



Kindness • Health • Education • Laughter

KHEL ANNUAL REPORT 2016



Dear Friends,

KHEL provides an equitable learning environment with the hope our kids will have opportunities their parents never had. We hope our kids grow up to have stable and fair-wage jobs because they received a decent education. We hope our kids grow up to have friends from other backgrounds because the KHEL community is diverse. We hope our kids grow up to advocate for fair treatment for themselves and others, because KHEL once advocated for them. We hope our kids grow up to believe in themselves and their community, because we believe in them now. We hope. And then we get to work.

Many of the children at Lakshmi Devi Academy (LDA), KHEL's school for underserved children in Dehradun, India, are the first in their families to have literacy access but may still live in homes with no toilets or running water. Access to education takes more than a classroom and books. Sometimes, a student comes to school without basic supplies. Sometimes, their clothing and shoes are literally falling apart. Sometimes, they show up malnourished or ill. Sometimes, a child simply stops coming to school and we have to find out why. A parent gets sick or injured and can no longer support their family, or someone dies and a family is suddenly destitute. Food, clothes, school supplies, physical and mental health support, community outreach, a shoulder to cry on: you help provide these necessities. There's no 'one size fits all' answer; each child in need has a unique situation. We do not come to the table as outsiders but as members of the same community. We listen, we ask questions, and then we offer solutions.



You helped 8 year old Raju, who had never gone to school. His mother died, his father was gone all day looking for work, and Raju was scared at home alone. Now he's a full time student at LDA, learning to read and write for the first time.

You helped Shweta, who cried on our Founder's shoulder because her shoes fell apart and she had nothing else to wear to high school. We gave her new shoes and have kept in touch to see what other aid she might need.

You helped Vijay, who was studying for his BA when his brother passed away suddenly. Vijay became the sole support for his family and left school to work at a construction site, hauling rocks by hand. He's back at college now. You're also helping the two little kids in this family who lost their father, so they can stay in school.

Our hope remains our foundation, but as our community changes how we build upon it evolves. After three years of discussion and planning, we are starting a building upgrade for LDA, to accommodate our growing student community. Many years ago our contractor, Jakir, was one of our students. You helped him, too. Thank you.

In Service,
Stomy Arya Persaud
Executive Director
KHEL Charities

KINDNESS



Medical Insurance: KHEL provides government mandated medical insurance that helps our employees pay for care at designated hospitals and clinics in Dehradun. Sometimes the hospitals designated on our plan don't have enough doctors so they refuse to admit patients. In these cases, KHEL has to pay out of pocket for health care at other hospitals.

Staff Changes: It's challenging to find a local teacher with excellent qualifications, compassion and willingness to accept a lower salary. Anju Pant fits all our criteria for a good teacher. She has MA's in English and History, a B.Ed., Nursery Teacher Training certification and good English language skills. She hopes to make a difference in the lives of the underserved children of the community • We hired Sharmila to assist Rajeshwari with keeping the school clean for the kids.



Condolences: Dan Prideaux helped establish [The Meditation Center](#) in MN, whose members have supported KHEL for decades. For his dedication to service and his friendship, he will always hold a special place in our hearts • Nalini Behari was a spiritual daughter of Swami Veda. She took great care to include KHEL's kids and staff in the Children's Retreats at [Swami Rama Sadhaka Grama \(SRSG\)](#). She was funny, gentle and kind, and will be missed • Kailash was part of the KHEL community for decades, through his wife Rajeshwari who works at LDA. Two years ago Kailash came to work for us. We are very sorry for the loss of this hard-working man who was devoted to his family • Suresh, age 26, died of Dengue Fever because he was released from the hospital too soon. He leaves behind a young wife, two small children and elderly parents.

Improvements at LDA: Our kids are affected by their environment and open sewers are a big contributor to infections and illnesses. New sewer lines in Shiv Puri Colony where LDA is located will eliminate open drains that carry diseases and create other hazards. These sewer lines aren't active yet, giving us time to put in connector lines

at LDA • One of the open drains runs along the bottom of our boundary wall. The water causes damage to the sun-dried bricks that makes the wall unstable as it erodes the foundation. The Municipal City Council cemented and rebuilt the drain. They also repaired the flood-damaged entrance to LDA, making it easier for the kids to get into the school grounds.

