



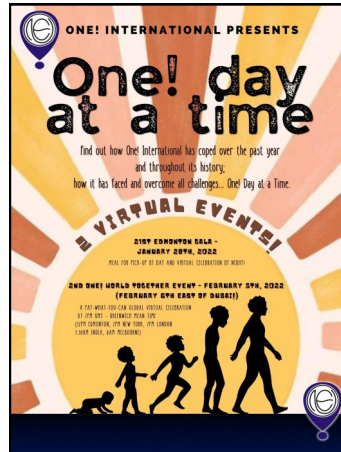
# One By One

Year 22 Sole Issue

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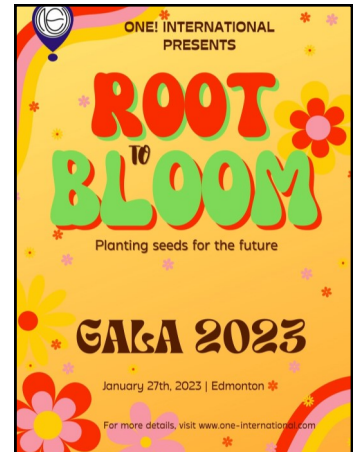
*“One day you will look back and see that all along you were blooming.”*

Morgan Harper Nichols



events. Students of One! International for more than 10 years, their English was superb and their one-liners brought laughter.

Vicky and Bneet were our tech specialists. Vikas and Jeetu told us about their social work. John Jakobs spoke passionately about why he supports One! International. The gala team gave their time, energy and creativity.



## Tania's Corner

*I hope this newsletter brings smiles to your face. This isn't a time to focus on negativity—there is far too much of that around us in the world already.*

*We strive to make the most of each day and relieve the stresses of those we serve by spreading knowledge, positivity and hope.*

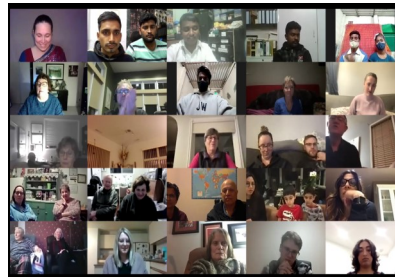
## Gala 2022

January 2022, was another pandemic Zoom Gala.

An opportunity for the team in India to share their passion for their work directly and gain valuable presentation and public speaking experience. Though it is never the same atmosphere as when it is happening live, our emcees, Pooja and Sohail, took their part very seriously and did a great job at hosting both virtual

Thank you to everyone!

Thank you to all who attended and continued to support and think of One! International through these difficult for everyone times. Your never-ending support is what allows us to grow and persevere.



## Gala 2023

We are busy preparing for our next gala...A LIVE EVENT!!

Keep your fingers and toes crossed that current conditions don't change. We are over-the-moon excited to be mingling and eating and being in the same room again on January 27th, 2023 with all of you.

The event will officially be launched within the next two weeks. Keep your eyes and ears open!

## Deepak's New Job

As a young student, Deepak wanted to play way more than he wanted to

study. His supportive parents and teachers were careful not to take the joy out of school & instead were able to teach him that both play and study should have equal importance. In 2017, his family was

in need of financial help. In order to help him continue studying, One! International was able to offer him a job as a student teacher. As a teacher, Deepak was drawn to primary students and was always caring & attentive to their needs – he was determined to set a solid base for the next generation of One! International students.

For the past 3 years, he has been pursuing his BSc in Computer Science. When

the pandemic put a halt on going to college, he continued studies online, not wanting to take a break. His efforts paid off; he graduated in June 2021 and finally received his degree in his hand in November 2021.

Giving great confident interviews, he got a position in a software company. He is sad to leave his 'home' at One! International, but is excited to embark on the next chapter of his life's adventure!



## Environmental Activism!

The month of May was an opportunity for staff to step up, show their commitment to the children and bring their ideas into action.

Each group (primary, middle and high) had full reign over the extra-curricular set of activities they wanted to do with their students.

The primary group (ages 5-9) smartly opted to stay in school with acting, singing and dancing their primary focus. A movie

night, a park visit and a big performance capped off the month.

The middle group focussed on craft and creativity.

The high group focussed on science and experimentation.

The most incredible activity of all was when both the middle and high group staff (independently) wanted to clean up a section of beach.



Staff went in advance to the area to talk to locals and clear the plan. They spoke to the students about why the activity was important—both the environmental aspect of it, but also activism in general.

staff say that the hard work was worth it and were shocked at the amount of garbage they collected in only 2 hours time.

The reward for their hard work...a swim in the ocean!!!

All students and



## Vijay's Corner

2022, we were just getting back to normal when human beings' egoistic nature once again raised its head. Russia and Ukraine war and Sri Lanka's economic crisis are few examples. Things in India are not so good too: animosity among religious groups, hatred speech by political leaders and many such things.

With this kind of situation both in India and around the world, it makes me think...

Are we going in the right direction??? Are our hard work and dedication worth it??? Many types of negative questions come to our

mind often and try to bring us down. At times we think should we do something else and try something different?

What we have been doing in the last 22 years is something that will not be seen immediately but will bring a big change in our future generation in terms of happiness, peace and good ethics in our children who will lead the world in right direction.

Success is measured in terms of how a person faces different situation; is he/she equanimous in both easy and difficult situations; is he/she used the

truth and honest way in fulfilling his duties and reaching his/her goal.

All of our One! International Members from top to bottom are focussing on the present and trying not to get carried away with the worries and crazy things going around us. It is certainly not easy but the way we are working, it seems we are doing well.

