



# One By One

Year 14 Issue 1

February 28, 2014

“Do your little bit of good where you are; its those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”

**DESMOND TUTU**

## Vijay's Corner

### Social Problems in Nallasopara

“It is of great concern regarding the living condition of the residents in NS. There has been increasing grievances regarding abuse, human trafficking, early marriage, school dropout, and unhygienic diet in the area. Most children really don't feel comfortable in discussing their problems as they are scared of them. Teenagers are most affected and really don't know how to share their problems with their parents. It is really necessary to have a lecture every month for the parents regarding how to develop a comfort zone between themselves and their children, so that the children don't get involved in social problems that arise as they grow up.”

## Director's Corner—Norman 2014 Gala “BELIEVE”



When all is said and done, we become what we believe. “Believe” was the theme of the One! International 13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala on January 24, 2014. Three hundred and ninety nine Gala tickets were sold this year. Friends, donors, supporters, and volunteers of One! International gathered at the Mirage Banquet Hall in Edmonton to express their belief in the organization, witness the tremendous work done in India, and help raise funds for its activities.

Guests were welcomed at the door, ladies received “bindis” on their foreheads, and everyone was escorted to their tables. There was a significant number of new One! friends, who experienced the organization for the first time.

The evening started off with a brief welcome by Tania

Spilchen – President and founder of One! International. Her message of hope described what she believes in, and how it is making a difference in the lives of One!'s children and their families in the slums of Mumbai.

Next, thanks to technology, the audience was able to see and listen to the teachers and staff in India talk about their beliefs. What better way to experience what One! is doing in Mumbai than to hear about it from those who make this possible. Just before dinner was served, the One! children came online to recite the “Thank You” prayer, their grace before meals. It was tough for all of us listening to them, to not be grateful for all that we have here in Canada.

Dinner was excellent. All through the evening, the silent auction tables were humming with bidders. Dinner was followed by a few short words of thanks from the One! Board, and



an update on the setup and structure of One! in the United States. Two of the most touching parts of the evening followed. First, a video where each child

expressed what they believed in. Whether it was themselves, their parents, siblings, teachers, or God; none of them were afraid to express themselves. Some even expressed who or what they did not believe in, which really shows how One! has given them a feeling of self worth. Next, Tania read a One! child's powerful and touching prize winning essay on “Believe”. The enjoyable evening concluded with two groups performing traditional Indian dances, which were well appreciated.



This event would not be possible without every volunteer's dedication, effort and time. To all those who volunteered, attended, contributed silent auction items, and brought friends to the event, our sincere gratitude. You helped to make this event a huge success, and it is your belief that makes One! International's mission possible.

Please go to <http://youtu.be/JUgnw4NUD5E> for footage.

Written by Tania unless otherwise mentioned.

### CONTACT One!

#### Canada

112 Garland Crescent, Sherwood Park, Alberta, Canada, T8A 2R2

Phone: (780) 467-6254

#### India:

Phone: (91) 98205-17805

#### Twitter:

@TaniaDidi

#### Facebook:

/OneTaniaDidi

#### Blog:

OneInternational  
Information.blogspot.com

EMAIL: info@one-international.com

[www.one-international.com](http://www.one-international.com)

## Staff Milestones



We have built a core team of loyal, reliable and ambitious staff in India who have completed 5+ years with One!. Without them, life at the schools would be even more chaotic!

Left to Right: Vijay, Mahendra, Anil, Chitra, Vikas (front) (Missing: Sunita)

## Case Study: Ravi the Artist

On my first day of school in India way back in May 2001 I laid out a mat and started teaching. I will never forget the little boy that was crying on the opposite side of the road because he didn't have anyone to bring him to 'school'. Caught up in my chaos, it took a week to find someone he was comfortable with bring him across, but he finally attended and finally stopped crying—that was Ravi(4).

Ravi has always had a thirst for knowledge, but was never given the chance to nourish it. His father was supportive, but his mother thought begging was more important. Up until 2005 when his father died, he and his brother Raju were allowed to attend school, but after that they were pulled in and out and not able to keep up.



In 2013, old enough to make his own decisions at 15, Ravi returned to classes and has rarely missed a day since. He is a volunteer/staff favourite; listens well, tries hard and is always happy. His smile and easy going nature have built trust with the One! team. He is employed at the Khar school doing odd jobs like garbage disposal, escorting young students to and from school, Xerox, etc. He does everything with a smile! His mom has been pushing for him to drop out, but he refuses.

Now 16, Ravi wants to register for Grade 10 next year and pursue art like his role model Sunil.

## “Believe” - Excerpt from Bineet(13)’s Winning Essay

“....

Human life starts with a belief. When a baby comes in the world he only knows his mother and he only believes in her. ... When he is in the teen age he makes his own friends and spends time and after home time he is able to decide that with which friend should respect and with whom he have to only keep relations of work. Because at that time the knowledge of belief and faith develops through his mind. ...If he will believe on the right peoples he will only meet to the path of success.

I believe in my parents because that they will always encourage, help and try their best to fulfill my requirements. Because they always take care about what I want and love me very much. Along with them, I also believe in my teachers and elders that they will help me to solve every future problem that will come on me. ... I also believe in my friends to whom I think that they are best. I believe that they will never cheat or leave me in difficult conditions because they help me to solve my problems which I have and if they are unable to do it they try their best towards it.

I believe in nature because it is so much beautiful and just when I put my step in the Natural Environment I feel refreshed and very happy. I think that I make my house among these trees, flowers and beautiful mountains. I want to thank that great man or organism who made such a beautiful place and I feel myself very fortunate that I am born in this world as a human being.”

## Volunteers Giving Generously

Aside from the amazing volunteers in Canada, we have had incredible volunteers in India as well.

It was a very sad day at the Khar and Nallasopara schools when Lauren (USA) and Priscila (Brazil) ended their 5 months of volunteering. Tears were flowing from Lauren and Priscila but were equally flowing from staff children and even parents who had grown close to them. We like to say that our schools are like families and the saying was proven that day.

We were lucky to have the nursing expertise of Debra (Canada) throughout February. She did family health assessments on most of the Khar families and discovered some interesting trends and common problems that we will be able to run clinics to solve. Preventative measures that will hopefully help to reduce other illnesses.

**THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!!**

## Good Luck Grade 10 Students!

With the hard work of studying getting to some, we are down from 13 to 9 students appearing for the Grade 10 (graduation) exams in April: Ashok, Jeetu, Kokila, Raziya, Reshma, Sanjay, Sunil, Sushil and Vikas.

Passing will give them a certificate that has credible meaning (and the first piece of official ID for some). It will allow them to apply for office jobs or other more stable employment.

Good luck everyone, we will have our fingers and toes crossed for you!