prevailing but due to Covid it was stopped.
 - To hold at least 4 Fellowships or every alternate 2 months, which includes Installation meeting, Pace Universal visit, DG's visit, Charter Night on 17.7.2024 etc.
 - To ensure necessary compliance of statutory requirements in time and during the current year care will be taken to comply all Statutory requirements in time.
5. President then requested Rtn Narendra Berlia, Chairman & Director-Membership to give his vision about membership, who proposed the following:
 - To bring young and energetic members
 - To increase the membership at least by 10%, out of which 1 member were already inducted
 - To update the Classification list
 - To organize seminar on Membership, which being held on 26.8.2023
 - To suitably rewards those who bring new members
 - To induct one lady member was already inducted on 30.6.2024
8. President requested PP Rtn Utpal Chatterjee, Chairman & Director-Public Relation to give his vision about Public Relation, who proposed the following:
 - Rota Quiz can be organised in September as it is Education Literacy month
 - November is Rotary Foundation month and we can have a PDG speaker on the occasion.
 - February 2024 is Peace & Conflict resolution month and we can have another PDG come as Speaker
 - Good visit to Rotary Clubs at least two during the year
 - We will report about all our activities in Metro voice, GML, Rotary News, Social Media etc with pictures.
 - Anns can do a project at MSS in association with our Inner wheel
 - Will try and get both Press&Radio coverages for our marquee projects
9. President then requested Rtn Pradip Kapoor, Treasurer to give his plan of action:
 - To ensure all statutory obligations are done in time like filing of Income Tax return, Trust return, GST, FCRA, TDS etc
 - Since the Club has become 100% PHF, he will look forward to make it 200% PHF this year also. Requesting members to contribute to the Foundation.
 - Audit of both Club and Trust to be done in time.
 - Membership invoice for the 1st Half has been raised. Previous year membership dues are Nil.
 - He thanked PP Rtn Jayanta Chatterji and PP Rtn DR Naresh Goyal, who are handling some Income Tax appeal matter and sort out the same.
6. President requested PP Rtn Dr Somen Ghosh, Director & Chairman-Service (Medical & Non-Medical) who proposed the following:
 - To organize one Movie show "Avijatrik" for Senior Citizens from Pronom on 5.8.2023 at Nandan
 - To continue with Leg for Legless project and to provide scholarship to physically Challenged at MSS
 - To continue with Rehabilitation of Cerebral Palsy Children at MSS
 - Health camps at PLC and Duttapukur (Barasat)
 - Eye Check-up and Surgeries- we have already done one camp at MSS providing 10 surgeries on 1.7.2023 and proving specs to 100 needy people
 - Sanitary Napkins and Inner wear to women folks of Nabadiganta Leprosy Colony, Durgpaur
 - Plantation of trees
 - Environment friendly project
 - To do Phaco project under the Global Grants
 - To continue to support District Polio programs
 - To arrange Movie show for senior citizens
 - In case of Disaster, to arrange relief etc
10. President requested PP Rtn Harsh V Rungta- Service-II, Director & Chairman to give his plan of action:
 - To provide one Super Power Tiller to Ramkrishnapur Rani Rashmoni Seva Sangha at Kulpi
 - To various agricultural and other projects in Sundarbans areas
 - To provide tube wells for better quality of water to the villagers of Ramkrishnapur Rani Rashmoni Seva Sangha, Kulpi
 - To install Vermicompost manufacturing plant at Rani Ramkrishnapur Rani Rashmoni Seva Sangha, Kulpi
 - To train maids with the help of NGO-Karam Kutir
 - To provide Solar Lighting project at PACE Learning Centre and another at Ramkrishnapur Rani Rashmoni Seva Sangha, Kulpi for Old Age home.
 - To establish & running of Piyali Vocational Learning Centre at PACE Learning Centre
 - To train Physically & Mentally Challenged persons
 - To Train villagers in Global Grants projects area
 - To provide Sift Skills Training-a pre-requisite for jobs and career
 - To recognize Vocational Excellence Award of genuinely worthy persons in Public Life preferably both of well-established personalities and emerging talents who deserve appreciation for their Outstanding efforts.
 - To Elucidate the potential that Vocational Service can offer for raising quality of life and upholding strong ethics and integrity of Rotarians
 - To provide logistics support to PACE Learning Centre at Piyali and to make PLC an independent entity for financially independent
 - To ensure 3 schools at Barasat are continue to run under CSR by Tega Industries Ltd
 - To revive Micro Credit at RCC particularly at Piyali
 - To create awareness of the need to protect environment and nature in all sphere of life
 - To take up one project on Computer Literacy involving at least 5 or more participants
 - To participate in RYLA/Youth activity program, if organized
 - To plant trees saplings particularly fruit bearing at various places
 - To distribute plaques and articles of use of FOUR WAY TEST
 - To present all members with a copy of the Declaration of Rotarians in Business and Profession or through Club Bulletin-Metro Voice regularly
11. President then requested PP Rtn Subir Dutta- Rotary Foundation-Chairman & Director to put his vision and objectives:
 - International Publicity of our Projects
 - Fund International sponsors for Global Grants projects
 - Monitoring and Stewardship of International projects
 - Implementation and Reporting of all International Projects regularly to RI/TRF in time
 - To organize seminar or workshop on International Peace and Understanding
 - Support Annual Giving program of TRF
 - Arrange TRF meet and Honour new PHF; s and Major Donors in a memorable way
 - To raise Fund for eradication of Polio
12. Since there was no other business, the meeting was terminated.

