

# Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation

Issue 16

April 2006

## PUNJABI IDOL COMES TO MARKHAM!

Puneet Singh

Punjabi Idol, something I thought that would never happen took place Sunday, January 15th 2006. This event has really opened up my eyes in realizing how much talent is around us.



Put together by the volunteers and youth of GGSCF, it turned out to be a huge success! From the singing, dancing, acting, and other amazing performances, everything was extremely well organized.



The acts were pulled off flawlessly and professionally, and the audience was left wanting more! Held at the beautiful Markham theatre, the crowd was left laughing and singing along to the performers. Everyone learned something new, and the acts were targeted to all ages. I hope that this event has inspired others who possess such wonderful talent, to come out and share it with our community.



Hopefully Punjabi Idol will come back again for another mind-blowing success! The organizers and performers alike, all deserve a pat on the back as it was really an event unlike any other we've ever had, and what a success!

## GET TO KNOW US...

*In this issue of "Get to Know Us", we asked the branch representatives of the newest GGSCF branch, 0510, located at Rexdale Gurdwara, to tell us a little about themselves, and how they feel about being a part of GGSCF. So here are Hardeep Kaur, Mamminder Kaur, and Sukhpreet Kaur. Also part of their team is Chiranjeev Singh, who was out of town for this issue, but we'll get him next time!*

**Hardeep Kaur Shergill**  
*Branch Chair*

I am in my third year at York University completing an undergraduate degree to further expand my knowledge of the world and go into a career that will make a difference on the lives of people. I began my involvement as a volunteer with the Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation three years ago and am continuing my journey. I have met so many great, determined, and hard working individuals that have influenced me in the past years. The GGSCF has made such a positive impact on the lives of numerous children from around the globe, including those from impoverished nations providing them with the basic necessities of life, and also kids from the GTA that we see take part in GGSCF events with a smile. It is with the grace of God that we were able to establish a branch at Rexdale Gurdwara and I hope to see many more youngsters take part in events and meetings!

## GGSCF BOARD CHANGES 2006

*Karindeep Kaur Jaswal*

The year of 2005 was a very exciting year for the Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation; once again the Foundation moved forward and was able to achieve many of their goals and met challenging milestones. As the year has concluded, one of the responsibilities of the Council is to participate in a formal evaluation process of the current Board Members. As part of this evaluation process, the Council asks one or more Board Member(s) to step down formally and appoints new Board Member(s). This process has been formally stimulated by the Foundation by-laws.

This past year, two Board Members have formally stepped down; Tajinder Kaur Sanghera and Gurjit Kaur Flora. Both of them have contributed significantly to the Foundation, and on behalf of the Foundation, the Council will like to thank them for their generous contributions of effort and time.

The two new individuals that were asked to join the Board were Harjot Singh Bains and Paramjit Singh Dhillon. We would like to welcome both of them and are looking forward to their contributions in the coming years.

## BRANCH 0311 UPDATE

*Jitinder Singh Bal*

Branch 0311, located at Dixie Gurdwara, has been experiencing a good balance of youth and adult participants. Attendance has been high and that has to do with things like the "Bring-a-Friend" system, and the guest speaker we had recently. Although the recent federal election caused a slight disruption in the attendance, the branch has managed to stay consistent, if not grow, in our monthly attendance.

## DEVELOP YOUR LEADER WITHIN

*Ravnit Singh Dhaliwal*

On January 8th, 2006, the GGSCF held a building bridges seminar at Scarbrough Gurudwara where Zoravar Singh facilitated a full day session with the theme, "Develop your leader within". There were many sessions and activities planned out with this theme for the 30 or so participants from about age 13 to university students, and even adults.



When one key topic was covered, there was a corresponding activity to emphasize that point, and even discussions so that everyone could have their input. It was a very effective way to engage the audience. The topics that we covered included learning about what leadership is, finding out who you are, overcoming bad habits, teamwork, and also how to plan a GGSCF event. It was very well organized and was very helpful because Zoravar related to real life experiences. Overall, the presentation was excellently done and gave a good solid background about leadership in the real world.

