

## KHEL Updates 2022

### **Kindness. Health. Education. Laughter.**

For 40 years, generation after generation, we've offered these four pillars of a healthy, happy life to our kids, their families, and our community.

We can do this because of your support. Help us to continue this amazing legacy of service in 2023:

This year is really good years for us to do proper activities and off-line studies with children. In the beginning of this years it was very challenging. As omicron was in full wage so as per government order we have to close the school. But slowly this virus become week and situations was getting under control. So, we were again open the school soon and start our usual activities. It was very challenging to teach children online. we re-commit ourselves to giving our kids **Kindness, Health, Education, and Laughter** so that they can lead happy, fulfilling lives that benefit them, their families, and their community.

### **Kindness**

On the Occasion of Swami Bharati's Birthday we used to hounr cleaning people of the area who keep all over our area clean. We gave them gift, cash help and snacks party with our staff. Our City Mayor and area counsellor were our Guest for this program.

We also given Food and ration to 4 leprosy colonies in the area to provide ration and other supplies every quarter.

Mahasamadhi: Of all the writings and lectures Swami Veda left behind, perhaps the most important thing he ever said was, "Let everyone feel loved."

KHEL's community was originally composed mostly of leprosy patients who had been ostracised by their families and communities. Over time, our community has changed but there are still leprosy colonies in Dehradun where people who are too disabled by leprosy live together and help each other. We help them, too. In keeping with Swami Veda's legacy of aid to leprosy patients, on the occasion of his 7th Mahasamadhi we distributed food rations to 60 people in 4 Leprosy colonies. In remembrance of Swami Veda Bharati, KHEL's Co-Founder, on the 7th anniversary of his

### **Health**

We worked together with other NGO and with their help we were able to arrange free medical camp in school and also distributed school stationery to students. It was sponsored by Brightlands Alumni Connect Connect. Our teacher also performed some cultural activities for students to make them comfortable when children again start coming to school before their final exam.

We had a program about cleanliness with students so they learn to keep their surrounding clean and keep themselves neat and clean. Our teacher also took student class wise and did some physical exercise with each class as we were not allowed to have assembly.

We had first international visitor Aaron and Sarawawti and they distributed stationery and sweets to children. We were able to celebrate India's Republic day with some of our older students. We were given some supplemental nutrition to our students.

We were pleased to host an informational session about Tuberculosis conducted by our good friends at Raphael Ryder Cheshire International Centre. Raphael Home has been helping people for over 50 years and we've been friends and colleagues with them since the inception of KHEL.

Thank you to Sunil K of Rdi Hiht for conducting a Yoga session with our older students. He discussed with the children the mental health and daily benefits of Yoga, namely issues of stress and concentration.

Thank you to our wonderful friends at Rdi Hiht for the medical camp for our staff and students! These regular check-ups help keep our kids healthy by catching issues such as nutritional needs before they become a major problem. Medical camps also help us monitor for insidious illnesses like Tuberculosis which can be hard for a non-medical person to detect on their own.

We have given all our staff and children some nutrition supplies to keep them healthy to keep immunity booster. As there were many staff were getting infecting with dengue, chikungunya and other diseases.

For Menstrual Hygiene Day, we organised a watch party of 'Padman', a movie about South Indian activist Arunachalam Muruganantham, whose concern for his wife lead him to devise a low-cost sanitary pad making machine. Afterwards, our older students split up into gender-based groups to discuss the movie with their Adolescent Resource Center (ARC) counsellors.

At LDA, there are 42 students who are 12 years or older, and therefore qualify for a Covid vaccine. Several of our kids were vaccinated at a nearby vaccination camp, and more were vaccinated at a government vaccination camp at LDA. The officials asked us to find more kids from the community to vaccinate because in order to open a bottle of vaccine they must have at least 5-6 children to vaccinate. Of our 42 eligible students, 18 are vaccinated. We really want all our eligible kids to be vaccinated so we've promised that once all of them are vaccinated we'll take them on a field trip!

## **Education**

Although we were teaching our children online and our Yoga teacher was also taking online session. Our Adolescent program to help our teen aged children was going well online. But it was more challenging. With studies we were able to do different kind of activities with students, as to say something about their parents, about their home or singing poem, or whatever they love to participate online audio video etc. So as covid become less we have started classes with 50% attendance of our children in school. Teacher really did very nice work with students. We provided support to children as studies materials etc. We followed all covid related safety protocol for the safety of our children.

