



FUTURE HOPE

Giving Today's Street & Slum Children a Better Tomorrow

Newsletter 19th Edition

Spring 2015

Dear Supporters

It is the happy, enthusiastic and welcoming character of our children at Future Hope that humbles me each time I arrive back in Kolkata. Whether it is the energetic little ones in Rowland Road who urge me to come and see them play football or the teenage boys at Bompas inviting me for supper and who love a good chat, it is the children and young people of Future Hope who are our inspiration.



One of our boys recalls: "from birth I never really knew what a carefree day meant. Then when my father fell sick I left home to get a job and support my family"

Although the number of street children has reduced over the years, their individual plight has not. Some children are orphaned, others are driven from their homes by abuse, family breakdown and extreme poverty. Others have mothers who work in the sex industry and are turned



Girls are at risk of being married off at a very young age and perpetuating the cycle of drudgery, illiteracy and childbirth

out on to the streets whilst their mothers are at work. Many children are also forced to work or beg to sustain their parent's addiction. Whole families live on pavements prone to any kind of disease or disaster.



We are changing the lives of 250 children and young people today

Today Future Hope continues to do what we have done so well for 28 years: provide opportunity for the most vulnerable children by nurturing their wellbeing, fostering talent and working together to ensure the future success of each child. In this newsletter you'll read how we have given a home to more girls than ever before; introduced regular dental checks; we have extended our careers department; added Zumba and other activities to our extracurricular programme and brought in specialist football coaching for both boys and girls. A highlight has been the laying of an all-weather surface in the Rowland Road garden. No more monsoon mud or dry season dust bowl!

Whilst introducing improvements in the day to day running of Future Hope, we have continued to pursue our longer term plans. We have almost completed the building of a skills centre at our village near Barrackpore and architects are putting the final touches to the master plan for a new school, children's homes and sports facilities on our land in Rajarhat.

Our greatest wish is to make sure that Future Hope continues to help Kolkata's most vulnerable children. With your continued support we are confident that Future Hope will be able to change lives for years to come.



Tim and Erica Grandage

Anju's Story

Told by Tim and Erica Grandage

Several years ago we took a young lad who we had found on the streets in Delhi back to his home to reunite him with his family in a very remote village in Assam. Assam had been off the map for tourists and was under a central government clamp down; there were Ulfa rebels everywhere and tea gardens had been attacked and managers killed. The boy was a Nepali and second oldest of five children. A bright lad, at the age of eight he had been put in charge of a tea stall on the side of the road; he was bored but ambitious and wanted to go to school. He stole a few rupees, was beaten and ran! He joined a group of people who were heading for Delhi to make their fortune and ended up on the streets.

He had not seen his family for four or five years and was quite apprehensive as we walked up the railway line toward his little shack. The manager of Tata Tea had sent a local man with us who knew the area well and understood the language. The boy stopped and looked; an old man was standing on the railway tracks



After the first operation Anju's first steps towards standing on her own feet

by a very simple little hut. He stared and then started to cry. The boy threw himself in the arms of his grandfather and a few minutes later the translator told me that the old man said "I can now die as my grandson has returned". Hearing the commotion, a woman came out of the hut and she too burst in to

tears. She pushed a small boy in the direction of the village and told him to bring his father.

After several hours of talking, we discovered that three out of the four sons had run away from home due to dire poverty, hunger and the hopelessness of their situation. The family were overjoyed and insisted we stay to have food with them. It was only when we entered the hut to sit and eat that we saw, hidden away in the back, a tiny little girl who looked about a year old, but was actually nearing three. She didn't speak, she didn't move and couldn't stand. On inspection we found that her feet were back to front and she would need surgery if she was ever to walk.

Local belief amongst the villagers is that a child who is born disabled has done something wrong in their past life and is therefore punished. It was obvious that the family, particularly the mother, loved the girl with all her heart but had resigned herself to the fact that she would never have any role in life at all.

We left the boy behind with his family in agreement that his father would bring him back to Future Hope after two weeks. When he returned he did nothing

but talk about his little sister. We realised that we must bring her to Kolkata and get her operated on. In the year 2000 Anju, then about three years old, and her mother came to Kolkata to see Dr Kamath, an Orthopaedic Surgeon, who diagnosed club feet which needed immediate corrective surgery. Ideally this



18 months later Anju walks freely with her new calipers

should have happened before Anju turned one year old to ensure maximum mobility. It was the first time that either mother or daughter had left their village, let alone Assam. They didn't know the language nor city life and they needed to be fully supported. The initial operation went well and when she recovered, Anju needed huge amounts of physiotherapy to loosen up the muscles and stretch the tendons. At that time post-operative care was non-existent in Kolkata and we relied on the expertise of doctor Kamath and Erica. They taught the mother the extensive exercises that were needed to prepare Anju for a second round of operations the following year. After three months they returned to their little hut in Assam.

behind. It was time for her to come to Future Hope. When Anju joined our girls in Rowland Road she was a timid little girl but showed an inner determination that pushed her to do things that she had never dreamed she could do. She joined the dance club, went swimming and exercised on the Maidan whilst the other girls played football. She was carried by the other children up the many stairs to school. Here she held her own and actively took part in all the lessons. She was bright and eager to learn. One day she started to walk up and down the stairs herself, which boosted her confidence and made her independent.

