



help the mother
help the child...

Welcome... and thanks for your continuing support of CINI Australia.

This month we celebrate one year since the launch of CINI Australia in Perth. We are proud to have contributed a total of \$37,000 so far to our programs in India. Special thanks to our monthly donors who are providing the secure funding needed for ongoing programs and planning.

In February, three CINI Australia's board members went to India to see the "work on the ground". We visited projects throughout West Bengal, met children, women's self-help groups, village councils and local CINI Staff from Kolkata to Darjeeling. CINI's impact is evident and impressive. Read first hand impressions by Peter Connaughton on page 2. (All board travel is fully self funded.)

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How CINI works with Protection.

Protection of women and children is one of the four pillars of CINI's approach to development. Poverty, illiteracy and the status of women underpin risks of child marriage, child labour and trafficking of women and children into domestic labour and the sex trade. These risks are still significant in Uttar Dinajpur, West Bengal.

CINI increases community understanding of the need for protection by educating local councils, schools and the police, as well as helping families see that education is a real alternative for their daughters.

Providing bridging classes for girls and ensuring safety in schools – for example by building girls toilets - means that more girls go to school and succeed there. CINI helps schools create "child friendly" environments that are safe, colourful, kind and conducive to learning – all things we can take for granted.

Children who have disappeared are traced through "Child Line" and reunited with their families. We met a group of such adolescent girls who are now happily back in their village, and receiving skills training in the safety of their families.

In January, the President of India awarded six young girls for their brave action against child marriage. With CINI's support, these teenagers from a rural Muslim district, spoke out to their families, local authorities and police and successfully stopped their own marriages. Their courageous action, the public recognition and acceptance that they received will educate their communities about the law and the risks of child marriage.

We invite you to join us and make a difference.

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Mother's Day -

Share your celebration with a Mother in Need in India.

Mothers are the centre of CINI's approach to helping communities in India. Therefore Mother's Day is the perfect time to share our celebration of mothers in Australia with a mother in India.

Mother's Day reflects the unique and amazing role women undertake raising children, in all situations and circumstances.

On this day we acknowledge and thank our mothers for what they have done for us; wish new mothers courage and good luck in their mothering and recognize grandmothers for their part in the family



Health worker shows mother preschool play

You can help an Indian mother to provide her child with the things that we want for all our children: a safe birth, health, education and a secure future.

For the cost of a **cappuccino a week** or \$15/month, CINI's community based programs support mothers from early pregnancy until the child is two years old. This means antenatal care and education, safe childbirth, immunization and follow up for both mother and baby.

Go to www.ciniaustralia.org to share your mother's day. Contribute in the name of your mother, daughter or grandmother to give another mother the support she needs to help her child.

Or send an e- card with www.mycause.com.au

"Impressions"

*By Peter Connaughton
Board member*

What to expect from my first visit to CINI India? I knew that CINI was doing vital work in Kolkata and West Bengal. I knew the story of growing success over 38 years – but how and why? One of the many things that I did not predict was the great enthusiasm and optimism of the many CINI workers and volunteers that we met. They are committed to helping communities to find their own solutions to their own challenges. Their strong sense of purpose was inspiring.



Peter with boys at Sealdah shelter

Neither did I expect the determination of the women and children that we met. We were very fortunate to be able to visit antenatal projects, schools, children's shelters and a wide range of community projects. We met so many wonderful, friendly, hardworking people. CINI is providing the skills for them to assess their communities, set their own priorities and to then create their own solutions. They are solving problems in health, nutrition, education and child protection. The scale of some of the problems was sometimes hard for me, as a doctor from such a lucky country to even comprehend.

We visited afterschool education groups for the children of sex workers in red light areas. They were being taught by young, happy, enthusiastic teachers. The children were passionate about their futures - and rather than talking about finishing their schooling, many of them discussed which Masters Degrees they were looking forward to. We met previous "CINI kids" who are now themselves teachers – proof of achieving the goal of intergenerational change.

CINI's success is also due to working cooperatively with local councils, the government and other organisations such as UNICEF. CINI has a powerful clarity of purpose - and donors in Australia can be confident that we are supporting committed people who are creating long term solutions. CINI will continue to tackle the challenges - whether or not we choose to send funds. However the funds that we do send will certainly help to profoundly change lives.

CINI Australia, Child in Need India

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Child and Women Friendly Communities Program Uttar Dinajpur

Bangalbari is a rural area not far from the Bangladesh border and near Raiganj (see map). The name means “home of people who speak Bangla”, the language originally from Bangladesh.

Bangalbari is facing many difficulties and CINI's expertise will give the people of Uttar Dinajpur the skills and knowledge they need. Over the next three years this program will focus particularly on the 0-2 year olds, their mothers and out of school children.

27,000 people live in the area of CINI Australia's program with about 3000 families living below the poverty line and 1000 children not attending school. Most families are Muslim with high levels of illiteracy, poverty and malnutrition. There is little antenatal care; maternal mortality rate is high and over 40% of girls marry before the age of 18. Children are involved in hard physical work in brick kiln factories and beedi (cigarettes) making while only 6% of the population completes middle school. Trafficking of women and children is common.

“Child and Women Friendly Communities” programs integrate nutrition, health, education and protection. Local women learn to map their village to identify families in need - pregnant women, malnourished children, out-of-school children or homes with no toilet. The health of families begins to improve from early pregnancy through focus on nutrition, breast-feeding, immunization and the health needs of adolescent girls. Collaboration occurs with all levels of the community and local government. Police, councils, families and children all learn about trafficking and how it occurs. Parents and teachers are educated to help at risk children get into schooling. The whole community is part of the change and decision making.



