



One! International Poverty Relief

# One By One

Year 15 Issue 2 (Double Issue)

June 22, 2015

*“Life is a blank canvas, and you need to throw all the paint on it you can.”*

**Danny  
Kaye**

## Summer Fun Programs!



As always, the students came dressed to the nines to perform for their par-

ents, mentors and classmates.

Plays in Nallasopara and videos in Khar were teamed with songs and dances.

This year’s theme was battle of the genders with girls and boys performing separately. Truly there was no battle, though, as everyone encouraged each other and performed wonderfully!



## NEW WEBPAGE JULY 1st!

It is definitely time for One! International to have a fresh face...and the time is now!

Tanya from Platypi Design Inc. has been working diligently on our new webpage for months and it is almost ready!

Tanya understands the essence of One! and we feel that she has brought it out in her design.

You can look forward to picture galleries, feature stories, and ease of access to blogs, news and more!

Only one week away, check it out on July 1st!



## American School of Bombay (ASB)— Incredible Generosity and Support!

The children, staff and parents of ASB continue to spread their generosity to our One! Family - teachers and students.



The Grade 2 students not only raised funds but also donated a huge amount of sports supplies—enough for both schools! Cricket bats, footballs, skipping ropes, and badminton rackets are just some of the items they gave. Thank you Grade 2 ASB Community!

ASB’s High School students who run a Dance Club for our students organized a performance. Costumes and all, our children were able to perform in front of a large audience and got a standing ovation! Thank you Dance Club.

ASB’s Teacher Training Program completed its second batch and has resulted in higher confidence in the staff that attended.

Thank you ASB for all these wonderful opportunities.

## Vijay's Corner—A Story That Needs to be Told

“This is a truly shocking story of a child, who stays on street with her four siblings and parents. The girl was going to her uncle’s house with her parents. While travelling in a train, her father was playing his musical instrument to entertain people and earn some money. Unfortunately, policemen dressed in civil uniform felt that the father is using his child for begging. The police took all three of them to the police station. Even though, the girl was crying and telling the police that her parents never made her beg, the police didn’t listen to her. They took her separately and forced to beg and give statement against her parents or else they will put her parents in jail. Scared of the police, the girl gave the statement. The police filed a case against her father stating that he is not taking care of his child and spoiling her future by not sending her to school. The police

then admitted the girl to Children Home – home for orphans and street kids. The parents requested so much but the hostel manager didn’t give the girl to her parents. They asked for documents that proved the girl’s identification with her parent’s relation. The parents were not having any documents so the girl was kept in the hostel and the father was asked to make the documents and come. On the other hand, the girl’s father was detained by the police and was sent to court. Almost all the authorities were asking for bribe, but as the father was unable to give money, the judge ordered him to bring surety (person taking responsibility to release the accused on bail and should be earning more than 10000/-) or else a warrant will be issued against him within seven days. Unable to find a surety, the father attempted suicide, thankfully he was able to calm down and got

away from the depressed condition. He gave cash instead of surety, but he will be summoned after three months. Looking at the poor condition of the family, the PSI officer, who was in charge of the case realised his mistake and tried his best to get the girl out from the hostel, but his efforts went in vain. After three visits, the judge of the hostel court released the girl with letters from multiple NGOs (one being One! International). The PSI officer agreed to help in cancelling the case against the father.

This story tells us how corruption has reached to that level that poor people once caught in trouble will not be able to get out without money. The Government has really passed strict laws to get all kids to school and get a bright future, but some corrupt officials don’t seem to follow it properly and purposely get poor people into trouble for their own promotion.”  
- Vijay

## Khar Library—and the Librarians!

Every year, one of the monotonous but somehow pleasing tasks is to cleanout the library by cleaning, fixing and relabeling all of the books. This year’s experienced was made



even more successful with Volunteer Kati’s husband JP, and his teenage friend Brad, building us proper library shelves. Ashok and the Nallasopara boys mimicked the design and

extended the library even more. We now have a room that you could definitely call a library!

Once you have a library, you need librarians. Brothers Dashrath and Manoj have been itching at the chance to have a ‘job’ at school. They are intelligent boys, so the library is perfect for them. Only two weeks in, they have already proven to be conscientious and hard-working librarians!

## Another Sports Extravaganza

It was another great event for the One! children filled with both individual and team events. We have always encouraged the two schools



to work together and not think of themselves as different. Even though the Khar families are generally ‘poorer’ than the Nallasopara families in terms of living conditions and the greater amount of social problems they face, there should be no difference in treatment to each other. Respect is respect.

This feeling of equality has always been present, but somehow this time

it was different. It wasn’t even a question. Every child, client staff, and staff were a part of not two schools, but one—the One! school.





