



One By One

Year 14 Issue 3 (Double Issue)

October 31, 2014

“It’s the possibility of having a dream come true that makes life interesting.”

Paulo Coelho

Dengue Fever and Other Scary Diseases

Post-Monsoon 2014 was a terrible year for disease—across all of Mumbai.

Dengue Fever was widespread, rich/poor, no one was safe. Teacher Chitra’s daughter Moon was struck with it.

At the Khar school, Rukshar, Saif, Sunil and baby Chandini were all seriously ill and almost needed hospitalization. Luckily, all reacted to medicine on time and recovered from what struck them.

After years of decreasing rates of disease, we are all hoping that this year was an anomaly. Let’s hope that 2015 will be a year of health for everyone.

Aukat—Your Place in Life

It is hard to understand each others religions, beliefs, cultures. It is hard to understand fully another persons tribulations or triumphs.

We do have a responsibility not to hurt each other. Unfortunately, in the Hindi language, certain words have become just that—entirely hurtful.

During an extra-curricular activity, our students were told that it wasn’t “their place in life”

to sit in an air conditioned bus. 10 years ago, this would have been dusted off their shoulder without second thought.

Now, the students wouldn’t let it go; they were irate. They were hurt to the core and knew that they did deserve the ‘good’ things in life and that they would work hard and fight to attain them.

Thankfully India (especially Mumbai) is changing and your aukat or place in life



is less defined. It’s still far from an easy road, but with hard work and determination, everyone can move up and down and everyone can demand respect in all situations no matter who you are.

Life is about learning from the situations we face. The children learned to treat others how they would like to be treated, and to demand the same in return.



Gala 2015 Update

Plans are well underway for the Gala on January 30, 2015. Thanks to the returning gala committee of Kathleen, Paragi, Nirmala, Jocelyn, Peter, Sonia and Marilyn, things are progressing smoothly.

We are excited about this year's theme: Success—Reach for the Stars. We are looking forward to telling everyone how “our children” have reached for the stars

and had great success. In fact, the children are excited to tell you themselves why they feel successful!

There are some re-turning evening items: Mendhi, Terry & Orest Jazz musicians, and Skype with the children in India.

There are also some new things to look forward to like Ashley and her Bollywood



[Picture from One! Gala 2013]

crew and the One! Quiz Game.

Tickets@one-international.com
or
www.one-internationalgala.eventbrite.ca

Tejal's Corrective Eye Surgery

Over the past few years as Medical Coordinator for the Khar school, Vikas has worked hard at building working relationships with all of the hospitals and doctor's offices that he visits. His hard work has paid off.

The Lotus Eye Hospital was willing to do Tejal's corrective eye surgery for free. 4 year old, Tejal, was born with a lazy eye like her mother Manda.

Tejal was taken to the Lotus Eye Hospital a couple years ago to see if anything could be done. The hospital



not only kept her file on record but called Vikas when it was time to bring Tejal in for a check-up and see if she was ready for the surgery. Vikas took her in to find out the costs and how to proceed when the doctor's informed him that the

hospital would be doing the procedure for free. One of the doctor's even made a donation to One!.

Tejal was very scared but loved the special treatment she got when she returned after the surgery. She was allowed to play in the office all day!

The Lotus Eye Hospital is also determined to help Parvati. Though they can not do anything about the blindness in her eye, they want to do cosmetic surgery so that it isn't as obvious.

Thanks to Vikas and the Lotus Eye Hospital, our children's major eye problems are being looked after optimally!



American School of Bombay Partnership

Over the past 10 years, we have been fortunate to have a fantastic relationship with the American School of Bombay (ASB).

The Grade 2 students from ASB have been working with our children since the beginning; every year they come visit our school, we visit



theirs and have a wrap-up swim day in May.

For the past 4 years, our teachers have been fortunate to get training through ASB's Teacher Training Program.

This past year, two more partnerships have started. A Dance Club with ASB's Senior high school students and

past Grade 2 students (now in Grade 4) who have started their own NGO to raise donations for our children.