### KID-A-RIDDLEZ

**RIDDLE: WHAT IS THE FRUITIEST LESSON?**

**ANSWER: HISTORY, BECAUSE IT'S FULL OF DATES!**

**RIDDLE: WHAT KIND OF WITCH HAS CHEESE AND HAM ON IT?**

**ANSWER: A SANDWITCH**

**RIDDLE: YOU HAVE 2 COINS AND YOU MUST MAKE 30 CENTS. ONE COIN IS NOT A NICKEL. HOW CAN YOU DO THIS?**

**ANSWER: 25 CENTS, AND 5 CENTS – THE RIDDLE SAYS "ONE" OF THE COINS IS NOT A NICKEL.**

## F.V.C. - ANOTHER SOUL TOUCHED

*Manjinder Singh Dhillon*

Last year was my first experience at the Fred Victor Centre and since then I've been back twice - every time I go, it feels great. It's a great experience because today, we have so much in our lives, but we tend to forget that there are people in our own city who don't have homes or even food to eat. Giving to others is a good thing because you get the opportunity to share your good fortune with others who are not as lucky as most of us. I learned that just because I have certain things, it doesn't mean that everyone else has as much. Fred Victor Centre was different than I imagined because I thought everyone there would be homeless, but I learned that some of the people there are more fortunate than others and do have homes but no food. I would definitely go there again and for those who have not yet experienced it, I would recommend it since it's a great experience because it broadens your view of what is going on in the world because everyone isn't as fortunate as others.

## SIKH STORY WRITING CONTEST

*Paneet Kaur*

We thought it would never happen - but, the Foundation's first ever Sikh Story Contest has finally come to a close! For those of you who aren't familiar with this contest, here's a small synopsis:

The Sikh Story Contest started last year, during the summer break. Contestants were asked to write a short story based on any person or event from Sikh history and send it in. The contest presented a bit of a challenge to both writers and organizers - it isn't easy to write a great, detailed story based on history, and it definitely isn't easy to find people to write a great, detailed story based on history! But in the end, with a lot of help along the way, we managed to end up with satisfying 15 entries - oh, and some very relieved event organizers.

Of those 15 entries, only five were chosen as the official winners. We would like to congratulate the following on their amazing stories: The Khalsa Panth, by Sachkartar Singh; Shotai Sahibjadaai, by Amrit Kaur; Charitable Ways and Forgiveness, both by Harjot Atwal, and finally A Blue Starred Night (author anonymous). A very small, but very deserving selection! These stories will be published into an anthology, and the winners will receive a free copy of the anthology, plus a small cash prize. Congratulations, you guys deserve it! For those of you whose stories did not quite make it, please do not feel bad; we will be posting each of your wonderful stories on our website.

As for the anthology - if all goes well, the book will be published and ready for your reading enjoyment before the end of April. Stay tuned for updates - and keep checking back on our website for any news:

<http://sikhstorycontest.250free.com>

It's been a long journey - but who knows; maybe, just maybe, we'll do it all again next year.

## SUNITA IS BACK AND WITH WHO?



Who you may ask are these individuals? Well some of the long term volunteers may remember Sunita from the 1999 relay run from Toronto to Ottawa. This brave soul missed her exams and had to repeat a credit just so that she would not miss out on that historic GGSCF event. She was also the one lying down on the grass outside Peterborough City Hall overcome from heat exhaustion because she had spent all day video taping the run from the top of van in the hot sun. These were the type of dedicated volunteers who started the GGSCF. Since then she has been through university and graduated and is now a teacher inspiring more children. Well last year Sunita set another first as she and her new husband Ranjan donated cash wedding gifts to the GGSCF and now support a child through monthly donations to the Foundation. Sunita, you have just come back in time as the children/youth are now planning an "Across Canada Run" in 2009 but you should find this easier as now you have a another helper by your side.



## FUNDRAISING FOR A MINIVAN

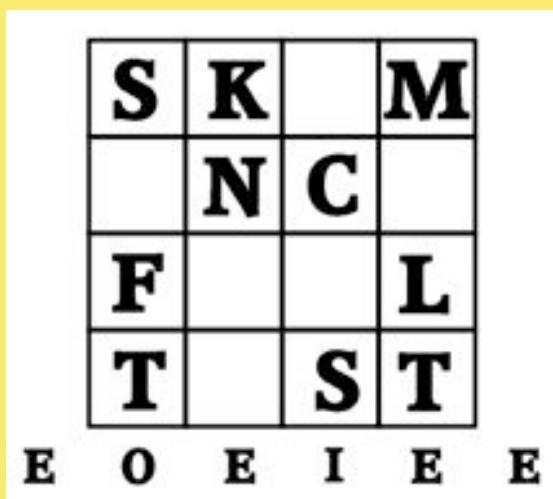
Paramjit Singh

Since the visit by Baltej Singh Pannu this winter, who identified the need for a mini-van by the Navjivini School of Special Education, the GGSCF has been holding fundraising events for this project. On January 15th the Punjabi Idol show managed to collect \$2400 for this effort. The employees of East Metal gathered \$2485 for this project. The Airport Taxi and Limo Drivers also donated about \$1500 for this effort.