As after 2 years we were able to conduct final exam of our students as in last two years it was not allowed due to lockdown school were close.

We organized General Knowledge Quiz Competition! Our teachers asked questions that all Indian students should about important things and people of India.

Thank you to teachers everywhere for the amazing job you do educating children! And to KHEL's teachers - we can't do this without you. Your compassion shines through in everything you do. Thank you for your commitment to educating KHEL's kids. Teachers' Day celebrated with teachers and staff by students of school on 5<sup>th</sup> Sep. We were touched by the surprise visit of our former students, now studying in 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades. On Teachers' Day, they showed up at LDA with this amazing cake for their former teachers.

We had farewell party for our students who passed class 8<sup>th</sup> in our school and we wish them for bright future to studies in other school.

Math class. The K-Yan is an all-in-one portable educational technology device designed to make learning rich, engaging and efficient. It helps our teachers explain more complex issues in easier to understand ways such as graphics and interactive learning.

KHEL's main focus is education. Our teachers are fully certified and come from the same or a similar community as our children, so they understand the unique challenges our kids face. Some of our employees were students at LDA or even had parents who studied at LDA! We pay our teachers a fair wage and provide them with all government required support including professional training, medical insurance, and retirement plans. Your support enables us to hire and keep amazing teachers and other staff from our community, which builds generational education and prosperity.

## **Laughter**

Varun, our Yoga teacher, is back to in-person teaching after remote teaching from his village during the pandemic. And he brought his new wife, Pragya, with him! We're so happy to have him back, and we welcome Pragya to the KHEL family.

For [#WorldEnvironmentDay2022](#) our senior students helped tend a garden. This garden has personal meaning to them – when they were young students, their senior students planted these plants and trees. Planting and tending a garden have many benefits for kids; it gives them an immediate, tactile connection to their environment, can encourage better eating habits, helps them apply science and math in a practical and useful way.

We were happy to have our 8th graders assist the special needs children of Raphael on a short trek to enjoy the natural beauty around Dehradun. KHEL has had a long and fruitful relationship with Raphael as our two nonprofits are in the same area.

In India, we celebrate [#ChildrensDay](#) on November 14, to commemorate the birthday of our first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. He was devoted to child welfare and education. At LDA, we celebrate our kids and their continued hard work and dedication to their education by giving them a day of fun activities, gifts, and treats. Everyone had a great time, especially the kids who performed some wonderful gymnastics feats.

LDA's Annual Sports Day is always fun and joyful for our kids! Multiple races and other activities took place in which children showed their zeal and energy. Eighth graders Preeti and Sahil came 1st in their races, followed by Anam and Hilal in 2nd and 3rd places. In the Kho-Kho competition (a traditional Indian sport), our enthusiastic 7th graders came first. There were many other achievements, but most important of all, everyone had a great time, and even the teachers played Musical Chairs! How can the day end without refreshments? Snack and drinks were served so the kids would be revitalised after their hard work of playing games. Special thanks to teachers Asha B for the beautiful dance show, and Alka J for singing a beautiful song for the children. The day finished with beautiful smiles on every child's face, which made this a successful event!

## **Achievements**

We were able to get 12A certificate from Government Income Tax department which is save tax on us.

We were able to get 80G certificate from Government Income Tax department which is save tax for donor in India.

We were able to get FCRA ( Foreign Contribution Regulation Act) so we can get Foreign Contribution Help.

Now we are working on Renewal our NGO for next 5 years with Society Registration Act with Government of Uttarakhand.

We have to work with Education Department of Uttarakhand Government for renewal of our school running certificate in March 2023.

We have promoted Bhagwat Prasad as Manager of Lakshmi Devi Academy to take all responsibilities of day to day running and taking care of all official matters.

We are sorry to see our wonderful ARC Counselor, Ankita, leave LDA, but happy to congratulate her on her upcoming marriage.

Ankita says, "I've been working at LDA as an Adolescent Resource Centre (ARC) Counselor for the past 3 years and it has felt like a second home to me. I love to work with all the wonderful children of LDA, and the Management staff and teachers are very helpful and supportive.