Wow! We sure are fortunate!



Grade 10 Re-Writes and College Going Students!

Our Grade 10 program continues to grow in strength. All of our students from last year re-wrote exams in October. We spent most of our time on English prep, 'thinking outside of the box' and answering long answer questions which will not only help them in the specific subjects they wrote but in their academic futures as a whole.

We are anxiously awaiting the re-

sults which should come out by the 10th of December. Keep your fingers crossed for Sanjay, Vikas, Ashok, Reshma, Rajeshree, Kokila and Raziya.

Saif would be able to write the exams tomorrow and likely graduate, but unfortunately is still too young and will have to wait another 1 and a half years. Hopefully, free time doesn't distract him away from academics.

2 girls from the Nallasopara school (Versha and Sapna) and 3 more Khar school students (Ravi, Kajol and Rukshar) will join the Grade 10 team for exams in April 2015.

Both of our Grade 10 graduates, Jeetu and Sunil, registered in a local Nallasopara junior college for Grade 11. They are enjoying the 'college' environment and excited about where their academics will take them!

Director's Corner—Norman

“One! International Financial Update

One! International Poverty Relief continues its mission of teaching, feeding and caring for the most underprivileged children in Mumbai, India, on a very modest budget. For the first ten months of 2014, it had total revenues of \$104,000, and roughly an equivalent amount in expenses. The main sources of revenue were donations from individual supporters, and fundraising from the annual Gala. In addition, One! International once again received an Alberta government grant of \$15,000.

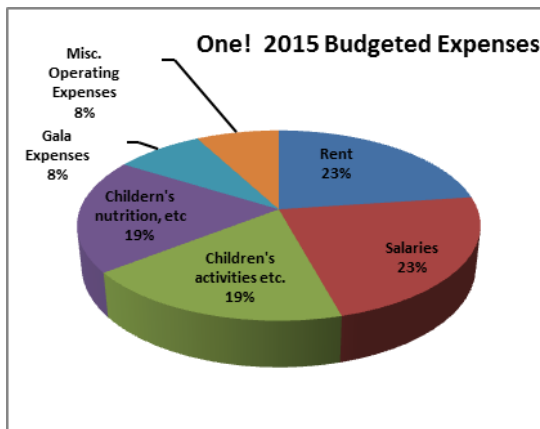
In order to take a more pro-active and prudent approach to One! International's finances, the board of

directors held a budget planning session in August 2014. A budget was developed and approved. The highlights of the 2015 budget are listed below:

Total Revenues: \$155,000
 Total Expenses : \$144,300

A breakdown of expenses by percentage is as follows:

- Rent—two schools in Mumbai (23%)
- Salaries for staff in India (23%)
- Children's activities, supplies and family support (19%)
- Children's nutrition, medical expenses and transport (19%)
- Gala expenses (8%)
- Miscellaneous operating expenses (8%)



The above budget does not quantify the time and effort put in by numerous volunteers both in Canada and in India. Their dedication and perseverance to the cause is the reason that One! International can continue to care for over 400 children and their families in Mumbai.”

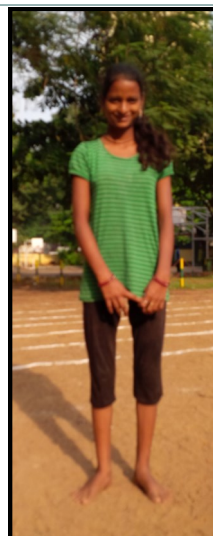
Case Study—Rajeshree

Just 3 years old when One! started back in 2001 and watching classes enviously from the opposite side of the street, Rajeshree is now 17 and a far cry from the shy girl she used to be.

Rajeshree is a young lady. She takes a lot of care in her appearance and this has given her a lot of confidence. She no longer needs to fight

to be heard or respected, she is now commanding it.

