

# Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation

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## FUN DAY 2010



On August 21<sup>st</sup>, many youth across the Greater Toronto Area participated in the first-ever GGSCF Fun Day Mini-Olympics. The event took place at Bhagat Puran Singh Park directly behind Scarborough Gurdwara. Just over 180 youth aged 5 to 14 years participated in the Fun Day festivities. The majority of the participants were from the G.S. United Soccer Club. Participants continued to register until 12 pm. After the registration was completed, the participants took part in the opening ceremonies of the event. The rules and the opportunity to claim gold, silver, or bronze medals at the end of each event were explained to the teams. Participants were rewarded points for each event and at the end their points would be tallied to determine a winner for each team. Participants were divided into teams by their age groups.

There were many different events for youth to compete in and each activity was different in testing their mental and physical strength. The events included the obstacle course, the gladiator pit, the soccer challenge, crazy golf, jumping castle, a waterslide, a 3-legged race, and a balancing challenge just to name a few. The parents and youth were treated to an incredible lunch by Scarborough Gurdwara and delicious cotton candy was available for desert. After the participants filled up their stomachs, quenched their thirst, and regained their energy, they were ready to compete once again. As the youth took to the field for their second leg of events, the rain slowly started to trickle down, creating a different atmosphere at many of the events. Yet their enthusiasm and energy did not change from the start of the day. As the events came to an end, the youth had a once in a lifetime opportunity. Brian, the coach of many of the youth at the G.S. United Soccer Club volunteered to enter the intimidating Dunk Tank. For the cost of two dollars, participants had the chance to hit a target with 3 pitches and if they hit the target, Brian would have to take a plunge into



the frigid water. This was an absolute hit with all of the participants and their families, as the youth were very excited to have this opportunity. The event was then concluded with the closing ceremonies, and each of the winners of their age group received gold, silver, and bronze medals. Individuals who did not finish in the top three in their respective teams received participation awards for their efforts. In all, it was a great Olympic showcase at Bhagat Puran Singh Park, as the foundation raised just over \$1300. Each of the participants demonstrated true Olympic spirit, as they enjoyed the events and left with an unforgettable experience. Special thanks goes to the parents, the participants, G.S. United and the volunteers who made this event possible.

## WORLD HARMONY RUN



The World Harmony Run was founded by Sri Chinmoy in 1987 in an effort to promote international friendship and understanding. The Run takes place in over 100 countries, spanning 6 continents all around the world. On May 23<sup>rd</sup>,

members of the Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation welcomed runners of the World Harmony Run team to Scarborough Gurdwara. A few members of the Foundation met with runners of the World Harmony Run and ran up Middlefield Road to Scarborough Gurdwara. The run was followed by a presentation by the World Harmony Run team and was concluded with snacks in the langer hall. Afterwards, everyone met outside the Gurdwara and together, ran to Steeles and Middlefield Road. The Foundation gave a final farewell to the runners as they disembarked on their remarkable journey. Members of the Foundation were delighted to participate in the World Harmony Run and enjoyed the experience. The Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation would like to wish the World Harmony Run team the best on their journey to promote global harmony.

### ANDREW SINGH KOONER MATCH

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, two-time Olympian Andrew Singh Kooner took the centre of the ring at the Powerade Centre in Brampton for United Promotions professional boxing series titled "Undisputed". Andrew Singh Kooner competed against Jose Silveira for the North American Boxing Association's (NABA) Bantamweight Title in the main event of the evening. Andrew was cheered by many of his supporters at the event, including the youth of the Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation who attended to support their local Olympian. Andrew is generously donating a portion of the ticket sales to the Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation. This marked the first time Andrew was fighting in his hometown of Toronto, and the majority of the crowd was in his favour. However, Andrew's night ended in disappointment as the fight was stopped at the end of the fourth round and decided by judge's scorecard. It was an accidental head butt at the end of the fourth round by Jose, opening a gash above Andrew's left eye which ended the fight and the judges awarded the fight to Jose. We would like to thank Andrew for his generosity and wish him all the best in the future.

