



RAPHAEEL

January to March 2020

In these uncertain times we trust that all of you are safe in your homes. We wish you all good health as we wait to get back to a somewhat normal routine. As usual we have lots of news and events to share with our friends from Raphael. Hope you enjoy reading our Newsletter.

FOUNDERS

Group Captain Lord Leonard Cheshire of Woodhall VC, OM, DSO***, DFC & Lady Sue Ryder of Warsaw CMG, OBC

INSTITUTIONAL DONORS

Ryder Cheshire Australia; The Hans Foundation; Max India Foundation; Garware Bestretch; Oil and Natural Gas Corporation; The Radiant Group; Sarvashubhamkara; Sud-Chemie; Ryder Cheshire Foundation, New Zealand; The REGE Foundation; Numidia Charity Foundation; Ryder Cheshire United Kingdom, United Kingdom;

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EVENTS

Visit by Make a Difference

On Sunday, 5 January, a group of 15 members of the dynamic Dehradun social organisation “Make a Difference” made one of their periodic week-end visits to Raphael. The residents were delighted to see many a familiar face in the group and enjoyed singing, dancing and playing with them.



Special Olympics for Young Athletes

In 2009, IKEA Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the Swedish home furnishing company IKEA, expanded its charter to include children with disabilities with the watchword - All children deserve a future full of opportunities.

On 22 February IKEA Foundation partnered with Special Olympics Bharat, to host a Sports Day at Raphael for children between the ages two and ten.



Kishen Rana, Raphael's Special Educator Sports and Physical Education was made responsible. He planned a day full of fun with games, races and sporting events to include relays, Bocce Ball and a tug-of-war. We had 70 children from seven schools both regular and special participate. And, at the end of the day, much to their delight each participant even got a medal!



Shakuntalam Play

On 23 January Red Nose Entertainment, a theatre group from Mumbai, staged the play 'Shakuntalam'. It was an extraordinary comedy that had the children spell bound with many unable to resist joining the actors on the stage.

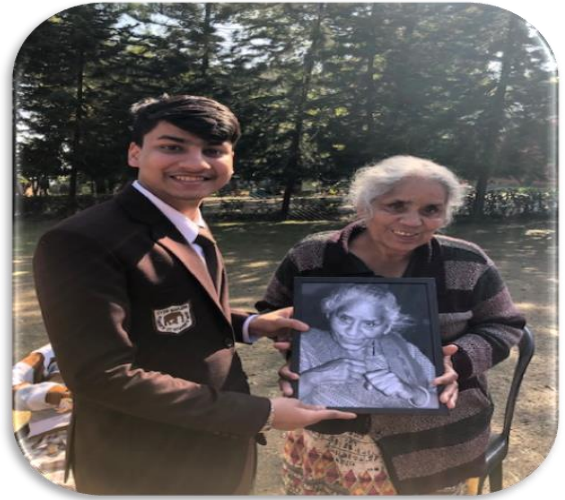


Employment Opportunities for Persons with Disability

On 21 Jan representatives of 'Youth4Jobs', an Andhra Pradesh based non-profit working in 14 states of India on sensitising the community and providing jobs to persons with disabilities, visited Raphael. They interacted with our children with intellectual disabilities in their pre-vocational and vocational training classes, their parents and care-givers. Whilst, acknowledging the fact that there were few job opportunities for persons with intellectual disabilities they assured us that they would explore the possibilities.

Welham Boys School

In a thoughtful gesture The Welham Boys' School Photography Club presented us with a lovely set of 11 elegantly framed black & white photographs of our senior residents. They are on display in the main office. We owe the School our grateful thanks.



PRESENTATIONS

The Special Education Department organised four presentations during the quarter:

18 Jan – Ms Bhanu Gupta of the Bajaj Institute of Learning, Dehradun, a school for the hearing impaired, spoke to our Special Educators on 'Sign Language'. Sharing tips on working with the hearing impaired and children with intellectual disabilities she stressed the all-important need for 'patience'.

1 Feb – Ms Meghna Sandhu, our psychologist, gave a presentation to the staff on 'Depression – Causes and Signs'. She highlighted the fact that Depression is a serious illness that can affect persons across all age groups. She was of the view that social workers should be able to recognise the signs and assist people to cope with difficult situations.

18 Feb – Ms Namrata Sharma the Headmistress of The Horizon School, Jolly Grant addressed the staff on the challenges of providing an inclusive education to children with disability. She was confident that working together we could bring about the necessary change.

27 Feb – Ms Jyotsna Brar, an educationist and Member of the Governing Council of Raphael, spoke to the Special Educators on the 'Role of Play in Early Childhood Development'. She emphasised the importance of children learning by 'sharing and problem solving through play'.

INTERNS & VOLUNTEERS

Ambika Sethi, a Masters in Psychology from the Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University, Dehradun interned at Raphael for a period of six months from 16 August 2019 to 15 February 2020. We share extracts of a letter she wrote of her time with us -



"I was given a time-table that covered six months... I would spend my time in the classroom assisting the Class Teacher, attend speech therapy and early intervention sessions & help the Physio-therapist at work...

