

2023

NEWS IN FOCUS



Divine Onkar Mission



/DivineOnkarMission

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DISASTER RELIEF

Turkey and Syria Earthquake Relief

On the 6th of February we saw a natural disaster. Our donors will be aware that when disaster strikes if we are able to help, we do the best we can no matter where in the world. On this occasion two major earthquakes hit parts of Turkey and Syria. The damage caused was catastrophic and led to an urgent humanitarian crisis. We were contacted by our donor Mr. Ram Lubhaya Suglani, who asked us to help with a fundraising event. We regularly hold a fundraiser at his premises, the Prestige Suite to raise funds for our charity. On the 4th of March we held a fundraising evening which raised £32,000 to help those who had been impacted by the quake. After assessing the immediate need we found that a lot of families were living in temporary shelters and receiving little help. We were able to begin the process of distributing items to those most in need. A big shout out goes to Yasar Cinkir and his team for the amazing work they have been doing. Also, our dedicated donor Mr Peter Mann here in UK who was instrumental in helping us to locate Yasir in the earthquake region who could identify which areas need the most help.

We made high-quality essential household parcels which were distributed and greatly appreciated by families living in sheltered accommodation. Thank you very much for your help. The Turkey team have been restocking and continuing to distribute goods to those impacted by the earthquake.



INDIA EVENTS

Our mission is to improve living standard of the disadvantaged people with education and training, health and wellbeing services by addressing issues of social and economic exclusion, poverty and ill-health for building sustainable communities.

Christmas celebrations for the young and elderly



There was festive joy for everyone in our Onkar Old Age Home when we were visited by members of a Christian community in Ramgarh, Barkakana. They arrived with gifts galore and distributed blankets and sweets to celebrate Christmas with the elderly residents who were previously abandoned by their families.

Divine Onkar Mission OUR DUTY TO MANKIND

INDIA EVENTS



Festivities then continued for the children in the ashram who were also treated when they were visited by students of Tila Institute of Pharmaceutical Science to share their festive cheer and gift toffees among the children. Professor Archana Rana of Radha Govind B.Ed College along with her students, joined with the children of Divine Onkar Mission Ashram

by organising a drawing competition on the auspicious occasion of Christmas while distributing cake, cut fruit, toffee and samosas. This was a party to celebrate the past 12 months making memories together before the new year.



The celebrations didn't stop there, they continued through to New Year when the family of Asha Devi and her son Aman Singh resident of Ramgarh, Ranchi Road, distributed warm blankets among all the old people and children living in our ashram. And expressed happiness by meeting the elders.

Help in the community It came to our attention from workers of the Service Department, Vishwa Hindu Parishad Jharkhand, that Tulsi Manjhi (50 years) from a tribal society of Dr. RS Sharma's ward had been admitted to surgery under Rajendra Prasad Institute of Medical Sciences. Mr Manjhi had been unable to walk due to an infection, resulting in one leg being amputated below the knee. Divine Onkar Mission were able to pay for ongoing medication and crutches to support his mobility.

Tulsi Manjhi said his heart was filled with a sense of friendship and compassion after receiving the crutches, as he was collected from the bed by family members assisting him to stand. He said I feel as if I have regained my feet.



Independence Day



August saw Independence Day in India and all of D.O.M projects were celebrating! Children and staff produced beautiful art works, took part in spirited performances, while receiving and sharing sweets and flag raising ceremonies. It was another wonderful Independence Day celebration for everyone involved, something that the children could only dream of before being admitted in the school.

INDIA EVENTS

The Tribune News

News coverage in The Tribune paper highlights the visit of Health Minister of Punjab Dr Balbir Singh who inaugurated an Eye check-up camp with the D.O.M at Village Gakhal in collaboration with Kulwant Singh Gora and Balbir Singh Gora who sponsored the event. The minister personally took part in carrying out eye checks and provided free medication. The minister acknowledged the role of NRI's in social and development work in the state. The camp was attended by 365 patients receiving eye checks which later followed by 42 eye surgeries. We also made it on a half hour slot on TV in India when Rajesh Nagi was interviewed by TV Dordarshan channel to talk about Dr's doing free eye camps.



Drama performance



It's not all about maths and literacy, we encourage the children to take part in activities that they can work together in groups while learning valuable skills in organising, planning, sourcing, and making costumes as well as researching the history of the performance they will act. The school put on a brilliant performance of a drama play about the scriptures of Ramayana, Mahabharata, Krishna and Leela with pure devotion. The children had a great time with dressing up, props and decorating the stage as well as performing. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all staff and other students.



