



DISTRESSED
CHILDREN &
INFANTS
INTERNATIONAL

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DCI Newsletter

DEC 2010

Message from the President



Dear DCI Friends,

As we reflect on the year 2010, we realize we have much to be thankful for. The world's economy is slowly improving, and most of us are lucky to continue to be employed, have food on our table, and continue the hope of a better future for our children. Unfortunately, not everyone in the world is so fortunate. There are too many children worried that each sip of clean water and morsel of food may be their last. There are still too many children being called upon to support their family, subject to hard labor and forgoing their chance for education and a better future.

Traveling to Bangladesh and observing what a small sum of money can do for an infant or child is staggering. For the price of one Starbucks Vente Latte, a child can be fed for a week! A very small sacrifice by us in the United States can make a lifetime of difference for a child.

I am so honored to be part of a charitable organization like DCI, which makes every effort to ensure that every penny of your donation and every minute of volunteering effort goes to the children that need it most. Please join me in making a New Year's resolution to never forget those in need and to share the good feeling that comes this time of year by making a small donation. A small act of generosity can change a life forever.

Happy New Year 2011.
Brian M. DeBroff, M.D., F.A.C.S.,

Message from the Country Director



Dear DCI Friends,

The work that DCI is doing with limited resources for the underprivileged people of Bangladesh is truly amazing. Living in Bangladesh, and having been involved in this type of project for a very long time, I know how difficult the situation is here. There are so many obstacles at so many levels! I congratulate all DCI's team members for being so determined and showing commendable dedication to their mission. I would also like to thank you, our sponsors and donors, for supporting DCI's programs. Without your donation and support this work would not be possible.

This year I was present during the inauguration of DCI's free clinic for the Kallayanpur slum residents. I was overwhelmed by the outpouring of gratitude from the families of the slum. Once again, my dedication to DCI's mission is rejuvenated. I urge you to visit each of the projects in Dhaka and in the remote villages to see the changes your support is helping DCI achieve. I can assure you one such trip will strengthen your determination as well.

Best regards and wishing you a very happy new year!

Professor A.K. Azad Khan
Country Director, DCI-Bangladesh
President, Diabetic Association of Bangladesh (DAB)

Sun Child Home resident, Sharifa's story

Five year old Sharifa Khanam lived with her mother and four siblings at the village of Gabrol in Nilphamari district. She is the youngest of their family. Her father died before her birth, and Sharifa grew up with her mother and siblings in extreme poverty. She doesn't know how her mother and elder brothers continue their family and what they did. **She knows they didn't get food regularly. Last year her mother died. At that same time her elder brother got married. Due to his limited income, he could not continue to support the family. Most days they were left to starve.**



A family decided to offer Sharifa to work in another house as a maid servant. DCI's field Supervisor Mr. Mozammel Hoque contacted Sharifa's elder brother and informed him about our Orphan Support Program. Finally, we took Sharifa into Sun Child Homes in Dhaka, where she is now very happy. She has three meals each day and has been admitted into kindergarten. Sharifa is **but** one of many young girls whose future has been transformed through DCI's Orphan Support Program.



CHILDREN OF SUN CHILD HOME

DCI founded an orphanage named **Sun-Child Homes** on August 16, 2010. The main objective of the program is to help orphans grow properly with appropriate care so they can be productive, confident and self-reliant citizens of the future. Orphans receive lodging, basic necessities, healthcare, education and skill training at the orphanage. The address of the home is House # 5, Road # 3A, Mohammadi Housing Ltd. The home can house up to 30 children, and we have already admitted 12 orphans.

GET INVOLVED and MAKE A DIFFERENCE :

The success of DCI's projects relies on your passion and generosity. The work that DCI is doing on behalf of impoverished children would not be possible without your support.

It's like a Miracle, but is a true story of light



Kodvanu, **75 years old**, is a resident of Shaula village in Patuakhali district, Bangladesh. Kodvanu has been suffering from cataract problems for several years. There is no health care facility in the village or nearby, and she has no ability to go to the district town for treatment. “I have no money even for the minimum necessary food. How can I think about treatment?” says Kodvanu. Her husband Nur Hossain Munshi died 10 years ago. From then on she has lived **from hand to mouth**. She has two sons, but they cannot support their own families, let alone take care of her.

As part of its Blindness Prevention Program DCI arranged an eye camp at Shaula where Kodvanu lives. The doctor identified **Kodvanu's cataracts** and suggested surgery treatment. Cataract surgery can be performed on adults at low cost, often for as little as \$50. In addition to Kodvanu, more than 200 cataract patients were identified. DCI arranged groups for surgery in Barishal and in Dhaka, but it was not easy to arrange surgery for a patient like Kodvanu. Most people suffering from cataracts in the villages are completely uninformed about the nature of their illness or their prospects for recovery. In Kodvanu's own words, *“I thought that the main cause of this problem is age, so it is not curable. I saw many older people suffering day by day with this problem. So I thought it is normal and I did not agree with the doctor's recommendation for surgery. But DCI's local worker convinced me to receive surgery. I also know some people who already got surgery from DCI and they recovered their sight. At last I agreed.”*

After receiving her consent, DCI completed surgery in Dhaka. Within just one month, her vision had been effectively improved. “I did not think that I could ever see again. Before everything was blurry, but now I can see clearly.” She says repeatedly, “May Allah help DCI help others like me.”

CORPORATE MATCHING:

Many corporations/companies will match portions of employee donations to charity. Please consult your HR department to determine if your employer will match your contribution to **Distressed Children & Infants International (DCI)**.

SPECIAL THANKS to all our contributors, donors, and supporters for your commitment to DCI's programs and mission. Together we can change the world, one child at a time. We welcome you to DCI, and we look forward to working with you in this most important mission.

HUP: Health for Underprivileged

Distressed Children & Infants International (DCI) Bangladesh organized a workshop for its Health for Underprivileged Program (HUP) on December 22, 2010. All staff members of the HUP participated in the program. Mr. Tazin Shadid (Director) and his wife Ms. Mouri joined the program. Mr. Humayun Kabir, Liaison Officer of DCI, facilitated the workshop. The session started with a short introduction, in which participants were divided into two groups. Both groups worked on preparing a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities & threats) of the program. Afterwards it was presented and generalized. In the second session, the groups worked on possible steps for improvement. Summary results were presented and decisions made.

In the last session of the workshop participants expressed their personal opinions about the workshop. Mr. Tazin said, "Before this workshop we had different thoughts and ideas about the health program. But now we are on the same wavelength. So, I'm very happy and I feel it is a fantastic and successful trip for me. It seems that each of us are working in our own area of expertise to achieve a common goal. I thank all the participants of the workshop heartily." Ms. Mouri said, "before I visited the health program I did not really understand the program's operations, but now I clearly understand what we are doing and what we want to achieve. It has been a great experience for me. Thanks DCI Bangladesh."



DONATING NOW

Please make your check payable to DCI and send it to:
Distressed Children & Infants International (DCI)
5 SHIPTON COURT, CHESHIRE, CT 06410

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