



DISTRESSED
CHILDREN &
INFANTS
INTERNATIONAL

DCI Newsletter

Babita, Goodwill Ambassador of DCI



Babita, the legendary film actress of Bangladesh, joined DCI as a Goodwill Ambassador. In this role she will attend DCI's 3rd Conference on Child Rights and Sight on September 10th at Yale University, and will also deliver a keynote address. Babita will appeal to the world community to unite against child labor. Following the conference, she will visit several US states as part of DCI's ongoing "Journey for Child Rights & Sight", campaigning to raise awareness for child rights and eyesight issues.



Babita celebrating World Day Against Child Labor with children of the village where she is currently shooting a film

This year in celebration of the World Day Against Child Labor, Babita spent the day with underprivileged children and their families in the village of Manipur, Gazipur. She learned that many children in this area do not attend school, instead having to work to help their parents or leave for Dhaka to become servants, factory workers, or other types of menial laborers.

"DCI is determined to address this year's theme: Warning! Children in hazardous work: End child labor. DCI has been working to prevent child labor for some time but now we will increase our efforts against stopping child labor, especially its hazardous forms. We hope to achieve the goal."

~ BABITA, DCI Goodwill Ambassador

30,000

Children

die

each

day

Due

to

poverty

NEWSLETTER TEAM:

Asahi Hoque
Ian Burzynski
Simon Bayley

Visitors at DCI projects in Bangladesh



Dr. Nazneen Ahmed and her husband **Eng. Salauddin Ahmed** visited DCI's office at Mohammadi Housing Ltd., Dhaka on February 24, 2011. The main objective of their visit was to meet with their sponsored children (Rana Hosen and Rasel Uddin). Rana and Rasel were brought from their village to meet them. They were very happy to see the children's progress. They spent a day with Rana and Rasel. Dr. Nazneen Ahmed and Eng. Salauddin Ahmed live in Chicago, Illinois. They are dedicated sponsors and supporters of DCI.



Dr. Ruby Hossain, DCI Advisor and Los Angeles Chapter Representative visited DCI's Sun Child Home for orphans. The children gave different performances and Dr. Ruby asked some questions to the children, which they answered promptly and intelligently. Dr. Ruby advised us to supplement the children's diet with iron and vitamin tablets, and provide more balanced meals including vegetables, milk, and eggs. She was highly pleased to see the clean environment of the homes.



Recently, **Dr. Nina Hoque** (DCI Director) went to Bangladesh to monitor DCI's project activities. She met with the program's managers, field officers, and beneficiaries - identifying issues that need to be addressed to maximize benefits to the families DCI serves. Accordingly, DCI's annual health check up will be improved to focus on needs-based health care service. DCI will expand the pre-school system to include more children and will strengthen skill development initiatives for mothers. Dr. Hoque spent several days at the health clinics, which provide free treatment services to families of Mohammadpur and Kallayanpur slum areas. She said "It is truly overwhelming to see the tremendous unmet need of these

people, particularly in view of the many, many expensive clinics all over Dhaka city accessible only to the rich. Families I met were so very grateful for DCI's presence there, but I felt so inadequate...if more people were involved we could do so much more!" She inaugurated an eyecare camp in the Kallayanpur slum with the help of two ophthalmologists, Dr. Ferdous Akhter and Dr. Shahana Karim. About 200 slum residents came for treatment. Dr. Nina Hoque also celebrated 'Safe Motherhood Day' on May 28 in Dhaka with DCI Bangladesh. This year's theme is 'Hospital Births in Dhaka Save Lives of Mother and Child'. Dr. Nina Hoque spent the day with underprivileged mothers and the infants of the Kollaynpur slum, where DCI's free clinic is operating. She also had a fun filled day with the orphans of the Sun Child Home.

Health Care for Underprivileged Program

DCI operates a health clinic in Dhaka City serving the slum dwellers of Kallayanpur. In the clinics slum families are provided comprehensive preventive and curative healthcare. All the families are provided counseling on different health issues, including education on nutrition and hygiene, immunization of children and mothers, and antenatal and postnatal care. The clinic also provides treatment and medicinal support, referrals and follow-ups, and financial support for deserving cases.



Treatment at the clinic



Measuring children's height and weight



Follow-up visit with DCI social worker

Monowara's Story

Monowara married Md. Waliullah when she was only 15 years old. They now have two daughters and one son. Her husband works irregularly, selling newspapers. As a result, they do not have sufficient income to provide for their big family. Monowara recently became pregnant again. Our field officer found her and added her to our pregnant mother's list. Her physical condition was not well. She was getting regular check-up from our Health Clinic. When she was seven months pregnant her physical condition became complex. Our doctor referred her to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, and she was escorted there by our HUP workers.

After their investigation, the doctors said that Monowara was suffering from some critical problems. Her liver was larger than normal size, and she also had a uterus problem and stone in her gall bladder. Unfortunately, in her state the conditions were not treatable, as intervention could endanger her delivery. After delivery her problem will be solved gradually. By this time she should be under a doctor's supervision. Last month (September 10, 2011) her physical condition worsened. With the help of HUP officials, her family took her to the DMCH and after two days she gave birth to a son. Now the situation of both mother and child is stable. HUP officials assured Monowara's postnatal check-up, and the doctors advised her to come to DMCH after her post-natal period. She still requires surgery and financial support for her treatment.



Monowara consulting with HUP doctor



Delivery was performed by DMCH



DCI Social Worker following up

Himika Donates Her Birthday for Underprivileged Children



Himika Rahman celebrated her 16th birthday on April 9th, 2011 in Chantilly, Virginia. All her friends and family members joined her to celebrate the occasion.

Himika is a dedicated DCI youth volunteer and has helped DCI develop its day-care project.

