

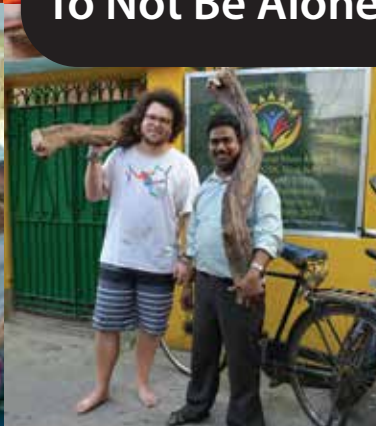


Shishur Sevay

Annual Report
FY 2014-2015
FY 2015-2016
FY 2016-2017



To Not Be Alone in the Universe



Mission Statement

To protect orphans and abandoned children, including those having differing abilities and disabilities, by providing a safe environment where they will be sheltered, nurtured, and educated in ways that build:

Competence

Confidence

Independence

and

Leadership



From the Founder
Dr. Michelle Harrison

What haunts me in my quiet moments...

I worry about the children, particularly the ones who cannot live on their own. Fifteen girls are in our care. Six of them cannot walk, talk, feed or toilet themselves. Left alone they would die within days. Put in a government institution they would die more slowly, more painfully, and isolated. Several of the others, the more physically abled would not last long on their own before being trafficked. They lack the judgement to understand danger and dangerous people. This is what haunts me. For the past ten years we have been sustained by a combination of my savings and pension, as well as generous organizations and individuals who helped us become the success we are. My funds have always covered the shortfall, but they are being quickly depleted. We need your help! We need funds to cover current costs and to build an endowment that will sustain the lives of these children and others. The pediatrician who first examined our children in 2007 said, "Well, at least they won't live very long." She meant this as reassurance. Two of these girls now speak to us via computer technology.

Showing What Can Be Done

Childlife Preserve Shishur Sevay was founded in 2006 to create a model of inclusive, non-institutional care for lost and abandoned girls, some with disabilities, all having been rejected for adoption. These are the children with no known parents, family or community. For each girl at some point in her life, every person, place, and thing which was familiar was gone. It was a tsunami of loss. Then Shishur Sevay became their home by way of Court Order of the WBG Child Welfare Committee. We provide shelter, food, medical care including hospitalizations and education, as well as all the emotional supports needed by lost and unprotected girl children. Shishur Sevay is their place of safety, security and permanency – and nurturing. Their daily lives here reflect the language, culture, heritage and religion of their origins. They are the Daughters of Shishur Sevay.

Shishur Sevay is showing what CAN be done. The children are growing in all spheres of their lives: academic, creative, vocational, and in their moral values of compassion and responsibility for helping each other, especially their sisters with disabilities. Inclusive living (living all mixed together) has brought love and commitment as the girls eat, learn, relax and perform their daily prayers together. Some pray to the Gods that their sisters will be healed.

For every child at Shishur Sevay there are thousands just like them languishing in institutions. "Best Practices" is our standard of care. Our model as a family style inclusive home is scaleable and replicable. Our girls want to give back, to care for others like themselves and their sisters, to articulate their struggles and show others that there is always hope, and always someone who cares.



Dr. Michelle Harrison, Founder and Secretary, 31 March 2017

From the President
S.S. Ganguly

Dear supporters of Shishur Sevay,

I have been associated with CPSS since its inception in 2006. I have never seen any other home/orphanage so dedicatedly taking care of the children. The children are well-loved and cared for. I thank Dr. Harrison, her team, and the children for creating such a wonderful model of inclusive living. I wish CPSS and team members and children all the success in the future.



Justice (Retired) S.S. Ganguly, Calcutta High Court

Presenting
Childlife Preserve Shishur Sevay

**A Best Practices Model of a Family Style
Inclusive Non-Institutional Home for Lost and Abandoned Girls,
Some Having Profound Disabilities, All Rejected for Adoption**

Shishur Sevay was founded in 2006 to answer three questions:

- 1. Who are the lost and abandoned children (full orphans) in government institutions?**
- 2. What do these children need to be independent and integrate into the community?**
- 3. Can we change the directions of their lives?**

Who are they?

February 2007: Twelve girls by Order of the West Bengal CWC. They ranged in age from 18 months to 9 years. Of the 12 children, four were profoundly disabled and malnourished. Their conditions on admission:

Acute Conditions
Severe malnutrition, i.e. (4 yr. olds weighing 7 kg)
Severe scabies infections
Bleeding gums and anemia
Severe febrile malaria.
Complex dental conditions

Chronic Conditions
Multiple disabilities , Cerebral Palsy, unable to talk, feed or toilet.
Autism, encephalopathy, visual and hearing impairment, microcephaly and severe developmental impairments.
Psychiatric and behavioural disorders related to abuse and loss
Seizures
Social and educational deprivation, learning disabilities,

September 2017

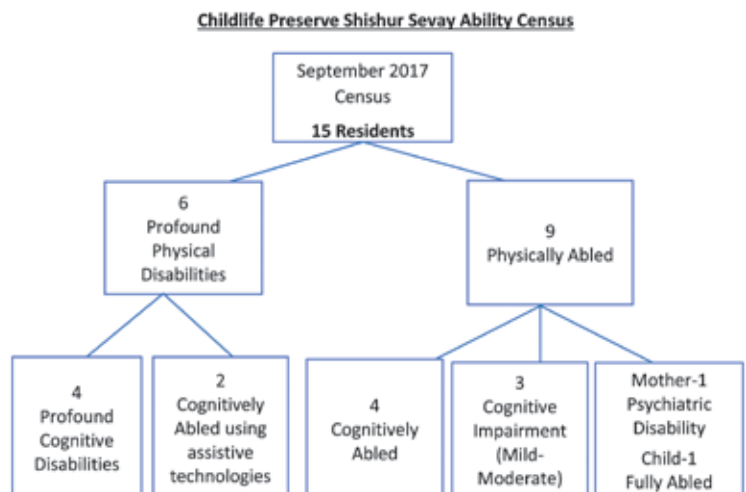
Current Census of 15 Residents



What did they need and continue to need?

They needed a safe environment; immediate and long-term health care and treatments; education; names, papers, identity; knowledge and participation in their culture, heritage and religion. They needed to grieve for their losses and in some cases search for their families and villages. They needed a sense of the future, their paths to success and independence. They needed to learn to work hard towards their goals.

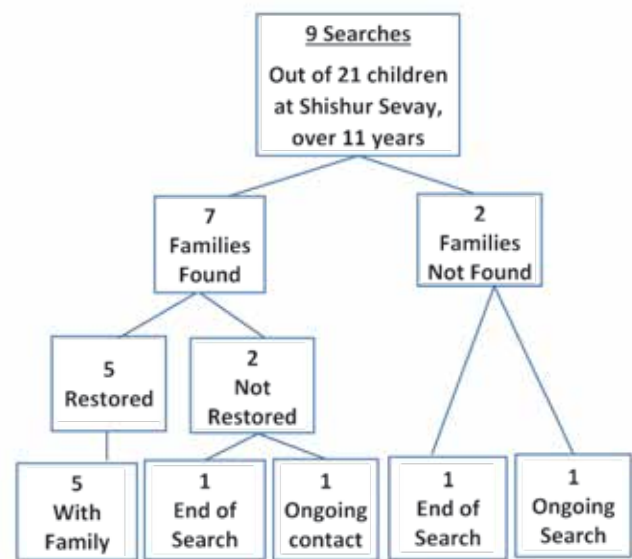
The girls needed to learn to trust, as much as possible given their past experiences.



Could we change the directions of their lives?

YES, but it took ten years.

- ◆ **Inclusive living** which meant abled and differently abled lived together. They shared living space, recreation, Prarthana, TV, and education. This created strong bonds among all of them.
- ◆ **The Tobii Eye Tracker**, made in Sweden allows communication via eye movements. They can speak their thoughts and needs using their eyes on the screen. For Ganga it has changed her life. We are told by the Tobii Company that we were their first customers in India. This is Best Practices.
- ◆ **Searches:** Nine searches were conducted related to 21 children who at one time were residents at Shishur Sevay. Five girls were restored to families. One involved family strengthening and support with the mother and child living at Shishur Sevay. (Picture left.) One non-restored family continues to visit.



- ◆ **Ichche Dana Inclusive School**, within Shishur Sevay was begun after six years of local schools not being able to meet the needs of the children. It uses technology and e-learning programs such as Khan Academy and K-5 Learning, in addition to having iPads and laptops, also allowing development of computer skills. Some classes are conducted by Skype with teachers abroad. Two girls are preparing for NIOS Class X exams. One girl is a gifted artist and was part of our five day art exhibition AUTHENTICITY at ICCR Tagore Center. Two girls are in training to be Assistants to Special Educators. Two girls are taking tailoring classes. For one girls, there is talk of marriage to (in her words), “whoever the Aunties pick out for me.”



- ◆ **Inclusive Dance** is an innovative program with classes three times a week and a public performance of a dance drama. Special harnesses allow the children who cannot stand to move to the music with the dancers. Below is Shishur Sevay Inclusive Dancers performing Dance Drama at Aban Mahal, Kolkata.



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Our Children

These are the children who came to us in 2007. We were waiting for them with new clothes and baby dolls.

These pictures are from their first few weeks at Shishur Sevay. These ten girls are still with us; two others left and more have joined. Some of the girls are now coming into adulthood, with lives quite different from what they would have been. Others are alive only because they are out of the institution. Our mission is being met, including managing the deep wounds from which they continue to heal. It takes time though, and a lot of support. Some will need lifetime support.



