

DCCWConnect



DCCW wishes you all a wonderful
2018

2017 at a Glance

The year started with a bang with RED FM 93.5 rocking for PALNA with their tagline “Ab Delhi Ko PALNA Hai”! Hats off to the remarkable support from the residents of Delhi & NCR who came forward with not just financial support but also day-to-day necessities for the children living in PALNA. Our home for abandoned children. We were overwhelmed by the love, warmth and support of the entire RED FM 93.5 team.



Following in their footsteps, Barclays Bank and AdGlobal came forward to support PALNA. The year-round support by Capgemini, Aide et Action, Air India Sats, Mitsubishi, Ford Foundation, Globe Capital Foundation, Japanese Volunteer Group - to just name a few of our corporate partners - and all our other donors continued to support us and enable us to give these children a loving home with everything that is necessary for them to enjoy a fulfilling childhood.

Our gratitude to Kiwani Foundation and the TB Association for partnering with us for tetanus and diphtheria vaccination, and screening for tuberculosis. DCCW reached out to over 1000 beneficiaries over the last year.



Glint Nail Art, APS Cosmeto and Bernia Company supported our vocational training programme by training the girls enrolled the Beauty Culture programme in various novel skills. These sessions go a long way in enabling our girls to get employment post-training. Young budding fashion designer Nazmeen also taught our tailoring trainees as well as our instructors how to stitch a variety of salwar suit styles.

Main streaming special needs children reached another milestone by accelerating their learning of objects / alphabets / pictures / activities etc. by adding music to the learning process.

Synchronising actions with musical notes struck a chord with our children and the results were unimaginablequick learning and recall.... giving an impetus to our mission of making these children as self-reliant as possible. A team from Wolf Trap, USA, also helped our instructors innovate by teaching them how to use acting as a tool to increase the effectiveness of teaching.

We also showcased some of the products and items made by the vocational trainees as well as our special needs children at stalls at the Diwali Melas at Blind School, Ashok Hotel, World Bank, Penguin Random House, Bal Bharti School and Modern School, where they proved a big hit. We are grateful for their support to our cause.



Instilling the spirit of sharing and giving in their children, many schools visit Palna regularly. Year after year Modern School, Bal Bharti, Indian School, Jai Mata Kaur, St Cecilia, Amrita Vidyalaya, to name a few, spend quality time at home with the children and always say that there is nothing material which they give to the PALNA children which can compare with the happiness that the children give them.

One of our PALNA girls, Neha Frassetto, came back from Italy to volunteer for six weeks at PALNA. We feature her experience in our Spotlight section, through excerpts from her letter written to us soon after returning home.

We are proud that DCCW was given the top rating of GiveAssured 5 Stars by GiveIndia based on our overall management, internal processes and transparency.

In December 2017 DCCW was recognised through a leadership award at the Delhi NGOs Leadership Awards 2017 function.

All in all, it has been an action-packed, fulfilling year for us, with all our programs making strides towards achieving their stated goals with the active support of our well-wishers.

Spotlight - Neha Frassetto – Back at PALNA

Neha, a PALNA child, was adopted by an Italian family thirty years ago. Recently she came back to her first home, to spend six weeks volunteering at PALNA, playing and helping with the children. We share some excerpts from the wonderful letter she sent us soon after she returned to her home in Italy.

“Welcome, this is your first home” these are the words that Dr. Sandhya Bhalla (Director of Palna-DCCW) told me as soon as I arrived there to start my program as a volunteer in Delhi. But let's take a step back.



My name is Neha Frassetto and I can proudly say I am a Palna-Child as this is what they call us. I was born in Delhi 31 years ago and I was adopted in Italy at the tender age of 4 months and a half. I live in Udine since then, with my amazing parents Daniela and Giorgio and my younger sister Ameesha, who is also a Palna child and came to us at the age of 10 months. We also have a cat named Gandalf and a dog, Moka. I graduated in Cultural Tourism and I effectively work in the tourism field while my sister currently works at library of our town.

So... I really did it! I came back, after 31 years to volunteer one month a half with the children and spend as much time as possible

with them. It's something I was longing for since ages! I've always wanted to come back on my own and "give back some of the luck I've had".

Going to India alone for a young woman grown up in a western country is not that easy.

