



DISTRESSED
CHILDREN &
INFANTS
INTERNATIONAL

**There
are
250
million
child
laborers
worldwide**

NEWSLETTER

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DCI Newsletter

Quinnipiac University Students Volunteer at DCI Office in CT

Students of Quinnipiac University volunteered their time for DCI office last Saturday. It was a beautiful sunny day but these kids did their job with smile on their face. DCI is very grateful for their support. Because of volunteers like this DCI is able to keep its administrative cost to the minimum (only 4% in 2011) and ensure all of its support is going directly to the children it support.



www.distressedchildren.org

Meet Shipon, a sponsored child of DCI

“ My father told me that education is a long time process for earning money, but you can earn money during childhood. So he involved me in fishing.” –**Shipon Hossain**



Shipon Hossain is the first in his family to attend school. Through DCI he started going to school in 2009 and now he is a student of grade two. It was however, not easy to get him to school in the beginning.

Shipon comes from a fisher family. His father involved him in his business for more income. When DCI field officer asked, why he did not think about his child's education? His answer was very simple. He said “ Traditionally our family is involved in fishing and we earn not a lot but enough. So we never thought to send our child to school.” In Shipon's word, “ My father told me that education is a long time process for earning money, but you can earn from childhood. So why go to school.”

This is not an isolated picture. Like this family, there are many family in rural Bangladesh and India who think alike. DCI is working hard at field level to change this idea. After observing the family condition, DCI local officer met



with Shipon's father to enroll the child in program. But the 46 years old fisherman refused the DCI representative again and again. DCI was finally able to enroll the child in Sunchild Sponsorship Program (SCSP). Now Shipon goes to school regularly and prepare his homework by the help of DCI's after school tutorial support. He also got education and hygiene materials, various household materials, stipend etc. Now Shipon's father is happy that he changed his mind. He says about

Shipon “ I have been able to provide food to my kid but education has given him good behavior and visible change. I think he can be something better than a fisherman, even a school teacher.”

Health Care for Underprivileged Program

Rashida Gives Birth to a Healthy Girl



Rashida with her daughter

Rashida Begum came to Dhaka with her family 11 years ago. She has five brothers and sisters. Rashida found work as a household servant in Dhaka through the help of one of her neighbors. They also arranged Rashida's marriage. She was married three years ago.

During a field survey, DCI social workers identified Rashida as a pregnant mother. She was five months pregnant at the time. The social workers took Rashida to DCI's Healthcare Center in Mohammadpur, where a doctor performed a prenatal checkup. She was very weak and suffering from anemia. The doctor prescribed some medicine and advised that she be in regular contact with a maternity care clinic. DCI social workers accordingly took her to the Merry Stops clinic and arranged all necessary checkups and tests for her.

The social workers maintained regular contact with Rashida. She was given an expected delivery date of March 27, 2011, and gave birth to a baby girl two days before at the Merry Stops clinic at 1:30 pm. The birth registry was taken care of, and both mother and child are in good health. DCI personnel continue to arrange post-natal checkups for Rashida and maintain regular contact with her.



Social Worker is visiting Rashida's house

Sumaiya Comes to Sun Child Home

Sumaiya is now four years old. Sumaiya lost her father when she was three years old. Her younger brother was born after her father's death. Sumaiya's mother became helpless and took shelter at her brother's house. The financial position of Sumaiya's uncle was not good, and day by day the cost of maintaining the family increased. Sumaiya's mother was unable to work to look after her children, and soon Sumaiya's aunt and uncle were no longer willing to keep them at their house.

In the meantime, seeking financial security, Sumaiya's mother met someone and they got married silently. However, her new husband was unwilling to keep Sumaiya and her younger brother with them. Sumaiya's mother was in a terrible situation. She couldn't keep her children at his brother's house and also she couldn't stay alone.