Leprosy Colonies: KHEL supports three leprosy colonies with dry rations and medicines – Indresh, Ram Mandir and Rotary. Thirty people live in Ram Mandir and there were no new admissions in 2016, which is good news. We are dismayed to report that one person, Lal Mani, is missing from Indresh Colony. He went to Delhi in search of work and never returned. He has not been in contact with his family or anyone at Indresh.



Himgiri Lions Club: The Dehradun Lions Club supported KHEL again this year by providing prizes to our Sports Day winners. They also donated ceiling fans to some of our classrooms so it won't be so hot in the summer months.

USA: In addition to the work we do in India, we provide grants to individuals and projects in the US. Lucia Dolan is a teacher in a Title 1 school in the Boston, MA area. We helped her buy books for her classroom • We sponsored the launch of The [Poetic Equity](#) project at [Agape Editions](#). Poetic Equity promotes development, education, and healing through the literary arts by donating books to educational and rehabilitative institutions in underserved communities across the USA; those books are direct donations by KHEL. We also helped at-risk communities in Minnesota by donating needed items for recent immigrants through the [International Institute of Minnesota](#). In addition, we sponsored one attendee to the Chicago event of the nation-wide "[Together Tour](#)."

Regulatory Changes: KHEL must now submit a quarterly report to the Ministry of Home Affairs regarding all foreign funds received as donations. We are awaiting information on many other regulatory changes that will affect how much time and money we must invest in interfacing with the government.



Indian Government Scholarships: For several years the Indian government has been working on ways to put money for education in the hands of the people who need it most. Some of these policies lead to an enormous amount of work for the three people at LDA who interact with government bureaucracy – Manju (LDA's Headmistress), Manohar (Social Outreach Coordinator) and Beni (KHEL's General Manager). Now, the government gives these funds directly to the kids via automatic deposit. We are still responsible for reporting to the Education Department the number and names of minority students and students from Scheduled Castes and Tribes.

Government Activities at LDA: LDA isn't just centrally located, it's also the largest gathering space in Shiv Puri Colony. In the months prior to elections, government officials spend every day at LDA to allow ample time for community members to enroll to vote and also to sign up for an Aadhaar card which is necessary for opening bank accounts and other financial services. During elections, there are no classes at LDA and the polling officials sleep at the school to protect the ballot boxes. When there are other government programs in the area, LDA's grounds become a parking lot for official cars.

Use of Funds: LDA, a permanent project of KHEL, is a government-recognized school serving approximately 300 preschool-8th grade students. Our primary objective is education, which means employing qualified teachers for our kids. KHEL has 21 employees, half of whom are teachers at LDA, with many other staff members supporting their

efforts. Our Management Team of Beni, Bhagwat (our Assistant Manager), Manohar and Manju keep everything running smoothly. KHEL is a nonprofit and has a different set of regulations to conform to than LDA, which is an academic institution. To make sure we comply with Indian regulations, we have 4 professional consultants. Our lawyer makes sure we conform to Indian law. Our monthly accountant keeps our books in order. Our auditor is required by federal law to audit our books quarterly and submit our tax returns at the end of the year. In addition, KHEL must pay a State government appointed accountant to oversee our employees' retirement fund. We want our kids to make full use of the education we provide, so we support them and their community with numerous health camps, medical aid, educational supplies, extracurricular activities and by keeping their school building and grounds in good shape. KHEL also provides aid to three Leprosy colonies – Ram Mandir, Indresh and Rotary Club. The use of funds is as follows (rupees shown in lakhs, exchange rate is INR65=USD1):

