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DCCWConnect



The DCCW team and all our children wish you an enriching and fulfilling 2024!

75th Territorial Army Day Celebrated at Palna

Palna was graced with the presence of Mrs. Rita Joshi and Mrs. Sonali Patil (wives of the Director General and Additional Director General of the Indian Territorial Army respectively), along with other representatives, on 9th October 2023,. Neeru Bhatnagar, Director, DCCW, warmly welcomed them and took them on a tour of Palna, sharing stories imbued into its walls over the years. Our little stars of Palna delighted the guests with poems and performances and were thrilled to be presented with gift hampers.

Mrs. Joshi was overwhelmed to see the work carried out at Palna and appreciated the commitment of the staff. She has kindly offered to extend her support to DCCW going forward. All the visitors were touched by the shining faces and smiles of the children, and were impressed by the friendly environment where each child is nurtured with love and care.

The team's sponsorship of a delicious lunch for the children and their warm service touched our hearts. We express our heartfelt gratitude and look forward to a lasting bond.



Spotlight: Rakhee & Satyam



Rakhee - Getting Closure

Rakhee left Palna as an infant in 1980, to join her forever family in Belgium. Since then, she has led a full life in Belgium, getting educated, working, and also getting married. But somewhere at the back of her mind there was always a desire to reconnect with her birth country and the place that had been her home there, for however brief a time.

She finally found her way back to Palna, **44 years after she had left!** Rakhee and her husband visited Palna in November. This was their first visit to India. Like every Palna child coming home, she was received with great warmth and affection. Loraine Campos, Assistant Director, Palna, who has been with DCCW for more than three decades, showed Rakhee her file her time at Palna as she gleaned details of her past and re-lived that time through photographs.

Loraine also took them around Palna so that they could see for themselves how the children lived and were cared for. The experience gave Rakhee a sense of peace - and the closure that she had been subconsciously seeking all these years.

Satyam – Embodiment of Determination

Satyam joined our Educational Sponsorship Programme when he was in the 3rd grade. Despite the loss of his father to brain cancer and the financial struggles faced by his mother, Satyam's determination and hard work propelled him towards success. DCCW's Educational Sponsorship Programme provided him with much-needed financial support, counselling sessions, and health check-ups, ensuring both his mind and body stayed healthy.

Satyam's relentless efforts paid off when he achieved an outstanding 93% in the 12th Board Exams. Currently, he is preparing for the IIT Joint Entrance Exam and has received a one-time financial assistance from DCCW. His dream of becoming a software engineer is fuelled by his desire to change his family's circumstances and provide his mother with everything she deserves. We are confident that he will continue to make everyone proud and achieve his dreams.



Quarterly Updates

Partner Interactions

Palna welcomed very special guests, **Ms. Charlotte Kingsman** and her friend, Ms. Mairi on 19th October 2023. The Kingsman family have supported Palna for many years now, especially in times of distress. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for their enduring commitment to our cause. Charlotte's visit warmed our hearts.

Recently, the newly-appointed **Assistant Director of CARA** (Central Adoption Resource Authority) visited Palna with a few other delegates from **Jammu and Kashmir DCPU** (District Child Protection Unit). The adoption team of DCCW, Ms. Loraine Campos and Ms. Bindu briefed them about the functioning of Palna and told them inspirational stories of some of our miracle children. Before leaving, the team enjoyed the famous Palna lunch!



The **AXA India** team visited our Janakpuri Centre on 13th November 2023, where they received a warm welcome from the children, complete with performances filled with love.

They organised interesting activities for the Vocational Training (VTP), Palna WeeKids (PWK), and Supervised Homework Scheme (SHS) children, including tech-related learning, painting competitions, dancing, and sewing. Further, they counselled the students on internships and getting permanent jobs. Our thanks to the team, especially Mr. Narinder Singh and Ms. Hitakshi.

The **Rotaract Club of Dyal Singh College** launched a **tree plantation drive** in the Palna garden with great enthusiasm. SHS children actively participated, planting seedlings and watering them while learning the names of the plants and their characteristics. The children promised to take care of the plants.

Tirath Ram Shah Charitable Hospital connected with our Trilokpuri centres during their CSR camp. Their highly trained and experienced team of experts, which included psychologists, speech therapists, and special educators, conducted screenings and assessments of the children, under the supervision of a pediatrician.

Parents of the students enrolled in PWK participated in the camp and attended counselling sessions to understand the symptoms and diagnosis of any behavioral concerns. A special thanks to Ms. Parul Arora and her outstanding team for their tireless dedication towards helping the children



The **Institute of Management Technology** team continued its tradition of connecting with all our centres during their annual CSR campaign. MBA students conducted informative sessions for Vocational training participants, addressing topics such as skill development, financial literacy, and market linkages. Simultaneously, they engaged the Supervised Homework Scheme junior and senior students in activities focused on life skills, health awareness, sanitisation, child sexual abuse prevention, and community development. All DCCW centres benefited from these sessions. A heartfelt thank you to the IMT team, especially Prof. Kasturi Das and Ms. Shalini Kashyap, for their dedication and effort

On 14th December, a cancer screening camp was jointly organised by **CanSupport** and **Rajeev Gandhi Cancer Hospital**, supported by the Lions Club of Fairlop UK, at our Madipur centre. 76 people from the local community availed of the camp and were screened for blood pressure, sugar, oral and gynae tests.