This is what she said in her own words: "I became introduced to DCI and

their successful efforts to provide medical care, shelter, education and much more to underprivileged children after a family trip to Bangladesh. Since returning, I began to wonder what I could do to help their efforts, and decided to use my upcoming birthday celebration as an opportunity. I threw my sixteenth birthday dinner in hopes of raising money to support DCI and benefit underprivileged children in Bangladesh, and I did this by asking my friends to bring donations in lieu of gifts."

— **Himika Rahman**, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology - Chantilly, Virginia

In total, Himika raised \$1,500 through her party. She donated the money to the Sun Child Daycare Program for slum children in Dhaka. DCI is very grateful for Himika's generosity and initiative. We encourage all our friends and supporters to consider donating their celebration to DCI. You can make your special day even more meaningful by making a difference in the lives of some of the world's poorest children!



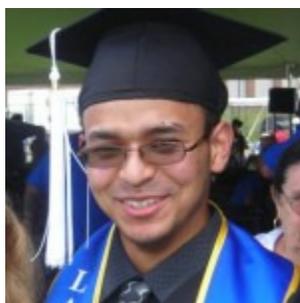
Himika also visited DCI's Bangladesh projects in 2011, volunteering at the orphanage and health clinic.

DCI Volunteers



DCI has given me the opportunity to fulfill my desire to work for the community. Working with DCI gives me a feeling of accomplishment, and DCI has a nice platform for everybody to get involved. I wish DCI's success in brightening more children's lives and building their future.

—Taslema Sultana, Ph.D.
Representative, Oregon Chapter, DCI



Distressed Children & Infants International is an organization dedicated to making the lives of underprivileged individuals better. This is something I'm proud to be a part of. They seek to accomplish this monumental task by providing these individuals with access to the basic needs many of us take for granted. Many children in third world countries are deprived of an education and forced to work to make a living; for a relatively small amount you can give a child hope and an opportunity to find a place in this world. While my volunteer activities are administrative, DCI has opportunities in many aspects of the organization. If you seek to make a difference, DCI offers opportunities for everyone. Volunteering with them solidifies my belief that together we can

make a difference, one step at a time. —Daniel Nova, MA



I am really honored and proud to be involved with DCI. I am confident that the continuous effort of DCI and other organizations will eventually have a significant impact on child rights in this world. My best wishes to the 2011 Conference on Child Rights & Sight.

—Maleka Ahmed Jappy,
Representative, DCI North Carolina Chapter



DCI is a fantastic upstart organization with a lot of potential that I would highly recommend volunteering with. Their commitment to helping children around the world is admirable and the scope of their projects commendable. Few organizations are as comprehensive when it comes to aid as DCI. Their sanitation and health awareness programs provide a solid foundation for their other initiatives in blindness prevention, female empowerment, and education. If you would like to volunteer with an organization that can truly make a difference in the lives of children in developing countries, DCI is for you!

—Benjamin Albert, CT

Hasina's Story

Hasina, a ten-year-old domestic servant, was tortured by her employer – an army official and his family – in the Dhaka Cantonment area. Her torture was so brutal she required long-term care at Feni Sadar Hospital.



Hasina and her siblings – one brother and six sisters – lost their mother over a year ago, and their father left them after marrying another woman. Her brother and two of her sisters are married and have their own families. One sister was adopted by someone. Hasina and her two other sisters are working as domestic servants in various houses.

Hasina was regularly tortured by her employers. On one occurrence, she was severely tortured and then discarded in front of the residence of the employers of one of her sisters. In the morning, Hasina's sister found her and carried her to her brother at Feni. There he admitted her to Feni Sadar Hospital, where she received treatment.

There are many children like Hasina in Bangladesh who spend their childhoods as servants and are subject to abuse. This is a crucial time for play, education and development, and should not be sacrificed for labor and hardship. 70% of all household servants in the country are children, some as young as five years of age! These children are frequently victims of horrific exploitation and child abuse by employers like Hasina's. There are many cases like hers, and they demand our urgent recognition and help.

DCI requests all of our friends to work collectively for these deserving children. We should first raise our voices to condemn the incidents. Then we can help these children grow up properly and receive a childhood without labor and suffering. Please join us to strengthen our network and provide a powerful voice of opposition to child labor, hunger and poverty. Together, we can ensure that stories like these are never forgotten, and never occur again. We need your help, support and involvement with us to stop this type of child abuse.

Source: [National News Bangladesh Community Newspaper](#)

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Mizanur Rahman: Determined to Help His Family



Mizanur Rahman (age 11) comes from an extremely poor family of four children (two boys and two girls) in Feni district, Bangladesh. Mizanur was only six years old when he lost his father. The money that his mother made cleaning houses was not enough to support Mizanur and his three siblings. *"The only thing that he left for us is the house that we are living in now,"* Mizanur's mother says of their situation, *"but there was no actual income source."* Times were very difficult for them, and the situation was not favorable for Mizanur to start his education. He needed help for his school supplies and other necessities. DCI field workers submitted Mizanur's case immediately, believing that he needed support.

DCI brought him immediately into the **Sun Child Sponsorship Program**. After enrollment in the program, Mizanur received various types of support like educational materials, hygiene materials and other household necessities that his family cannot provide on their own. *"I had no financial ability to provide education related materials,"* says Mizanur's mother. DCI also provided Mizanur after-school tutoring, so that he can achieve quality education and health education.

Now Mizanur is a student in seventh grade and can understand his family's need clearly. As a result, he is very serious about his education and is determined to change his family's situation. *"I want to build my future so that I can remove all of my family crises. I will also work against poverty,"* says Mizanur with full confidence.



Mizan is playing with friends