Mothers explain social mapping to Jackie and Jennie



Mothers present village map to their community Raiganj

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Sponsorships with CINI Australia

Topsia - Educate A Child

Topsia is a very poor Kolkata slum area where Australia's "Educate a Child" sponsorships support CINI Asha's work with disadvantaged children.

Families survive in these urban slum areas through leatherwork, rag picking, the tanning industry, bag making and plastic work. This is hard, low paid work. Education takes second place in the battle to earn an income that is sufficient to survive. As most of the children are first generation school goers, CINI's primary objective is to help them to complete elementary education.

CINI Asha has education and coaching centres, that assist with school enrollment and then help the children stay in the mainstream schools through extra support with their school work. Bridge courses prepare "out-of-school" children for age appropriate mainstream classes. Other programs focus especially on girls to give them some chance of equality in life.

The education centres are tiny rooms donated by a local club or council and crowded with children and teachers. Adolescents, succeeding in school are appointed as community volunteers and become role models for the children they teach. Night shelters for boys and girls protect them from the dangers of street life.

This approach to education for "at risk" children is very effective and we saw clear evidence of generational change in the successful young adults we met.



Out-of-school-girls learning centers



Patra, 24 South Parganas - Sponsor a Mother

Those of you sponsoring a mother are a part of CINI's work in the Diamond Harbour area, south of Kolkata where the Ganges flows into the Bay of Bengal.

Patra, near Diamond Harbour is an agricultural village, surrounded by fields. Many families have lived here for generations. Cooperation is a central part of village life and there is an expectation that people will help those less well off. Villagers work together in harvesting, irrigation, festivities and solving problems. Children are an integral part of the workforce.

Most lighting is by kerosene lamp, cow dung is the source of cooking fuel, domestic water comes from a hand pump and pond water is used for washing and bathing. Castes still determine ones occupation.

The main development issues of the district have been identified. They are education, sanitation and toilets, child labour, marriages and the dowry system, health and family planning, protection of the elderly and economic development. CINI's programs are working with the community to address these priorities.

Sitting on the verandah of a village home, a young mother and her health worker told us about CINI's valuable support during her pregnancy and then with her young child's development. I asked the health workers here what they would like to tell people in Australia. Their response: "We love doing this work, being able to help the pregnant mothers in our village and we want to be able to do this for more mothers. We would like help to do this."



Jennie with health worker and women's self help group



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Thanks to all our supporters this year as we aim to raise \$60,000 for our Bangalbari – Raiganj program.

DESI Indian Students at University of WA are supporting the education of a child.

Luca Prelez from CINI Italy is with us here in Fremantle volunteering his time and expertise. Grazie.

Karrinyup Rotary invited CINI Australia to speak at their breakfast meeting.

Loreto Nedlands Primary School assembly heard about the children of CINI.

Personal Run for CINI: Mahesh Jangam in Queensland in honour of his wife and new baby.

Indian Food and Fun Fair welcomed our information stall amongst their fantastic food and dance.

Madeline again for the newsletter and of course all our regular donors and sponsors

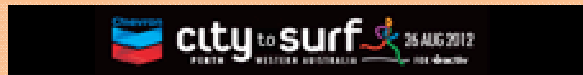


VIBRANT INDIA EXHIBITION: Ramon Wenzel had an exhibition of his magnificent photos of India at Notre Dame University, Fremantle as part of Foto Freo.

Ramon kindly contributed a framed print and a proportion of the sales to CINI Australia. Thanks also to Notre Dame University for their support.

You can still see and purchase these beautiful images at: <http://farnear.wordpress.com>

We need YOU for the Perth City to Surf Fun Run on Sunday, August 26th, 2012



Join us by walking, running or pushing a pram – a short or long distance – which ever you enjoy.

Register with your friends for Team CINI Australia at www.perthcitytosurf.com (password: kolkata)

*Sponsors can contribute directly at our fund raising page at www.everydayhero.com.au
If you want to collect your own sponsorship funds, email us for a CINI Australia Sponsorship Form at funrun2012@cinaustralia.org. Read more on our website: www.cinaustralia.org*

You will receive a CINI Australia tee shirt and a warm drink and yummy snacks afterwards.

Other Events Coming Up – For final dates and details see the CINI Australia web site

Sausage Sizzle in the spring at Bunnings

2013 Bike Ride in India: planning is underway to ride from Kolkata to Kalimpong to see CINI's work on the ground. Email: bikeride2013@cinaustralia.org to know more.

e-Cards for all occasions from mycause.com.au

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Night time safety – little girl in Rambagan evening learning center

To learn more about what we do

Go to our website : www.ciniaustralia.org

Or email us info@ciniaustralia.org

To make a donation complete and post the form below or donate on line

We welcome your comments, questions or suggestions

I would like to help mothers and children in India

1) My donation to CINI Australia:

\$20 \$50 \$100 \$ _____

Monthly until I advise otherwise once only

2) Sponsor a mother. No. \$ _____ / month for 33 months
\$15/mth/mother

3) Educate a child. No. \$ _____ / month for 24 months
\$10/mth/child

Payment details: Cheque Money Order
payable to CINI Australia Gift Fund

Payment details:

OR please debit my:

Visa Master Card Expiry
----- / -----

Cardholder's name: _____

Signature: _____

Email: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Address _____

State _____ Postcode _____

Post Donation Form to:

CINI Australia,
PO Box 8358 Angelo St.,
South Perth, Western Australia 6951

ABN: 50 142 493 570 WA Charities: 21143 OLGR NSW: CF Number 2175

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