Ujjivan Small Finance Bank spread Christmas joy at Palna on 22nd December. In a heartwarming celebration, the team played Santa, bringing smiles to children's faces. Engaging games with our children truly filled the atmosphere with laughter.

As usual, on the 2nd of October, **Mahindra and Mahindra Group** marked their Founder's Day by distributing backpacks and stationery to our SHS children. A special thanks to Mr. Jothi Hariharan (Manager – CIS) for making this possible.

The **SGTB Khalsa College** students performed an entertaining "nukkad natak" on healthy eating for the children. PWK kids stole the show in adorable costumes for a ramp walk, while SHS students danced and joined the Khalsa college play. The day ended with gifts and surprises.

The Janakpuri centre team had the opportunity of showcasing our Diwali diyas, fragrant candles, and VTP girls' creations at the Institute of **Information Technology & Management's Diwali mela**. We captured the hearts of the students and the faculty with our festive hampers.

A big THANK YOU to all our partners!

Programme Updates

VTP Students Shine in NSDC Exams! Over 200 students enrolled in the Vocational Training Programs have successfully completed their courses and cleared the National Skills Development Corporation (NSDC) exams. Passing these exams equips our students with the support of a credible institution to excel in the job market. Congratulations to all our girls!.

Honoured to be the part of a **panel discussion at the Central Adoption Resource Authority's** (CARA) adoption awareness programme, Loraine Campos, Assistant Director, with 35 years of profound experience, shared her invaluable insights. The programme addressed latest adoption regulations and guidelines. Loraine emphasised the importance of home study visits, offering practical advice. She focused on the importance of counselling and preparing for the transformative journey of the parents during and after the adoption of a child.

The **rebuilding of our Janakpuri centre** continues to hold priority, and is currently our biggest challenge. The plans for a new 16000 sq foot building to replace the existing 30,000+ sq foot building are in the process of being finalized and submitted for approval.

Festival & Celebrations



On the International Girl Child Day, the Palna and PWK kids filled the air with girl power! The little girls expressed their dreams by performing as teachers, doctors, army personnel, police officers, lawyers, and through colourful posters. Their limitless dreams fill our hearts with pride, reminding us that there are no boundaries to their ambitions.

Palna children had a lip-smacking lunch at their favourite restaurant courtesy its amazing owner Mrs. Paramjit Kaur. She made sure that everyone was enjoying their lunch and served it herself. It was a day filled with yum and fun!

Children across DCCW centres celebrated Dussehra with the re-enactment of the eternal saga of the triumph of good over evil. They took to the stage with the incredible Hindi dialogue delivery and famous laughter of Ravan!

Diwali melas were held at all the centres. Students and instructors showcased handmade diyas, decorations, clothes, along with scrumptious food and games.

On the occasion of World Disabled Day, children from Bal Chetna and SHS in Janakpuri went on a joyous picnic to Bal Bhavan alongside their parents, organised by Mrs. Renu Jaiswal and Mr. Malya Kapoor. The children enjoyed the bus ride, singing songs and dancing with their instructors!

DCCW centres transformed into a Santa's haven at Christmas. Children dressed in Santa suits danced to Christmas carols and decorated Christmas trees. Instructors played Santa, distributing gifts and creating a magical celebration for the children.

Photo Gallery



Well-wishers Speak

As always, your messages of support mean a lot to us.!

Pooja Bellati: *I want to thank all the people who work here. Thank you for giving me a second life and I am sure that all the children here are very lucky to have you as support. Lots of love.*

Raika Arora: *I created great memories to my very first place, Palna, I felt like home. Special thanks to the team for remembering me and loving me till today.*

Amrita Jhamb: *A wholesome and beautiful visit after 24 years of being adopted from DCCW. I was very young when I was adopted but now experiencing this with my parents was a wonderful feeling. Hope to visit again very soon and help in whatever way I can to my first home. With lots of love.*

Rashmi Sharma Pamphilion: *I really enjoyed coming to my first home and seeing how much it has changed. I liked seeing so many kids here who are being cared for in a great environment. Thank you for helping me find my forever family.*

Sahil Siddiqui: *The council is dedicatedly working for children in need. Despite of some of the children suffering from severe disabilities, the staff are much dedicated. It is a home for these children away from home.*

Hanie Dhanna: *Happy Janamashtami :-). Please keep doing what you do the best.*

Navodita Sharma: *You are doing a wonderful job. The future will be thankful to you.*

Rejo Mathew: *Hopeful that this small contribution will bring a smile to all the lovely faces in PALNA.*

Amit Srivastava: *Thank you for all the work that your team is doing!!!*

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