Intellectual disabilities - Cerebral Palsy, Down syndrome and Autism - were things that I had studied in the classroom but had no practical knowledge of... I met children with disabilities who always had a smile on their face... and senior residents who had been rejected by their loved ones just because they were disabled... it was hard to believe.

My six months at Raphael were an eye opener - an informative and emotional journey. I feel empowered with the knowledge I now have... I am encouraged to do something for these special children and make a difference in their lives...

...Raphael is a lovely place.”

LETTERS

This is the true life story of Swarup Mehta who joined the Little White House in the year 1961, in his own words.

"A True Life Story" BY MR SWARUP MEHTA

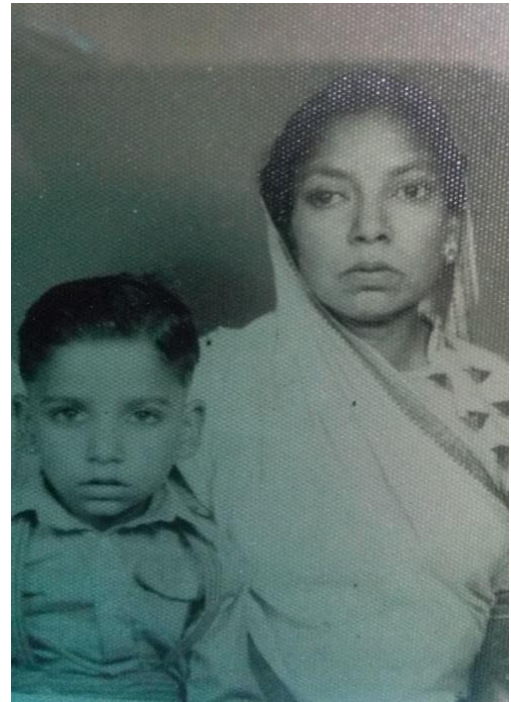


My name is Swarup Mehta and here I want to share my life's true story. This is my real story. Many years ago when our country was still under the British rule, my mother Mrs. Anar Devi got married at the age of 11 or 12 years under the Gouna Pratha. In Gouna Pratha, young girls were married off and when she attained the age of 15 or 16 she was sent to live with her husband. When my mother was 15 years old, she was sent to live with her husband where she gave birth to a baby girl. In those days gender discrimination was very prevalent and people didn't like girls being born in their house. Everyone wanted a male child. Her husband was not happy and tormented her again and again for bearing a girl child.

Mostly people during that time kept goats, cows, buffalos, etc. and this was the way they could earn money and live their life. My mother's husband also had a few cattle and my mother use to take care of them. One day she went to the jungle to get fodder for the cattle, in the meantime her husband strangled her little daughter and killed her. When she came back from the jungle with the fodder, she found her daughter dead.

She was heartbroken and fought with her husband. She was beaten black and blue with a stick. She was hit with the stick in the eye and became blind in one eye. Nobody took care of her and she kept becoming weak with all the torture from her husband. In the meantime, she also contracted leprosy.

At that time, she lived in a small village Ganganiya in Bihar. The panchayat called for a meeting and decided that my mother can no longer in the village since leprosy was thought to be infectious and thus admitted her in a Leprosy Hospital in Gaya, near the Bihar border. The hospital was run by Britishers. She was given a room to stay and got treatment for leprosy for the next 5 years. My mother stayed in the hospital and was cured of the disease. She regained her confidence and blossomed into a beautiful young lady. There she met a young Britisher and fell in love with him. He was the pharmacist in the hospital. They planned to get married and one day eloped from the hospital and settled in Dina Nagar in Punjab. There I was born to them.



Time went by and I was 4 years old, living happily with my parents. We were still under the British rule. Around that time the freedom movement was at its peak. Mahatma Gandhi started the movement "Karo yaa Maro" or "Desh choro andolan", which meant all British people had to leave India. There were riots happening everyday in the country and even Punjab was affected. One day when my father went out for work, he was killed using by the rioters by a 'Talwar' - sword. Our world collapsed and my mother decided to admit me in Raphael Home. This was the year 1961-1962. She used to come and meet me every year.

I was small but I remember that Leonard Cheshire and Auntie Sue along with their children use to come to Raphael with their children and play with us. I remember singing the nursery rhyme with Humty dumty with them. Those were difficult days for me and my mother. She didn't have money and use to feel sad coming to meet me empty handed. It was a very tough time for me as well as my mother. But I never lost hope and trust on Jesus Christ, because he cares for us always. Today I would like to thank Raphael and Mr and Mrs Cheshire who supported me in my child hood and made me who I am today. All the facts shared here are true as I confirmed them with my aunt's daughter. She told me that her mother use to sometimes visit the leprosy hospital to meet her and bring her food.

In the future, if I am ever invited to Raphael, I would feel privileged and will give live testimony. My mobile No is 9818374864. I worked for The Leprosy Mission Community Hospital, Nand Nagri, Delhi, for 34 years, and retired as a Senior Medical Records Keeper. I am 62 years old now and live with my family in Ghaziabad.