During Summer Holidays, New desks and chairs for some of our older students! Traditionally, children sit at long benches with a shared desk. Social distancing regulations will remain in place for the foreseeable future and our older children can't social distance seated on these benches. We purchased 30 single desks and chairs for one of our classrooms to comply with social distancing regulations, but we need many more desks and chairs for our older kids.

Recently, LDA was chosen as the exam site by the National Board of Examination in Rehabilitation, which is responsible for training teachers for Special Education. Our Principal, Manju, was appointed as the Centre Superintendent, teacher Asha N. as Invigilator, and Front Office Staff Nikita was asked to manage the technology needed for this exam.

Kids were out of school for a couple of years and it was challenging to find people to do any work on the LDA building. This year we took care of some essential repairs and security issues.

In front of our offices is an open veranda that's hidden from view by a staircase. At night people have been jumping over our wall and using this space for illicit activities. Our offices have computers and other expensive equipment in them; so far, nobody has attempted to break in to these spaces but it's only a matter of time before that happens. To protect the school, we've added lockable grills around this area, making it impossible to access when the school is closed. This area also gets a lot of foot traffic and was in need of repair. We replaced floor tiles and polished them, and cleaned and painted the inside of the verandah.

This newly redesigned office space allows both Beni, KHEL's General Manager, and Bhagwat, LDA's Manager, to conduct confidential business at LDA. One office was divided into two. Thanks to everyone who worked on this project, and many thanks to our donors for making sure we have the funds to take care of these issues when they arise.

We've been playing catch-up on numerous projects at LDA and taking care of additional government requirements.

One of our 7th grade classrooms upstairs was in poor condition due to termites and safety issues such as falling plaster and old wiring. A cemented cabinet with wooden doors - mostly eaten by termites - was removed, windows, electricals, and plaster was repaired, and the room was painted.

We were so pleased to welcome back to LDA our dear friends from Germany! It's been too long since we've seen them. Without their support, we would not have made it through the past few years. Our children welcomed Swami Tat Sat, Michel, Iris, and Richard with flower garlands and shared a local Garhwali dance from the mountain region. Swamiji visited the newly renovated classrooms, met with teachers, and asked what our future needs are. Beni, KHEL's General Manager, explained the renovation and repairs work we've been doing for the past few years, such as water storage tank, fire safety, and other necessary or required updates. They brought us some much needed electronic items for which we are truly grateful. In addition to other support they give KHEL, they provided INR5,000

for our kids to have some treats. Afterwards our four guests and some school and administrative staff went to lunch in town.

Thanks so much to all members of [Ganeshas Kinder e.V.](#) for your support! Please come back and visit us anytime.

Just before the pandemic began, the Education Department mandated that all schools install biometric devices. Because of the pandemic and nobody being at school it wasn't necessary; now that schools are back to brick-and-mortar, the Education Department has reminded us to install this device, which records entrance and exit times for anyone who comes to LDA. Bhagwat, LDA's Manager, worked with the Education Department which installed software on one of our laptops that connects to the device. We're now required to print out staff and student attendance every month and post it on the notice board, which the Education Department can come to LDA at any time to check. The device will also keep yearly attendance records.

We are pleased to introduce our newest hire, Suman. At the beginning of the pandemic Suman had just opened a stationery shop. KHEL supported her by buying from her as often as possible. She also started a secondary business teaching arts and crafts to younger children in the KHEL neighbourhood. Suman will be assisting Rajkumari, our Senior Nursery School Teacher, who has been teaching our kids since before KHEL was even an official non-profit.

We are pleased to introduce our newest hire, Pragya. Pragya is 28 years old and comes from a family of farmers who live in a village in Uttar Pradesh, India. With a bachelor's in education and a master's degree, Pragya is well qualified to be teaching at LDA. She's married to our wonderful Yoga teacher, Varun.

## Condoles

We are so sorry that we had lost our long-time staff Ms. Devki Kutti. She was died on 4<sup>th</sup> of April. We all feel so sorry.

Kindness comes in many forms.

Your support enabled us to provide food rations to Leprosy colonies and supplemental nutrition to our students. Help us continue providing additional aid to our kids and community in 2023:

**Thank you, Swami Tat Sat ji, and all friends of Ganeshas Kinder e.V for continue help us to help community.**



**Thank you so much behalf of all the staff, Children and Community.**