### STUDENT VISITS



May 27<sup>th</sup>, students from a school at North Bay visited Scarborough Gurdwara as part of their World Religion class. Their teacher, John Hetherington, has been bringing students down for many years. The students enjoy their visit with us more so than the other places they visit. Positive comments from past students about previous visits had encouraged

even more attendance. They very much enjoyed langar and, of course, eating off of steel plates while seated on the floor is undoubtedly a novel experience. This time, we were visited by 21 children and 2 teachers along with a student teacher. They reached the Gurdwara at 11:15 a.m. We started by welcoming them, and once they were all ready, we went to the main hall. On special request, Kirtan was on and they listened for a short while. They were given "Parshad," and then led down to the Langar Hall. Once seated, Langar was served, which consisted of rice, channas, roti, yogurt and barfi. Also, tea was offered, and it was enjoyed by many. Several of these children had probably not seen people of our colour, so a chance of having tasted our food was rather remote. After langar, there was a question and answer session hosted by Parmjit Flora. The students were really glad to have the opportunity to talk to Parmjit who answered many of their questions and gave her insight into Sikhism to the students and teachers.

### ICCC DINNER



On June 12<sup>th</sup>, the Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation and members of the Children's Run Across Canada team were invited to attend the Indo-Canadian Chamber of Commerce Dinner at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. The members of the foundation enjoyed the evening's entertainment and speeches. The ICCC presented awards to recognize the achievements of Indo-Canadians. The Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation was awarded the Young Achievers Award for 2010 in recognition of the Children's Run Across Canada held in 2009. Those members who attended were proud to be recognized by influential individuals of the Indo-Canadian community. Special thanks to Gary Singh, Mohinder Singh, and Ajmer Sidhu for providing tables to those foundation members who attended.





## RACE AGAINST RACISM

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Peel Regional Police held the 10th annual Race Against Racism at Mississauga Valley Community Centre Park on June 19<sup>th</sup>. More participants took part than last year from all the different ethnic cultural communities that make up Peel Region. The 5km run/walk was enjoyed by everyone from professional runners to ordinary citizens who jogged/walked the route in support of this cause. Mayor Hazel McCallion started the race and was joined by the Deputy Police Chief. Both explained the need to fight racism and the Mayor congratulated the Police on having so many Police Officers that represent the multicultural makeup of the community. Over 700 Police Officers in Peel Region speak another language other than English. After the race everyone enjoyed food/drinks and entertainment/music by local community groups. The Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation has been taking part in this event for five years and many of the participants this year also took part in the Children's Run Across Canada last year.

## CANADA DAY CELEBRATIONS

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On July 1<sup>st</sup>, the GGSCF took part in the Canada Day celebrations at the parade in Scarborough. About 70 children/youth/parents took part in front of hundreds of onlookers. The GGSCF handed out candy and balloons to young children along the route. All were very happy to see other children giving treats. The Sanjha Virsa Academy also had children doing bhangra along the route that was much enjoyed by the multi-cultural crowd who enjoyed the music, the traditional Punjabi costumes and the dancing. Gathka was also performed by the youth from Scarborough Gurdwara and some of the children from the G.S.United Soccer Club also took part. The parade was very much enjoyed by all those who participated as they saw some of the other participants, clowns, bands, vintage cars and lots of decorated floats. Happy Birthday Canada!

