



VAROSHA 2021

Hope and Empowerment through Education and Opportunity

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2021 has been a challenging year for the communities we serve. The lockdowns, job losses and financial hardships faced in 2020 continued. The Sundarban region was hit again by a cyclone, Yaas in May. It caused flooding. Saltwater drenched fertile farmlands and filled local ponds, which are the main source of fresh water in these rural areas.

The Delta variant of the COVID -19 virus first detected in India was responsible for the second wave of the pandemic which began in February. Soon, images of overrun hospitals and widespread suffering were seen worldwide. During the crisis and chaos people donated and shipped medical equipment which sat in airports not reaching hospitals and clinics. Fortunately our friends at Electro Robotics helped us purchase and FedEx twenty five (25) high quality oxygen concentrators directly to 11 clinics in Kolkata. We were able to supply much needed PPE and medical supplies to Hope Hospital caring for the economically disadvantaged. We funded desalination of 150 village ponds by pumping out salt water from Yaas before the rainy season. Finally, we were able to fund a COVID clinic in a rural and underserved region of Mayabhaban.

We continued regular food distributions to assist families affected by the lockdowns, and supported students as they continued to pursue their dreams under these dire conditions. There are a couple of new training programs which we are very excited to share with you too.

Nothing would have been possible without your generosity, support and encouragement. Thank you from all us!

Santi Banerjee, Krishna Chakrabarty, Shompita Chatterjee, Neela Dasgupta, Bikram Dewanjee, Chandrima Roy, and Shuvani Sanyal

ALL FUNDS FROM DONORS ARE USED FOR DIRECT PROJECT COSTS.

Assistance During COVID Crisis in West Bengal

Received and acknowledged by:	OC	Cannulas
Trinita - Varosha Partner	3	9
Hope Hospital - Varosha Partner	6	18
Park Clinic	2	6
USHOR	4	12
New Town Forum and News Trust	1	3
Paschim Banga Vigyan Mancha	1	3
Students Health Home	2	6
Food Education and Economic Development Society	1	3
Nabadiganta	1	3
Covid Care Center Don Bosco School, Park Circus	3	9
Kaikala Chetana	1	3
Total	25	75



Oxygen Concentrators were sent after vetting organizations. Masks and oximeters were included by supplier for free.



Thank you Rotary Club of Calcutta for facilitating vaccinations for women in our communities!

COVID Clinic in Mayabhaban, 24 South Parganas



Partnering with Mukti, Varosha fully funded a Covid Care Unit in Krishnachandrapur village of Mathurapur-II block of South 24 Pgs district. The Covid Care Unit includes 10 beds, 10 oxygen concentrators, 2 oxygen cylinders for hospitals, 100 medical kits (as suggested by the WHO and Health Ministry, Govt. of India), 10 oximeters, 1 doctor, 2 nurses, 1 caretaker, masks and sanitizers. The center is able to provide immediate medical care to Covid suspected and Covid positive patients. A senior doctor visits the clinic every two weeks to check on patients and via teleconferencing weekly.



Supplies to Hope Hospital

200 PPE Kits

1000 Surgical Masks

250 liters Hand Sanitizer

1000 pairs Surgical Gloves

8 Oxygen Cylinders



CERTIFICATE OF PARTNERSHIP

THIS IS PRESENTED TO

Varosha (Chicago, USA)



In recognition of your generous support and donation to MUKTI in dire need of the hour, to provide Oxygen & Medical kit support to covid-19 affected families of West Bengal, India

24.05.2021
DATE OF ISSUE



Sankar Halder
Sankar Halder
FOUNDER & PRESIDENT, MUKTI

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Support for Rural Communities Devastated by Cyclone Yaas



On May 26, Cyclone Yaas passed over 40 villages of the Sundarbans and wreaked havoc on the residents. The impact of Yaas has been significantly higher than that of Amphan in 2020. While there was serious damage to property during Amphan, this time, the cyclone coincided with high tide resulting in large tracts of agricultural land being inundated with saline water resulting in agriculture and pisciculture damage. Nearly all the farm land in the area hit has been impacted by saline deposits rendering them unsuitable for agricultural use for several years.

Varosha has committed to supporting the following 12 ladies in Purboshridharpur village as they engage in dignified work tending to flowering plants for sale by providing them with monthly food and supplies for 12 months. We hope they will feel secure and supported.

- 1 Pratima D
- 2 Shyamali H
- 3 Protima R
- 4 Kabita M
- 5 Sarama P
- 6 Madhabi S
- 7 Subhadra P
- 8 Namita P
- 9 Mamoni H
- 10 Mithurani M
- 11 Chinta H
- 12 Saraswati M



Home Healthcare New Project and Opportunity to Support a Student

Twenty (20) students have been selected to complete the Home Nursing course conducted by St John Ambulance under the West Bengal Government.

The course will cover: First Aid, Home Nursing, Hygiene and Sanitation and New Mother and Infant Care.

To support a student with all materials, books, supplies, fees and tuition will cost \$215/student. We anticipate that this accredited certification will assist the students in getting employment very quickly.

If you are interested in sponsoring a student please contact us at contact@varosha.org.

Cyclone Yaas flooded seawater into local community ponds causing an immediate water crisis for residents and their livestock. Varosha had already committed to funding the desalination of 50 community ponds, when an anonymous donor helped us increase that number to 150 ponds. Fortunately this was done quickly before rains came and refilled these ponds.