INR4,10,000 (USD6,310) KHEL: accounting, legal, banking, travel, office expenses, regulatory
INR21,00,000 (USD32,310) KHEL/LDA: compensation, retirement fund, health insurance
INR5,20,000 (USD8,000) LDA: overheads, general maintenance, regulatory
INR4,50,000 (USD6,930) LDA Kids and Community: medical camps, school supplies, other aid, extracurricular
INR8,50,000 (USD13,080): Leprosy Colonies: emergency aid, medical aid, dry food rations
INR2,10,000 (USD3,230): Other Medical Aid
INR45,40,000 (USD69,860): Total

HEALTH



Medical Clinics: KHEL's free medical clinics are open to everyone in the community. If the doctors find any serious illnesses that can't be treated immediately, they give recommendations to the patients on where they can go for treatment. These are often the same people KHEL will give medical aid to, so they can continue working and supporting their kids who attend LDA. If we don't help the parents, occasionally one of our kids will get pulled out of school to work because there are no adults in their household healthy enough to provide for them. We had several medical clinics that were all well attended. KHEL's staff volunteer their time to help keep everyone organized so the doctors can focus on each patient. Saryu Devi Charitable Trust (SDCT) and Sankalp Foundation organized a one-day camp. Over 200 patients were seen • HIHT in conjunction with Himalaya Herbal Healthcare conducted an Ayurvedic medicine camp of 276 patients. 100 patients ages 30-80 were given a free Bone Mineral Density (BMD) test. This test is normally INR1,000-1,500 (USD15-22), well beyond the range of what the average KHEL family can afford • The Shivalik Green Lions Club arranged a medical camp with 9 doctors, 4 nurses, 2 pharmacists and 4 technical staff from Mahant Indresh Hospital and Medical College. In one afternoon this dedicated set of doctors and support staff saw 350 patients. Shivalik Lions Club provided free medications.

Medical Aid: Although we have medical insurance for our staff, it doesn't cover them completely. There are also other people in the community who depend on us for direct medical aid. Beni contracted Typhoid which was treatable with antibiotics and he was hospitalized for a few days • Dinesh, one of our teachers, had a family member become very sick with Dengue and without health insurance KHEL would have had to come up with thousands of

rupees. The cost for his wife's care was minimal, thank to health insurance • Bhagwat contracted Hepatitis E and almost died but thanks to the wonderful staff and doctors at HIHT, he recovered fully • Renu is the daughter of Rajeshwari and Kailash who both worked at KHEL until Kailash's untimely death. Renu was in a terrible accident last year and had several surgeries. She's still in physical therapy and struggling to get better. Meanwhile, her father passed away. The burden of supporting this family now falls to Rajeshwari as Renu can't work and her younger sister is at home looking after her. We are doing everything we can to help them • Paro is a long time resident of Indresh Leprosy Colony. Her son, Shubham, was the victim of a hit and run driver in Hyderabad, where he was studying to become a nursing aid. He needed spinal surgery immediately and will need additional surgeries • Ghanshyam, who lives at Indresh Leprosy Colony, had back surgery. He's recovering at home • Anirudh is Beni's 24 year old son and has been volunteering at KHEL for most of his life. He was hit by a car and his jaw was fractured. Thankfully, he's going to recover fully.



Government Health Clinics: At LDA, we welcome members of the government's medical community who give advice, testing, medicines and vitamins to pregnant women, new mothers and children under 5 years of age. These clinics are free to the public and essential for protecting babies from diseases such as Polio. Because LDA is centrally located, the local women don't have to travel a long distance to get the medical services they need.

EDUCATION



Teachers' Training: Running a school for underserved children includes keeping our teachers up to date on the latest teaching methods. Jeet Bahadur is a professional educational trainer and organizes teachers' workshops. With Mr. Bahadur was one staff member, Ram Kishan Mehta. They brought their own computer, sound system and projector since we don't have this kind of technology at LDA. The teachers were very motivated and especially liked the participatory portions of the workshop that was accompanied by audio visual aids. Having new methods to teach the curriculum helps the teachers find innovative ways to make the material more interesting, which makes learning easier and fun for the children • Our teachers have chosen to meet every Saturday after school to improve their English and other skills • Dinesh, one of our teachers, became certified in the TET (Teacher Ability Test) and other teachers are working on qualifying to take this test.

