

# DCCWConnect



## PALNA DAY Celebration

PALNA Day has been an annual tradition at Palna for decades. It is an evening when children who started out in Palna come back to Palna with their families to spend an evening of fun together. The pandemic had put a hold on this lovely tradition, and so this year the reunion was even more special as it was held after four years! The evening of March 9th saw more than 70 children and their families get together at Palna!

The entire Palna home was decked out in vibrant colours. From Mehendi to tattoo designs, and mouthwatering food, the celebration was a treat for all. The children had a blast with Mickey Mouse, Doraemon, and more, dancing and laughing nonstop. With exciting games and a lively puppet show, families bonded and won prizes together. Laughter filled the dance floor as parents and kids showed off their moves.

We were delighted to be able to resume this lovely tradition, and eagerly look forward to seeing everyone again soon!



# Spotlight: Sita Therese Wilhelmsen

## *Homecoming*

Sita Therese Wilhelmsen, a proud Palna child, visited her first home in January 2024 for the first time since she had been adopted as an infant four decades ago! Adopted into a loving family in Norway, she now spreads that love to her own beautiful family.

Sita got in touch with Palna a couple of years ago, and it has taken a lot of planning to accomplish her dream of visiting Palna. During her visit she sponsored a delightful lunch for all the children and served them lovingly by herself. She involved her friends and family in contributing towards a Smart board for the children at Palna to enhance their education through digital means.

She shared that she felt really blessed and thrilled to come back to the place where her journey started, and felt that the week she spent here was one of the highlights of her life. She has taken back beautiful memories from Palna and promised to stay committed and connected. Sita's warmth and thoughtfulness touched our hearts deeply.



## Quarterly Updates

### *Partnerships in Action*

• Our heartfelt gratitude to all our donors and well-wishers who have always come forward to help us in fulfilling our objectives and ensuring the wellbeing of our children. In particular, this quarter we would like to **acknowledge the generous contributions** from:

- **Edrington** for financial support to Palna operations.
- **Celebi Delhi Cargo Terminal Management India Pvt. Ltd.** for supporting construction of ramp and installation of fire alarm system at Palna.
- **EXL India** for contributing desktops for our Janakpuri centre.
- **Rotary West Trust** for supporting a full-fledged laundry unit at Palna
- **Turner Project Management Limited** for providing uniforms for Palna WeeKids children.
- **GiveIndia** for running a fundraiser for Palna.
- **Mr Ramit Budhraj** for initiation of computer training unit at Qudisia Bagh.

• **Young well-wishers Udhav Bhargava and Priyanka** journeyed from Sydney to Palna, captivated by tales from Udhav's cousin, a proud Palna child. They ran a marathon in Sydney as a fundraiser for Palna. Then they came to Delhi and spent a week volunteering at Palna. They were glad to see the loving bond amongst the children and happiness all around the Palna home, and their presence in turn brought joy and happiness to the children.



• **WestBridge Capital** is a valued partner and we were delighted to have **Ms. Maria Cheeran**, Sr. Vice-President and **Ms. Ada Grewal**, Senior Associate, visit Palna. They were given a tour of Palna and several stories imbued in the walls of palna were shared with them. Every room has a different story, and every child is a miracle child! We look forward to their continuous support and creating a positive impact on innocent lives together.





- **India Vision Institute (IVI)** collaborated with DCCW to conduct free vision screening at all our centres, benefiting our beneficiaries, their parents, and our staff, and corrective glasses were provided to those who needed them.

Australian Parliamentarian **Mr. Andrew Charlton MP**, and **Australian Deputy High Commissioner Nicholas McCaffrey** were present at the concluding event. A special thanks to Mr. Vinod Daniel and the entire team of IVI for collaborating with DCCW and making this possible

- **Ms. Valentina Pitton and Ms. Varinia Merlino** from **International Action, Italy** -, who support 250 students in our Educational Sponsorship Programme - recently visited our Trilokpuri and Madipur centres. Alongside our Educational Sponsorship Officer Ms Ruwndar, they interacted with students and provided encouragement for their academic journey. We thank them for being guiding stars in our children's lives.



