



# DCCWConnect



## Homeward Bound

Many Palna children get in touch as adults - and also try to visit the place they remember as their first home. Here are our some we were delighted to meet after years - and they had an emotional homecoming too!

**Isabelle:** “I am thrilled to be back and see the amazing work done by Palna for the children. I was adopted in 1992 to Sweden and had a good life growing up in a Scandinavian country with wonderful parents. Today after 31 years I feel really blessed, and am thrilled to be back - along with my husband - to the place where my journey started. We take back beautiful memories and shall remember Palna always.”

**Mira Wadehra,** who lives in the US, has been visiting Palna regularly, and has earlier run a fund-raiser for Palna too. She was in Palna again this January, along with her parents. She had a wonderful time in the classroom with the children, telling them stories and playing games - and they insisted that she has lunch with them. While departing, the kids took a promise from her that she would continue to tell them stories from her home! Mira is keeping that promise with a one-hour story-telling session every Monday. The children too tell her stories that have been read out to them in Palna.

It is truly an amazing sight to see the pleasure lighting up all their faces.



Isabelle



Mira



Sita

**Sita Therese Wilhelmsen:** My name is Sita Therese Wilhelmsen and I was adopted to Norway from Delhi Council for Child Welfare in August 1980. My Norwegian parents Marit and Gunnar Wilhelmsen have given me a great childhood with a lot of love and joy. They have been a great gift to my life and made me the harmonious and happy person I'm today. A lot has happened since then. I have moved to The Netherlands where I live with my Dutch husband and our daughter Noemi. I have attached a picture of us.

I also read the book "The World of Palna" which also shows the dedication and compassion you have for the children. On June 4th, I will celebrate my new title "Master of Arts" with friends and family. Instead of gifts, I will ask the guests to donate to Palna.

**Priya M Gupta** (an excerpt from her post): This International Women's Day, I would like to honour the three very special women. The first is Loraine Campos, the Assistant Director of Palna, the orphanage I was left at shortly after birth. Following her Master's degree in Social Work from the Delhi School of Social Work she joined the Delhi Council for Child Welfare as the Adoption Officer at Palna. To this day she holds overall responsibility for Palna, including all the processes related to adoption. She is the face familiar to thousands of Palna families, including my own. <...>



Priya

Our joy and pride in meeting and connecting with all of them is inexpressible!

## Spotlight: Lovish

Lovish joined our Palna WeeKids programme – which prepares children from under-privileged families for admission into mainstream schools - at our Madipur centre in Delhi, as a three-year old. His father works in a small private company and his mother is a home-maker, and Lovish is their only child. The family lives in a one-room rented dwelling.



Lovish

When Lovish got enrolled, he was a thin, introverted child and did not mingle with the other children. He had no exposure to any sort of academic learning, formal or informal. In just over a year, Lovish has made tremendous progress. He can now read and write the alphabets in both English and Hindi, and can count up to 50. He can recognise colours, patterns etc. He likes playing games and actively participates in every class activity. He is an obedient child and enjoys attending the programme.

We are proud that Lovish has just got admission in N.C. Jindal School - much to the delight of his family and teachers!

## Quarterly Updates

Our **Vocational training programme** has now got affiliation with the National Skill Development Council under the Government of India Skill India Program, adding further value to the courses. 204 students successfully cleared the examination and passed out with an A grade.



Our partner **Godrej Ltd** evaluated all the beneficiaries independently and our girls passed out with flying colours. The support provided by Godrej in enhancing the skills of our beneficiaries enabled them to get an edge over other aspirants in the work arena.



In our **Palna WeeKids programme**, the graduation from pre-school to kindergarten was the pinnacle for the little ones! You could see their pride and feeling of importance about going to regular schools from April onwards. 165 age-eligible children got admitted to school, whereas 50 are on the waitlist for admission, which will happen by July.



**Educational sponsorship** saw 524 children collect their stipend and stationery. The turnout was low as the annual board exams and school exams were on. Parents informed that they will collect the same during the next disbursement, along with all necessary documents required for the same.

**Janakpuri Centre Repairs:** The Janakpuri centre, which is the flagship centre for most of our programmes, was completely closed for two years during the pandemic. Some repairs to the building were necessary even at that time, but the disuse and neglect over the last couple of years has aggravated the problem immensely, and a comprehensive renovation of the building is now necessary. Keeping the children's safety as the top priority, an alternate premises is being rented in the neighbourhood to run our programmes until the repairs are completed. A full assessment is being carried out to know what is required to be done. **This is a major setback for us both operationally and financially**, and we will need to work towards getting this accomplished over the coming months.

**Our Partners:** Our heartfelt gratitude to all our donors and well-wishers who have always come forward to help us meet our objectives and goals for our children. In particular, this quarter we would like to acknowledge the generous contributions of:

- **GiveIndia** for running a very successful and useful fundraiser for Palna.
- **EXL India** for contributing smartboards for our centres.
- **India Humanitarian** for protective fencing for the Palna building against the monkey menace.
- **WestBridge Capital** for their employee matching grant campaign for Palna children.
- **Indian Institute of Banking and Finance** for playground equipment and indoor toys for all our centres.
- **Turner Project Management Pvt Ltd, Bank of Baroda and Guru Nanak Sewa Foundation** for utility and essential items for Palna.
- **Canadian Pension Fund (Caisse de Dépôt et Placement du Québec)** for necessary repairs needed at Palna as well as utility items.



Republic Day



Lohri



Variety programme by children

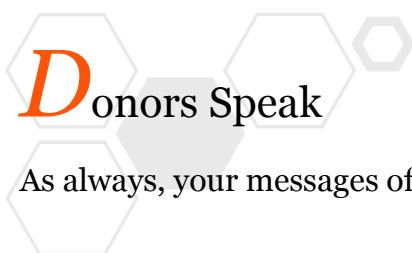


Holi

## Donor Visits







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

**Nisha Gupta:** *Thank you for the great work you do towards the future of our nation*

**Dharmik Kumar:** *help every orphan child and give them the best childhood*

**Ishita Bhattacharya:** *I am impressed by the work you are doing. Consider my small contribution on the first month birthday of my child . Praying for happiness & health.*

**Ria Sachthey:** *My father late Sr. Adv Anip Sachthey and mother Ritu Sachthey used to get me to you when I was a child, you would invite me for Christmas carnivals and I would visit each room and meet all the babies. I cherish those memories with all my heart.*

**Sanjeev Kumar Pawar:** *Keep doing the Good Work. Thanks.*

**Surbhe Sharma:** *Would love to meet all the kids one day.*

**Ankit Shukla:** *You are doing a great job.*

**Sita Therese Wilhelmsen:** *I was adopted from Palna to Norway at the age of 2. I truly appreciate what you have done for me to give me good start in life and I am impressed by the work you do for all the Palna children. Keep the spirit, keep shining. Blessings and warm greetings.*

**Tista Bagchi:** *My daughter visited DCCW/Palna at Qudsia Bagh when she was a child, out of her own desire to do so. We wish all of the children and DCCW's programmes all the very best.*

All donations to Delhi Council for Child Welfare get tax exemption under Section 80G of the Income tax act of India. CLICK the button below to donate.

DONATE



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.