Father and son reunited after 10 years

Back in 2012 a small child Shubham Verma was brought to the Ashram by the district administration as his father was in jail and his mother had passed away. The Ashram has been home, family and school to Shubham for 10 years.

During a daily langar in June on the school premises where the villagers can eat for free. Tinku Verma came to eat and while at the Ashram was recognised by his son. After applying to the district administrative department and completing all paperwork Shubham's father came to take him back home.

We were sad to see Shubham leave, however pleased to see father and son reunited. We recognise that the difference in home life and parenting will be very different to what he has become familiar with in the Ashram and the offer of support is available from us if needed. There will still be a place here if things do not workout. We pray to God that wherever Shubham is that the education, pampering, love, and good guidance he was shown here may prosper him in life for the future.

INDIA EVENTS

Education

Educate and Empower: We believe that education is the key to unlocking human potential. Our educational programmes have touched the lives of countless individuals, providing them with the skills and knowledge needed to build a brighter future.

In the area of Ramgarh in Jharkhand, we provide education for approximately 650 children in which 143 children are boarding at our Ashram where they receive food, shelter, clothing, and care for their educational, psychological, and social needs. We run classes from 1st to 12th standard. We are operating to standards set by Central Indian Government Education and Childcare Legislation. We work in collaboration with Education Officials, Inspectors, and the local and national Police force

We have setup a recently constructed High School which will provide education at higher level for more than 200 students from 16-18 years of age. We are also a registered examination centre.

The school roof In Urguttu has been replaced after being torn off in a tornado



Punjab projects continue for the old age home for elderly



Nursery block has been plastered and painted

Langar – Half a million

Langar is not a need it is a necessity in the villages where villagers don't know where the next meal is coming from. In the beginning years of the charity, it has not been uncommon for children to eat 18 chapatis thinking they would not be fed again and would force themselves to eat as much as possible. Langar is one of our biggest sponsored supports. We have been working in Jharkhand and Orissa for over two decades building trust and respect amongst the various tribal communities that struggle to fight the harsh realities of poverty and exploitation. They are quite rightly suspicious of outsiders, who have sadly exploited them in the past. We actively locate remote villages situated in uncultivated land where inhabitants have little means or knowledge of producing their own food. Since covid we have served over half a million meals and continue to be served.

The langar service is one of our biggest revenues and has put our Ramgargh project on the map. It has become a popular way in which local people can celebrate and share their birthdays, anniversaries, religious events, and memorials periodically, by doing something meaningful and funding a langar on their special day. It is highly recognised, supported and funded by politicians, The Army, Police, and other large organisations in the area.



INDIA EVENTS

Eye surgeries

Caring for Health: Access to quality healthcare is a fundamental right. Divine Onkar Mission has been at the forefront of healthcare initiatives at our projects in India, working to improve healthcare systems and provide medical awareness information to those in need in remote villages.

As the need for cataract operations has increased due to word of mouth over the years, we are lucky to have all the operations carried out by the famous Ranchi doctor Naveen Kumar. Onkar Eye Hospital located in Ramgarh Murramkala has helped more than 15000 people to date.

To assure that the right candidates are receiving the free operations a member of the team makes village visits to assess their living accommodation before confirming they are suitable to have the surgery. Surgery operates twice a week with around 55 patients receiving the operation from November to March in the colder months to prevent infections in the heat.

The care doesn't end there, the patients are given food, glasses, medicines, and a blanket as a donation to aid with a speedy recovery.



Student Achievement Awards

We all know how important it is to recognise and reward great achievement. This is something of a high importance to us for our students. Many came to us unable to read and write but are eager to learn and come on leaps and bounds with the support of our teachers and living support staff. Our long-standing donors who have been with us from the start will know that many of the students have gone onto further education in colleges, universities, and professional employment. Distilling belief in our children and their achievements recognises their hard work and determination.

March, we celebrated our student of the year awards class 10th - A Karan Kumar and Gita Kumari. Class 10th - B Mantu Kumar and Chanda Kumari, as well as Teacher's Punit Kumar and Poonam Bala Sharma.

New tables and chairs have been purchased for the younger children with the help of a plant sale in the UK

We have a new member of staff in the kitchens Usha Devi, a young widow with a 3-year-old daughter who was being forced to marry her brother-in-law who has mental health issues against her wishes. We have provided a job, accommodation, and support to keep her safe as well as an education for her daughter.