Teaching Aids: Dhyana Mandiram Trust (DMT) recently donated a K-Yan Smart Class machine. The K-Yan is an all-in-one teaching computerised instrument and requires a significant amount of training to use. The K-Yan trainers conducted 5 training sessions with the teachers, showing them ways to enhance the classroom experience for LDA's kids.

Educational Performance: The Cultural Department of the Uttarakhand government sent Sanskriti Sanaathan, a cultural performance group, to LDA. Using entertaining songs and plays, Sanskriti Sanaathan's artists shared with

our kids important information about the Clean India mission, and educating girls. The children had a great time learning about basic self and community care like hand washing before meals and throwing rubbish into dust bins rather than onto the street.



Buddy Project: The kids enjoy LDA's Buddy Project, where they spend time with a Junior or Senior Buddy doing homework together, playing games or taking part in competitions. Some of our older Buddies who graduated come back to visit their Junior Buddies. They talk about what high school is like, and offer encouragement to their younger Buddies to stay in school and work hard to do well.

Adolescent Resource Centre (ARC): The Adolescent Resource Centre gives our students a fun way to learn about non-academic issues in a safe and secure setting. Together with their friends, they discuss relevant topics like health, hygiene and relationships. ARC is made possible by [RDI](#) - [HIHT](#) (Rural Development Institute - Himalayan Institute Hospital Trust) that sends us two wonderful counselors, Karishma and Madhavi, and by DMT, which funds this program. Madhavi and Karishma meet with 21 8th graders twice a week to discuss health and hygiene, nutrition, adolescent issues (including the use of social media), community service and career counseling. They help them to understand the issues, find solutions, and change personal and community attitudes.

LDA Academic Report: LDA has 302 students. We had 50 new admissions, and 25 students graduated from 8th class and went on to high school. Twenty-six students transferred out of LDA mostly because their families returned to their villages. For the past few years it was illegal to fail any students so we saw a dramatic reduction in our 8th grade test scores. Now, the government has amended this regulation so the kids will have to work a lot harder to keep their grades up if they want to pass the state wide 8th class exams.

LAUGHTER



Milestones: Pooja, the daughter of a KHEL staff member, got engaged • Dev Kumar, a young man who receives aid from KHEL and the Arya family, was admitted to a Hotel Management college • Amrita, a former student of LDA, passed her Nursing Management course • Manohar, KHEL's Social Outreach Coordinator, celebrated his Silver anniversary as well as his 50th birthday • Beni, KHEL's dedicated General Manager, also celebrated his 50th birthday •

Visitors/Volunteers: The kids had just finishing their first day of exams and it was a welcome break for them when Randall, a long time KHEL supporter and friend, stopped by for a visit. We distributed bananas and chocolates to everyone, hopefully making the first exam day a little easier to bear • Shobhana Chandaria, DMT's new Charitable Causes Coordinator, dropped by to discuss our Adolescent Resource Centre and plans for future projects • Ravi, a professional tennis coach from the UK, spent a few days with the kids after school, teaching them some sports basics. After the first day he remarked that many of the kids came in flip flops since most of them are too poor to afford tennis shoes. But on the second day, they'd all borrowed tennis shoes from friends and family.

Staff/Volunteer/Board Member Activities: During the very hot summer, the government imposed restrictions on schools to protect the kids from the excessive heat. Our teachers took advantage of the school closing to enjoy some time at a local water park • Ammaji, Stomy and Beni met with Mr. Ahluwalia who has faithfully served on KHEL's Board for at least two decades • Whenever Stomy and Ammaji are in India, we meet with the teachers for lunch. The informal setting gives us an opportunity to hear about the teachers' lives, and if they have any challenges we need to help them address • Shalini is a lifelong KHEL volunteer and granddaughter of the Founders. She invited Stomy to attend a Women and Philanthropy Conference which was hosted by her employer, United Way of Greater Atlanta. This well attended conference serves to bring women in the world of philanthropy together to discuss their challenges, aspirations and goals • We send our teachers on an excursion every year, to a part of India they've never visited before. In 2016 they went to Kolkata. When they return they share stories and photos of their trip with the kids.