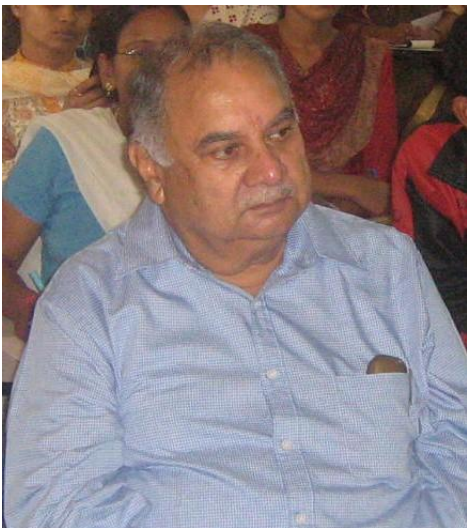
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Colonel (Dr) JP Gupta, MD, our Director Medical finally called it a day on 31 Mar. His contribution in the field of detection and treatment of persons afflicted with Tuberculosis over the past 31 years has been outstanding. Indeed, his name is synonymous with Raphael's TB hospital. He will be sorely missed by his many patients and their families not just in the State of Uttarakhand but in the surrounding districts of Uttar Pradesh and beyond. We wish him and Mrs Gupta well in his retirement.

Dr Sudhir Peshin takes over the reins of the Director Medical on 1 April 2020. Dr Peshin has been the Medical Superintendent at Raphael for several years and is a familiar and trusted face.

We also bid adieu to two other stalwarts of the TB Hospital; Ms Rani Thapa, Matron and Ms Meena Grover, the senior Nurse who retire after 37 and 34 years of service respectively.

OBITUARIES



Mr. Ranjit Sikand, a former Member of the Governing Council passed away on 15 February 20 after an illness. Ranjit with his dedication and vast knowledge & experience of the corporate world made an extraordinary contribution towards the financial management and institutionalising of the functioning of Raphael.

Mr JM Singhal, a Member of the Governing Council remembers him thus –

“...We are deeply saddened by the passing of Ranjit Sikand ... After having made a mark in the corporate world, he settled down in Dehradun and dedicated his life to philanthropic activities and service for the benefit of Society as a whole. He was a wonderful human being - always grounded, composed and humble. He contributed significantly to the betterment of Raphael ... carrying forward the good work he did will be the best way of our paying homage to him.”

Dr Don Sinclair

We are deeply saddened by the news of the passing Dr. Don Sinclair in January in Australia. He was the former President of Ryder Cheshire Australia and a regular visitor, supporter and a very dear friend to Raphael. His wife Dawn pre-deceased him by three months. A memorial service was held at Raphael - may his soul rest in peace.



Anne Boyd

Anne Boyd first came to Raphael as a young volunteer nurse in 1964. During her first visit to Raphael Anne stayed for three years and helped supervise the construction of the Tuberculosis Hospital. She

then went to England to specialize in Thoracic nursing. On completion of the course, she returned to Raphael to set up the first mobile TB clinic.



She drove the jeep and travelled into the depths of the Tehri Garhwal hills, identifying and treating TB patients. Anne came to be known as the 'Mountain Nurse.' Her last visit to Raphael was during the Golden Jubilee Celebrations in 2009. Anne was diagnosed with cancer some months ago and passed away on the 16 March 2020 in Singleton, Australia- may her soul rest in peace.

OTHER NEWS

Land Transfer

Raphael has been hit hard as we have had to pay a hefty sum of Rs.119,37701 to extend the lease on the forest land we are situated on since 1959.

COVID-19

Raphael is in 'lockdown' as is the rest of the world. Permanent residents in lifelong care continue to be well taken care of by a small group of support staff who live on campus. They have remained in good health.

DONATE

Anyone wishing to donate can do so on our website <http://www.raphael-ryder-cheshire.org>. 100% of all donations to Raphael reach the intended recipients. Donations by cheque or credit card are also welcome. No amount is too small. Individuals can sponsor/donate

Rs. 5000 to sponsor a meal for 150 residents | Rs. 6500 to support a child with disability for a month | Rs. 5000 to support a patient in the TB hospital for 15 days | Rs. 3000 to support a resident in lifelong care for a month

Alternatively, an individual or an institution can make a significant contribution to our corpus. Raphael will invest the amount and utilise only the returns on the investment to meet its expenses thus enhancing its self-sustainability. Donations can be made: ☑ Directly through Razorpay on our website ☑ By cheque in favour of "Raphael" ☑ Bank transfer through: SB A/C No 85152010003933 & IFSC: SYNB0008515

GET INVOLVED

You need no special qualifications to volunteer/ intern at Raphael: All you need is enthusiasm and a big heart. We want to reach out to as many people as we can and you can help us.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We request you to please write and send articles, stories, write-ups for our Newsletter. (approximately 200-350 words.)

- Articles should be sent as an attachment, in word document. (Please do not send in .pdf format) along with photographs and a title. Include a short caption for each photograph.

- Please send your article to mngr.pr.raphael@gmail.com (newsletter editor)

- We publish our newsletter every quarter, i.e., April, July, October & January. For each quarterly issue, the last date for submission of article will be 15 days prior to the publishing.