I.2 Our Home

Neighborhood

- Mixed income, semi-urban community in south Kolkata
- Shishur Seva now well accepted

Facility

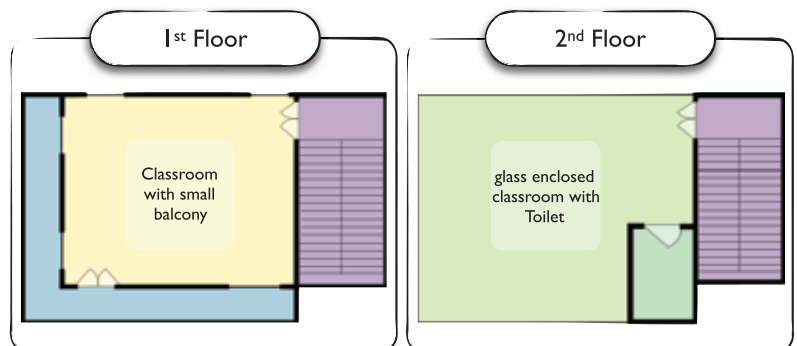
- Ground floor fully accessible, including toilets
- Owned by Shishur Seva
- Updated electrical wiring, circuit breakers and grounding
- Septic tank
- Fire extinguishers throughout
- Screened windows and doors

Security

- 24/7 Security guards
- CCTV in all rooms & grounds

Diet

- Highly nutritious with extra protein for children with disability
- Vegetables 2-3 times a day
- Fish, chicken, egg and pulses for protein
- Fresh fruits daily
- Rice and chapatis with dal, specially papad
- Mixed foods for children with swallowing difficulty
- Milk and curd daily



1.3 The History of Shishur Sevak

2005

The first meetings took place to discuss creating a model of non-institutional care for orphaned children, as they are the ones housed in government institutions. Dr. Harrison had been involved in the deinstitutionalisation of mental hospitals in New York in the late 1960s and the subsequent creation of group homes. This is the model she brought to India after hearing over and over again, "Nothing can be done."

2007

Shishur Sevak was licensed by the Directorate of Social Welfare, Government of West Bengal in January 2007, and has been regularly inspected and licensed since then. In February, twelve girls were transferred from Sukanya Home for Care and Rehabilitation by order of the West Bengal Child Welfare Committee. Their ages varied from 18 month to 11 years. The four youngest had profound disabilities.

Shishur Sevak received the certificate for tax exemption under section 80G(5)(vi) of the IT act of 1961, and was registered under section 12AA of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

2011

The roof over the classroom was enclosed with glass creating a room used to house female interns. It also serves as an office.

2014

The Tuni Harrison Center for Research, Training and Advocacy was established. Tuni had been found under bushes about three hours away. She had Down Syndrome and suspected heart defect. At Shishur Sevak she was given Dr. Harrison's surname. She later died in surgery at one of Kolkata's multi-speciality private hospitals. In the short time she lived, she'd had a profound effect on everyone who knew her. She died having a family, a mother, and a name, and will live on in the research, advocacy and training done in her name.

2017

Shishur Sevak received the 2017 GuideStar India Gold Seal, after having gone through the due diligence process for transparency and public accountability.



2006

On 14 June 2006, Childlife Preserve Shishur Sevak was granted its Certificate of Registration of Societies under the West Bengal Act XXVI of 1961, No. S/IL/37263 of 2006-2007. Housing was arranged in anticipation of the arrival of children.

2010

Shishur Sevak received its Foreign Contribution Regulation Act or FCRA, 1976, registration permitting foreign donations.

2013

The Ichche Dana Inclusive School was created to meet the emotional and academic needs of the children of Shishur Sevak. The ground floor of Shishur Sevak was made fully accessible with ramps, grab bars in bathrooms, and non-slip tiles being installed outside.

2016

Shishur Sevak received the 2016 GuideStar India Transparency Award for financial transparency.



1.4 The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

The International Community has struggled with and debated the “Rights of the Child” for more than ninety years. The first Declaration of the Rights of the Child was endorsed by the League of Nations in 1924, and called the World Child Welfare Charter. Over the years the Charter was expanded and on 20th November 1989 the Convention on the Rights of the Child was signed and became effective less than one year later. Today only two countries have

not ratified the Convention, namely the United States of America and Somalia. India ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in December 1992. Shishur Sevay, as a model of non institutional care for orphans, has looked into the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child as a framework in providing the care for our girls. We are simply complying with what 191 nations, including India, agreed are the basic entitlements of children, particularly those under the direct protection of the state.

Article 2: The State Parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth to each child without discrimination of any kind [...]

Article 3: The State Parties shall ensure that the institutions [...] conform with the standards established by competent authorities, particularly in the areas of safety, health, in the number and suitability of their staff, as well as competent supervision.

Shishur Sevay put no restriction on the girls we would take. When asked to choose among four children with disability, we simply took all four. We try our best to protect the children from all forms of discrimination.

Shishur Sevay is a registered charity and licensed home for orphans, some with severe disabilities. The Department of Social Welfare conducts regular inspections. Staff is experienced; training is ongoing with fire safety, electrical safety and CCTV in all rooms. Dr. Harrison serves as government appointed Superintendent and maintains constant vigilance regarding safety, both physical and emotional, of the girls.

Article 7: The child [...] shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents.

They came without records, some with only a first name, some with multiple names, none of which they said were correct. We gave them names and were able to get birth certificates that were necessary to enroll them in school. They did not know India as a country, nor did they recognize a map of India. They learned about India and became proud Indians. They love the classical literature, songs and dance. We searched for their families where feasible and necessary for their needs. Over eleven years and 21 children who were/are here we did searches for nine. We were able to locate seven of the nine families. Family restitution was possible in five cases. Of the two whose family could not be found, the search has stopped for now in one, and in the other one the search is ongoing. In several cases their mothers had been killed. In all cases we taught respect for their families and supported the girls in their sense of loss. For some, the loss of younger siblings they had cared for was the worst aspect. They were more like mothers who lost children than children who lost mothers.

Article 14: State Parties shall respect the right of the child to freedom of thought, conscience and religion [...]

The girls are encouraged to express their views and thoughts. Daily prayer is held following Hindu customs, which is what they knew before coming to Shishur Sevay. Shishur Sevay conducts religious Puja, with the older girls taking on increasing roles in preparation and conducting the ritual prayers and customs for the Pujas. They are also taught about other religions as well as Human Rights.

Article 19: State Parties shall take all [...] measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect, [...]

Our girls had already experienced abuse and neglect. We provide both, preventive and curative support related to physical and/or mental violence, injury or abuse and neglect. We maintain a policy of Zero Tolerance regarding abuse of children. We maintain a Child Protection Policy and have CCTV throughout the house.

Article 23: State Parties recognize that a mentally or physically disabled child should enjoy a full and decent life, in conditions which ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate the child's active participation in the community [...]

Quality of life of people with special needs must be provided because the severely impaired lack agency and cannot control their environments. If no one brings them into the room with others, they remain isolated. If no one feeds them, they starve. Our inclusive living means they are in the midst of everything and everyone even if they can not always participate. For the more abled or less disabled, every opportunity is taken to involve them in community events. Our living, classes and trips are inclusive. No one is left out. Assistive communication devices, like the Tobii Eye Tracker are used by two of the children with cerebral palsy, for communication and participation in class. With Tobii they can tell us how they feel and what they need.

Article 24: State Parties recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health.

Healthcare is a priority. The girls came with many health problems; some will require lifetime medical care. The children are immunized and regular medical care is given. For serious illness, they are treated at one of the private multispecialty hospitals. When a staff member was diagnosed with TB, we treated all the children according to WHO's highest standard and protocols. Physical rehabilitation is daily. Water is filtered and high sanitation maintained.

Article 27: State Parties recognize the rights of every child to standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.

The standard of living in Shishur Sevay exceeds all norms of food, sanitation, education, nurturing, health and arts. In essence Shishur Sevay is challenging Indian social norms of caste and class so the girls do not live lives of shame and deprivation because of their origins. Shishur Sevay is helping them develop into confident, competent, and independent young women. Why should orphans be poor? They should not!

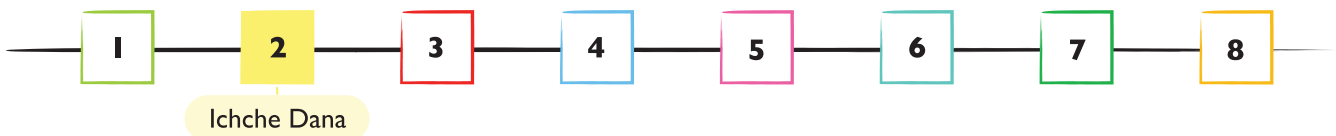
Article 28: State Parties recognize the right of the child to education.

The children have attended community schools and special needs schools, but now we have opened Ichche Dana Inclusive School. The school is safe, disciplined and inclusive. Children are led to interact with their environment, ask questions and take advantage of technology. All media is used including assistive technologies, educational DVDs and software. Ichche Dana offers a personalized education plan for every child. Those children who are abled, sit for Board exams through the National Institute of Open Schooling. Two of them registered for the Secondary course, through NIOS, in 2017

Article 31: State Parties recognize the right of the child to rest, leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and arts [...]

Five girls study dance at Mamata Shankar's famous Udayan Dance Academy. Music therapy sessions are held twice a week. Each day has some form of arts, either tabla, harmonium, guitar, singing, inclusive dance or art. Shishur Sevay has a small garden and play area. Recreational trips include picnics, museums, water parks, sea beach, and others.





2. Ichche Dana

Ichche Dana Inclusive School ইচ্ছে ডানা

2.1 Why open a school?

The girls attended outside schools for seven years. On 20 November 2013 we withdrew them from school and the next day began the classes of Ichche Dana Inclusive School. The short answer to why is that the girls had given up on themselves. Any hopes for a better future were gone. The system had beaten them down. For these children who had been severely abused and abandoned, conventional schooling didn't work. They were socially ostracized at different times and at different schools by peers, parents, and teachers. The accepted level of harshness, particularly the verbal abuse, cut them to their core sense of identity and in their minds confirmed their lack of worth. An educational system built upon memorization

on without context as well as their heightened “fight or flight” response interfered in their ability to integrate information into a useable knowledge base. Something had to be done.

2.2 What did we do?

1. We created Ichche Dana Inclusive School within our home with plans to expand it at sometime in the future.
2. It would be inclusive, meaning that children of all levels of abilities and disabilities would be educated within our school framework. Some classes would be together, some separate and we would learn from the experience how to make it work over time. Our experience of our inclusive living had demonstrated the real benefits to the abled as well as the differently-abled girls.
3. We would set our priorities to meet our goals of having girls educated to each one's highest potential, within an environment of safety, encouragement, and learning.