Holidays and Celebrations: The 7th and 8th grade students had a great time at Lacchiwala, a water sports playground in the forest outside of Dehradun. The picnic was just two days before Holi, the Hindu Spring festival. Holi is a lot of fun but can get really messy so we don't allow the kids to bring the coloured powders to school. Since the picnic wasn't at LDA the kids brought colours and everyone had fun playing Holi. After playing they swam in the canal to wash off the colours. We distributed juice and snacks to the kids but they were still hungry so we stopped at a roadside cafe and bought everyone Chow Mein, spring rolls and soup • Our kids work hard at school and deserve to have a break whenever possible. The teachers helped them celebrate Children's Day by organizing a Sports Day with many types of races, even for the very little kids. We make this an inclusive and discourage the idea of 'winning'; rather, we want all the kids to have a good time and be supportive of each other • Every January 26th we celebrate Republic Day with a cultural program presented by the children. Mr. Rabbani, a retired social worker, and Mr. Ansari, a local politician, both longtime friends of KHEL, were invited. They raised the flag for us while the kids sang the national anthem. Afterwards, sweets were distributed to all the children • August 15th is India's Independence Day. Kamli Bhatt, our City Councilor, and many members of the Lions Club of Dehradun joined us to celebrate. The Lions Club awarded prizes to our top three academic students and presented a gift to Manju, our Headmistress. They also provided refreshments. Many of the children took part in performances which were enjoyed by all the guests • Teachers' Day is celebrated with dance performances by the kids for their teachers, as a way to say thank you for all their hard work • The 8th class graduation party was, as always, beautifully presented by the 7th class students. They performed for their outgoing classmates a selection of folk, Bollywood and other popular songs and dances. It was touching to see how attached the 8th class students are to LDA and how they'll miss it when they've moved on to high school.

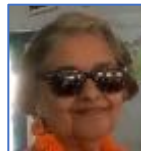


Sports: Having a playing field is important for our kids and the community. Our kids get to take a break every day from their studies, to play with their friends and relax. Local kids come by after school to work on their sports skills. We host several district level volleyball tournaments every year, and there's even an LDA Club, so named because most of the players went to our school. We hosted our first girls' volleyball tournament and we have a coach who comes to LDA after school to work with the kids.

THANKS



Thanks to everyone who makes KHEL's work possible! Our generous donors keep us running, as do our teachers and other staff • Consulting trainers: Karishma, Madhavi, Jeet and Ram • Doctors: Drs. Chauhan, Tyagi and Singh, as well as Drs. Pratibha and RK Mangain, and Dr. Swami. Also Drs. Roy, Maneesha, Soniya, Singh, Nitin, Sharika, Gaurav, Yamini, Pooja and Joshi • Medical support staff: Mumtaz, Prinka and Panmer, Atul Verma from Himalaya Herbal Healthcare, Ritesh Dhiman and Ashok Rawat • Saryu Devi Charitable Trust, Sankalp Foundation, Rural Development Institute, Dhyana Mandiram Trust and Himalayan Institute Hospital • Our lifelong volunteers: Shalini, Dharani and Anirudh • Kamli Bhatt, City Counselor • Lions Club and Rotary Club members and Officers: Sanjeev Kumar Sharma, Ashutosh Raturi and Tara Chand Mathur • Sports: Avdesh Kumar Choudhari • Sanskriti Sanaathan: Girish Semwal, Ajay Tiwari, Prashant Kamboz, Sunil Kumar, Saurabh Maithani, Manish and Shalu • DMT's outgoing Charitable Projects Coordinator, Bhola Shankar Dabral, and Shobhana Chandaria who has replaced him • Rations Provider: Sudesh • Last but not least, thank you to our family members who support those of us who volunteer full time.



As always, a heartfelt thank you to Ammaji for her advice and wealth of history that she continues to share with us. Her loving guidance is an inspiration to all of us at KHEL.

In Service,

Beni Bhatt, General Manager • Stomy Persaud, Executive Director • Bhagwat Prasad, Assistant Manager

