



HOPE CONNECT

CHRISTMAS 2018 UPDATE OF THE HOPE HOME CALCUTTA

hopehomecal@gmail.com

www.hopehomecalcutta.org



Beloved friends:



INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY [DECEMBER 5, 2018] is a chance for individual volunteers, communities and organizations to promote their contributions to development at the local, national and international levels. It provides an unique opportunity for people and volunteer-involving organizations to work with non-profit institutions and community groups like the Hope Home Calcutta. Transcending all cultural, linguistic and geographic boundaries, it not only celebrates volunteerism in all its facets, but also pays tributes to people's participation in making a difference locally, nationally and globally. Volunteers engage people from grass-roots in decision making processes, ultimately creating space for participation that leads to social cohesion, peace and sustainable development! By giving their time and skills without expectation of material reward, volunteers themselves are uplifted by a singular sense of purpose!

COME, VOLUNTEER WITH US!



CHRISTMAS 2018

What Do We Love About Christmas?

What do we love about Christmas;
Does our delight reside in things?

Or are the feelings in our hearts
The real gift that Christmas brings.

It's seeing those we love,
And sending Christmas cards, too,
Appreciating people who bring us joy
Special people just like you!

OUR CHRISTMAS MANDATE...

WE ACKNOWLEDGE that Christmas holds different values and meaning to different people around the world. We, at the Hope Home Calcutta adhere to the following Biblical precepts as our Christmas mandate:

"...for I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; I was naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me..."

Since the inception of our transformational endeavor in 2003, the Hope Home Calcutta has been involved especially during Christmas-time, to put this Scriptural mandate into practice. Some of the community-related activities we have been pursuing over the past several years include:

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT gives us the opportunity to re-enact the story of the birth of Jesus to a largely non-Christian audience. Christmas carols, Christmas skits, music performances, dance sequences, dance by toddlers and a guest soloist make the concert an annual event which the community look forward to. This year, our Annual Christmas Concert is scheduled for **Saturday, December 15!** Friends in Calcutta, we specially invite you to our concert this year!

CLOTHES/BLANKET DISTRIBUTION

OVER THE PAST 16 YEARS, we have been privileged to distribute over 1000 blankets, mosquito nets, sarees, clothes and a few bicycles to the poor and needy who live in the vicinity of the Hope Home Calcutta. Hundreds of families have been blessed, especially the elderly and children. This Christmas too, we plan to distribute blankets to the poor in our neighborhood on our Annual Christmas Concert day. You too could pitch in with resources to make a difference in the life of a family in this part of

the world. The cost for each blanket is **INR 350 (US\$ 6)**

MARY COOPER'S OLD AGE HOME

MARY COOPER'S (Old Age) Home has been a regular feature for us since 2003! This visit to the interned, lonely, often sick elderly gives us the greatest joy and satisfaction among all our Christmas-related activities. We perform skits, sing Christmas carols, play the violin, dance and pray for these precious and wonderful senior citizens! The children carry cakes, cookies and gifts for them from the funds designated for their own Christmas celebrations! This year we are scheduled to visit the Mary Cooper's Home on **Tuesday, December 20 at 6 p.m.** Calcutta friends are invited to join us for this evening and be a blessing to these dear folks! Contact Dev @ **7044505305**

THAKURPURI CANCER HOSPITAL & ST. JUDE CHILD CARE CENTRE

FOR THE PAST 3 YEARS we have been visiting the pediatric ward of the cancer hospital just across the road from the Hope Home Calcutta on Christmas Eve. These visits are humbling experiences for us as we distribute Christmas goodies and approved food stuff to children, some as young as a few months afflicted with cancer. This year too, we plan to continue our visit to the children's ward on **December 24** at 10:30 a.m. Appreciate prayers for us as we pour out our love to these children!

The visit to the cancer hospital is immediately followed up with a visit to the St. Jude Child Care Centre located nearby. This facility houses children afflicted by cancer and are being treated at the cancer hospital along with their parent(s). It is a joy to see these children-some terminally ill- so joyful and oblivious to their condition come and interact with us, smiling, laughing and enjoying our visit!

CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNITY LUNCH

OUR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS are not complete without the **CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNITY LUNCH**- an event we have been organizing on **Christmas Day** for the past 4 years. We invite our students and their families, staff members, people from the community as also many poor people living in our neighborhood to join us

for this special meal on Christmas Day. Last year (2016), we had just over **250** people attend this lunch, most of them coming from different religious faiths including Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists and Christians. The Christmas Day lunch gives us the opportunity to explain to those who join the true meaning and significance of Christmas – that it's not simply a time of merriment, new clothes and cakes, but also a time to celebrate **giving** and **sharing** and focus on the first **Christmas Day** when God gave Jesus to humankind! This year, too we are preparing for more than **250** people for this special lunch on Christmas Day. There are no charges for this lunch and the food is real good! We invite all our Calcutta friends to join us for this special meal. This is part of our endeavour to holistically transform our local community! You could **sponsor a meal for a person for INR 300 (U.S. \$ 6)**

HOPE HOME CALCUTTA FOOD BANK

DURING NOVEMBER, we had the privilege of donating food and groceries to a very dear person, Trevor Tailor (79). Trevor is extremely poor, lives all alone and struggles for his everyday existence. He has



no source of income whatsoever. He was ecstatic to be part of a joyful community during our Thanksgiving Day dinner! We were blessed to be a blessing to Trevor!

Have a blessed Christmas and a meaningful New Year 2019!

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

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