2.3 How did we do it?

Create a safe
and inclusive environment

Methods

- Focus on thinking, not memorizing
- Build the girls ownership of their futures
- Individualize teaching plans according to needs, interests, and abilities of students
- Encourage curiosity
- Build on success

Return to basics

Methods



- Focus on basic reading, writing, oral expression and comprehension. We believe that if our students could read and write they could continue to learn throughout their lifetimes.
- Raise the bar of success but repeat and repeat assignments until they are done well.
- Require successful learning as criteria for advancement.
- Give structure to learning strategies for academic, vocational and life skills. Teach them to organize ideas and analyze what was being taught.
- Develop foundation of basic mathematics and understanding concepts of numbers in abstract and practical ways.

Methods



Part of relieving the tension of learning as memorization, is the strategy of learning using projects. A project is often centered around a field trip. It includes study of the subject and preparation before the trip; observation and experience on the trip; coming home to put the knowledge together; and then doing presentations where each child develops an area and presents it in a school assembly.

An example of the project-based learning was a trip to the botanical gardens:


Preparation included:

-  Study of the map and the areas of trees representing different parts of India, as well as other countries. Then making maps of India and a world map to represent these places.
-  Study of the shapes of trees, trunk/bark characteristics and leaf colors.

The Trip:

-  The children, including our girls who are differently-abled, went, bringing along wheelchairs and an iPad. The iPad was used by one of the challenged girls who can take pictures, and with instruction type the tree's name on the picture. For the able-bodied students the trip was about learning, and for the others it was about being out in the world and participating in life. The girls explored the park, now partly familiar because of their study about many of the trees. A park guide took us through and had stories about many of the trees. We saw the Great Banyan tree and had fun pushing wheelchairs through the forest
-  An assembly was held two weeks later, giving the girls the opportunity to compile information and pictures and to reflect on their experience and what they learned. They set up the projector, screen and the computers necessary for the Power Point presentation. They used assistive communication, including the Tobii Eye Tracker, also on computers attached to the projector. The student who took pictures used Widgit symbol language to present the pictures and what they represented.

Subjects required and strengthened by this project:

-  Reading, geography, science, writing, and speaking. Learning about sizes and distances and required math skills.

Methods

We continue to develop and adjust criteria and practices for maintaining an inclusive and functional curriculum. We consult with educators, researchers, and other experts on inclusion.

Project-based
and interdisciplinary
learning

Build inclusivity

Methods

Use of technology

Computers are used across disciplines giving the experiences relevant to today's work needs.

The concept of the *flipped classroom* as developed by Khan Academy is employed in all areas of learning. The children learn on their own by computer and then the teacher helps them with what they do not understand.

We use e-learning through online programs that allow children to work on their own, while the program gives constant assessment of their progress to the teachers. We use the K5 Learning that has helped build basic skills. We also use Widgeit symbol language for the girls unable to read.

Skype and similar applications permitting instruction from abroad and from other parts of India are employed.

Computers are for opportunities to do research for information beyond textbooks for projects, interests, articles, and information (with limits on internet sites).

We work with multimedia to manage projectors, screens, and audio speakers to utilize for presentations.

Skill building on common office programs and email (with restrictions).

The Tobii Eye Tracker allows the girls with severe disabilities to communicate via computer. Ichche Dana was the first customer of Tobii in India, and we now have two Eye Trackers for some of our students to use.



3. Tuni Harrison Center for Research, Training and Advocacy

The purpose of the Tuni Harrison Center for Research, Training, and Advocacy is to identify, document and build upon the learnings, strategies and practices that have made Shishur Sevay the successful model it is, so this work can be replicated by others.

Research

The research has begun. Professor Anjali Forber-Pratt's field of study is in inclusion, disability, and identity of the abled and differently abled. She has visited Shishur Sevay several times and set up the first computer programs for the girls. She is Didi to the girls at Shishur Sevay. In 2015, funded by Vanderbilt University, she came and interviewed the children and staff regarding our inclusive living and inclusive education. Below is part of the study she has presented:

"The model of inclusive education used by Shishur Sevay is designed to impart knowledge and skills while also developing ways the children can communicate their feelings and needs. Having a foundation of inclusion that permeates social interactions, learning, living and recreation is part of what makes Shishur Sevay unique. They are an inclusive school in a part of the world where many may think would be impossible."

Professor Anjali Forber-Pratt, Vanderbilt University in "An international Case Study Illustrating Disability Inclusion in Action; APA Denver, August 2016

Shishur Sevay has always documented the development of the model of care. This information is being organized to describe who are/were the children, what did they need, and could Shishur Sevay meet those needs.

Training

Inclusion, although normal within families, is not common in NGOs or government programs for children. While they may house both groups, they do not usually mingle on a regular basis. Inclusion developed out of need at Shishur Sevay, so teachers had to adapt and find solutions to these challenges presented by Ichche Dana Inclusive School. Manuals and teaching guidelines are necessary and must be produced for other homes and schools to follow suit. Shishur Sevay has relied on special educators and other experts for instituting inclusive education. The

use of advanced communication tools, like the Tobii Eye Tracker allow the children to really benefit in this environment.

Advocacy

Community understanding of disability can be a slow process, but little can happen without pressure to change and advocacy. Shishur Sevay can bring these issues to the fore in schools, public spaces, and transportation. The girls who have grown up at Shishur Sevay are committed to improving opportunities and acceptance of their sisters with disabilities.

Dr. Harrison observes that Kolkata reminds her of what it was like in the US forty years ago. President John Kennedy had a sister who lived in an institution, hidden from view. President Roosevelt did not want to be photographed in a wheelchair. These are changes that happen over time. Shishur Sevay is poised to contribute to that forward movement and to Building an Inclusive India.

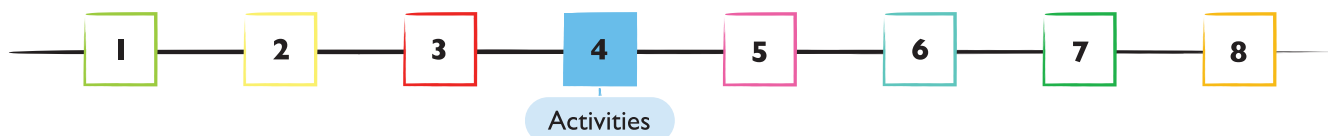
Who is Tuni Harrison?

Tuni was abandoned under bushes about two hours from Kolkata, suffering with acute pneumonia and Down Syndrome. She also had severe heart defects. WB officials asked Shishur Sevay to take her.

Tuni died during surgery on 14 August 2013 with an expert team of surgeons in multi-specialty private hospital. The "best" was not enough.

Tuni came as an abandoned baby. She died though with a family who loved her, a mother, a name, a legacy of people she had somehow touched in her short life. In Hinduism when babies die they return to the gods. So we mourn our Tuni even as she journeys among the gods.








4. Activities


The basic structure of life at Shishur Sevay is based on a school schedule. Although we now have our in-house Ichche Dana Inclusive School, the basic structure of the week remains the same. Classes begin at 8 am and go intermittently until the evening prarthana at 6:30. There are varying breaks in the day and different classes and activities based on subjects, abilities and interests.


Highlights FY 2014 – 2015

 **A ride on the Metro:** We want an accessible India, and for the public to accept those with disabilities. The metro has made an effort to be accessible. We pre-arranged the trip and were taken care of by the Tollygunge superintendent, Who made sure we could enter and leave the train safely without wheelchairs. The children learned about public transportation and we raised awareness among others.


 **Bhangra to Believe:** A benefit party for Shishur Sevay, organized by SMD Bhangra Club, was held in New York. Goutami Sanyal, an early intern here, spoke about Shishur Sevay. Sohini Sircar, a sister of Survi Sircar, another intern, was the force behind it happening.


 **The Tobii Eye Tracker:** This communication device arrived from Sweden for Ganga. It allows her to communicate by infrared eye trackers that respond to where she is looking on the computer screen. She works with it every day including in class. We are Tobii's first customers in India.

 **Mandarmani Beach:** It had been three years since our last vacation. All of Shishur Sevay went. The children with disabilities could really play, relax, and float, unhampered as they usually are by their motor limitations. We spent hours in the water, on the beach, and in the pool.


 **Independence Day:** The girls designed and painted a sari in the colors of the flag for Dr. Harrison. All the children decorated it with hand and finger printing in the national colors. They also prepared short presentations about the Freedom Fighters


and a dance performance for visitors who joined us in the evening.


 **Teachers' Day:** The girls took the initiative to celebrate their teachers on our first "Teachers' Day."

 **Pujas:** Shishur Sevay visited local pandals and celebrated Durga Puja, Lakshmi Puja, Kali Puja and Diwali. Shishur Sevay also attended a local yearly luncheon put on by the community club.


 **Art Workshops:** The girls attended a workshop on how to make colors out of natural materials. The artists present sang stories illustrated by pictures on a long roll of sari cloth and paper. Our friends, the founders of BAK Label in Australia, brought a walker for Bono and Ganga. We had an inspiring workshop with Art of Awakening from Singapore. They explained how to visualize ideas and together we created a giant picture.

 **Saraswati Puja:** The girls have learnt to prepare for the Pujas. As is the tradition, they wore saris either of yellow or red. Others wore Dr. Harrison's saris.


 **Equal Health:** A group of volunteer health care professionals from Australia, Equal Health, came for three days. The team included a physiotherapist, a speech therapist, an occupational therapist, and a developmental pediatrician. They worked with the children with disabilities and helped with fitting and adjusting their chairs. They also gave suggestions for feeding the girls, including improved postures for swallowing.


 **Holi:** The children celebrated Holi in our garden with plentiful colors and water.


Highlights FY 2015 – 2016


 **Inclusive Dance:** May 1, 2015 marked Shishur Sevay's first public performance of the dance drama, "Dreaming Wishes for Prince Dobu," set to the music of Rabindranath Tagore. All our girls participated, including those who are differently-abled; they danced in wheelchairs, harnesses, and walkers. Our able bodied girls who have studied at Mamata Shankar's Udayan Academy performed


masterfully and led to a standing ovation at Aban Mahal, the stage at Children's Little Theatre. Our gifted artists created illustrations that were projected at the back of the screen. The children and staff sewed and decorated the costumes, including that of Sarmu, our ancient flying elephant. The story, was written by Dr. Michelle Harrison in 2004. It is a mythical tale of a princess who must find a safe space for her son away from her father's kingdom. She seeks the help of the ancient flying elephant to travel through the skies to find the place and people who are waiting for him and for her. The dance drama merges all the arts.