Rajeshree is engaged to be married and really wants for the marriage to happen as soon as possible. Worried that she was being pushed into the decision, the opposite is true. Her mom is postponing hoping to get



more money. Rajeshree wants to get out of the negative influences of her parents and start a life that she is sure she can lead on the 'right' path.

She is determined to get her Grade 10 certificate. We hope to push her marriage beyond her 18th birthday and hopefully give her enough time to pass 5 subjects and graduate.

Volunteer Corner

Monsoon (June to September) was a busy time for volunteers.

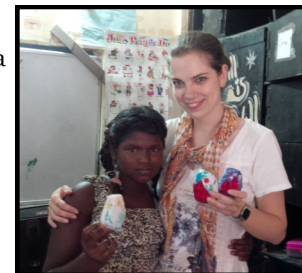
Chelsea (USA) arrived first and gave her best to the children for two months.

Our other three volunteers were all from Brazil and were all over 6 feet tall! The children couldn't get over their height and the school beat

them up with our low grills and doorways! Jose was the first to arrive. He volunteered for 2.5 months and was determined to do a great job spending extra time preparing for his classes. Pedro (2 months) was a jolly volunteer that made everyone smile. He had limited English skills but it is amazing what you can do when you have the right attitude. Ana arrived last and volunteered for a little over 2 months.

She created lasting bonds with the older students.

Out of the blue, Rebecca (France, 3 time volunteer) popped into the school for a visit. She volunteers part-time with our sewing and craft classes. Her gentle demeanour makes everyone smile and think positively.



Written by Tania unless otherwise mentioned.

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4 Months is a Long Time...

Since May of 2001, I have never been away from Mumbai for longer than 3 months. For my 4th knee surgery (November 19th), I will be away for 4 months—possible 4 and a half. All staff were apprehensive about me leaving for so long, but despite the trepidation they were also excited to take on the new challenge and show what they have learned over the years. We have wonderful leaders now and there is no doubt that they will succeed and begin a new and exciting phase for One! International.

Vijay's Corner

"Rapid Development in Santosh Bhavan

Santosh Bhavan, once an area full of trees and bushes, has now becoming the most populated place in Nallasopara. It has been rapid development since last year with proper roads, drainage system, garbage disposal and sewage line. This is all due to the increasing number of population, that has made the Municipal Corporation to provide all facilities required for the residents living there.

Most people are now avail of drinking water facility even though they have to stand in a queue. One year back people had to walk one km to get drinking water. Road leading to Santosh Bhavan has been widened and concrete bricks has been replaced with Tar. Earlier, it used to take twenty minutes to reach Santosh Bhavan, but now it just takes five minutes to reach.

Residents have started to understand the importance of cleanliness and have started to care more about the environment by participating in Swach Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Mission). Many formal school kids took brooms in their hand and came to the street cleaning.

People have also started to understand the importance of Hygiene and hence have been getting early morning and going for a walk in groups. Even our school kids like Sapna, Mansi, Khushboo, and many others go for jogging. Boys do cycling and jogging from Santosh Bhavan to Nallasopara Station. Municipal Corporation has organised a Marathon Race from Nallasopara to Virar and many of our older students are participating in it."

Sports Day October 2014!!

When you put more than 200 children in an active environment, the last thing you expect to say at the end of it is "That went smoothly!" or "We finished ahead of time!" but both were true this year.



It was an excellent event with sportsmanship, individual achievements and team work.



Canada Events

Wes Hosford Elementary School

They had another successful Bake Sale raising \$400 for One! International. That is a very large number of cookies and cupcakes that were made and eaten. Way to go kids.

Cooking Lessons

Sonia gave lessons on two different evenings to 19 eager cooks wanting to learn Indian cooking. The lessons were followed by a meal of the cooked items. Everyone seemed very impressed. Thank you Sonia.



Upcoming Just Christmas

On November 28 and 29, 2014, One! International will take part in "An Ethical Global Market Place" sale. Mavis of MoldedMud donates money from the sale of her special tiles, and we sell our Cards which highlight the art of our children, and Chai by Tania packets.