



DISTRESSED
CHILDREN &
INFANTS
INTERNATIONAL

**500,000
children
lose their
sight each
year.**

**85% of
blindness is
preventable**

**NEWSLETTER
TEAM:**
Asahi Hoque
Ian Burzynski
Simon Bayley
Ursula Vinke

DCI Newsletter

Free Eye Camp & Cataract Surgery



DCI organized a free eye camp on February 08, 2011 at our Patuakhali Project, in collaboration with Islamia Eye Hospital. The main objective of the camp was to raise community awareness and provide education on eye health, including nutritional guidance and recognizing symptoms of disease. The camp also provided free diagnosis and

treatment of eye diseases for poor patients, including clean cataract surgery. 145 patients were registered and received treatment. There were 39 clean cataract patients, 30 of whom had successful surgeries. ABM Reza Mollah attended as a chief guest. Upazilla Chairman Mr. Mujibur Rahman, Upazilla Vice Chairman Md. Shamsul Huq and Upazilla Nirbahi Officer Mr. Mahmudur Rahman were also present on the occasion as guests of honor.



Some patients who received treatment

Visitors at DCI projects in Bangladesh



Mr. Anis U Zaman, CT

In January, DCI delivered supplies to its Sun Child project areas of Patuakhali, Feni, Nilphamary, and Habiganj. The supplies included school uniforms, education and hygiene materials, and six month scholarships. Several Sun Child sponsors also visited their sponsored children during the months of January and February, including Dr. Nazneen Ahmed and Salauddin Ahmed, Anis U. Zaman, and Hai Zaidul. DCI encourages all sponsors to visit Bangladesh and see the difference their generosity is making in the lives of children.

"Last winter I went to Bangladesh to see my mom and to visit my sponsored child, Laboni Akter Tanjila. I have been sponsoring Laboni for the last couple of years and until now I knew her only from pictures.

I was very excited to finally to be able to meet my sponsored child. My brother and I went to her village in Barisal on a big three-story passenger ship. We started from Dhaka around 9 pm and reached our destination the next day at around 11 am. DCI field officers were at the terminal to receive us. Immediately, I went to my sponsored child's school and met with her classmates. Then I met her parents, who were very excited to see us. The father of my sponsored child climbed a coconut tree and served green coconut water to all of us.

Laboni's father is a fisherman and her mom stays home with Laboni's younger brother. Her father's job as a fisherman is dependent on luck, so life is not easy. After being brought into the sponsorship program DCI is now trying to help Laboni's mother, so she can earn some money and help the family. I saw with my own eyes how the small amount I am giving is changing lives — it is truly a life-changing experience. I urge you to visit DCI's projects to see the situation and get involved in any way you can. Thank you." — Anis U. Zaman

Mr. Anis U. Zaman

Mr. Anis U. Zaman lives in Trumbull, Connecticut and is the owner of Imperial Electric, a Connecticut based Electrical Construction company. Mr. Anis and his wife Naheed have been strong supporters of DCI from the organization's inception. They have three children: Saieef, Wasif, and Niall. The three of them are also actively involved with DCI as cosponsors and volunteers. Together they save money in a piggy bank to sponsor a child in Bangladesh.



Mr. Anis U Zaman with the family of Laboni

Health Care for Underprivileged Program

Sharmin's Story



Sharmin is receiving treatment at DCI's health clinic.



Ms. Roksana talking with Sharmin

Sharmin is a student of class one in Inter Vita School at Mohammadpur, Dhaka. She lives with her parents and she has two brothers. Her father is a rickshaw puller. They came to Dhaka two years ago.

One cold day, Sharmin and some other children were burning some paper to keep warm in front of her house. Suddenly, a burning ember dropped on Sharmin's woolen dress and within a few minutes she was badly burned. Her parents and neighbors took her to the burn unit at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The doctors didn't admit her to the hospital, just dressed her burns. They prescribed some medicines, which were very expensive, and Sharmin's father was unable to purchase them due to financial constraint.

Without the medicine, Sharmin's situation became dire. Sharmin's parents again took her to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. This time they demanded some payment for her dressing and treatment. Sharmin's father was again unable to pay, so they had to return her home again without treatment.

DCI social workers found out about Sharmin during a field visit. They took her to DCI's health center at Mohammadpur and started providing treatment. For the past month, Sharmin has been receiving dressings and medicine from our health clinic. DCI is providing this treatment free of charge. Now Sharmin's condition is stable and her burns are improving gradually. DCI visitor Ms. Roksana Ahmed Polly met with Sharmin and gave her family some money to buy her fruit, candy, and ice cream while she recovers.