About 35% children in India with disabilities remain out of elementary school (District Information System for Education - DISE, 2011-12).

A year later Anju and her mother came back to Future Hope to undergo further operations to release the tension in her tendons and to bring her feet back to near normal. After the wounds had healed, callipers and orthopaedic shoes were measured and fitted so that the long process of getting Anju to walk could begin. The realisation dawned on Anju's mother that her daughter could



Anju danced solo at the Mela in December 2014 in front of 600 guests

Anju gained hugely from being in Future Hope. Whilst Dr Sarkar and Viraf spent hours on working on her physical well-being, the house parents and teachers stimulated her pastorally and academically. Her English improved rapidly and on Thursdays she went to Shirley in the office to learn how to type. With these skills she joined the editorial

team of the Tigerrr, our school newsletter written, edited and produced by the Future Hope children. Anju is well known for the jokes that she writes for this publication. She takes part in debating competitions, plays chess and has taken up sewing, all boosting her confidence to such an extent that she danced on stage at our Mela last December in front of a crowd of about 600. Academically she is blossoming and has just completed class 9. She is now heading for a challenging year and will sit her class 10 CBSE exams in March 2016. Her future seems bright!



Anju with her proud father

achieve and become independent. From that time on she and the other members of the family worked tirelessly to make this happen. When Anju returned to Assam she joined the local village school, a two mile walk away from their hut. Each day Anju was carried to and fro to school on her mother's back. This was alright when Anju was small but became a heavy chore when she reached the age of eight. The family were illiterate and could not help Anju with her homework; she fell further and further



£60 a month gives one girl a home, medical care & food



BETTER TOMORROW

Nurturing wellbeing

Enjoying childhood

What better way to celebrate childhood, than sharing open spaces, fresh air and the company of friends and teachers? November 14th is the birthday of Jawaharlal Nehru and is celebrated every year as Children's Day. Future Hope's children and staff celebrated this year with a picnic at Rajarhat.



At Future Hope children experience, perhaps for the first time, a sense of belonging, security, good health, good food and the freedom to laugh and play.

The little ones quickly made their own fun in this pile of builders' sand whilst the older children played sport, helped prepare the food and just enjoyed the freedom from the routines of school and the drudgery at home.



"The teachers love us very much, and they organised a picnic for us at Rajarhat. We went on two buses and when we got there we saw the cooks cooking. We roamed around the field, played football and saw the farmers sowing seed. The best moment of the day was when the teachers served us our meal and we ate well. In the evening went back on the bus. This was my most memorable children's day. Thank you teachers, we love you!"

Good health



There is a buzz of excitement in the school hall each week as over 30 students gather for the new Zumba class. It is a great example of how extra-curricular activities promote exercise, fun and confidence.



In 2014 all the children had dental check ups. This initiative was funded by a group of local dentists who screened each child and taught them the importance of a daily dental hygiene routine.

A nutritious diet is the basis upon which our children's good health, academic and sporting successes are built. Most day scholars do not have a proper breakfast before school so each child is given a hot lunch (rice, dal, two vegetable curry) as well as tiffin mid morning (biscuits, nimki and fruit).





BETTER TOMORROW

Nurturing wellbeing (2)

Emergency medical care



When Sutrishna came to Future Hope in 2004 she was about six years old and desperately ill. In the arms of her father she travelled for 5 hours on an overcrowded train to get medical help in Kolkata. Her father was all too aware that he could lose his daughter; his own sister had died of TB at the age of 12. Sutrishna arrived at our medical clinic skin and bones, dehydrated and delirious. Our doctor organised blood tests and a bed in the local hospital to get her on a drip. She was diagnosed with full blown typhoid, her third bout in the space of 6 months.



Sutrishna (left) plays in the girls' house football competition

After 2 weeks in hospital we brought Sutrishna back to Rowland Road. She was very frail and needed to be nursed and monitored by her houseparent and our medical staff for the next few months. The cooks boiled her food for 6 weeks and this was followed by a high protein diet to help her gain immunity and weight. Once she was strong enough we immediately vaccinated her against the most common diseases.