 **Spoken English and Math classes:** via video conferencing classes occurred weekly with Prof. of Engineering, Indranil Goswami at Morgan State University in the USA. He visits when he is here.

 **Volunteer visits:** Five young volunteers close to the ages of the girls at Shishur Sevak came from Australia and the USA to spend ten days at Shishur Sevak. Together they painted the staircase with a mural of underwater life.


 **Janmashtmi:** The celebration of the birth of Krishna is celebrated each year. The children and the staff made all the decorations and performed the rituals. The children with disabilities especially loved pulling the string that rocked Baby Krishna's seat.

 **Dance performance:** Five of the girls who study dance at Mamata Shankar's Udayan Dance Academy performed at the annual dance program at Science City. Later in the year the girls performed again at Udayan's annual Saraswati puja program where they also choreographed their dance.


 **Dr. Anjali Forbes-Pratt:** Professor Forbes-Pratt of Vanderbilt University, USA visited Shishur Sevak for her research on inclusive living and education at Shishur Sevak. She started our first computer program and is "Didi" to all the girls.


 **ASSOCHAM, Delhi:** Association of Chambers of Commerce of India:
Dr. Harrison was invited to speak at the Empowering Disabled Persons with Accessible & Assistive Technology Conference where she gave an address, "To Not Be Alone in the Universe." Shishur


Sevak was invited to present because of our use of the Tobii Eye Tracker advanced technology.


 **Eco Park:** A day for the children to spend in open spaces, to run, have a picnic, and enjoy activities together. It was also a day of informal talk and activities among the staff and the children. If we are all to go on an outing together, two small buses are necessary. Large buses can't come onto our road; it is a long walk, with the wheelchairs and carrying children who don't use wheelchairs. The wheelchairs go into our 2005 SUV that we have on permanent loan. Often some of the equipment goes on the roof. It takes about 45 minutes to load the buses and the SUV. Please understand that when you read a statement such as, "We took the children to the zoo," it's not so easy. It is expensive. Yet it is always worthwhile for the children!


Highlights FY 2016 – 2017

 **A second Tobii Eye Tracker** was acquired to make it possible for the children with cerebral palsy to study at the same time and to eventually communicate with each other directly.

 **Nicco Park Water Park** is always special, particularly for the girls with severe limitations of movement. Being in the water, in addition to just having fun, relieves them of the gravity pull that limits their arm, leg, and body movements. They can enjoy playing freely in the water, just like the able-bodied children.

 **World Museum Day** offered the girls an opportunity to attend a talk at Birla Industrial and Technological Museum (BITM) on "The Role of Museums in a Changing Society," delivered by Dr. Saroj Ghose. BITM is one of our favorite places to visit.

 **The Guide Star India Intermediate Transparency Award for 2016** was awarded to Shishur Sevak. This level of transparency and recognition for our processes has been a goal from the beginning.

 **Foundation Day Ten Years (2006-2016),** called for a big celebration with dances choreographed



When you can't sing, you can still be in the arms of one who does



Everyone participates in Nine Days of Navarati



Together at Playland



Racing down Shishur Sevay Lane

Inclusion is Mixing!



Big sisters teaching little sisters







Taking notes for report at Botanical Gardens



Birla Industrial and Technological Museum



A World Map gives context to all studies. The earth is our home

Ichche Dana Inclusive School



The Tobii Eye Tracker gives "voice" to a child who cannot speak



School Assembly once a month, and presentations by each girl begins with Jana Gana Mana



Learning, then teaching

The Challenge of Trips


Recreational and educational outings require accessibility and transportation, and high costs. Large busses cannot get to us, so we usually need two small busses and our car for wheelchairs. But everybody enjoys trips.





The places
we have
been




by the girls, recitations, and singing. We presented laminated certificates signed by the full staff to each of the children (wording below), and Certificates of Appreciation to the staff for their dedicated work with Shishur Sevay.


 **Independence Day** was celebrated at the local Sammillani Club; the children were invited to the community flag-hoisting and celebrations. The cover of this annual report is a picture from that day as we made our way to the flag-hoisting.

 **Mahalaya** provided yet another opportunity for the girls to perform a dance, Mahishashur Mardini, as well as a song welcoming Goddess Durga. Friends joined for a jam session after the girls' performance.


 **Durga Festivals:** On multiple days, during the pujas, the children and staff went pandal-hopping in the locality. It was heartening to see more pandals becoming more accessible. Lakshmi Puja was also celebrated at Shishur Sevay. The children were invited to inaugurate the local Kali Puja.


 **Children's Day** was celebrated with a magic show for the children.


 A day at the **Kolkata Zoo** was a chance to learn about the various animals and their habitats.

 The five girls who study at Udayan Dance Academy attended the programs held in celebration of **Uday Shankar Birth Anniversary**.


 The **Guide Star Gold Seal 2017** was awarded to Shishur Sevay for transparency in financial processes and filings.


 **Time Zone** is a family game and interactive entertainment center at South City Mall with bowling for the older girls. The children with disabilities rode cars that simulated driving. Some were just happy to be in the midst of sights and sounds.

 **Saraswati Puja** was celebrated at Shishur Sevay as it always is, with the girls increasingly learning the rituals and chants, and conducting the puja. In the evening they danced at Udayan Academy in Pantik Pulli.

 **Neeldeep Gardens** near Baruipur was the site of our next picnic where we had the grounds to

ourselves. We organized inclusive games and sports. We set up a badminton net, played, and just talked. These outings allow the girls and staff to interact and talk about far-reaching subjects.

 Shishur Sevay in its entirety enjoyed a **boat trip on the Ganges**. We arranged for sufficient life jackets, and had the river police on call and keeping track during the five hour trip. Two life guards from Sea Explorer accompanied us as well as two guards from the River Traffic Police. Mid-river we hoisted a bucket to bring back Ganges water to use in our pujas.

 Dr. Harrison was honored to receive a **Change Maker's Award** on International Women's Day from the Public Relations Society of India, Calcutta Chapter. It was a good way to close out Fiscal Year 2016-2017.



4.2 Ganga searches her family



Before Ganga found a home at Shishur Sevay she was in Sukanya Home. A government institution. Before that she was at Digha Hospital which is the only information we have about her. We don't know how long she had been there, days, months, years? When she came, she was about four years and weighed 7kg. Using Ten years later, using Tobii she expressed that she wanted to find out more about her past. So in 2016 we made a trip to Digha Hospital to find out more.



Ganga and her sister walked around the hospital, to learn more about the place she was found.



Leaving Digha was very emotional for Ganga.



Ganga among the staff at the hospital. They were all thrilled to see her and so was she.



When Ganga found out that there was a baby that was in the same position she was in all those years ago she reached out to comfort the child.

We were not able to access any of her records, and we still hope to in the future. Ganga often tells us she wants to visit again. It's a four hour drive each way and we are still trying to find ways to have them access her records.

Loss of family is what is common to all our children. Where possible we have tried to search. Each story is different. We always believed Ganga and Bornali had families because of their closed earring holes. They were someone's children, a missing part in their lives.

As with adopted children, the search is not a reflection of us, of adoptive parents. It's about knowing where and who you come from...A central human need that isn't really noticed until it isn't there anymore.

4.3 A Taste of What's to Come 2017-18

AUTHENTICITY, When Happiness is Art
*An Art Exhibition at Bengal Gallery Tagore Center,
 Indian Center for Cultural Relations, Kolkata
 2-6 June 2017*



Ten years in a making, Shishur Seva (Childlife Preserve Shishur Seva) emerges from self-imposed relative obscurity to show what can be done when forgotten children are given the opportunities to blossom and thrive. The exhibition showcased the paintings of Puja Kumari, Daughter of Shishur Seva, and the painted canvasses and sarees of the Shishur Seva Inclusive Artists. The abled and differently-abled worked together to create unique sarees, dupattas, and scarves. These were made with joy, in activity time when the children worked with paints and cloth, fingers, toes, brushes and stamps to create these one-of-a-kind works. Ten years was necessary; quiet was necessary; the children and we found our way in cre-

ating this model of inclusive non-institutional care for girls lost and abandoned, some with disabilities, all facing bleak futures. With our innovations in inclusive living, inclusive education and inclusive dance and arts, we have shown that when given a safe, nurturing environment along with opportunity, their lights shine as bright as any of our children. They are our children.



5. The Future of Shishur Sevay

Shishur Sevay Inclusive Home শিশুর সেবায়

1. Shishur Sevay has achieved what was intended, to be a model of an inclusive non-institutional home for orphan children, some with disabilities, all previously rejected for adoption. Models are created so others may replicate it in order to serve the same purposes but on a broader scale.
2. Shishur Sevay must also become a Home for Life for those children who cannot be on their own, due to physical disabilities, emotional needs, or developmental limitations. We envision Shishur Sevay becoming an inclusive inter-generational home with education, rehabilitation, recreation, meaningful work and sense of community.
3. The Ichche Dana Inclusive School and The Tuni Harrison Center for Research, Training, and Advocacy reflect a broadening of the scope of what we are learning and implementing, and how we become a center for understanding inclusion in its broadest sense and practice.

Ichche Dana Inclusive School ইচ্ছে ডানা

- Model of inclusive education to develop teaching methods that are adaptive and accommodating to children who are differently abled and who have also sustained severe violence and disruption in their lives.
- Based on individual needs.
- Based on practical needs and methods of addressing multiple levels of learning.
- Use of advanced technology in communication.
- Project based learning across subjects.

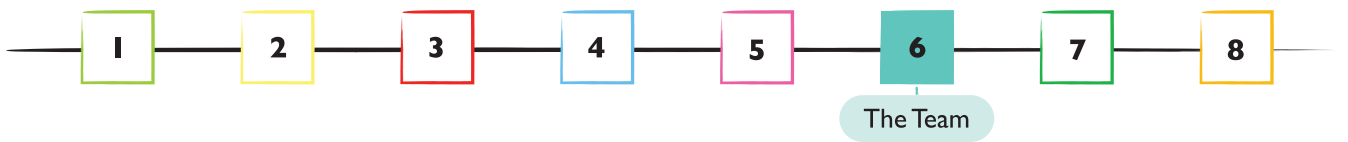
Tuni Harrison Center for Research, Traning and Advocacy

- Research and develop materials related to inclusion in living, education, arts and dance.
- Develop the blueprints for scalable models adapted to specifics of a community.
- Research and writing specifically related to the girl child, girls and disability, and protection of girls and women.
- Conduct workshops for parents and teachers related to inclusive education and living
- Become a training site on inclusion for Universities.

