



RAPHAEL

JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2020

FOUNDERS

Group Captain Lord Leonard Cheshire of Woodhall VC, OM, DSO***, DFC & Lady Sue Ryder of Warsaw CMG, OBC

INSTITUTIONAL DONORS

The Hans Foundation; Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives; Ryder Cheshire Australia; Max India Foundation; Garware Bestretch; Sud-Chemie; Sarvashubhamkara; Numidia Charity Foundation; Ryder Cheshire Foundation, New Zealand; REGE Foundation, United Kingdom; Ryder Cheshire United Kingdom

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EVENTS

SPECIAL EDUCATION (SE) PROGRAMME

The COVID19 Pandemic has forced us into a continuing lockdown. While the country slowly 'unlocks' our SE Programme remains closed in the larger interest of our children with disability (CwD) and residents on campus in the Life-long Care Programme.



Reaching out to our CwD and their care-givers using technology is a challenge. Many families do not have access to computers and some even time-share with their mobile phones. Despite this, over a hundred children and care-givers are able to attend online sessions - messaging and sharing information, photos and videos regularly. Speech and physiotherapy sessions are also catered to online.

Our residents in life-long care continue with their yoga, music, arts & crafts and physical activities.

Yadu, Salman, Krishna, Sandeep and Sukhdev love working in the garden especially in their overalls - makes them feel like professional *Malis* at work. Our flowering potted plants and vegetables - beans, cucumbers and pumpkins - are proof of their hard-work!

In July, the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD) organized a Webinar on “Best practices in Empowering Individuals with Developmental Disabilities, Skilling, Vocational training, Placement.” This was attended by 16 of our special educators.

In August, 32 parents from the *Darshani* Foundation, a Parents’ Association in Dehradun, were provided online training for drooling control, oromotor and meal time difficulties.

A two-day online training workshop hosted by Action for Autism (AFA) on “Developing Fine Motor and Pre-writing Skills and Teaching Academics to Early Learners” was held in August 2020. It was attended by two of our special educators.



During the month of September VidyaSagar, Chennai, conducted weekend courses for Special Educators and speech therapists. A Beginner’s Course followed by an Advanced Course on the subject “Getting Started with Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC)” was attended by six of our Special Educators.

In-service training is being conducted through webinars. Some of the topics covered are “Intellectual Disability and Communication,” “Sexual abuse,” and “Yoga for Children with Autism, Down Syndrome and Cerebral Palsy.”



Our Outreach (OR) programme is severely curtailed for obvious reasons. In the OR (A) programme that covers the Dehradun District we are in contact with a total of 56 children and their care-givers and have been able to conduct sporadic therapy sessions; and in the OR (B) programme 11 CwD in the age group of 0-6 years have been identified in the Udhamasinghnagar district.

TUBERCULOSIS (TB) HOSPITAL

The TB Hospital and outpatient department remain shut. With every medical facility in the country overburdened with the care of Covid19 patients, the treatment of persons with TB is severely handicapped. This is bound to have a telling effect on the nation-wide eradication of TB programme. We hope to re-start our OPD facilities at the earliest provided we can ensure the well being of our vulnerable resident population.



ANY OTHER EVENTS

Special Repairs: TB Hospital and Girls' Hostel

The cessation of programme activities on campus has given us the opportunity to carry out urgent repairs and renovation work in some of our buildings.

The TB Hospital is being 'tidied up' – improving the reception and testing areas; rearranging the women's ward to enhance convenience and privacy; and providing space for attendants – with the financial support of Sud-Chemie.



And, the Girls' Hostel (Ava Vihar) is being renovated with the ever generous support of Ryder Cheshire Australia. The aim is to ensure it is disabled friendly with special attention being paid to ventilation, lighting, wiring, plumbing and sanitation.

Work started on both buildings simultaneously in September. The TB hospital should be ready by end October and the Girls' Hostel by early December.

VISITORS/VOLUNTEERS/INTERNS (STORIES)

Memories of volunteering at Raphael – Ananya Dua

'Raphael was really an emotional experience for me'

'It's been a whole year since I first visited Raphael. It was during my summer break that I checked to see where I could volunteer and utilize my time during the holidays. I went to the Raphael website and read about this amazing place. I wrote to them only to learn that the institution was closed. I pleaded with the management to allow me to work with the permanent residents on campus. As soon as I got the green signal I rode my scooter to this little haven in the middle of a forest. Raphael was an emotional experience for me. To express the happiness, I experienced while working there is not possible in words. I have come away with so many wonderful memories of the campus, the children, the older residents, the staff and the workers. I really enjoyed being there.'



Geeta's Story – My Life in RAPHAEL

I was born with polio, unable to walk and four years old when my parents left me at Raphael in 1972. It was to become my home forever.

I joined the Little White House (LWH) where there were about 70 children and started attending the primary school on campus. During that time a lot of overseas volunteers used to come and help us with our studies and play with us. They used to help me do exercises and would take me to school in a wheelchair.

One day I was told that I would be going to Delhi for further treatment. General Bakhshi – Uncle Bakhshi to all of us - was the



Director at the time and he had decided to send me to Tirath Ram Orthopaedic Hospital, New Delhi for corrective surgery. I went to Delhi with Mrs E Buxton and was left in the care of Dr Kohli. The doctors advised callipers for me and the hospital staff trained me to walk with their help. It was very painful initially but with persistence and physiotherapy I was able to walk by myself. I was there for nearly eight months and returned to Raphael in 1973.



I re-joined the school and completed my primary education. Then I went to the Church of Northern India school, Dehradun to continue my education. I was put in the hostel as it was difficult for me to commute every day. I made a lot of friends in the school. They helped me in my daily chores. During the vacations and festivals, I would return to Raphael - my family, my home. In 1985, my parents suddenly arrived at Raphael and I was very excited to see them after so many years. I thought they had come to take me home. They promised that they would come and see me when I finished

my school leaving examinations in 1987 but sadly that was it.

At Raphael I was made responsible for looking after the younger children in LWH and helping them with their studies. Uncle Bakhshi got me a tricycle and enrolled me in a typing class so that I could learn to type in English and Hindi. I also did a basic course in computers. In 1995, I was given the opportunity to work in the Raphael office as an assistant to the Liaison Officer.

In 2012, I received the Disabled Employee of the year award by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in recognition of my services to the institution. It was a proud moment for me.

In 2015 Sumati, my friend and childhood companion, and I were shifted to Martyn Cottage, an independent cottage on campus where we each had a room to ourselves. I do all my own household chores and it gives me a sense of independence.

I will remain ever grateful to Uncle Bakhshi for his kindness and consideration. I would also like to thank Ms Priyo Lall for motivating me and pushing me to learn. It was she who arranged for a disability scooter for me which has made my life so much easier.



DONATE

Anyone wishing to donate can do so on our website <http://www.raphael-ryder-cheshire.org>. 100% of all donations to Raphael reach the intended recipients. Donations by cheque or credit card are also welcome. **NO AMOUNT IS TOO SMALL.**

GET INVOLVED

You need no special qualifications to volunteer/intern at Raphael: **ALL YOU NEED IS ENTHUSIASM AND A BIG HEART.**