The one I was facing was a big challenge but I had a really strong motivation, I was deeply convinced I could do it all even though my family (especially my mum) was extremely worried about everything that could potentially happen to me. But they never told me not to go. They've always let me free to take my chances and make my choices, whatever they would lead to.

I arrived to Palna, on a hot day of last mid-October and as soon as I was there my heart filled with joy and peace: I never felt so at ease in a place so quickly. My first home, for real!

I was told to complement the amazing work that Mrs. Meenakshi Gupta (the teacher) does with love and patience everyday with the children of Palna. To me this was a huge privilege.



As soon as I entered the classroom for the first time and I saw all those little faces and the colorful clothes and big smiles, my eyes instantly filled with tears. I was just so incredibly happy to be there, it was an unbelievable feeling. It was like being wrapped in a heartwarming hug I've been waiting for so long. What Meenakshi told me was simply "This is life". How true! Then she explained the kids why I was crying and they told me not to and I didn't cry anymore.

Of course the little kids speak Hindi and I don't, so we managed to communicate in English when possible and with the precious help of the teacher and Lia (a volunteer). holding each other. I needed it as much as them.

Also, the kids who knew English better helped me speaking with the others or taught me some easy Hindi words or expressions and I'll never forget that. All was based on holding hands whenever it was possible, smiling, taking tons of pictures all together,

During my stay, I was trying to help (two of the children) with English and Italian, as they will be adopted in the US and Italy, but I also tried to help making them all improve their reading skills or correct their homework and exercises. I especially did my best to make them have fun, to make them happy, to make them play, to make them smile!

Amongst my favorites moments was lunch time: as we were waiting for the bua (nurses) with the delicious food, I was playing a little game of clapping hands with each one of them, after a few days they got used to it and they were looking forward to it every day! Soooo funny.

Then I stayed after end of lunch to help the nurses feed the smaller children or the ones that were just a little bit slower. Sailesh bua and Lakshmi bua in particular, taught me so much with their sensitivity and kindness towards the kids. I've never seen them losing their mind or patience, nor hitting them, there is so much love in every gesture and in their voice tone and in the way they play and take care of each and every child.

I also had the chance to see the babies in the nursery and hold a couple of them in my arms: it was such a strong emotion, thinking I was just like them. I whispered each one of them "good luck" in their small ears, I wished them all the best. The same is for every child of Meenakshi's class: I know that most of them are currently in adoption processes, this means that sooner or later they will have a family who will give them all the love and attention they deserve.

At Palna, everyone does an amazing job, I've seen so many good-hearted people in every department, everyone was working hard and knowing they do it for the children, to me is incredibly moving and touching. Everyone was nice to me, like the driver who smiled at me every morning, like all the buas and nurses and the doctor who let me enter the babies room, all the staff, the teachers.. I will miss everyone so badly.

My last day at Palna was incredibly happy and incredibly hard too. Saying goodbye it's a big deal when you are fond and attached to the people you met, when you got to know pretty well all the children and their stories, their personal development and familiar context. So I asked for permission to do something special: I brought them to Qudsia Bagh with the help of some staff members and I brought veggie burgers and fries that we enjoyed all together in the park! We sang, we clicked many pics, we hugged each other tight as if we were to keep the warmth of our souls together forever. And so will be!

I also had the honour to receive the original documents and papers of me and my sister. So now I also have this little treasure with me. Thank you again. I cried a river when it came to really say goodbye and leave, I was not able to stop greeting everyone and hugging the people I felt more attached to.

Now I am at home, in Udine, with my family. It's a month today since I'm back. It went by so fast, I still feel everything. When looking at the pictures I say all the children's names to make sure I'll never forget them. I am sure that this month and a half in Palna was with no doubt the best thing I did in my entire life, the most intense period of time I got the chance to live, a place where I found so many beautiful souls, where I've learnt so much about me and about life. A place where HOPE grows stronger every day, eventually soon also the children who are waiting for adoption will be assigned to a family. This is all I wish... Oh, and to come back of course!

I don't know if I'll ever be able to say THANK YOU enough, Dhanyavad from the depth of my heart to All of You. I'll keep you in my heart forever... until we meet again!

V isitors' Comments

Ms. Aarti Sharma, IAS

'I am blessed to come here and be part of your organisation, God Bless!'



Some photographs from events and celebrations through the last year.

