



## **KHEL 2005-2006 School Year Report**

### **Dear Friends of KHEL,**

KHEL works with many communities, each with unique needs. We have seen some **exciting changes in 2006!** First is that the document you are reading was written from **reports of the staff and students**. An expanded version of this report, including their moving personal essays, will be available at [www.khelcharities.org](http://www.khelcharities.org) in time for the holidays!

**Come to The Annual KHEL Gathering**, November 16<sup>th</sup> at the **Meditation Center** [www.themeditationcenter.org](http://www.themeditationcenter.org) in Minneapolis, MN, USA.!

### **KINDNESS/ Administration**

**Web News Update: KHEL urgently needs \$500 for software and computer upgrades.** We cannot work on the website without these funds. We also hope to start a photo archive project. If you have photos of the early years, email [saum@khelcharities.org](mailto:saum@khelcharities.org) or bring copies to the gathering on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

KHEL's hardworking staff in India received a cost-of living increase in 2006. Administrative staff attended a seminar on Media Presentation and Beni, our tireless manager, added a course on Cooperative Management to his busy schedule. Also, best wishes to Rajeev, leaving KHEL to pursue his MBA. Shahzad, a scholarship student, joins our staff as a paid intern. **Working at KHEL gives students practical skills and confidence.**

As promised, KHEL is helping with issues here in Minneapolis, MN USA. We offered a **partial scholarship for a low-income student** at Minneapolis Community and Technical College [www.minneapolis.edu](http://www.minneapolis.edu). Saum teaches seminars at MCTC, some relating to KHEL's work. Stomy is also working on local education as a member of the Diversity Leadership Council at The Blake School [www.blakeschool.org](http://www.blakeschool.org).

*Administration costs (US & India): \$4100*

### **HEALTH**

KHEL donated to "Tiffany's Troop," the team representing KHEL logo designer Tiffany Behler [www.tritiff.com](http://www.tritiff.com) at the 2006 MN AIDS Walk, benefiting The MN AIDS Project [www.mnaidsproject.org](http://www.mnaidsproject.org).

For our KHEL community in Dehradun, 2006 brought necessary vaccinations for our school kids, and we hosted a joint venture Health camp with local NGO's, including Himalayan Institute Hospital Trust (HIHT) [www.hihtindia.org](http://www.hihtindia.org). We are currently working with their Rural Development Institute (RDI) on a project to help young people improve general health and reproductive practices.

Our biggest news is that **the residents of Shiv Puri Colony, the slum we started in 25 years ago, no longer need us to feed them.** We have phased out the rations program for children (and their families) at **Lakshmi Devi Academy (LDA)**. This is a huge change! They still **need KHEL's help for education**, but most are able to provide basic needs. We continue to **provide individual families with extra nutritional or other aid.** Emergency medical situations this year include a little boy facing the daunting prospect of a heart valve replacement.

Dealing with sanitary issues in India is always an uphill battle, but this is ridiculous! We found a solution for water drainage at **Indresh Leprosy Colony**, but now have further problems. Located at the bottom of a hill, the Leprosy patients at Indresh are horribly **affected by raw sewage** from a growing neighborhood at the top of the hill. Residents of this impoverished area have no sewage or garbage service other than a small creek and gravity. We are working hard to solve this new challenge.

*Medical & other aid: \$8760*



## EDUCATION

LDA continues to offer **fee-subsidized education for the children of low-income families**. We have **over 200 children** in grades 1-5 for the 2006 school year. When needed, we help our students with **basic needs and emergency medical funding**, as well as the occasional expense such as giving a child a bicycle so he can get to school! Despite being disadvantaged, LDA's students consistently have **above average grades** for schools in Uttaranchal. Currently KHEL is helping to support **148 scholarship students** in grades 6 through college/trade programs. That's 27 students more than last year! However, it's getting hard to fund so many and this year we **had to turn away eligible applicants**. Applicants are encouraged to contribute to their college tuition, through loans and grants from family, other NGO's and part-time jobs.

*Education: \$28,625*

## LAUGHTER/ Community

While gaining great advantages through education, kids need entertainment! **Thanks to all our KHEL friends who took the time to visit** in 2006! LDA also had functions for Republic and Independence Days; for Children's Day we had a sports competition with Hillcrest Academy. The kids distributed fruit baskets and gave performances on Teachers' Day. Staff also joined Mrs. Lalita Arya, KHEL's founder, at a local restaurant for lunch, and the Annual Teachers' Awards. Later in the year, students visited the Dehradun Main Post Office, and the Punjab & Sindh Bank. They had a lot of fun and **were introduced to life skills that their parents probably do not have**. We also had a program for our scholarship students, who took part in an art and essay competition; we hope to share these on our website. Overall, **our scholarship students are doing well**. Meeting with them more throughout the year has helped. KHEL's Sewing project continues to provide impoverished women with skills and a social network. *Artisan project: \$2165*

Several young women from the KHEL community were married this year. We are proud that all **finished high school and college before getting married and starting families**. We wish them the best. Thanks you to the KHEL staff, **especially Manmati, Beni and Bindra**, for taking on additional responsibilities and keeping KHEL and LDA running!

**THANK YOU! We couldn't do any of this without our donors and volunteers!** Another year has come and gone, another group of kids have been given a chance. From down here in the trenches it's often hard to see the progress; the opportunity to share with you puts it in perspective. We knew that we could feed a child and save a life. We believed we could **educate a child, change a life and someday they would feed themselves**. We hoped that their family would benefit from that child's progress. We never imagined that a slum would someday be a neighborhood and that as a community, they would say, thank you, but we can feed ourselves. Educate us instead. Let us say it again: by educating one child we not only save a life, but change it. **In changing one life, we change one family, one community. We change the world.**

**In Service,**

Stomya Arya Persaud & Saumya Arya Haas