

# **CINI** Australia

**Newsletter October 2019** 

Welcome to the Spring 2019 CINI Australia Newsletter...

Enjoy the highlights of another busy few months!

# A message from Dr Samir Chaudhuri, Founder of CINI, India

Dear Friends.

We have had a busy and productive summer and have some good successes!

We are pleased to announce that our work with young people in Assam has received a recent boost. CINI recently connected with the Mission Director of National Health for the Assam Government. A special meeting was hosted in Guwahati, with all government departments in order to discuss how we can work together to tackle health issues effecting young people in Assam. Working in partnership with the government will mean our work can have maximum impact in the region.

In West Bengal, we have had positive results for our project working to improve birth weights of newborn children. We have teamed up with government workers and local women's groups to ensure pregnant women are connected with proper support.



The government policy makers have assured CINI that due to our encouraging results the program would be integrated into state run health programs huge success in terms of helping large amounts of people with a small investment! CINI is pleased that these simple, yet effective interventions have resulted in policy changes to improve the lives of millions of people in East India. We thank all our "friends" for being with us and encouraging us at all

Dr Samir Chaudhuri, Director CINI, September 2019

# Where We Work with CINI



CINI Australia's projects are all in West Bengal, India. Child in Need Institute also works in the states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and the 7 northeast states.

It receives support from the State Government, International NGOs, national and international corporates and CINI International groups.

The northeast states, including Assam, are very disadvantaged and have limited services, so CINI has decided to focus its work in this area where the need is great and there are few other NGOs of this size.

# John XXIII College, Yr 11 Pilgrimage Students visit CINI



JTC Principal, Mr Robert Henderson, one of 3 staff accompanying our students. commented:

"It was wonderful to watch the superb interaction between very fine young people of two diverse cultures and countries. We acknowledge and thank CINI for this excellent opportunity for us to learn from others."

One of the students said:

"Being able to interact with the children under the care of CINI was an experience we will never forget, affecting us so deeply."

Front (L-R): Adam, Sarah, Sophie & Mia. Back (L-R): Ella Jack, Reuben, Bea, Blake, Safiah, Isabella and Clovelly.

We did not know what to expect when we visited the CINI Kolkata headquarters in September. Here we learned of CINI's mission of empowerment toward mothers and children. Focussing on influencing policy and working at a grassroots level, CINI positively impacts areas of healthcare, nutrition, education and the protection of children in a rights-based approach.

We learned that 40 million Indian children aged 6-11 years are not in school, meaning over half of India's children will not progress beyond elementary school. With 41.6% of India's population living below the poverty line, the cost of school is too much at 350 Rupees (\$10 A) a month.

In 1992, Australia and India signed the UN Child Protection Law, agreeing that all children have the right to education to 14 years. It was surprising to hear there are so many laws that protect the rights of children, yet we saw firsthand how unaware children are of their rights. One of CINI's main focuses is the retention of children in school to educate the future of India. This is extremely important for those who are uneducated and more susceptible to trafficking. The project that impressed us was their attempt to mainstream the severely disadvantaged children, ones saved from child labour, child abuse, thieves or victims of child marriage. We had the privilege of seeing for ourselves the inspiring work of CINI when we visited the boys and girls temporary housing, creating a safe space and providing with necessary support.

We cherish this opportunity, miss the smiling faces and forever remember dancing to Bollywood and Pop songs

## CINI Australia Events

The August Movie Fundraiser, "LATE NIGHT" raised aprox \$3000. Many thanks everyone who came and the very generous folks who made the beautiful food for our guests.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:** In time for Christmas

#### KILLERBY WINES CHRISTMAS OFFER

Killerby is offering a 37.5% discount to friends of CINI Australia & donating \$20 /6-pack to CINI Australia so, please forward this opportunity to friends, family and colleagues. Return order form to fundraising@killerby.com.au by Wed 20th Nov. Pick up: 30th Nov We thank Killerby's for their generous support. (*Your order form is enclosed*)

CHRISTMAS APPEAL: Aim of \$10,000 Share your Christmas giving with those most in need! Our focus will be on primary children, adolescent girls and their mothers this year. Donate at www.givenow.com.au/ciniaustraliaxmasappeal2019

# Progress With Our Projects - Change That Continues

## IICCHAA

CINI's work always aims to foster independence and autonomy for those in need and so, the success of our programs is reflected in changes that persist.

This year, 9 of the "IICCHAA" families in 24 South Parganas, who are now healthier and more economically secure, have "graduated" and are 'giving back' to others. They share their knowledge of HIV at public awareness events in their villages, encourage new families at Memory Work sessions, accompany those at risk for HIV testing and help negotiate access to government benefits. They are running the village children's clubs where both infected and uninfected children play together and parents learn about their health. Seeing these changes in health, confidence and security encourages new families, still struggling with the effects of their illness.

Modus Property, a Perth based renovation and building repairs company, has been a fantastic partner in this work.

Thanks to their support over 13 months, we have taken on 50 new families.

Last month Tim and Jennie (CINI Australia) joined the Modus' "tool box" meeting to let the whole team know just how much their efforts mean on the ground.



The Modus Property Team - are certainly "being the solution" and a wonderful example to other companies who want to contribute to positive change in the world.

# CHILD FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES IN HEMTABAD BLOCK

Last month our new CFC project took an important step to prevent early marriage.

A workshop for local Muslim religious leaders was organised to discuss the impacts of underage marriage. As a result, these leaders took an oath to verify the ages of any girls and boys before performing marriage rituals.

Their opinion is powerful and will have more influence with families than the law alone. This collaboration illustrates the essence of "CFC" where commuities act together for change. CINI has worked for decades to find effective ways to improve the status and safety of girl children.

Traditionally girls don't complete primary school and marry at a young age. They are often malnourished and anaemic; their babies are underweight, at risk of infection and their development and education becomes compromised.

The Hemtabad block project is ambitious. We aim to reach 96 villages with about 45,000 children in the next 3-5 years. Your support will help achieve this goal.



News of this important decision hit the local channels and will bring about further acceptance of this change.

# Community Events Supporting CINI Australia

"A Taste of India" Fundraising Banquet for CINI Australia"

Saturday 23rd November at 6:30 – 9pm

Thanks to Yoga Moves & Meditation Group for supporting CINI with this evening

"The offering and sharing of food is foundational in many spiritual traditions and in every community. ...To appreciate the food of another is to begin to understand its people."

At: Yoga Moves/Centre for Movement Studies studio, 45 Evans St, Shenton Park Tickets: \$60 /person, all proceeds to CINI. Cash or cheque (payable to CINI Australia). Bookings are limited. Reserve your tickets or a table of 10 & arrange payment with Sara on sara@yogamoves.net.au or phone: 0415 363 313

WA Indian Docs are helping spread the word about CINI Australia's work at this years Diwali Celebrations

**Nedlands Rotary Club** have invited CINI Australia to speak at its December meeting. In 2008 CINI was awarded the Annual Rotary India Award for making the most significant contribution in reducing child mortality India.

## How You Can Help

- Become a regular donor or sponsor @ www.ciniaustralia.org
- Donate in lieu of a Christmas or Birthday gift
- Volunteer your time or resources
- Ask us for a CINI Money Box for your home, office or counter

Is your money box is waiting to go to the bank? Email us at admin@ciniaustralia.org to arrange pick up / deposit









Donate on line www.ciniaustralia.c	org/how-to-help/donate or	complete & post t	his form
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Sponsor a Mother & baby: ☐\$45			
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Thank yo	u for making a difference w	vith CINI Australia	