



DCCWConnect



Being Prepared

One thing the last year– and even more so the last quarter – has taught all of us is not to become complacent. In fact the need of the hour is to be even more alert and cautious. PALNA children have been safe to far, but with various possibilities of impact on children being talked about, we decided that we need to take stock and ensure we are well prepared. Led by our Senior Paediatric consultant, Dr Veronica Shah, the team deliberated and identified both practices, as well as equipment and materials, that we need to have, including oxygen concentrators, oximeters for children, overalls, vaccinated staff, etc. A comprehensive list was drawn up and we have been successful in acquiring all that had been identified. A few generous donors have also stepped in to enable this.

The children are also being made to internalize the necessity of all the hygiene practices

and protocols, through various activities. They are now taking the lead in ensuring that each of them, as well as those around them, follow all the safety precautions. They – as well as the staff – are guided by Dr Shah's mantra :

"Be disciplined, follow guidelines, protect yourself. Be safe, and keep others safe."



Spotlight - Dr N Tomar, Resident Medical Officer, PALNA

With the pandemic having changed priorities and operating procedures, we thought that in this edition, in place of showcasing a beneficiary as we always do, we would turn the spotlight inward, and focus on one of our staff members who has consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty this past year.

Meet Dr N Tomar, who has been the Resident Medical Officer at PALNA for well over a decade.

Through the pandemic, Dr Tomar has been taking care of all the little ones at PALNA, without a break. During the second wave of Covid-19 this year, when Delhi was facing a deep crisis, he worked tirelessly with the team of nurses, caregivers, and all other support staff at Palna, day & night, without going home. He has always said that his first family is PALNA and their need is greater than that of his own family. He went home for a few hours after two days non-stop at PALNA, but was back at work that very evening!

Dr Tomar has ensured that all standards and protocols are strictly adhered to by all the staff. No non-vaccinated staff was permitted inside PALNA, and all guidelines laid out by our Senior Consultant Dr Shah were meticulously adhered to.

We are indeed blessed to have people like Dr Tomar at PALNA. It is their selfless service that keeps PALNA going even in the toughest of times.

Quarterly Updates

Programmes: With the lockdown announced in mid-April, several of our programmes had to be suspended, and remain suspended to date. Our Vocational Training Programme which had restarted in October 2020 after being suspended last March, had gathered great momentum, and at the time of this shutdown we had over 500 beneficiaries.

We re-started the Supervised Homework Scheme at 2 centres and only for senior students in March and had 60 enrolments by mid-April. The Palna WeeKids programme for pre-school children has been in hiatus since March 2020.



Centres: We have 16 centres across slum and resettlement areas of Delhi, and are ensuring that every centre is regularly sanitised, cleaned and dusted, and there are periodic inventory checks. Each staff at these centres has been vaccinated, and this includes our instructors, helpers, and guards. We are ready to re-start operations as soon as the government notification for re-opening comes.



Online Fundraisers:

Artspeaks India: Art Gallery **Artspeaks India** is running a Covid Relief Art Fundraiser for PALNA, through the sale of works of art, to help navigate these difficult times. Ms Ashwini Pai Bahadur, Director, Artspeaks India, has committed a significant part of the proceeds to PALNA. This is what she has to say : “For the last three decades, I have personally observed the dedication of the Delhi Council for Child Welfare that manages PALNA. DCCW is an exemplary NGO with a committed leadership spanning over six decades.”

The Young Lead the Way

- Fourteen-year-old Kathak dancer Samaira Kumaran has been raising funds for children impacted by the pandemic since the end of 2020, through her online dance performances. She has raised funds through various platforms, including GiveIndia, and children of PALNA have been one of her many beneficiaries.
- Anannya Sharma, a Grade X student of Sanskriti School, Delhi is running an online fundraiser for PALNA through the Fueladream platform. Moved by the plight of abandoned children during the pandemic, she started this fundraiser on her own initiative, and is putting in all her efforts to ensure that she can make a difference.



These young girls have shown what commitment and determination can achieve, irrespective of age.

Donors: We cannot thank our donors enough. They have been our lifeline, standing by us when we need them the most. We take this opportunity to mention just a few:

- Dr Shubha Varma, a practicing doctor in the US appealed to her fraternity to raise funds for those organizations which require resources for medical supplies to handle COVID-19 and to keep it at bay. She made a very generous donation to PALNA towards meeting our equipment needs as well as other medical supplies.
- Mr. Kumar Aggarwal purchased many items that we needed critically and sent them to PALNA.
- Well-wishers from Japan, Singapore and India pitched in to meet our need for oxygen concentrators.
- Innumerable donors, including many in the neighbourhood, helped us with daily food requirements like fruits, vegetables, milk, bread and eggs, cereals, lentils, and other essentials. A drive started by an anonymous well-wisher saw PALNA get a flood of offers of assistance. They saw to it that Palna was not left wanting.



PALNA is truly blessed.

Well-wishers Speak

Rashika Gupta

'U r the great people on the earth.'

Kumar Aggarwal

'Please keep up the good work. May God bless you and all the children at PALNA.'

Varsha Achrekar

'Appreciate all the good work and efforts the team is putting into making world a better place.'

Bhuvnesh Kumar

'Please take good care of children & yourselves. We are here to help you guys.'

Abhishek Ahluwalia

'Thank you for giving us a platform to help the ones in need. Lots of love.'

Aairah Budhiraja

'Thank you for your great service to humanity.'

Tejpal Kohli

'God bless the children.'

Maulshree Aggarwal

'Always there for Palna!'

Nihal

'This is the least I can do. My life partner came from PALNA and whatever I do will be little compared to what I've gotten. There's a lot more to come.'

Delhi Council for Child Welfare (DCCW) is a Registered NGO (Non-Governmental Organization), established in 1952 to care for children who had been displaced during the riots that took place after the partition of India. Since its inception over 50 years ago, DCCW has grown, its services expanding and diversifying to keep pace with the changing needs of Delhi's less fortunate children. Today, DCCW provides a range of services for underprivileged children living in and around Delhi.



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