- **Mrs. Sadhna Alström**, our devoted partner since 2011, flew all the way from Sweden to India recently, and visited our Trilokpuri centres with her family. She has been the force behind the transformation of the infrastructure and garden at Trilokpuri. With the support of her friends, she has raised donations for DCCW every year. We deeply value Mrs Alström and her team's consistent support over the last 12 years.



## ***Programme Highlights***

- In our **Palna Weekids programme**, the graduation from pre-school to kindergarten was a highpoint! 233 eligible children got enrolled in school, and another 60 are on wait-list for July.
- Thriving through the **Vocational Training Programme**, our girls excelled in Beauty Culture, Sewing & Tailoring, and Computer Graphics courses. During this quarter 93 girls successfully cleared their National Skill Development Council examination and passed out with A grade.
- **Educational Sponsorship** saw 568 children collect their stipends and stationery. The turnout was lower than usual as annual board exams and school exams were on. Parents informed that they will collect during the next disbursement, along with all necessary the documents.
- **Bal Chetna children** from Janakpuri Centre showcased their talent and stole hearts at an event hosted by Concern India Foundation, supported by Brown-Forman and organised by Secure Giving. Heartfelt thanks to the organisers and kudos to our trio of Prason, Reena, and Sonvi for their dedication.
- We started a **new centre at Shahbad Dairy** in January, with Palna WeeKids, Supervised Homework Scheme and Vocational training in Beauty culture and Tailoring.

• The Manzil Mystics Organisation conducted sessions at DCCW centres focusing on **women's empowerment**.

• **Lohri, Holi, and Republic Day** were celebrated at all centres with great enthusiasm and fervour!

## Other Updates

**Visit to Prem Dham Ashram:** A team from Palna led by the Director, Ms Neeru Bhatnagar, had an uplifting experience at Prem Dham Ashram in Bijnor, a rehabilitation home for destitute, mentally and physically challenged young adults and senior citizens. Over the years several of our special needs children have found a safe haven here as they grew older and needed to be transferred from Palna. Our team was welcomed graciously by Father Shibu and Father Linto, and we witnessed a soul-stirring event featuring the musical talents of the residents. Our special educators, communicating through sign language, made connections that went beyond words. It was an enriching experience filled our hearts



We bid farewell to **Mr Sarjoo Prasad**, who retired after four decades of selfless service to DCCW. The DCCW team shared heartfelt stories, memories, and thoughtful gifts to mark the occasion. Gratitude filled our hearts for his exemplary service and inspirational vitality.

**Janakpuri Centre building update:** The rebuilding of our Janakpuri centre continues to hold priority this year. The plans for the new building have been finalised to be submitted for approval. The contract for the demolition of the existing structure was given and is now nearing completion.

## Well-wishers Speak

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

**Maria Cheeran, WestBridge Capital:** *We hope to grow our association with Palna in the coming years and do let us know if there is anything specific we can do or help with.*

**Sanjeev Pawar:** *Keep up the good work.*

**A Donor:** *Your NGO is doing a really good thing I really trust my money with you - that you will use it properly to help children.*

**Amit Singh:** *May all the children and you all have a happy and healthy new year.*

**Pratik Bhagat:** *God bless your team.*

**Ankit & Disha:** *More power to all the people who are running and supporting day to day functions of DCCW. Special thanks to Loraine Ma'am.*

**Surya Balakrishnan:** *Thank you for all the work you do.*

**Dinesh H:** *Please use the money wisely! Good Luck and be very proud of yourself for helping these kids and doing a great job!*

**Mallika:** *Thank you for all you do! - from a former Palna baby!*

# Photo Gallery





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

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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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