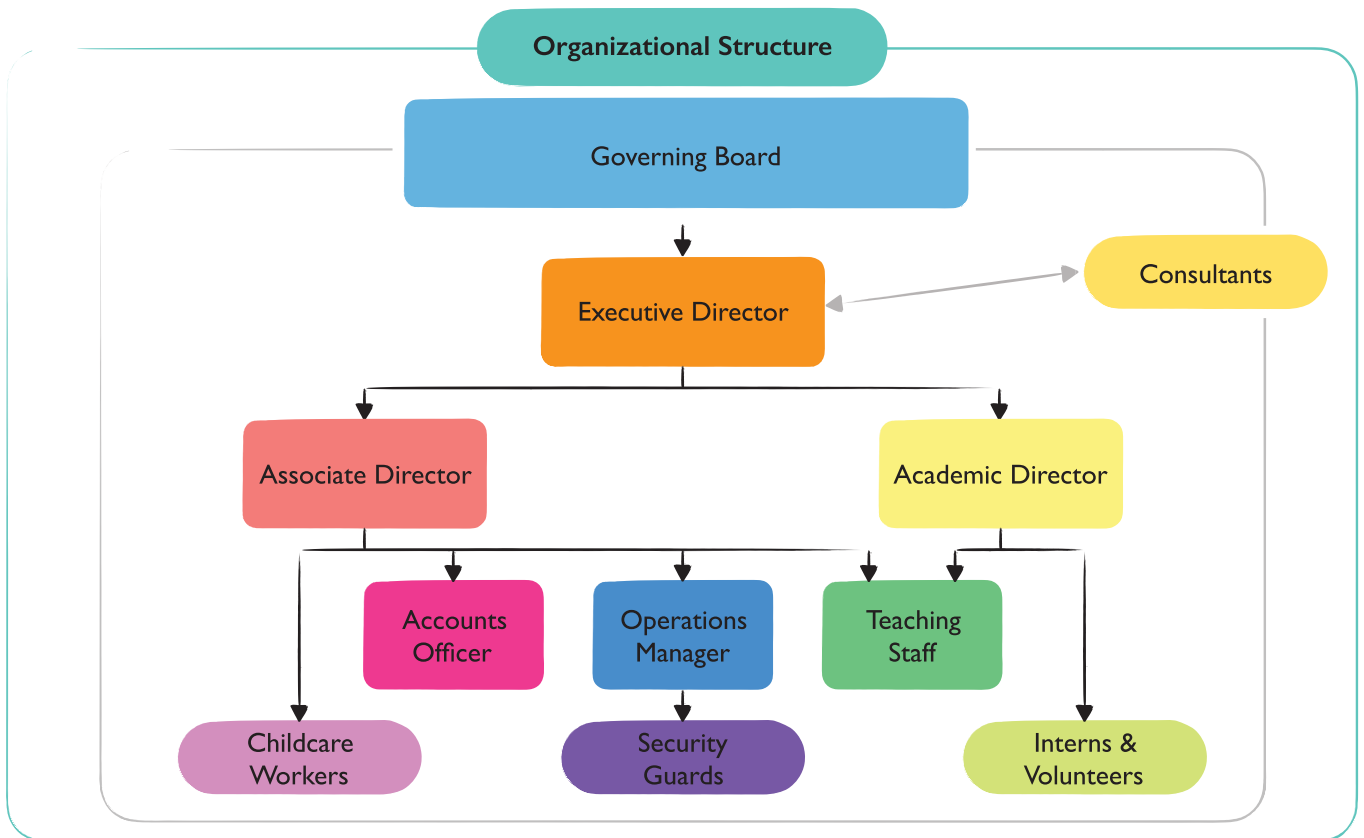
Future Income Generation

Long-term sustainability requires some level of income generation as meaningful contribution to the costs:

- Inclusive cloth painting as Authenticity Brand sarees, scarves, and Ethnic Wear. They were on exhibit in June 2017.
- Paintings and other art by abled and differently abled, also on display in June 2017.
- Paintings, drawings, book illustrations, design and publishing.
- Computer/IT related business/services.
- Other opportunities yet to be explored.



6. The Team



● The job of the **Governing Board** is to govern and oversee the operations of the organization through acting as fiduciaries. In other words, the board is legally, financially and morally responsible for the organization.

● The **Executive Director** is responsible for the successful leadership, guidance and management of the organization according to the strategies set up by the Governing Board. This is currently an unpaid position.

● The **Associate Director** is responsible for administrative tasks. Overseeing the everyday operation and functioning of the organization. This also includes supervising the staff and accounts.

● The **Academic Director's** job is to oversee the Ichche Dana Learning Center and teaches the abled and differently abled. The academic Director is responsible for developing individualized curricula as per the need of each child.

● The **Accounts Officer** works as Tally operator and also takes care of the accounts, finances and banking operations.

● The **Childcare Workers** are always there to take care and help our differently abled children to meet their basic needs like feeding, toileting, bathing, dressing as well as doing the work of cleaning and cooking.

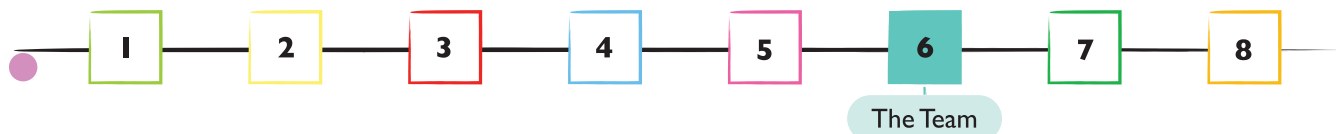
● The **Operations Supervisor** drives us to places and takes care of the daily purchases, inventory supplies, general administration etc. He is also responsible for maintaining equipments. Furthermore supervises the Security Guards.

● The **Teaching Staff** is deeply involved in developing and implementing the different curricula of our inclusive school Ichche Dana Learning Center.

● **Interns and Volunteers** take active part in our daily education programs and other activities as per our needs.

● **Consultants** are additional help from outside the organization and undertake tasks that can not be fulfilled by the organizational staff, like the audit.

● The **Security Guards** protect the property and make sure that visitors register when they enter



6.1 Full Time

Dr. Michelle Harrison – The Founder



Dr. Harrison began her career in rural South Carolina as part of President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty. It was a program that included sanitation, nursing care, medical and dental care. She believes healthcare must be accessible to all, independent of economics.

Her medical career spanning 35 years included psychiatry, family medicine and OB-GYN. Her books are *A Women in Residence*, *Self Help for Premenstrual Syndrome* and *The Preteen's First Book about Love, Sex and AIDS*. She has taught at Harvard, Rutgers, University of Pittsburgh. She has authored academic papers and magazine articles. Her Op-ed pieces have appeared in *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Chicago Sun Times*.

Six years with Johnson & Johnson Corporate, first as Worldwide Director of Medical Affairs in Consumer, and then as Executive Director of Johnson & Johnson Institute for Children gave her the skills and experience needed to plan, develop and lead Childlife Preserve Shishur Sevak.

Seema Gupta, Vice President of the Board



Mrs. Seema Gupta retired as Joint Registrar of the Calcutta High Court and has been taking on a greater role at Shishur Sevak. She is strengthening our regulatory filings and licenses. But her priority is also with the children and additionally she comes each morning teaching the children Bengali.

Shanti Devi, Founding Member of the Board



Shanti Aunt's only priority is working with the children with disabilities. She has a special relationship and devotion to them and comes at 6 am, six days a week to do exercise, massage, yoga, and communicate with them. She is also an operating theater supervisor at a nursing home. Much of the development of the children with disabilities is due to her consistent and committed care, and her love.

Minu Ghosh, Associate Director



Minu joined Shishur Sevak as the Associate Director in February 2016. With more than two decades of experience in NGOs and an expertise in fundraising & administration, she has been a valuable addition to Shishur Sevak.

Dr. Purba Rudra, Academic Director



Rutgers University, Ph.D. Geography; Jawaharlal Nehru University: M.Phil, Geography. Dr. Rudra oversees Ichche Dana Learning Center and teaches the abled and those with disabilities. Dr. Rudra's main focus is in empowering the girls, building academic skills and self-confidence. She is also managing the advanced assistive communication technology and teaching Tobii.

Srirupa Biswas, Teacher



Srirupa holds a Diploma in Arts & Crafts from the Vocational Institute for Air Force Women Welfare Association, Bhatinda. She is experienced in teaching the arts, as well as in academic subjects. She has been with Shishur Sevak since 2010 and works with all levels of student learning. When Ganga was in a non-inclusive school she went with her each day to teach her in the classroom.

Anindita Dutta, Teacher



Anindita holds a BA and MA in Philosophy from Calcutta University. She has been with Shishur Sevak since 2010. She works primarily with the children with disabilities and creatively comes up with new ways of interesting them and motivating them.

Saptarshi Chatterjee, Teacher



Saptarshi has an MA in English and also a Dip TESOL from American TESOL Institute and a CIDTT from University of Cambridge. He has vast experience in teaching communicative English and general communication skills. He is also a talented musician. He joined Shishur Sevak in September 2016 and has been teaching the children English, communication, music and many other soft skills.

Bijoy Das, The Truly Indispensable



Bijoy has been with Shishur Sevak from its beginning and has known Dr. Harrison since 2000. He has multiple roles, as driver, fix-it man, and as our strong man when that's needed. He is "MAMA" (uncle) to the girls at Shishur Sevak. He really is indispensable.

Chaitali Begam, Accounting



Chaitali began as the first teacher at Shishur Sevak in 2007. After receiving her M.Com, she began working in administration primarily handling bookkeeping and accounting.

She is trained in Tally and MS Office.

Sadhana Mukherjee (Garai), Office Assistant



Sadhana holds a BCom degree. She joined us in January 2017 and has quickly learnt the work, having previous experience in accounts and office management. She assists in accounts work and also in various tasks helping run a smoother administration.