All the children at Future Hope undergo a standard medical check-up with blood tests, chest x-ray, urine and stool samples when they first arrive. They receive treatment where needed and are fully vaccinated. They are taught the importance of personal hygiene and a healthy lifestyle with balanced nutrition, good routine and activity.

It took a long time to get Sutrishna back to full strength. Today she is doing well in school. As vice-captain of our girls' football team Sutrishna not only scored a hat trick in the final but was also Most Valuable Player in the recent Keventer Cup.



Most Valuable Player of the tournament!



£60 a month

To care for a girl
in one of our
homes



In 2014 we welcomed house parent Ranju and five girls from Project Haven, an NGO which had closed down.



BETTER TOMORROW

Nurturing talent

Enrolment Rates in Indian Government Schools

Primary level: 58.3% (MoSPI, 2012)

Secondary Level : less than 50% (DISE, 2011-12)

Future Hope School

Officially, primary school is both free and compulsory in India. However, schools are overcrowded, lack proper resources and families have to pay for their children's uniforms and school supplies - a prohibitive expense for many.



Future Hope School enjoys attendance rates nearing 90%. This is testament not only to how much the children love coming to school, but also to the value placed on this education by the day scholars' parents.

Future Hope School Numbers

2014 - 5

*Total: 208

Boys: 130

Girls: 78

Day: 132

Homes: 76



Board Exams 2014

100% of Class 10
CBSE got 1st Division

100% of Class 12
CBSE passed and 88%
got 1st Division

Learning Support

* Alongside the 208 in FHS we support a further 20 at other schools

Max Richmond came to Future Hope over a year ago as a post graduate volunteer. He has brought his skills and experience to the Learning Support team to help children who have come to us with either very little education or special educational needs. Max reflects on his experience:

How long have you been with Future Hope and what is your involvement?

I first came to Future Hope in 2007 on rugby tour with The Oratory School for a mere ten days. I returned early September 2013 for a five month volunteer stint in which my involvement was typical of any volunteer. In April 2014 I re-joined FH as a Learning Support teacher.

Why is there a need for Learning Support at Future Hope?

Because not every child will thrive - and some won't even get by - when working within the standard pedagogical model. Future Hope is ever-developing, evolving, striving.

Do the children face any particular challenges?

Yes. A lot of the children face many unique and real challenges. Some day scholars may not have electricity, for example, or they may have to do their homework on the pavement of a busy roadside - a challenge indeed!

What is most rewarding about working with the children at Future Hope?

Their love, respect and enthusiasm... their infectious joy and innocent wisdom.

How would you describe your experience at Future Hope?

Frenetically mellow. A masala of sandalwood, mustard oil and exhaust fumes. As stark as Kali and as blissful as Krishna. As a lesson in falling; laughing; sitting; breathing; loving. As vibrant and vexing, uplifting and stifling. As - all in all - awesome.



Learning Support is a logical attempt to ensure every child's development



BETTER TOMORROW

Nurturing talent

The T C Dutt Trophy

This year the TC Dutt Trophy helped students appreciate that everything they do is important. The inter-house competition incorporates a number of activities such as drama, debating, sport and good behaviour. It encourages teamwork and every student, no matter what age, can identify with a house and feel part of a student-led activity.



Tug of War

Teacher Dolly Miss describes her first Tug of war: "One of my most moving experiences was the starting of the house system and the first competition - tug of war - was one which I shall not forget easily. There was Mike all red trying get it started. The children all too eager - their first competition! The noise it was DEAFENING! I loved it. Suddenly the school WOKE UP. I had not seen these children laughing nor heard them roar!!! That was the day the whole school was one. It was great fun!"



Future Hope's children love dance, drama and music. Here the children perform at the 2014 Mela, our annual school fete. The theme was "Go Green"

