



# HOPE CONNECT

## AUGUST 2018 UPDATE OF THE HOPE HOME CALCUTTA

[www.hopehomecalcutta.org](http://www.hopehomecalcutta.org)

[Email:hopehomecal@gmail.com](mailto:hopehomecal@gmail.com)



Beloved friends:

### 15<sup>th</sup> FOUNDATION DAY

**SUMMER OF 1999!** It was to be just a brainstorming session with Stephanie (AZ), Nancy (CO), Ahin (presently PA) and me regarding 'can something be done for the street kids living on Park Street?' ... We had met in the 2 room, tiled-roofed home of my mom, a kind-of dilapidated, rented house she was then living in, in the central part of Calcutta!



That night, the Hope Home Calcutta was envisioned, conceived, deliberated upon and prayed over! We had no inkling of what we were embarking upon. All that we had was a deep God-given passion to make a difference in the lives of and shape the eternal destiny of as many children as we could! There was no money, no assets, no Godfather promising anything... just faith in God and passion and love for people! It took us a couple of years to plan, structure, organize and kick-start this



transformational movement that is the Hope Home Calcutta which has impacted hundreds of lives, especially those of children living in vulnerable environments besides

making a positive change in the immediate community we are located and living in. **AUGUST 1<sup>st</sup>** is designated as our **FOUNDATION DAY** and on August 1, 2018, we celebrated our **15<sup>th</sup>** Foundation Day!

### ANNUAL FOUNDATION DAY FETE

**TO COMMEMORATE** our Foundation Day, we have been organizing our Annual Fete the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of August for the past 7 years. This year, the Annual Foundation Day Fete was held on Saturday, August 4 from 4 – 8 p.m. and saw a record crowd of over 1,000 footfalls! This Fete gives us an opportunity to bond with the families of our



school students, their friends and people from the local community. It is a time of fun, food, games and fellowship. This year, our focus was on **children afflicted with cancer**. We invited children from the St. Jude India Child Care Centre, situated close to the Hope Home. They house children undergoing



advanced treatment of cancer along with their family members. Most of them are

terminally ill. We invited the children from this Centre as our **special guests – V.I.P.**’s!! It took me a lot of my persuasive skills to convince the paediatric oncologist at the Cancer Hospital to give permission for the children to come for a limited time! What a joy it was to have these little angels come and



participate in games and other activities during the two hours they were allowed to spend with us! We were honoured to receive this note from the Dr. Soma De, the superintending oncologist: *“thank you and your entire team for arranging to bring smile in the faces of the children fighting the deadly disease called cancer...”*. Dr. Arnab Gupta, Director of the Thakurpukur Cancer Hospital wrote this to me: *“Thank you for giving our children so much joy. They will cherish this memory for years to come...”* This is what made our day. This is the success of our Annual Foundation Day Fete. For the hundreds of people who came in for our Fete, the presence of these children was a special time and everyone clapped and welcomed them for the evening! We are specially thankful to Dr. Debabrata Sen (Parampara) for co-sponsoring this Fete. Also, to Bernard Rodricks (who lost his wife to cancer last year) and Jessica Simon (daughter of Lewis Simon-our Founder Secretary) for donating food items for sale during the Fete!

### ST. JUDE CHILD CARE CENTRE

MONDAY, AUGUST 6<sup>th</sup> we had the privilege to go over and visit the children at the St. Jude India Child Care Centre. Children at the Hope Home Calcutta saved up money by sacrificing chicken curry for a couple of days and buying gifts for the



children at St. Jude. We distributed water-bottles, tiffin-boxes, coloring books and color pencils/crayons to each of the children living in their facilities! One thing that stood out

and humbled me was that all the children—some terminally ill and undergoing advanced chemo and other cancer-related treatment had **SMILES** on their faces! What a blessing to be part of this community for a day! Also, it put in place our own perspective regarding God’s unending grace, mercies, blessings and love for giving us health and life! We have already planned to visit them during Christmas once again this year!

### HOPE HOME CALCUTTA FOOD BANK

Once again we invite you to join with us to provide food supplies to the poverty stricken families in our community. It costs us around **INR 1200 (USD 25)** for each family to receive the food supplies and daily necessities for a month through the Hope Home Calcutta Food Bank!

### SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**SPONSORSHIP** opportunities are available for children both at the Hope Home Calcutta and the Hope Home Imphal. Please consider investing in the lives of the children, especially the girl child in either of our locations. Do write to us for more details! Join us in this transformational ministry of changing lives—in the ‘City of Joy’ – changing one life at a time!

### BIRTHDAYS IN AUGUST

- August 20: Samuel

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

**QUIT BEATING YOURSELF UP. YOU'RE NOT A FINISHED PRODUCT. YOU'RE STILL A WORK IN PROGRESS!** *Joel Osteen*

### Dev and the Hope Home Calcutta family

\*\*\*\*\*

Support for the Hope Home Calcutta should be sent to/checks made out to:

**VERDE VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

**406 SOUTH 6TH STREET, COTTONWOOD, AZ 86326**

**TEL: 928-634 8166** (Please designate your gift for Hope Home Calcutta clearly)

**ONLINE - [www.vvchristianchurch.net](http://www.vvchristianchurch.net)**

***Donors in India-*** all donations, including online, are exempted from Income-Tax under section 80G through HDFC Bank. Contact us for details