Health Care for Underprivileged Program

Mohiuddin's Story



Before treatment



After treatment

“I want to be a doctor because this way I will help those underprivileged people who cannot bear the minimum treatment cost like my family.” —Mohiuddin

Mohiuddin is one of the many children receiving support from DCI through the *Sun Child Sponsorship Program (SCSP)*. He goes to school regularly and likes to play football. During his leisure time he enjoys playing with his classmates.

However, until June of 2010 Mohiuddin was not so lucky. He and his family always had an inferiority complex because he was born with a deformity called torticollis, which involves muscle problems that cause a twisted neck. His teacher noted that he was self-conscious about this problem, but quite a smart young boy.

After his birth Mohiuddin's parents tried to get his condition treated. When his local doctor failed to successfully treat him, it was suggested the family try to get treatment in Dhaka. Since the eight person family was living a hand-to-mouth existence and completely dependent upon their father, a day-laborer, the trip was not financially feasible.

Like many from villages throughout the Bangladesh countryside, Mohiuddin could not get proper treatment due to poverty. DCI accepted the challenge to change this situation. With DCI's help, Mohiuddin was transported to Dhaka, where he underwent surgery at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on November 6, 2010.

After surgery Mohiuddin could stand almost perfectly. His neck torticollis is almost cured. Now he participates in all the activities with the rest of his classmates. He says with confidence, “I want to be a doctor because this way I will help those underprivileged people who cannot bear the minimum treatment cost like my family.”

Orphan Support Program

Asha Moni Takes Shelter at Sun Child Home for Orphans

Asha Moni is seven years old. She lived with her elder sister. Asha lost her mother when she was four years old. From that time her elder sister looked after her and Asha stayed at her elder sister's house at Dhaka. Asha's father, a rickshaw puller, paid for Asha's monthly expenses.

Unfortunately, Asha lost her father two months ago. Her brother in law wasn't willing to maintain her expenses, nor were Asha's four sisters able to keep Asha at their house. They decided to put Asha in an orphanage.

That was when we learned about Asha's situation and made contact with her siblings. Asha's two elder sisters came to our office and we admitted Asha to the Sun Child Home for Orphans shortly thereafter.

Now Asha is very happy. She has been admitted into kindergarten and is playing, dancing, and enjoying her life.

Asha and the other girls residing at Sun Child Home urgently need support to continue their education and maintain good health and safety. Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to DCI's Orphan Support Program today.



Asha Moni

DONATING NOW

Please make your check payable to DCI and send to:

Distressed Children & Infants International (DCI)
5 SHIPTON COURT, CHESHIRE, CT 06410

Or go to distressedchildren.org and click on **DONATE** to make a secure donation through PayPal.

DCI is IRS 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. Your entire contribution to DCI is fully tax-deductible

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Visitors to DCI Projects in Bangladesh



Our trip to Shoula has been very successful, thanks to the efforts made by the DCI team and their friends here in this village. Shoula is a long way from home but our visit reinforces the similarities between children and families all over the world. We look forward to a long relationship with the children of Shoula and helping them develop to their fullest potential. Thanks again for the wonderful hospitality and I look forward to seeing everyone again in the winter and introducing my family to our sponsored Sun Children. DCI's work appears very effective throughout its project areas. We look forward to supporting and partnering with DCI in the future. Thank you for your generous hospitality and great worth. —Matthew Nelson (Gold Sponsor), Los Angeles, CA



Sponsoring children through DCI and visiting the project areas in Bangladesh is an experience which is unique and enough to change a person forever. I have been sponsoring 25 children for the last three years. I really like the program. It is simple and transparent, and I have direct contact with my sponsored child. It is amazing!

—Fahmida Sharmin (Gold Sponsor)
Dhaka, Bangladesh



It is a great experience working with DCI. The children at DCI's Sun Child Homes are very impressive and very well mannered. I loved when they sang a song for me. Now I feel attached with these poor and underprivileged children and am happy to say that we are able to work for the cause of fighting for child rights and child labor prevention through DCI. I want to thank everybody involved in DCI for their dedication and effort.

—Russell Hasan
California



I enjoyed spending time with the kids at DCI's Sun Child Home for Orphans in Bangladesh. They are a really good example of how good care can make the difference. I would like to come back again and again to visit them. I wish them good luck.

—Dr. Khandaker Nasimul Anwar
Minooka, IL