



HOPE CONNECT

DECEMBER 2019 UPDATE OF THE HOPE HOME CALCUTTA

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Beloved friends:



DECEMBER 5, 2019 INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY : this day provides the opportunity to individual volunteers, communities, Churches, institutions 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 not-for-profit movements like the Hope Home Calcutta to make an impact *that matters!* Transcending all cultural, linguistic and geographic boundaries, it not only celebrates volunteerism in all its different 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, skills and resources without expectation of material reward, volunteers themselves are uplifted by a singular sense of purpose! The Hope Home Calcutta was initiated through purposeful volunteerism!

COME, VOLUNTEER WITH US!

CHRISTMAS 2019

OUR CHRISTMAS MANDATE

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...' (The Bible). Since the inception of our transformational endeavor in 2003, the Hope Home Calcutta has been purposefully involved to put this Scriptural mandate into effect, especially during Christmastime. Some of the life-impacting activities we would be involved with this Christmastime include:

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

CHRISTMAS CONCERT (scheduled for 14 December): our Annual Christmas Concerts gives us an opportunity to reach out to the community with the message of Christmas through skits, carols, Christmas plays, dance sequences, violin ensemble and other performances. We also invite guests artists to perform. Several hundred people from different religious faiths attend our concerts. We also plan to distribute over 100 gift packets to poor children from the community during the Concert

CLOTHES & BLANKET DISTRIBUTION

CHRISTMASTIME has given us the privilege to reach out to the community with practical demonstration of God's love, grace, goodness and blessings. Over the past 16 years we have been able to distribute thousands of blankets and clothes, hundreds of mosquito-nets, sarees and a few bicycles to



the poor and needy of the community living in our vicinity. Hundreds of families have been blessed, especially the elderly, women and children. This year too, we plan to distribute mosquito-nets, blankets and sarees during our Christmas Concert. We invite all of you, especially friends living in Calcutta to

come and join us in this life-impacting endeavor. The cost of each blanket is **INR 350 (US\$ 6)**. Please pitch in!!

MARY COOPER OLD AGE HOME

MARY COOPER Old Age Home has been an important and regular feature of the Hope Home Calcutta calendar of events since our inception in 2003. This visit to the interned, lonely and many of them sick elderly ladies



and gentlemen gives us great joy and satisfaction in the midst of all our Christmas-related activities. We perform skits, Christmas plays, sing Christmas carols, play the violin, dance and pray for the resident folks. We carry cakes, cookies and gifts for these precious people from funds designated for our own Christmas celebrations. This year we are scheduled to visit them on **Friday, December 20** at 6 p.m. Calcutta friends are welcome to join us for this visit and be a blessing to these dear people!

THAKURPUKUR CANCER HOSPITAL & ST. JUDE CHILD CARE CENTRE

FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS, we have been privileged to visit the pediatric ward of the Cancer Hospital across the street from the Hope Home Calcutta on Christmas Eve. We also visit the St. Jude Child Care Centre where some of the terminally ill children are housed along with their family members. These visits are a humbling experience for us as we distribute Christmas goodies and approved food stuff to these kids, some as young as a few months old. Last Christmas, the terminally ill children were invited to our



Christmas Concert as our special guests and all of them heard Christmas carols and watched the Christmas play for the first time in their lives!

CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNITY LUNCH

OUR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS are

not complete without the Christmas Day Community Lunch. This year would be the 5th year we have been organizing this community event. We invite our students, their families, staff members, people from the local community and many poor people living in our vicinity to join us for this special meal on Christmas Day. Around 300 people came in last Christmas, most of them from different religious faiths including Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists and others. This Lunch gives us the opportunity to explain to guests the true meaning and significance of Christmas: that God gave His best gift of Jesus to mankind. This year too we expect over 300 people to join us. We seek to holistically transform our local community. You are invited to sponsor a meal – the meal costs **INR 300 (US\$ 5)** for each person!

QUOTE OF THE MONTH



THANK YOU for being part of the extended family of the Hope Home Calcutta! We are blessed immeasurably! We appreciate your visits, letters of encouragement and emails!

HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND A MEANINGFUL NEW YEAR

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 clearly for Hope Home Calcutta)

ONLINE - vvcc.churchcenter.com/giving

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