## CHARITY HOOPS

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The GGSCF held their sixth annual 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament at Turner Fenton Secondary School in Brampton on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Teams competed in three divisions of 15-17, 18-20, and 21+ years of age. The event attracted over 90 participants for the charity tournament. The three divisions were very competitive and made for an entertaining day of basketball for everyone. In our first division of 15-17, the final came down to Brampton Ballers and No Names. The final went to the finish as Brampton Ballers were able to score in the final seconds to send the game to sudden death overtime. The overtime period was very defensive but the Brampton Ballers prevailed claiming the division title. In our second division of 18-20, an energetic team named Martingrove featuring Sandalwood came away with the division crown. Their ability to dominate their division allowed them the opportunity to participate in our third division of 21+. The team fared well against the rest of the competition and made it to the finals against Team Khalsa. The Martingrove featuring Sandalwood team had the opportunity to take the double, two division titles. Everyone in the gym was excited to watch the finals, allowing the two teams to take centre stage. Both teams showcased their skills and talents in back and forth affair. In the end, Team Khalsa's experience took over the younger team of Martingrove featuring Sandalwood. Team Khalsa were able to take the championship in the 21+ division. The GGSCF would like to thank the volunteers who helped make this event possible and all of the participants who took part in our sixth annual 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament.

## CANSIKH KABADDI TOURNAMENT

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On the July 11-12<sup>th</sup> weekend volunteers of the GGSCF attended the annual CanSikh Kabaddi Tournament which took place at Wildwood Park in Malton. The tournament which takes place over the course of two days has been attended by the Foundation for the past several years and spectators often contribute generously to the change collection. Those who turned out to watch enjoyed both the kabaddi and the samosas, chick peas, naan and jalabees – many of which the Foundation volunteers helped to serve. There was a break in all the excitement when a sudden



downpour struck and many sought refuge under tents and trailers; at one point, there was even hail and strong winds that came down on the attendees. But the weather did not dampen any spirits as the tournament continued. Altogether, the Foundation managed to collect over \$2,400 which will go towards the children it sponsors throughout the world. Thank you to all those who contributed; a special thanks goes out to the volunteers who came out despite the FIFA World Cup having coincided with the event.

## SENIORS TRIP



July 24, 2010, the Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation held its annual seniors trip to Niagara Falls, Ontario. Thirty-three highly excited seniors along with twelve volunteers boarded the bus which left from Scarborough Gurdwara early in the morning. The seniors were surprised and happy to visit our first stop, Burlington Gurdwara, which many of the seniors have never visited. Afterwards, the seniors enjoyed a delicious lunch as they watched large ships passing through the Welland Canal. Soon the seniors found themselves navigating through Downtown Niagara Falls with the waterfall in view. The seniors spent an hour enjoying the Falls and the spectacular view. The seniors also spent time at the Niagara Botanical Gardens and the Floral Clock before heading down the QEW to Burlington Gurdwara. At the Gurdwara the seniors ate snacks and enjoyed warm tea before listening to kirtan.

All the seniors received a small token of appreciation from the volunteers of the Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation before arriving home at Scarborough Gurdwara. All of the seniors fancied the trip and were grateful to the volunteers for their seva. We would like to thank all the volunteers who participated and truly made the trip enjoyable for all the seniors.

## ONTARIO KABADDI CHAMPIONSHIP



July 31<sup>st</sup>, the GGSCF were invited by Brampton Punjabi Sports Club and Harjit International Sports Club to attend the 11th Annual Ontario Kabaddi Championship that took place at the Sikh Lehar Gurdwara Grounds. The weather was excellent as thousands enjoyed kabaddi with participants from all age groups. The organizers recognized the GGSCF for the Children's Run Across Canada last year and support to children's hospitals with a plaque presented by Parm Gill (who also came out to support the run in Ottawa). In addition there was an appeal by the Sports Clubs for "change" from the spectators and just over \$3000 was collected to help needy children. The GGSCF supports blind children through the Vocational Rehabilitation Training Centre in Ludhiana and mentally handicap children through Navjivini School of Special Education in Patiala.

## EDITOR – Sundeep Singh

The Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation and their volunteers enjoyed the summer with several activities that created awareness about the principles of the Foundation. Reflecting on the summer, we appreciate the opportunity to do seva in the community. It is an incredible experience to volunteer and we are grateful for the opportunities to help foster our community. We look forward to the challenges that come before us in the following months, and hope to finish this year with a strong effort in children helping children.

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