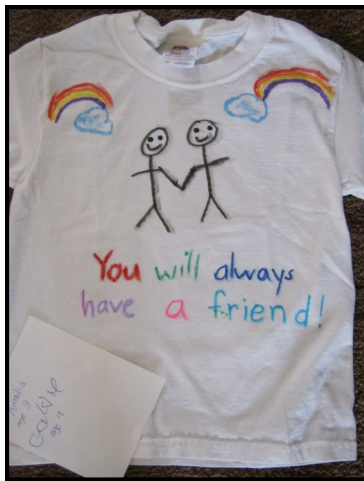
# Canada News—T-Shirts and More

## “A Great Partnership

The Information and Volunteer Centre in Sherwood Park supplied 200 children’s T-Shirts for the community to decorate at the Volunteer Fair in April 2015. In the weeks following the event, Wes Hosford Elementary School students, Yoga For Today patrons, and other community members, completed all 200 T-Shirts.

The shirts will be taken to India at the end of June for our One! students. The students will be delighted with the creative talents

of the young people and adults in Sherwood Park, the messages of encourage-



ment included with the shirts and the caring expressed for them by strangers.

The One! International children have benefited from the partnership between One! International, The Information

and Volunteer Centre, Wes Hosford Elementary School, Yoga for Today, and the community at large.

We can accomplish so much when we work together.

## Canada Volunteer News

Jen works on keeping Social Media up to date. Sylvia is learning and updating our Sumac Data Base. Lucille is working on Nutritional info for India. Maureen, Hilary and Lucille are working on Health Curriculum. Sonia is planning more cooking events.

## School Partnerships

York House School in Vancouver raised over \$1,000, and Wes Hosford Elementary School raised over \$600 selling freezies. Wes Hosford has been a partner with One! for over 10 years.”

- Marilyn



# Vikas—Grade 10 Graduate

“Success comes to those who work for it.”

Unfortunately, this adage is not always true, and success may seem more of a function of luck or ability.

When the adage does fit, the feeling of success is rejoiced even more. It is definitely true for Vikas. Starting at a Grade 5 English level or weaker just two years ago, Vikas worked hard every day and never gave up. Dis-

heartened after only passing two subjects on his first try a year ago, compounded with added struggles at home, he picked himself up and pushed on.

This year, he only expected to pass one more subject...instead he passed all three he wrote and graduated.

Congratulations Vikas! Your hard work paid off. You are a true role model for everyone!

# Mahendra—Leading by Example

When Mahendra joined One! International almost 9 years ago, he lacked confidence and was a follower. Learning quickly what was expected of him, he took on more and more responsibility and leadership roles.

Mahendra loves to tell stories and talk, but when it comes to his lead-

ership style, he is much more of a leader by example.

Now the man in charge at our Nallasopara school, he has guided the staff through its first successful semester without Vijay there full time. Of course Vijay’s presence is missed on an emotional level, but Mahendra has shown that he is a pillar at the school. He makes everyone feel comfortable

and supported.

Mahendra has stepped up and guided the school well. The NS school future is in good hands!



Written by Tania unless otherwise mentioned.

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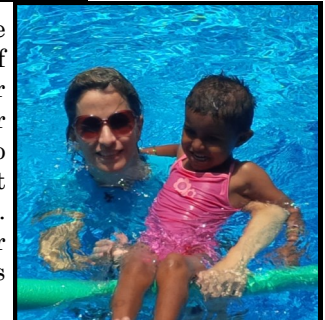
# Water Babies— Of All Ages!

There is nothing better on a hot summer day than running around in water—this is true on all sides of the world. Like every year, the One! children were given two great opportunities to cool off: the murky, mossy water of a



local 'Resort' and the crystal clear

water of the ASB school. I of course prefer the latter option but ... to the kids ... it doesn't matter. Water is Water and it is always GREAT!



## New Staff and Volunteers

We went through the process of hiring new staff which has become somewhat of a June tradition. Often tedious, this year was a pleasant surprise with many candidates who were not only talented and qualified, but had a social service mindset and were excited for the opportunity to be able to earn a wage while at the same time giving back to the community. We are very excited about the fresh energy they will bring along with new volunteers Colin, Breanne and Talia. July and beyond will be exciting!

## Malesh is Married!

Malesh, a student/Client staff worker since 2008, is married.

An orphan along with his sister Parvati, all he ever wanted in life was to get married and start a family. Worried that he wouldn't be able to find a wife without his parents, when he met a girl and fell in love AND the girl's parents were accepting his proposal of marriage...he JUMPED at the chance!!!

Ashwini is a wonderful young woman. Malesh treats her gently, lovingly & most of all respectfully.

Parvati is not yet used to her brother caring for anyone other than herself and is struggling with his divided attention. Ashwini is taking it slow and will win Parvati's heart within no time.

They have moved into a house in Nallasopara and are completely self-sufficient.

Congratulations Malesh! Best wishes for many years of health and happiness with your new family.



## Volunteer Corner—Jen



"I volunteer with One! International because I'm supporting a grassroots organization that I fully believe is making a big impact. When I first became acquainted with One!, I knew I had found something special. Tania's story of how she founded One! and its mantra that each one of us can make a difference resonates with me, and when you see the progress and hear the stories, you can't help but want to contribute".

Jen (Canada)

## Monsoon, Monsoon

The rains came only a week late (after last year being a month late) and hit strong. Within the first week of rains, we have already had to close the school for a day due to flooding. The rains wreak havoc, but are more than welcome after the hottest summer I have experienced in Mumbai in 16 years. (The NS School in the rain.)