Finally, Sumaiya's mother decided to bring her to an orphanage. She came to DCI's office and described her situation. We collected the necessary information and Sumaiya was promptly admitted to the Sun Child Home for Orphans at Mohammadi Housing Limited in Dhaka.



Sumaiya, age 4

Now Sumaiya is very happy. She has been admitted to a school and is reading, playing, dancing, and enjoying her life. She wants to be a doctor when she grows up.

Sumaiya 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.

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.

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www.distressedchildren.org

What Parents Say:



—Xiao Lan Wang, CT

My daughter Amanda is sponsoring a child and has been volunteering for the last 5 years at DCI. She is working in our restaurant and also babysitting to earn money to sponsor the child in Bangladesh. I am very proud of her and her work. In fact, the volunteering work with DCI helped my daughter open her eyes to the outside world. She has learned how most of the children live in this world. My daughter has become motivated and dedicated to DCI's cause. I believe by working with DCI she gradually developed greater compassion for others. She has also learned a lot of skills and gained extensive experience that will positively help her in her career. I am thankful for DCI's effort.



my children's lives. Thank you to DCI. —Masud Chowdhury, Dallas, Texas

I want to thank DCI for changing the lives of my children. My daughter Lora is a senior at Cedar Hills High School in Texas, and has sponsored a child in Bangladesh through DCI for the last four years. I saw her gradually change her attitude towards life. Before, she always wanted brand name items and clothing. Now she says to me, "Dad, we do not need brand named jeans or shoes, let's save some money to visit Bangladesh to meet my sponsored child". In the same way, my son, Meeraj, who is just 11 years old, is shredding papers and cleaning in my office each week. He is saving the 5 dollars per week and trying his best to help his sponsored child. I find the motivation my children have obtained from DCI through the Sun Child Sponsorship Program, to be excellent and I am positive it will have a long lasting effect on



—Dr. Tariq Islam, New York

We just signed up to sponsor our second child through DCI. I can see the positive changes in my children after we started child sponsorship through DCI. I feel that it is so important to teach our kids about gratitude and thankfulness and to not be selfish. I invite all my friends and family to join the Sun-Child program of DCI . Please sponsor a child and change one life.



My son, a 7th grader at Dodd, wrote an essay discussing how fortunate Cheshire students are in comparison to impoverished children working in Bangladesh. Sebastien has sponsored a child in Bangladesh and volunteering with DCI for the past 4 years and I know this was his inspiration for his essay. It is empowering for him to know he can make a difference in another person's life.

—Molly Preudhomme, Cheshire, CT

Indian Children Like Dilip Need Help to Stay in School



Dilip Tiria is the 5-year-old son of Basudeb Tiria living in Kokuajhara, a small Tribal village in Orissa, India. Dilip has a 3 year old brother. His father is a day laborer and his mother Kuni stays at home to take care of them. Both parents are illiterate. They belong to a Scheduled Tribe and live below the poverty line. They have no land or assets, aside from one thatched house. A small piece of land is available, but it is stony and barren and therefore not fit for cultivation. The Tiris' present income is inadequate to fulfill the basic requirement of the family members. Due to acute poverty they do not think about their children's education, and Dilip was engaged in different household activities like taking care of younger children and rearing a goat. His parents

were not well informed about education.

ODM Community School (A unit of NYSASDRI) has been functioning in this area since February 2010, with the objective to help the poorest children from the villages and tribes of the Dhenkanal district in Orissa to one day achieve educational parity with the national elite.

After interaction with his parents and other community members, ODMCS staff members enrolled Dilip in the school. He was admitted to the nursery school class with enthusiasm. Other tribal children also came to ODMCS after being inspired by the situation. But despite this success, due to financial hardship among families the children are not regularly present in the school. Not only Dilip, but the other poor children are too detached from the school to fully take advantage of the educational opportunity. Again they are at risk of dropping out, so now is a critical time to support poor children like Dilip and allow them to continue their education.