



DCCWConnect



A Magical Moment



In March, Palna girl Niti (now Elizabeth) visited India - and Palna – for the first time after her adoption in 1991. She had come to Palna as a 6-year-old girl, along with her sister and special needs brother. The siblings were in Palna for two years before being adopted by a family in Belgium. Elizabeth came with her beautiful family, comprising her husband Dorian and their two children. They live near Brussels, not too far away from her siblings. Elizabeth now speaks mainly French, and only a smattering of English. Her husband – who is fluent in English – was her interpreter.

The family went around Palna, and walking through the premises awakened some long-forgotten memories for Elizabeth. After their round, they came back to the main office building along with Loraine Campos, Assistant Director, Palna.

Elizabeth took out her phone to show a photograph from her years in Palna, that she had been carrying with her all this time. The photograph was of her being hugged affectionately by a young woman, both of them smiling happily. She asked if anyone could recognise the woman. Loraine looked at it and found it was a photograph of herself over three decades ago, holding the young Elizabeth close! Elizabeth was simply not prepared for that! She was in tears and had goosebumps all at the same time! Dorian did not need to interpret – her tears and her outstretched arm showing the goosebumps said it all. It was truly a magical moment for all who were fortunate enough to be there to see this miracle unfolding!

That one moment electrified the entire atmosphere! Dorian told us that Elizabeth often mentioned this woman whom she remembered with great affection, as Loraine had been very kind to her!

Elizabeth hugged Loraine and took several photos. She was very clearly overwhelmed. Loraine remembered that the late Mrs Aruna Kumar had taken the three siblings to Belgium once the adoption was through. When Niti got out at Paris airport, the shining floor made her think that it was water! Elizabeth listened in rapt attention to stories of her childhood. It was an enormous privilege to witness this beautiful reunion.



Spotlight: Reconstruction of our Janakpuri Centre

As we have been updating you periodically over the last 18 months, our flagship programme centre at Janakpuri is currently undergoing a complete reconstruction. This was necessitated due to the fact that in mid-2023 the existing building was found to have major structural issues. Comprehensive structural assessments concluded that the building was beyond repair, and needed to be demolished and completely reconstructed. Since then, an architectural firm was selected, plans approved and contractor appointed through due process. The construction was started in July 2024, and is scheduled to be completed by the end of this year.

The project estimate exceeds our annual organisational budget, and is a major challenge for an NGO like ours. Constructing this building is only possible with significant community support. Raising funds for this project is our priority and we have currently raised half the amount necessary.



We appeal to you for support.

Every donation helps us take a small step forward.

SCAN QR CODE TO DONATE



Quarterly Updates

Programme Highlights

PALNA DAY Celebrations: PALNA Day has been an annual tradition for decades. It is an evening when children who started out in Palna come back with their families to spend an evening together. The evening of March 22nd saw more than 40 children and their families get together at Palna.

Palna was decked out in vibrant colours. From Mehendi to tattoo designs, mouthwatering food, and a variety of games involving both the children and their families, the celebration was a treat for all. Laughter filled the air as parents and kids showed off their moves on the dance floor. Old memories were revisited, and countless new ones were made to treasure forever! An evening to remember.





Our Students Shine at YMCA Youth Mela: Students of our Vocational Training programme and Supervised Homework Scheme at our Janakpuri & Trilokpuri centres participated in the NGO Youth Mela organised by YMCA. They made us proud by **winning three awards** in the mehendi, debate, and poster-making competitions. The event was an enriching experience, providing our students with a platform to learn, compete, and excel.

We bade **farewell to all the Vocational Training Programme** students who completed their respective courses in computer training, beauty culture, and stitching, at our centres. During this quarter **243 girls successfully cleared their National Skill Development Council examination and passed out with A grade.** Certificates and a small gift were distributed to all the graduating students. The events were attended by members from our partner EXL, our Secretary Mr. Asheesh Vadera and Executive Committee Member, Ms. Asha Gupta.