When a person sows a mango seed and nurtures it to grow into a tree; he should not do his duty of watering it and taking care of it only because that he will get sweet mangoes to eat. He might get to eat it in his lifetime or not, but his children, grandchildren will

definitely reap the sweetness of the mangoes. A feeling should not come in the person's mind who sowed the seed, that I sowed the seed and nurtured it, as it will generate ego in the person. It's the duty of the person that will bring peace and happiness and not the actual thing created. If not, every time he fails he will be unhappy and sad.

We are hence working towards inculcating good values and ethics in our staff, client staff, children and all others in our family. A person with good ethics will surely be a good professional; good leader, good follower and a good person who will work for the well being of the society.



## Drop-in Centre

We needed to focus on the mental health of our students and their parents in 2022 due to the fall-out of the pandemic. We hoped that by providing some stress relieving activities and more opportunities for counselling and intervention, we could combat the increase in stress and domestic violence our communities are facing.

The social work team working on the ground at Khar school decided to open a Drop-in Centre for teenagers, but primarily, for the parents.

Our hope was that the cozy and friendly environ-

ment with free access to games, TV and computers would be appealing to the parents.

There is no denying our regular Parent Meetings and Parent Activity Days have been successful and help build solid relationships and trust. The social work team thought that more daily contact with the parents would enhance the chance for change.

An opportunity most of the parents never had in their youth, we were surprised by the limited use of the Centre. The team is not dissuaded by the weak response and is committed

to our parents. Knowing that an improvement in the parents' attitude

can only have a positive impact on their children, they are doing their best to create a hub of laughter and a safe shelter. They are not giving up and dream of a parent-filled room!

In the meantime, the teenagers are enjoying every minute they have in the room. Carrom (Indian board game)



playing, dancing without abandon, watching TV, playing video games, reading on the couches, or even just napping, are all activities that can be seen daily.

A reward for their hard work studying!



## Village Project

In our first village project in Vangaon, we faced many issues and problems that became insurmountable and unsustainable long-term. However, every situation provides avenues for knowledge and growth and, even at the time when that project was ending, we knew that we

would try again when the time was right.

In March, Vikas Sir (employee of One! International for 14 years) had to move his ailing father to Mumbai, close to good hospitals, which left his farm house vacant.

When asked if he would like to try to start a village project with his farm as the base, he was overjoyed that he would be able to give to the villages around his community in dire need.

With Vijay's help (also a 14 year One! International employee), they visited 5 villages to survey, meet locals and assess.

After choosing three possible villages, a staff

retreat was arranged. It was an opportunity for us to conduct Fun Day style activities in all three villages. It was an opportunity for staff to live 'the village life' for 3 days and experience tenting. The staff were particularly inspired by the warm welcome they received in the villages, the incredibly peaceful environment and

the joy they felt during the experience. They were overwhelmed by the extreme need in the village communities—little to no water, electricity, employment, food...

This is how The Village Project started. To find out its progress and see more pictures and videos, follow us on [FACEBOOK](#) or [INSTAGRAM](#).





Written by Tania, Rebecca (France) & Vijay (India) unless otherwise mentioned.

**CONTACT INFORMATON**

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

Phone: (780) 467-6254

**India:**  
Phone: (91) 98205-17805

**EMAIL:** info@one-international.com

**Instagram:**  
[oneinternational](https://www.instagram.com/oneinternational)  
[povertyrelief](https://www.instagram.com/povertyrelief)

**Facebook:**  
[OneTaniaDidi](https://www.facebook.com/OneTaniaDidi)

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

# Farming!

Being based at Vikas Sir's farmhouse for the Village Project, it has opened the doors to so much more.

With the minimal profit gained, not worth the cost, time and energy spent, Vikas has been unable to make proper use of his land.

With education more than profit in mind, he thought it would be a wonderful opportunity for



the older students of One! International to learn about agriculture first-hand by planting marigolds. With business analysis from start to finish—land prep, costs, planting, care, sowing, product prep and sale—the project was very impactful for everyone including staff. We even managed to cover all costs from the sale of the marigolds!

We are hoping to extend the project by producing most of the vegetables needed for all our needs at all 3 locations.



# Special Needs Class

Though not clinically diagnosed, we have children at One! International who are facing mental and physical disabilities and challenges — likely foetal alcohol syndrome, autism,

down syndrome, depression, etc. Their mental ability is far younger than their age.

We currently have seven students in our "Special Class" which helps maintain a love of learning and gives them more focussed attention from the teachers with a maximum of 3 students to 1 teacher ratio. In



addition to their regular subjects (which are taught mostly orally and at their comprehension level) they have tangible subjects like 'Gardening' and 'Kitchen Helping'.

Their parents had lost all hope of them developing, but this fun and stress-free learning environment has allowed the students to blossom. Teachers have been receiving specific training to welcome

and manage the students in the best ways possible.

There are many other children in the community who need our help, but unfortunately, we are not currently able to have enough staff to give them the attention they need.



# CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

**INDIA:**

Due to the covid-19 pandemic, It has been more than 2.5 years since we have been able to offer opportunities for volunteers to work in India. We are ecstatic to announce that most travel restrictions have been lifted

and we are accepting applications again. Please see the WEBPAGE for information on the volunteer application process.

Our first volunteer, Yona, arrives in a week to teach staff about trauma and improve the counselling skills of our social work-

ers. Volunteers bring fresh energy, new perspectives and spread happiness. They have been sorely missed.

**EDMONTON AREA:**

We are looking for people to join our Gala Team If you enjoy fundraising and event planning, please reach out, we would love to have you.

**VIRTUAL:**

If you have time to spare, we could fill it for you! There are zillions (just a wee exaggeration) of ways that you can help. Administrative tasks such as policies and grants, teaching tasks like virtual lessons, editing and curriculum building, and the list goes on. No matter your skill set, we need YOU!