Kaberi Pal, Teaching Assistant Rehabilitation



Kaberi assists in the rehabilitation of the children with disabilities. As mother to a young woman with cerebral palsy, she has extensive hands-on practical experience with disabilities and a strong commitment to their care and well-being.

Childcare Workers

We have an outstanding group of trained childcare workers who care for the children, as well as doing the work of cleaning, laundry, bathing, feeding, and most important, holding a crying child. They ARE the environment of the children. We work hard to make their work environment good. We also have paid time off.

Purnima Sardar



Purnima started in 2010. She is from Jagannathpur. Most days she stays at night, but the children usually sleep through the nights. "I really like working here. I have learned a lot from Mummy, especially about working with children with disabilities. I want to learn more!"

Chhaya Sarkar



Chhaya joined Shishur Sevay in Feb 2013. She worked at a bulb factory before she joined Shishur Sevay. "Since the time I have joined I have really liked the place and all the people. I would like to work here till I die and I want to keep learning more."

Tumpa Das



Tumpa came to Shishur Sevay in Dec 2013 and comes from Bagrahat. "I like working here and being with the kids, The children's home filled a void in my life."

Monika Das



Monika is with us since Jan 2014 and is from Sahapur. "I am very happy working here. The environment here is very good (I have seen other places). I want to keep on working here. I have got a lot of help from the aunties (teachers) here and mummy is a very good person, we wouldn't have been here otherwise."

Kabita Singh



Kabita Joined Shishur Sevay in January 2016. She says "I really like working here. I have to work otherwise I wouldn't be able to support my family but compared to other places I like it more here. I really like working with the children here"

Alpana Das



Alpana came to Shishur Sevay in June 2016 and has been very quick in picking up the work. She says "I like working here. if I did not like it I would not have stayed on."

Security

Providing a secure environment for the children is of utmost importance. We have 24X7 security guards posted at the gate. They keep track of not only the visitors and staff but also, among other things, run the generator and make sure that the water tanks are full



Ashok Sengupta



Satyagopal Halder

Satyagopal Halder also maintains the garden, refusing to take money even for plants he brings. He says "This is my contribution to this home." Ashok Sengupta says "I like working here. The way the children are taken care of here, other organizations should also do it that way"

6.2 Part Time Crew

Satyen Sur, Dance and Movement Teacher



Satyen holds an M.A. in Dance from Rabin-dra Bharati University. He specialised in the Bharat-natyam and Kathak dance forms. Satyen teaches the Inclusive Dance Movement Program, working with the abled and those with disabilities. He has toured Europe multiple times.

Dibyangshu Dasgupta, Arts Teacher



Dibyangshu holds a Diploma in Visual Arts from the Indian Art College, Rabindra Bharati University. He works intensively with our girl who is a gifted artist. He is a well-recognised artist and exhibits widely. He founded his own art school, Aankiey in 1987.

Debashish Sarkar, Music Teacher



Debashish is a registered tabla player under Calcutta Stage Performing Musicians Welfare Association, Kolkata. He has been teaching the older girls tabla since May 2013. He has taught at South Calcutta Ananda Niketan Home since 1996.

Ajoy Guha, Arts Teacher



Ajoy Guha holds a Master degree in Fine Arts, Commercial Arts and Sculpturing. He also has a Diploma in Interior Designing. Ajoy has been the examiner of University of Rabindra Bharati since 1991. He teaches art to four of the girls.

Indranil Goswami



Indranil is a lecturer and graduate coordinator in the Department of Civil Engineering at Morgan State University, Maryland, USA. He takes a group class of Spoken English with the girls once a week, from Maryland, using an online video-conferencing program GoToMeeting. He also tutors one of the girls, preparing for NIOS, in math, once a week.

Manaswi Dey



Manaswi tutors two of the girls, preparing for NIOS, in Math, Science and Economics. He comes thrice a week for two to three hours. He worked at building their foundation before starting with the NIOS material.

6.3 Volunteers and Interns 2014-16

Sreeya Paul



Sreeya received her Ph.D. in Political Science from Monad University – Gaziabad. She has been volunteering since 2010 and has guided the girls through many subjects and areas of interest, particularly Political Science, Human Rights and Women's Rights.

Chandradeep Maitra

Chandradeep is from our local community and from time to time gives valuable consultation on various aspects like human resource, safety, trips etc.

Indu Upadhyay



Indu is a Kolkata native, student of Liberal Arts at Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania, USA. She interned at Shishur Sevay for a month from May-June 2014. She worked with some of the girls on their spoken English and assisted our English Teacher in class. She also accompanied the girls to a painting exhibition at JU, Memories of Dark Days.

Johannes (John) Berrens



John interned at Shishur Sevay for six month beginning September 2014. A student of theology in Germany, he is committed to improving and enriching life where he can. He has travelled and volunteered extensively in Africa. His previous visits to Kolkata inspired him to come back for a longer time and to be helpful in some way. He found Shishur Sevay through the Yellow Pages of the Internet. He helped producing the last Annual Report, having researched the questions of what would help us best, and then designed it and wrote initial versions of all the content. He helped us create the new website and maintained it as well as all our social media. When we needed a dead tree cut down, he did that too. In March 2017 he came as a surprise and helped with this Annual Report. Just in time to also cut down another tree, we just found out had poisonous fruits.

Tasmiah (Tas) Masih, Arabella Shephard, Isabella Shephard, Rianna Masih and Zahra Masih



A group from Australia and USA, led by Tas spent ten days at Shishur Sevay from 6th July to 16th July, 2015. They undertook several projects; painting a mural on the wall, baking, yoga with story-telling sessions and making craft items. The girls really bonded with them and have since kept in touch with them by email.



Shivangi Das



Shivangi was an intern for the month of July in 2015. She was able to adapt to whatever needs we had for her assistance from helping a child with English to a children's project of painting a mural. She was sensitive to the shyness of some of the girls, and was able to gain their trust so they really enjoyed their time with her.

Lena Schnepfer



Lena was an intern for two months starting end of June to end of August, 2015. She spent a lot of time with the children who have profound disabilities. She really connected with the children. She expressed interest in all aspects of their care and was very sensitive to their needs. She is now back in Kolkata to pursue her Master's degree and visits the children often.

6.4 Consultants

Consultants support the work of Shishur Sevey in areas that cannot be covered by the main staff in administrative work. Consultants to date have primarily been in the area of accounting.

Somnath Dutta, Dreamz Interactive



Somnath Dutta joint Shishur Sevey's Social Media Team. He maintains the Website and helps with all the technical issues. He also did the printing and design for our brochures.

Sumit Argarwal



Sumit is our most recent addition to the Shishur Sevey Team. He holds a Masters's degree in PR and Marketing. He also has good contacts to the press, and agreed to help to spread the word about Shishur Sevey.

6.5 The Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of a Registered Society carries the responsibility for the policies, direction, and carrying out of the mission of the organization. We have:

Hon. Justice Mr. S.S. Ganguly is a retired judge of Kolkata High Court. He is the President of the board and presides over board meetings.

Mrs. Seema Gupta retired as a Joint Registrar at Kolkata High Court. She is the Vice President of the board and acts as president in the absence of the president.

Dr. Michelle Harrison serves as Secretary of the Board. She also functions as the government appointed Superintendent, and the Director reporting to the Board. Dr. Harrison is not paid for any of her roles at Shishur Sevey.

Dr. Purba Rudra servers as Treasurer. She is also the Academic Director of Shishur Sevey's inclusive school, Ichche Dana.

Mrs. Shanti Devy, a founding member, does yoga and massage for the children with disabilities at Shishur Sevey. She also works as an operating theater supervisor at nursing home.

Ms. Cecilia Devyani Harrison has a background in South Asian Studies. She works as a paralegal. She is a recognized Drummer.

Mr. Andrei Volik is a business man and sportsman. He is also the president of Friends of Shishur Sevey in the US.

Joyita Dey has over two decades of experience in the IT industry working with customers in India, Europe and the USA. Presently she provides consultancy in CMMi, PMP and Agile practices for companies based in South-East Asia and Asia-Pacific. She assists Shishur Sevey in its IT and social media functions.



Board at a meeting in 2017, with administrative staff and two visitors, Goutami Sanyal and John Berrens.

7. Finance

7.1 Expenditure Explained

Medical and Childcare – 27%

Taking proper care of children with disabilities is expensive. The obvious costs are medications, doctor visits and hospitalisations when necessary. Less visible costs are for skilled and sufficient numbers of childcare workers to care for the children, to provide safe feeding, toileting, bathing and a very clean environment. Skilled feeding is critical as these children choke easily and aspirate food and water into their lungs. There are almost no government or private facilities for the disabled as they grow into adulthood. There is a lack of planning for long-term survival in part because long-term survival is not expected.

Education – 30%

The girls arrived with no education. They began by attending community schools, government sponsored and also private. In 2013 we started our own inclusive school. The harshness of the government and private schools they attended, with the permitted level of verbal and physical abuse by teachers had led to a major drop in self confidence. For a time the girls lost the motivation to try and lost any belief they could succeed. Just being an orphan becomes a major social disability. At our Ichche Dana Inclusive School the girls are educated according to their abilities and our differently-abled girls are equipped with state of the art assistive technology and aids, so they can participate in class.

Maintaining the Home and Running the Project – 27%

Costs are high because children with disabilities, including children who have been abused, victimized, and abandoned have urgent and complex needs. Solutions to their combinations of developmental and situational adversities are not simple. There are the normal costs of any home raising children, and then

the additional costs related to disability and extra services that in many other countries are provided by governments.