At our Jharkhand school we have created 4 extra rooms built over the kitchens to provide staff accommodation. We welcome them along with their children who are taken care of and educated in the school.

The main entrance which leads up to the kitchens which was uneven has been levelled off to make a safe entrance for the elderly. The roof on the hospital has also been re-tiled.



UK NEWS

Prime TV

The charity made headlines when Prime TV Harman Thind came to the city to interview and find out more about recent projects. Tersam Lal and Charanjit Singh were joined by Ram Lubhaya, Kulwant Gora and Surjit Randhawa to speak about our charity and our upcoming work in Punjab, India.



Visit from UK



The children in the ashram received a visit from our long term doner Mrs Uma sharma along with her husband who had chosen to make the trip in memory of their son. They were both impressed with the projects and spent time at all the school sites. When visiting the school in Urguttu they distributed samosas, cold drinks and biscuits to the children and then took them on a trip to the well of Kyonar fleet. It was an enjoyable and therapeutic time spent, which we are thankful for their continued support.



Our second yearly fundraiser since covid seen people coming back together and celebrating while raising funds. Our 9th annual dinner and dance was held at the Prestige Suite Birmingham and was attended by honourable guests and donors who made the night a huge success, while enjoying a great evening of fine food and entertainment. Please look out for our up-and-coming event this December where



it was described by an attendee to be like an Indian wedding without the bride and groom

Donation to the Wolverhampton Ukrainian Centre

Following an appeal by the Wolverhampton Ukrainian centre, we were able to support their cause by donating 100 bags for use with their clothes donation program. The cause was heard from our administrative assistant Mary Laba, who sings in a choir with a volunteer of the Ukrainian programme. Mary personally went to handover the donation and said they were delighted with the bags and kind gesture.



Website

Our website serves as a window into the heart of Divine Onkar Mission. This, we are refurbishing so you can explore our ongoing projects, connect to see regular updates, and join us in making a difference. We invite you to explore our website thoroughly once completed and engage with us as we continue to expand our horizons. We would also like to push our social media stage, Facebook, and Instagram to allow you to see immediate and daily updates. To help us in doing this we urge you to update us with your most recent contact number, email address and follow us and like our pages. Details on back page!

Mr Lal's Founder's message

Dear Members, Donors, Friends, Customers, and esteemed Visitors, Greetings from Divine Onkar Mission!

It is with immense pride and gratitude that I extend my heartfelt welcome to you for our yearly newsletter. Since our last update we have been on an incredible journey driven by a profound vision and unwavering commitment to our mission which you can see throughout this newsletter.

At Divine Onkar Mission, our vision is to foster a world where hope thrives. Every individual has the opportunity to reach their full potential. To build an empowered, inclusive, community-focused, and sustainable organisation delivering dedicated services necessary to enhance quality of life and build the capacity of the most disadvantaged communities in India and the UK.

As we reflect on our journey, so far, we acknowledge the invaluable support of our team, partners, donors, and well-wishers. It is your unwavering dedication that allows us to turn our vision into reality. We are immensely grateful for your trust and commitment.

As we move forward, our commitment to creating a world where hope knows no bounds remains unshaken. Together, we can build a future filled with hope, opportunity, and positive change.

Thank you for being a part of the Divine Onkar Mission family and for sharing our vision. We look forward to the exciting journey ahead.

With utmost appreciation and hope, God bless you all. Mr Tersam Lal, Founder & Chairman

HOW YOU CAN HELP ?

To help the charity save money on postage can donors and patrons please provide your email address

If you would like to help with any of our projects please complete the form below and send it to:
Divine Onkar Mission, Drayton Street, Off Dudley Road, Wolverhampton, WV2 4EA. Telephone: 01902 453 453 Freephone: 0800 316 9453, Fax: 01902 459 911 Warehouse Telephone: 01902 456 444

☐ Yes, I would like to support the Divine Onkar Mission. I have enclosed a cheque/cash

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Education Sponsorship | ☐ £.....Monthly |
| Implant Cataract | ☐ £50 |
| Operation Medical Camp | ☐ £1000 |
| Daily Langar | ☐ £175 |
| Water Well | ☐ £650 |
| Build Homes for the Homeless | ☐ £2000 |
| Classroom Construction | ☐ £2500 |
| Leprosy Treatment for one | ☐ £150 |
| Treatment & Education for disabled | ☐ £.....Monthly |



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Sort Code: 20-97-78 Account Number: 10097985

Signature.....Date.....

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☐ Please tick if you are a tax payer

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CONTACT US

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