

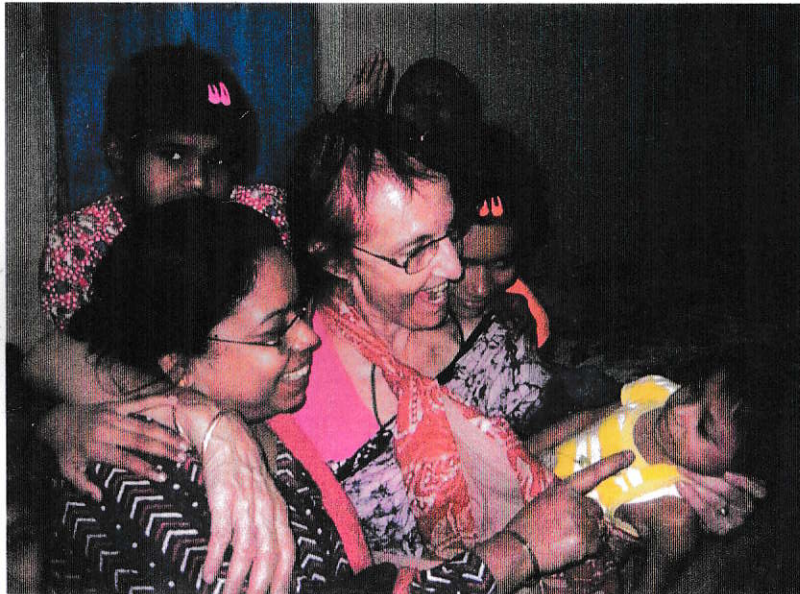
CHILDLIFE PRESERVE: SHISHUR SEVAY
শিশুর সেবায়

ANNUAL REPORT 2006 - 2007

The Mission:

To protect lost and abandoned orphan children by providing a safe environment where they will be sheltered, educated, and nurtured.

Founders, Dr. Michelle Harrison and Mrs. Jasvinder Kaur with the children.



The Home



Thirteen orphan girls ages 2-12 years currently live at Shishur Sevay. The four youngest are severely handicapped. The children came to Shishur Sevay by Order of the Child Welfare Committee of West Bengal in February 2007. The two groups of children have different needs both short and long term. Our goal with the normal girls is to educate them to independence. Our goal with the handicapped children is to develop whatever potential they have with respect to education, mobility, and health.

Education

The Initial Months: The girls had no previous education due to their lives outside the mainstream. We taught them how to learn, and how to study. We worked on skills of self-discipline, sitting still, following directions, taking turns, and raising their hands. They learned to show respect to their teachers.

Class at Shishur Sevay



The girls worked very hard, and most of the time with enthusiasm. We held classes at Shishur Sevay every day for six to seven hours. They learned the alphabet, numbers, simple math, colors, their names, address, phone number, and developed a sense of competence in their new skills.

The Second Phase:

Some of the girls began attending a local school, while we also continued our classes at Shishur Sevay for the remainder of the day.

The first day of school

Our first goal was basic Bengali literacy and understanding fundamentals of numbers and mathematics. Next we began English. We are also introducing more advanced subjects to close the gap created by a late start in schooling. These subjects are initially taught orally and with multimedia materials until the girls' literacy is sufficient for them to read on their own.



The Handicapped Children



Our four children, ages about 2-5 suffer from cerebral palsy and spasticity. Each girl tries so hard, all the time, to speak, and to move, to let us know what she wants and what she thinks. These girls are a vital part of our home. The older girls nurture them. They are included in all activities, even "helping" in the garden.



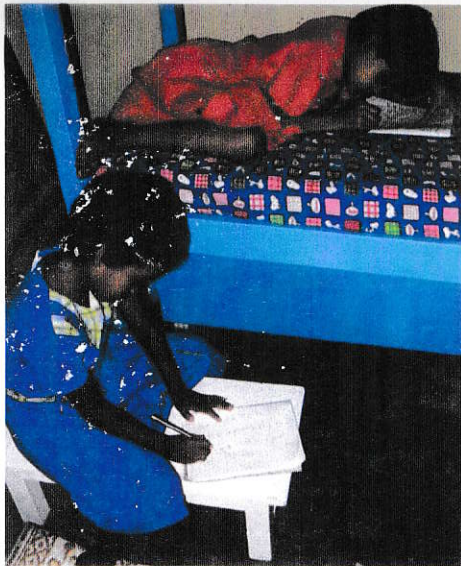
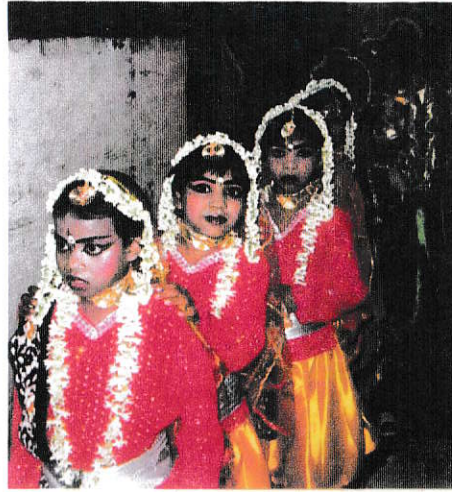
The handicapped children have all been evaluated at the Indian Institute for Cerebral Palsy and are receiving treatment and educational services there. We anticipate sending the children to school there next year.

In the Community

Sports Day in the local park



Celebrating Tagore's Birthday



**Homework and Housework –
taking care of our home.**



The Founding Principles

- 1. We shall provide a safe, nurturing, healthy, educational and culturally rich environment.***
- 2. We shall develop each child's education and opportunities in ways that build competence, confidence, and independence.***
- 3. We shall teach our children respect for others, irrespective of job category, caste, religion, skin color, gender, and age.***
- 4. We shall teach our children to be responsible and contributing members of the community, and to participate in the care of those less fortunate.***
- 5. We shall teach our children to respect and protect our environment.***
- 6. We shall give our children a strong foundation in Bengali language, culture, and history, so they may be literate, contributory, and respected members of the Bengali community and Indian society.***
- 7. We shall teach skills in English and Hindi languages so as to improve their opportunities for participation, work, and education in India and the global community.***
- 8. We shall have fun with our children and share our lives with them.***

Religion

Childlife Preserve: Shishur Seva is not affiliated with any religious institutions or beliefs. We practice the traditional religions represented in the diversity of West Bengal. We teach tolerance of all beliefs.

Founders

Dr. Michelle Harrison is a physician, psychiatrist, researcher, author, and lecturer. She began her work in Kolkata when she brought her Indian daughter back to Kolkata to appreciate her Indian heritage. Dr. Harrison is deeply committed to providing a meaningful life for orphans in India. She stays at Shishur Sevay..

Mrs. Jasvinder Kaur (Gibi) has done extensive social work with orphans. She has traveled internationally in her work and speaks several languages. For the past seven years she and Dr. Harrison have worked together sponsoring children in schools, with Mrs. Kaur carrying on the work when Dr. Harrison was out of India.

Governing Body 2006-2007

Justice S.S.Ganguly, Retd.

President

Jasvinder Kaur

Vice-President

Pradip Roy

Hon. Secretary

Jyotirmay Das

Treasurer

Cecilia Devyani Harrison

Member

Shanti Devi

Member

Seema Gupta

Member

Sikta Ray

Member

Imrose Shami

Member

Childlife Preserve: Shishur Sevay is a registered Society under the West Bengal Societies Act XXVI of 1961. Registration # S/IL/ 37263 of 2006-2007.

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