Administration – 12%

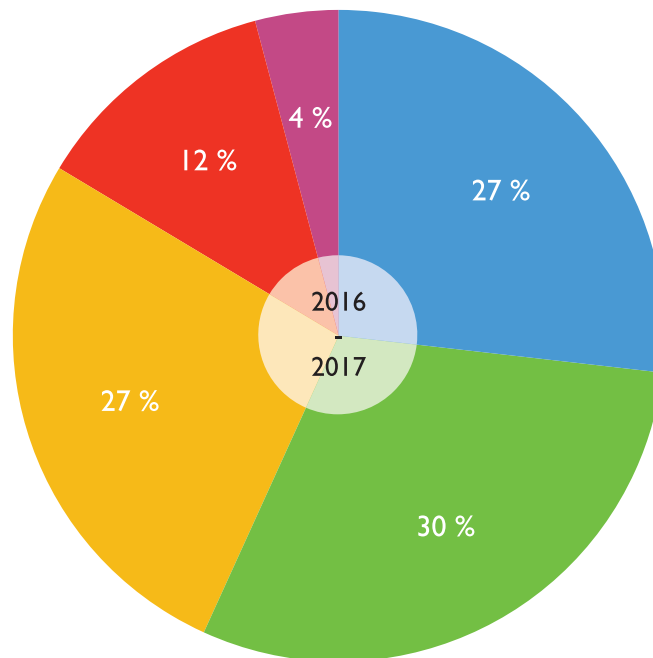
We try to keep our Administration costs low, but without sacrificing on quality. Our Guide Star Transparency Award for 2016 and then the Gold Seal Award in 2017 reflect our commitment to transparency, but that level of excellence requires skilled professionals.

The sheer paper-work of maintaining an organization with all the government requirements is huge and takes staff. Maintaining clear and transparent financial records with receipts, vouchers, ledgers, and digital copies requires staff and computers...and a lot of human effort to get it all right.

Security – 4%

Girls, children, women must be protected. Two guards share 24/7 responsibilities. When we began, local men wanted keys and free access. This happens in

some NGOs but we have maintained a very strict policy with regard to visitors. One of the greatest gifts we could give the girls was that of safety, including CCTV throughout the home.



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This breakdown of cost percentages is our **best attempt** to show the relative costs and to provide an understanding of the extensive efforts and labor needed to keep these children healthy and to rehabilitate the lost and abandoned children.

CHILDLIFE PRESERVE SHISHUR SEVAY
17/2/7 SAHAPUR MAIN ROAD, KOLKATA-700038
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2015

		Total Amount			Total Amount
Particulars		(Rs./-)	Particulars		(Rs./-)
To	Assets Write Off	867	By	Bank Interest	19,727
"	Audit Fee(Domestic)	22,472	"	Bank Interest (Domestic)	15,389
"	Bank Charges	4,031	"	Donation	29,83,423
"	Bank Charges (Domestic)	163	"	Donation (Domestic)	6,97,220
"	Car Expenses	86,675		Received From Local Cash for TDS	1,870
"	Car Expenses(Domestic)	4,525			
"	Cleaning Expenses	97,728			
"	Cleaning Expenses (Domestic)	4,494			
"	Clothing Expenses	4,380			
"	Clothing Exp (Domestic)	529			
"	Communication Expenses	30,539	"	Excess of Expenditure over Income	1,13,512
"	Communication Expenses (Domestic)	51,520		Transferred to Balance Sheet	
"	Computer Expenses	19,705			
"	COMPUTER EXPENSES (Domestic)	4,210			
"	Consultancy Charges	11,160			
"	Consultancy Charges(Domestic)	40,452			
"	Dance Expenses	8,200			
"	Depreciation	2,94,050			
"	Depreciation(Domestic)	40,371			
"	Disability Aid & Appliances Expenses	11,426			
"	Disability Aid & Appliances Exp.(Domestic)	2,572			
"	Educational Expenses	46,775			
"	Education Expenses(Domestic)	140			
"	Electricity Expenses	1,35,730			
"	Exchange Rate Difference	202			
"	Food Expenses	4,57,762			
"	Gas/ Cooking Expenses	14,166			
"	General Expenses	15,252			
"	Medical Expenses	1,80,225			
"	Medical Expenses (Domestic)	17,250			
"	Office Expenses	16,712			
"	Office Expenses(Domestic)	6,000			
"	Paid to Foreign Cash for TDS	1,870			
"	Printing Expenses	6,050			
"	Printing Expenses(Domestic)	4,000			
"	Property Tax	2,756			
"	Rates & Taxes(Domestic)	562			
"	Repair & Maintenance Expenses	80,995			
"	Repairs & Maintenance (Domestic)	18,900			
"	Salary for Childcare Workers	5,57,035			
"	Salary for Office Staffs	3,68,000			
"	Salary for Teachers	8,44,214			
"	Security Expenses	1,83,770			
"	Tours & Travels	15,228			
"	Tours & Travels (Domestic)	62,787			
"	Transport Expenses	29,190			
"	Website Expenses(Domestic)	25,500			
		<u>38,31,141</u>			<u>38,31,141</u>

Signed in terms of our report of even date.

For PODDAR & PODDAR
Chartered Accountants,
Firm Registration No. 303077E

Pijush Karmakar
Partner.
Membership No. 052941
99/4D, Karaya Road,
Kolkata - 700 019



Date: 10th August, 2015

For Childlife Preserve Shishur Sevay
On behalf of the Board of Trustees

Dr. Michelle Harrison
Secretary.



For CHILDLIFE PRESERVE
SHISHUR SEVAY

S. S. Sengupta
President

CHILDLIFE PRESERVE SHISHUR SEVAY

17/2/7,SAHAPUR MAIN ROAD, KOLKATA 700038

Schedule forming part of Income & Expenditure Accounts for the year ending 31.03.2016

Particulars	Amount	Particulars	Amount
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Admin Skill Training	10,000	Bank Interest	31,277
Advertisement Expenses (Domestic)	18,610	Bank Interest (Domestic)	15,431
Audit Fees	20,000	Donation	4,003,110
Bank Charges	3,111	Donation in Kind	145,398
Bank Charges (Domestic)	68	Donation (Domestic)	551,100
Cable TV Subscription Charges (Domestic)	3,500	Donation in Kind (Domestic)	109,360
Car Maintenance Expenses	59,497		
Car Maintenance Expenses (Domestic)	39,080		
Childcare Materials	5,540		
Children Edu. & Rec. Outing (Domestic)	52,993		
Cleaning Expenses	101,112		
Cleaning Expenses (Domestic)	28,445		
Clothing Expenses	4,383		
Clothing Expenses (Domestic)	6,534		
Computer Repairs & Maintenance	19,623		
Consultancy Fees (Domestic)	48,025		
Conveyance Charges	5,899		
Conveyance Charges (Domestic)	5,620		
Cooking Gas Expenses	21,391		
Dance Expenses	13,200		
Dance Expenses (Domestic)	15,725		
Depreciation	290,085		
Depreciation (Domestic)	74,082		
Disability Aids & Appliances Expenses	1,360		
Disability Aids & Appliances Exp.(Domestic)\	3,000		
Educational Expenses	97,858		
Educational Expenses (Domestic)	2,017		
Electricity Charges	23,450		
Electricity Charges (Domestic)	122,990		
Fixed Assets discard	39,273		
Food Expenses	537,774		
Food Expenses (Domestic)	235		
General Expenses	25,996		
General Expenses (Domestic)	5,818		
Medical Expenses	190,008		
Medical Expenses (Domestic)	1,460		
Office Expenses	23,196		
Office Expenses (Domestic)	7,483		
Postage & Courier Charges	727		
Postage & Courier Charges (Domestic)	2,005		
Printing & Stationery	450		
Printing & Stationery (Domestic)	32,370		
Rates & Taxes	612		
Rates & Taxes (Domestic)	2,340		
Repairs & Maintenance	55,632		
Repairs & Maintenance (Domestic)	7,650		
Salaries & Bonus of Childcare Supervisor	131,000		
Salaries & Bonus of Childcare Workers	634,865		
Salaries & Bonus of Office Staffs	261,940		
Salaries & Bonus of Operational Manager	165,000		
Salary & Bonus of Teachers & Physiotherapist	1,044,919		
Salary of Security Guard	179,466		
Subscription charges (Domestic)	12,502		
Telephone & Internet Charges	12,303		
Telephone & Internet Charges (Domestic)	78,730		
Transportation Expenses	2,405		
Website Development Expenses (Domestic)	6,000		
Excess of Income over Expenditure	296,319		
	4,855,676		4,855,676

The schedules referred to above form an integral part of balance sheet.
Signed in terms of our report of even date.

For D MODI & CO

Chartered Accountants

FRM. 328171E


Dipak Kumar Modi

Proprietor
Mem. No. 75637

Place Hooghly
Date: 25th May, 2016



For Childlife Preserve Shishur Sevay

On behalf of the Board of Trustees


Justice S.S. Ganguly(Retd.)
President


Seema Gupta
Treasurer


Dr. Michelle Harrison
Founder & Secretary



CHILDLIFE PRESERVE SHISHUR SEVAY

17/2/7,SAHAPUR MAIN ROAD, KOLKATA 700038

Schedule forming part of Income & Expenditure Accounts for the year ending 31.03.2017