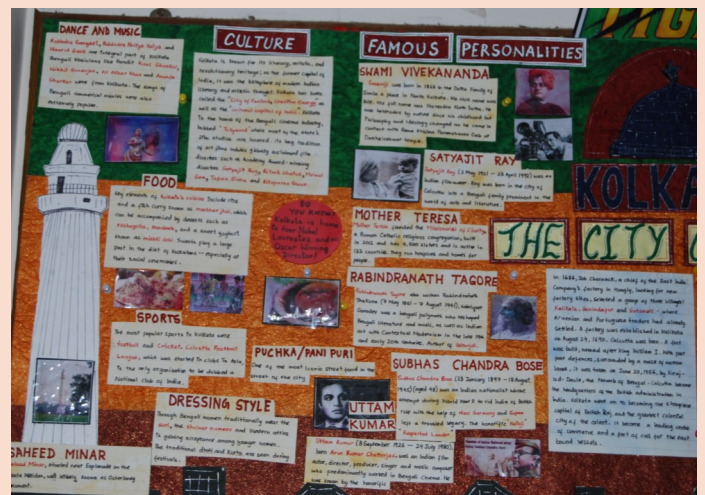


The children can now enjoy sport practice all year round thanks to a kind donor who provided our new Tiger Turf grass in the back garden of Rowland Road. Once a dirt patch that flooded in the Monsoon, it is now a beautifully laid synthetic grass surface useful for assemblies, sports and even homework!

TC Dutt Trophy - House Notice Board Competition

The City of Joy

Winners, Tiger House, talk about their board. "We wanted to make our board colourful, interesting and informative. We included Job Charnock who founded the city and emphasised our rich culture. Known as the "Paris of the East", Kolkata is proud to have intellectuals like Tagore, Swami Vivekananda and Satiyajit Ray. Kolkata also has great architecture: The Victoria Memorial, Howrah Bridge and the Writers' Building. Our city can boast four Nobel prize winners: Dr Ronald Ross, Rabindranath Tagore, Mother Teresa and Amartya Sen. We created our board under the guidance of Amresh who is the Captain of Tiger House as well as our teachers. We take pride in our house."





BETTER TOMORROW

Nurturing talent

Sport

 Sports Director, Kuntak, explains, "In a small school, we compromise in order to offer a range of sports. We encourage this in the interests of developing good motor skills and knowledge of games, plus enhancement of fitness and enjoyment. We have appointed qualified soccer coaches for 2014-15. This skill-based programme has raised the standard of practice sessions."



"I believe that playing sport has a transforming effect on vulnerable and disadvantaged children. I can see the reality of this each day as these enthusiastic but fiercely independent children learn trust, confidence and teamwork, to be accepting of failure and modest in victory, values that will be important to them in life" *Tim Grandage*



The new cricket nets at Rowland Road are never unoccupied. The senior team, an equal mix of boarders and day scholars, practises three times a week for the summer tournaments and the U-16 All India Cricket Tournament in Bangalore in May



The girls have shown a passion and flair for football with the senior team claiming a tremendous victory in the Keventer Cup Girls' Tournament. After taking on strong opponents in the opening rounds the girls then delivered a convincing win in a one sided final that saw Future Hope beat the hosts 4-0



Future Hope had another successful year of rugby culminating in three of our senior boys being selected for the Bengal Rugby Team to play in the 35th National Games



The girls practise hockey in the long grass of the Maidan - making their successes even more remarkable!

Help a talent grow

£40 a month
Gives a child an all round education



BETTER TOMORROW

Looking to the Future

Building Skills

Future Hope helps our young adults to move into higher education, training or paid employment. This year has seen a greater focus on career development.



Devleena runs Future Hope's careers department, providing advice and guidance for all Future Hope's young people as they progress towards the workplace. She runs an excellent summer work experience programme each year for all students in class IX and above. They work in NGOs, hotels, law and accountancy firms amongst others.



Did you know...?

*India has 10.12 million child labourers aged between 5 to 14 years (National Census 2011)

*40% of India's population is below the age of 18 years which at 400 million is the world's largest child population. (CRY)

*Less than half of India's children between the age 6 and 14 go to school. (CRY)

Help launch
a boy like Massoum

£ 100 a
month
gives a
young
person
a second
chance



Having studied at Future Hope and shown an interest in sewing Massoum is now an apprentice tailor.



The new Barrackpore Skills centre will soon be complete. Designed by the late Anthony Harrison (drawing inset) the dream is becoming a reality. In the next few months the centre will be fully operational, helping Future Hope's alumni and other vulnerable young people to develop skills for a promising future. With advice and expertise from a reputed organisation in this field the centre will offer practical courses in trades that are in high demand locally. The courses will range from mobile repair to computer hardware and automobile engineering.