MINUTES OF 1656th REGULAR MEETING OF ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA METROPOLITAN HELD ON SATURDAY, 29th JULY, 2023 AT 2 PM AT THE CALCUTTA SWIMMING CLUB

1. President Rtn Rakesh Kumar Goel called the 1656th Regular Meeting to order. He then requested Guest speaker Dr Gouri Kumra to join us at the Head table.
2. President Rtn Rakesh Kumar Goel, welcomed Charter President Manju Rai and other members of Inner Wheel Club of Calcutta Metropolitan.
3. Meeting started on a positive note with the National anthem
4. Minutes of 1655th Regular Meeting were read and confirmed.
5. President gave a detailed synopsis of the upcoming events:
 - Screening of Avijatrik movie for senior citizens of Pronam on 5.8.2023 at Nandan Hall-III at 3.00 PM. DG Rtn Hiralal Yadav will be the Chief Guest. President thanked PP Rtn Gaurang Jalan for helping in organising the program and for screening the movie free of cost to the club.
 - Rtn Renu Todi for Counselling workshop for the students of PACE Learning Centre on 8.8.2023 at 9.30 AM.
 - A workshop on Menstrual hygiene at PACE Learning Centre by SHEABLE Foundation at 9.30 AM
 - Joint Regular Meeting with MSS and Celebration of Independence Day on 15.8.2023 at 11.00 AM. Chief Guest will be DG Rtn Hiralal Yadav.
 - On 26.8.2023 Guest speaker will be PDG Rtn Ravi Sehgal, who will speak on "WHO TOUCHED YOU" as August is Membership and New Club Development Month.
6. President Rakesh Kumar Goel, also made an appeal to members to come forward to help in donation of artificial limbs, with each costing Rs 4000/- to continue the tradition of donating callipers and artificial limbs to Mahavir Seva Sadan during the joint meeting and Independence Day celebration. Rtn Renu Todi offered to donate.
7. President requested PP Rtn Harsh V Rungta, to share the details of the last phase of Organic farming project under GG# 17-58188 to be visited on 30th July, 2023, the Sunday at Duttapukur along with 2 schools under CSR run by Tega Industries Ltd.
8. President Rtn Rakesh Kumar Goel announced the release of the Souvenir for RY-2023-2024 on 15th August, 2023. Any member interested to give advertisement and donation was given time till 31st July, 2023.
9. President Rtn Rakesh Kumar Goel requested the members to please clear the Membership etc dues at the earliest, as the Rotary District and International dues need to be cleared at the earliest.
10. President requested PP Rtn Gaurang Jalan to introduce the Guest Speaker Dr Gouri Kumra and invited her to address the gathering.
11. Guest Speaker Dr Gouri Kumra addressed the gathering through a very engaging and interactive session which was enjoyed by guests and members present.
12. President requested PP Dr Naresh Goyal to give Vote of Thanks
13. President requested Hony Secretary Rtn Runjhun Gupta to make Club announcements. She thanked President and informed about forthcoming events and Birthday Greetings. The total attendance for the day was 22, which includes 13 members. The Sunshine box collection was over and above as usual.
14. Since there was no further business, the meeting was terminated.



Sponsored by : A WELL WISHER

We meet every Saturday at 2.00 pm at The Calcutta Swimming Club, 1, Strand Road, Kolkata-700 001
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