Educational Sponsorship saw **642 children** collect their stipends and stationery. Counselling sessions were conducted by Ms. Smriti Pathak Gosain to keep the children motivated.

Palna Re-connect: Among the several Palna alumni who reconnected this quarter were Sankalp and Tinku.

Sankalp Miquel, who was adopted by Miquel and Isabele of Barcelona when he was just a year old, visited Palna along with his parents. He now works as a science teacher in Barcelona.



Tinku returned again from Italy to visit – this time as a proud father. He was accompanied by his wife, little son, and Mr. Hasmukh, our former employee who once taught Italian to the Palna children! He was moved to see his photograph on our Palna's Pride wall. Both these visits served as beautiful reminders of the lasting bonds that Palna weaves.

Celebrations & Outings

- All our centres celebrated India's 76th Republic Day with flag-hoisting, songs and performances showcasing India's unity in diversity.
- The festivals of Lohri and Holi were also marked by the children with traditional and fun-filled celebrations.
- The older Palna children were taken on a visit to the Delhi Zoo. A day filled with excitement, curiosity, and new experiences - and ended with a treat at McDonald's!

Partnerships in Action

India Vision Institute collaborated with DCCW to conduct free vision screening programmes, across all our centres, benefiting students, parents, and centre staff, as they also provided corrective spectacles where needed.

Our **Bal Chetna** programme at Janakpuri (supported by IDFCFIRST Bank) for the rehabilitation of underprivileged children with disability, organised monthly workshops with parents of the children with disabilities, as well as a workshop for the staff. The sessions aimed to counsel parents on challenges unique to the upbringing of children with disabilities. The team was briefed on the vital and relevant welfare schemes and laws of the government.

DCCW proudly presented its Bal Chetna (Ek Prayas) program, highlighting achievements and challenges at the annual review meet in Mumbai, organised by the First Impact team of **IDFCFIRST Bank**. Neeru Bhatnagar (Director), Babita (Asst. Program Manager), and Prasoon Mishra (Special Educator) engaged with CSO partners from various regions, exchanging insights and best practices.



DCCW's beauty culture instructors participated in a transformative training session powered by **Nykaa Foundation**, led by expert Ms. Pooja. The workshops were focused on advanced make-up and nail art techniques.

Young girls at our New Seemapuri Centre underwent self-defence training organised by the **Special Police Unit for Women & Children**, supported by Ms. Meenakshi (Head Constable) and her unit.

Vocational Training Programme students and Palna staff participated in an engaging Financial Literacy session by **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank**, led by Mr. Samarth. He simplified key financial concepts like auto-sweep, RD SIPs, and scam awareness.

Students from **Shri Ram College of Commerce**, through the National Service Scheme (NSS), conducted Digital Literacy and Cyber Awareness sessions across our centres. Using impactful plays and discussions, they educated children about online safety, cyberbullying, digital footprints, and responsible internet use.

Renovation of Trilokpuri centre: EXL under their CSR program, is supporting the refurbishment of one of our Trilokpuri centres to provide a more advanced learning environment for our computer training programmes. Mr. Mohd. Hammad from EXL, visited the centre and got a first-hand update on the progress.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the team of **Clove Dental and Max Super Speciality Hospital**, Patparganj for organizing a Full Body Check-up Camp at our Qudsia Bagh premises under their CSR initiative. About 150 members participated in the camp.

On March 20th - Oral Health Day - **AIIMS** conducted a special dental checkup camp for Palna children, starting right from toddlers. The team guided caregivers on hygiene practices, and taught children the importance of oral care.

Well-wishers Speak

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

Vicky Suri: Take care of children as God has given supreme opportunity to you to serve Him in serving and loving them.

Chitra Apte : Thank you for giving hope and a new life to so many!

Radhika Ahuja : Please give the children my love and good wishes!

Sahil Khan : Hope my contribution can help a child in some way.

Manuj Bansal : God bless all.

Nishant Bhatnagar : Keep up the good work.

Disha & Ankit : Love & Blessings to all the children and great job by team DCCW.

Photo Gallery





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