BETTER TOMORROW

Looking to the Future

International Award for Young People

(The Duke of Edinburgh Award)

Under the leadership of Sports Director Kuntak Gupta Future Hope has been awarded National Licensed Operator and this year 17 students will complete their



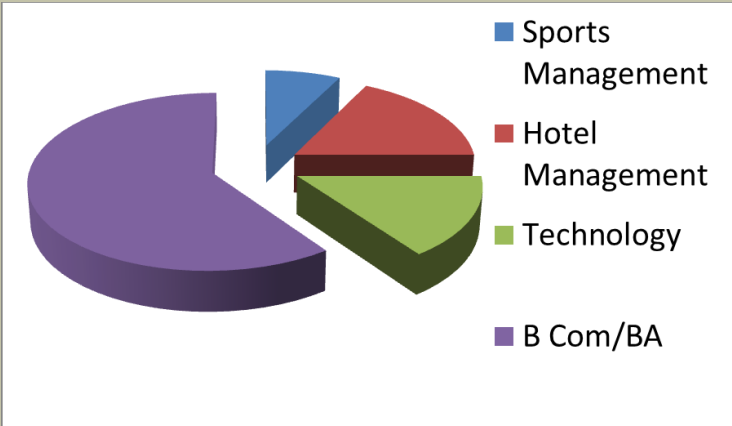
In early March 2015 8 girls and 7 boys from class XI were Future Hope's first batch of students to embark on their qualifying Bronze expedition. They spent 3 days at Susunia in the Bankura district of West Bengal trekking, camping and learning new skills

service, adventurous journey, skills and physical recreation sections to enhance their leadership skills.

With their adventurous journey successfully completed they turn their attention to the remaining areas: skills such as chess and choir; service in first aid and physical recreation such as yoga, cricket and Zumba.

Higher Education


In 2014-5 Future Hope supported 43 young people in colleges and universities.



A Future Hope old boy currently studying for a B Com degree:

"I want to succeed and make the best of my life and in doing so respect the generosity of Future Hope. It will not only help me, but of course my family will benefit as I succeed and earn a good income"

Rajarhat

 We are growing out of our wonderful premises at Rowland Road but have exciting plans to move operations out to our land in Rajarhat. Architects are putting the final touches to the Master Plan for a new school, children's homes and sports facilities at Rajarhat. This will enable us to grow, over a period of ten years, to a school for 750 children. Meanwhile we continue to enjoy the produce from the land as well as opportunities to enjoy the fresh air and open spaces.





BETTER TOMORROW

Nurturing Team



At Future Hope School, the staff strive to create an environment where a child is not limited by accident of birth, by creed, gender or caste. Staff provide a wrap around care to give the children the best start and the opportunity to dream

A teacher's story

The staff at Future Hope are required to be family, role models and teachers to the children in our care. We are delighted to have many caring professionals on our team this year such as our Science teacher Dolly. We asked her to explain why Future Hope is so different from her previous teaching experience:



Dolly Miss takes revision classes on Saturday afternoons

How did you come to Future Hope?

I was enjoying leading a retired life when my friend who was in Future Hope roped me in to help out for three months: there was no science teacher and the children had to sit for exams. After which the principal, Mr Carling, worked wonders and I saw the change and got addicted to Future Hope.

What does Future Hope mean to you?

Future Hope is a challenge for me. The kids need prodding with love to give them the confidence, and they do need to improve on behaviour which will stand by them through life. This can happen only if we ourselves have ethics and be a role model for them.

How have the Future Hope children affected you?

I have never felt so needed by children before. Before this I taught kids who had others outside school to turn to for help. These children are first generation learners. It seems we are everything to the Future Hope kids to help them to make their life. A daunting task! Full of honest responsibility, only then can we make a difference and it will be worthwhile.

What has been the most moving experience for you ?

I cannot point out one moving experience. The whole of Future Hope is a moving experience.



£200 a month provides the wisdom, guidance and experience every child needs



BETTER TOMORROW

Nurturing Team

Our Staff

It is Future Hope's dedicated teachers, house parents, office staff, drivers, cleaners and cooks who are delivering transformation in our children's lives.



The auxiliary staff: cooks, cleaners, drivers, tailors, technicians and administrators are all essential to the smooth running of Future Hope and the well-being of the children.

New Appointments

Bikash Chatterjee has been a house parent at Future Hope since 1993. He has recently been appointed Director of Pastoral Care and Homes. He joined Future Hope after seeing the work Tim and Erica were doing.



"I saw you coming in and out of the building with happy children, carrying the disabled ones. I felt the love. Colour, caste, religion was no factor. I felt a positive positive energy"



Arindam Saha Arindam joined Future Hope School in 2002 as Deputy Director of Education. Always a highly respected, dignified and committed member of staff with an encyclopaedic knowledge of every child's progress, background and needs, he became Vice Principal under Paul Carling and was promoted to Principal of Future Hope School in 2014.

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In 2014 - 5



248 children and young people received support from Future Hope



118 children were cared for in Future Hope's homes



208 children were educated at Future Hope School



67 children represented Future Hope in sports tournaments



10 new children arrived at Future Hope from the streets



43 young people attended college or university



140 children received vaccinations and other preventative health care



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