



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 in time for the holidays!

Come to The Annual KHEL Gathering, November 16th at the **Meditation Center**
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 or bring copies to the gathering on November 16th.

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. 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.

Administration costs (US & India): \$4100

HEALTH

KHEL donated to "Tiffany's Troop," the team representing KHEL logo designer Tiffany Behler www.tritiff.com at the 2006 MN AIDS Walk, benefiting The MN AIDS Project 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. 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