Food Assistance



The breakfast program for school children resumed from April in Huchukpara and from August in the three Kolkata centers. We thank *Nikhilesh and Dolly Mukhopadhyay* for funding this program every year.



Our sincere thanks to Rotary Club of Calcutta for providing logistics, assistance and personal care, so we could arrange regular grocery distributions to our children at Dipto Alo Center for Children in Chetla.



Drivers Education & Licensing

Last year we began the Drivers' Licensing program to help people earn. Here are some updates from the classes in the Birbhum. Subhasis P of Ganpur Birbhum earned enough to purchase a second hand goods carrier, 407 TATA, and started a delivery business employing his brother who was looking for work. Rameswar M of Huchuckpara and Sachin H of Palashbuni, in a tribal community started a business renting a tractor and cultivating land. They work hard and expect within one or two years they will be able to purchase a second hand tractor. Ajoy M of Chockraipur, Birbhum is working as a driver and receiving a monthly salary. Ms. Kalyani M of Huchuckpara is preparing for a job in the Defense Department! She credits having a driver's license as an extra advantage. Trainees from our classes in Kolkata are earning Rs 8000-10000 per month as drivers. We will start another cycle of trainees in rural Bengal and Kolkata starting in September.



Electrician Skills Training (NEW)



Young men attending electrician training class in Huchukpara



NEW PROJECT

Cellphone Repair Training will start
on October 1 in Kolkata

Mushroom Cultivation



Classes are held in two centers: Huchukpara and Bolpur. Students learn to grow three types of mushrooms in different seasons: Oyster Mushroom in winter, Milky Mushroom and Paddy Straw Mushroom in summer and rainy seasons. Following up with our previously trained students in this program, we found that all were earning and using their training to generate additional income. A couple of students went on to form small businesses and earn Rs.12000/month.

Ginger and Turmeric Cultivation

The 10 students in the turmeric cultivation program and the 10 students in the ginger cultivation program last year were successful in earning a profit which has helped them financially meet needs during this difficult year. Varosha was requested to renew this project with an additional request to assist farmers with grinding and packaging machines which will help them sell their produce. We would like to support this effort to employ more people in this underserved community.

Beautician Training

There are currently 20 students in the Bolpur Center and 40 students in three centers in Kolkata. Following up with trained students we found it very encouraging that many are working independently or in salons. They are earning between Rs 3500 and 6500/month. Trainees from the Bolpur Center, Shipli G is working at Kothakoli Priyanka R is working at Srimoti. Four students Sonia, Tasmina, Suhana and Rehena are in the process of jointly opening a beauty parlor in Suripara, Bolpur.



Jewelry Making



Last year jewelry making and design classes were conducted in three centers: Dhapa, Park Circus and Shibtala. Thirty young women completed their training. They were excited to sell their products at a stall at the Hatibagan Durga Pujo in 2020 and despite lower crowds due to COVID, sold 70% of their items. We are renewing this project. The trained young women are now eager to learn more and train others. They will be attending technical workshops where designers from the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) Kolkata will introduce them to innovative, global designs. They will also attend marketing and finance workshops to help them market their product better and teach them options to finance their raw materials. Varosha is also assisting in developing their social media presence.



We are grateful for the dedication of our partners:

Shampa Roy and the team at Trinita Shelter

Shimanti Bose and the team at Anandan

Swarup Saha and the team at Matribhumi

Sankar Halder and the team at Mukti

Support for Students



Congratulations to all our students who completed their Madhyamik exam this year under very difficult conditions!

Student: Suklal K/Sponsor: Dibya Ghosh, Biswaroop Bhattacharya/ LCG Institute, Birbhum/Auto Mechanic



▲ Student: Soumen H/
Sponsor: Sourav & Suparna Banerjee/Industrial Training Institute, Bolpur Program:
Welding



▲ Student: Shibdas T/Sponsor: Soumojyoti (Jojo) & Natasha Duttaroy Industrial Training Institute, Bolpur/Program:
Welding



These three hard working students in the tribal areas of West Bengal completed their Madhyamik (year 10) exams. Their fathers work as day laborers and were not able to afford further education/training. We are so grateful to our donors who sponsored their entire education expenses: tuition and admission fees. At the time of publication we are waiting for the final exams for Shibdas and Soumen but they have been performing very well in internal exams. We were delighted to see the final grade sheet for Suklal who finished his first year with excellent grades in all subjects especially math, applied chemistry and physics.



Varosha provided four students with scholarships to cover the education expenses for their first year in college pursuing B.Com and BA degrees at Victoria Institution, Surendranath Women's College and Barrackpore Rastraguru Surendranath College. The students come from homes where there is great financial stress, abandonment or alcoholism. We applaud their efforts to continue their studies and wish Aparna, Rubina, Hena and Soumadip all the best. We are expecting the colleges to open for in person classes after November.

Our four Tuition Centers: Park Circus Railway line, Dhapa, Tangra and Shibtala are open 4 days a week and serve 110 students with regular tuition classes in Math and English to help with coursework at school. Healthy meals are served twice a week. The students at the Park Circus railway line center, situated behind National Medical Collage and Shibtala center are children of migrated laborers working in shoemaking. These are challenging centers. The children are more eager to earn and join parents at work. The students at the Dhapa Kachhari para center near EM bypass, behind J.W. Marriot Hotel and Tangra centers are the children of daily wage earners engaged in rag picking and domestic work. The parents are very keen their children are educated and the students are eager to learn. The children in all centers have shown improvements in their grades and attendance has been consistently between 90-95% due to the care of the qualified and devoted teachers.