Particulars	Amount	Particulars	Amount
OPERATING EXPENSES	Rs.		Rs.
Anniversary Expenses (Domestic)	35,381	Bank Interest	19,350
Advertisement Expenses (Domestic)	6,935	Bank Interest (Domestic)	10,275
Audit Fees	20,000	Donation	3,414,878
Bank Charges	808	Donation in Kind	17,301
Bank Charges (Domestic)	69	Donation (Domestic)	1,197,541
Books & Periodicals	1,830	Donation in Kind (Domestic)	5,500
Car Expenses	43,029	Excess of Expenditure over Income	623,754
Car Expenses (Domestic)	92,592		
Certification Fees (Domestic)	12,000		
Children Edu. & Rec. Outing	56,500		
Children Edu. & Rec. Outing (Domestic)	17,600		
Cleaning Expenses	104,298		
Cleaning Expenses (Domestic)	27,580		
Clothing Expenses	2,633		
Clothing Expenses (Domestic)	32,961		
Communication Expenses (Domestic)	104,079		
Communication Expenses	3,384		
Computer Repairs & Maintenance	24,959		
Computer Repairs & Maintenance (Domestic)	9,372		
Consultancy Fees (Domestic)	50,000		
Conveyance Expenses	6,894		
Conveyance Expenses (Domestic)	9,991		
Cooking Gas Expenses	23,330		
Dance Expenses	16,640		
Dance Expenses (Domestic)	1,409		
Depreciation	302,780		
Depreciation (Domestic)	53,124		
Disability Aids & Appliances Expenses	24,875		
Disability Aids & Appliances Exp.(Domestic)	16,000		
Educational Expenses	50,255		
Educational Expenses (Domestic)	2,000		
Electricity Expenses (Domestic)	121,280		
Fixed Assets discard	10,045		
Food Expenses	575,397		
General Expenses	33,223		
General Expenses (Domestic)	13,996		
Medical Expenses	172,382		
Medical Expenses (Domestic)	86,184		
Membership Fees	350		
Office Expenses	200		
Office Expenses (Domestic)	50		
Postage & Courier Charges	7,774		
Printing & Stationery	6,565		
Printing & Stationery (Domestic)	22,140		
Rates & Taxes	375		
Rates & Taxes (Domestic)	2,766		
Repairs & Maintenance	33,930		
Repairs & Maintenance (Domestic)	60,352		
Salaries & Bonus of Supervisor	197,250		
Salaries & Bonus of Childcare Workers	487,548		
Salaries & Bonus of Child.Workers (Domestic)	226,710		
Salaries & Bonus of Office Staffs	423,899		
Salaries & Bonus of Operational Manager	190,070		
Salary & Bonus of Teachers	1,091,716		
Salary & Bonus of Physiotherapist	101,070		
Salary & Bonus of Physiotherapist(Domestic)	23,550		
Salary of Security Guard	144,792		
Salary of Security Guard (Domestic)	65,146		
Service Charges	642		
Service Charges (Domestic)	1,403		
Subscription charges (Domestic)	7,903		
Transportation Expenses	2,000		
Website Development Expenses (Domestic)	22,450		
Xerox Charges	1,971		
Xerox Charges (Domestic)	162		
	5,288,599		5,288,599

The schedules referred to above form an integral part of balance sheet.

Signed in terms of our report of even date.

For D MODI & CO

Chartered Accountants

FRM. 328171E

Dipak Kumar Modi

Proprietor

Mern. No. 79637

Place Hooghly

Date: 15th June ,2017



For Childlife Preserve Shishur Sevay

On behalf of the Board of Trustees

S. S. Ganguly *Purba Rudra* *Dr. Michelle Harrison*

Justice S.S.Ganguly(Retd.)

Purba Rudra

Dr. Michelle Harrison

Treasurer

Founder & Secretary



8. Donors

8.1 Our Donors for the financial years 2014-15 to 2016-17

We are incredibly thankful to all our partners and supporters who have continued their support and also to our new friends who have joined us on our journey.



Asha for Education has supported us from the beginning, and when we received our FCRA they began giving us financial support too. In this period we received support from their chapters at Cornell, and Delaware. We are especially appreciative as we know how hard they work to raise these funds and how committed they are to education in India.



Children's Hope India, a US based organization is also one of our long time partners and has supported us with funds to keep the project running. Dr. Harrison's inspiration for Shishur Sevay came partly from her visit to their Prayas Center in 2000.



Friends of Shishur Sevay (FOSS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit formed in the US. A lot of support comes from FOSS as the organization is approved for tax exemption. The volunteer organization was started and is maintained by Dr. Harrison's family and friends.



Illuminate India had surprised us with a wonderful walker and wheelchair for little Masum. Then they funded us again next year.



We are very excited about the support from Peerless General Finance & Investment Company Limited for covering part of our home based care and medical expenses.



Aerobridge is a group of aviation specialist who assist governments and NGOs by moving people and supplies to where they are most needed. They have been regularly sending us toiletries and other supplies which are of great use.



The donation from the Forest Hills School District helped Shishur Sevay with the inclusive educational program Ichche Dana Learning Center.



Freemasons Kolkata, chose to support Shishur Sevay to celebrate the 300 year anniversary of Freemasons in India.

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Donors



A big thank you goes to the “Bhangra to Believe” Event Team. SMD Bhangra Club, AEG and NY Bhangra Clique, MC Monty Kataria, DJ Sunny Entertainment, and their sponsors: Radio Asia, BG Magazine and Simply Bhangra. Friends of Shishur Sevay created a slide show that was shown at the function.



The Ties Program brings Indian adoptees and their families to India to connect with their mother country and places they began their lives. When IMH closed in 2003, there really was no place for adoptees to visit. Shishur Sevay was asked by adoptees to take the gate sign left behind, and we did. Adoptees come to at least see and touch the arch under which they passed as infants and children. Many are thrilled to see Shishur Sevay as they think about the “what ifs” of adoption.



The Toronto All Girls (TAG) Bhangra team through their India Global initiative raised funds. These funds were used for hygiene baskets for all the girls at Shishur Sevay.

Our Marathon runners:



A special thanks goes to Abhishek Rathi who raised money for Shishur Sevay by running the Ladakh Half-Marathon in November 2014. Caught in the floods, he still managed to get to the start line before the race. Many thanks to him. He has been a friend of Shishur Sevay for years.



Andrei Volik, the president of Friends of Shishur Sevay and Dr. Harrison's son-in-law ran the NYC marathon on 1st November 2015 to raise funds for the security guards and electricity for a year. In April 2017 he will be running the Boston marathon to raise funds for Shishur Sevay again.

Apart from organizations and companies, we had many individual donors and visitors between 2014-15 and 2016-17, who supported us in many different ways.



Dr. Michelle Harrison provides more than half of our expenses. Even as her own resources diminish. She says, “Children can't wait. Their needs are immediate. They have to overcome the past and build a future.”

8.2 We Need Your Help

Our girls ask us, “What will happen to our sisters?” As they approach young adulthood their view of the world has changed. They now speak of wanting jobs so they can help support their sisters with disabilities who cannot survive on their own.



With love, compassion, and responsibility they ask what more they can do for their sisters and eventually for others like their sisters.

Donation

1. ONLINE DONATION:

Website: shishursevay.org

“Donate” through online portal

Domestic and foreign donations accepted.

80G in perpetuity certificate given

2. Direct transfer of funds to the accounts of Child-life Preserve Shishur Sevay. Please write for bank and account information for transfer:

info@shishursevay.org

3. Write a check to:

Childlife Preserve Shishur Sevay,
17/2/7 Sahapur Main Road

Kolkata 700038

Please also include your full address, email, PAN # in India so we can issue the receipt.

4. Foreign funds can also be sent to our sister organization, “Friends of Shishur Sevay” via their online donation portal at www.friendsofshishur-sevay.org. Friends of Shishur Sevay is a 501 (c)(3) non profit organization registered with the Internal Revenue Service (Tax ID Number: 45-4456929). Donations will be sent to Childlife Preserve Shishur Sevay.



Shishur Sebay

"Empowering the Most Vulnerable"

**A LIFETIME HOME FOR LOST AND
ABANDONED GIRLS, SOME
PROFOUNDLY DISABLED**

- INCLUSIVE LIVING
- INCLUSIVE EDUCATION
- INCLUSIVE DANCE
- TOBII EYE TRACKER, ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY
- CULTURE HERITAGE AND HINDU RELIGION OF THEIR ROOTS
- LIVES WITH DIGNITY

Organization Profile

**A safe and inclusive non-institutional group home for girl children
otherwise housed in government institutions**

The Time: Founded in 2006 as Childlife Preserve Shishur Sebay

The Place: Kolkata (Calcutta at that time) in West Bengal, India

The Person: Founded by Dr. Michelle Harrison, an American physician, author, leader in women's health, and mother of two daughters. Her first daughter was born to her; her second came from Calcutta in 1984 at 2 months of age.

The Reason: Her questions were, "What happens to the orphans not adopted?" What if the girls rejected for adoption in India were given the opportunities of those abroad, but without the loss of their country, culture, heritage and religion? When her daughters were grown, she sold her belongings and with her savings and pension came to Kolkata to do whatever she could.

The twelve girls placed with Shishur Sebay had been lost, abandoned, and in government institutions, rejected for adoption, with no trace of their families. They came with:

cerebral palsy, autism, seizures, visual and hearing loss, developmental delays, Down syndrome, microcephaly and severe malnutrition. Mental health conditions included: depression, psychosis, behavior disorders, suicidal ideation and post traumatic stress disorder. They came having experienced the brutality that is inevitable for girls unprotected. The girls were fierce, proud, and terrified. Those with disabilities were severely underweight, some not expected to live very long, aged 18 month to 10 years.

Ten Years Later

A Hub of Innovation: Shishur Sebay is where new ideas take hold and old ideas are adapted to the needs of the children. When schools could not meet the needs of our children we opened **Ichche Dana Inclusive School** providing a safe learning environment to build basic skills, curiosity, knowledge, and confidence. Shishur Sebay is a replicable model of the best practices available in specialized educational and residential care. It has drawn the attention of researchers at Vanderbilt University because inclusivity developed out of need, rather than theory. Fifteen girls live together, and inclusivity is what worked as we attended to their individual needs. The life trajectories of the girls have changed. They now imagine a future of meaningful work, stability, and marriage of they choose. They are grounded in their Indian identity, culture, heritage, and religion. Shishur Sebay has a "zero tolerance" for abuse within and outside the home. Sufficient staff, CCTV, and vigilance protect the girls.

The organization: Childlife Preserve Shishur Sebay

- ✓ Sound financial policies with full transparency, regularly audited accounts.
- ✓ Recipient of GuideStar India Transparency Award 2016; Gold Seal 2017.
- ✓ Received FCRA Registration, having all renewals and filings up to date.
- ✓ Registration as a Society under West Bengal Societies Act XXVI of 1961;
- ✓ No. S/IL/37263/2006-2007.
- ✓ Received 80G with current status: "In Perpetuity"
- ✓ Licensed as a home for children by W.B. Directorate of Social Welfare.
- ✓ Social Media presence on FaceBook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram
- ✓ Sister Organization: Friends of Shishur Sebay, in the US is a not-for-profit with 501(c)(3).
www.friendsofshishursebay.org





“আবার এসো”
—
“Abar esho”
—
“Come again”



Childlife Preserve Shishur Sebay

17/2/7, Sahapur Main Road, Kolkata – 700038, West Bengal, India

Phone: (033) 2498 1120 | +91 98744 77411 | +91 9830240182

Email: info@shishursevay.org

Website: www.shishursevay.org

Blog: www.shishursevay.com

This Annual Report has been developed at no cost to Shishur Sebay.
Sincere thanks to John Berrens who created and designed it.
and printing was done by an anonymous donor.