Kudip Deepak the host of Punjab-di-Goonj gave the GGSCF his support and air time on February 11th on his program where the listeners pledged over \$4000 in support. Jagdish Grewal also gave his support on Lashkara radio program on February 20th through which about \$1500 was pledged. Donations are still coming from other supporters and soon the special children at Navjivini will have a mini-van to meet the transportation needs. We would like to thank all the above individuals, groups and radio stations for their support.

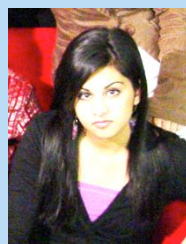
### KID-WORD-SQUARE



**Fill in the grid with the vowels provided so that each column (top to bottom) and each row (left to right) contains a real word.**

## GET TO KNOW US...

**Sukhpreet Punia**  
*Newsletter Representative*



I am 17 years old, and I have been a part of Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation for a few months now. I joined GGSCF because it was the perfect opportunity for me to get involved in the community, and make a difference. I think it is great that GGSCF now has a Rexdale Branch, because it will give many others like me a chance to get involved, and realize how much difference one can make.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Sophia Kaur Randhawa*

**April 1st - BRAND NEW WEBSITE AT [WWW.GGSCF.COM](http://WWW.GGSCF.COM)!!!**

Not that we need to explain this one - but we're not kidding you - this April 1st will truly mark the launch of the GGSCF's brand new website full of up-to-date information and a more user-friendly interface! Check it out on April 1st!

**April 9th - Branch 0302 Tea Party** - Join us after the monthly meeting at Branch 0302 on April 9th at 1:30pm for some tea and simply get together and see what the GGSCF and its youth are all about, and of course to get to know each other in the community as well!

**April 29th - CN Tower Stairclimb for WWF** - Once again the GGSCF will be doing a stair climb with the World Wildlife Fund. Forms and additional details on the event are available through the GGSCF website. We hope to see everyone there. It's a great way to get out and accomplish something different.

**April 30th - Vaisakhi Food Drive** - During the Vaisakhi Nagar Kirtan, the GGSCF is holding a food drive, for another successful year. At the Better Living Centre in CNE, you will have a chance to donate any non-perishable food items. All donations will be given to the Daily Bread Food Bank, so please contribute generously.

**May 2006 - Annual Basketball Tournament** - Get ready during the spring of 2006, to show off your basketball skills during the annual basketball tournament. This is a great event for all youth to get together, have fun and meet new people. So tie those shoelaces and let's see another friendly GGSCF Basketball Tournament!

**July 1st - Canada Day Parade** - Come out to represent GGSCF on July 1st, 2006 for the Scarborough Canada Day Parade. Once again Mandeep and Sophia Randhawa will organize it. It is sure to be a great event for everyone to enjoy.

For additional information on these events and others, please visit our website at [www.ggscf.com](http://www.ggscf.com)

## GETTING LIVELIER BY THE MONTH - 0303

*Sophia Kaur Randhawa*

Branch 0303 is becoming more lively every meeting. Everyone is getting involved and taking on new tasks. Even the younger youth are participating more often. In the month of January Manpreet took on the role of chairperson for the meeting and then Monique was chair in the month of February. Both of them did a really good job, and were prepared. I can't wait to see who chairs next meeting! Mandeep won the humorous award, by doing something different, singing "you are my sunshine". The new members are getting more involved as well. We all are always looking forward to the growth of our branch.

## CELEBRATING 3 YEARS AT BRANCH 0302

Sharanpreet Kaur Kelley



On February 12, 2006, members of the branch 0302 celebrated our 3 year running! The members had cake and the festivities were in great joyous moments, followed by a prolonged debate on: whether or not cell phones should be allowed in schools. Both teams had very good points on whether or not, cell phones should be allowed in school, and the debate ended in a draw. We also made our future goals for the branch, and one of the goals included making the meetings more interesting and fun. So, the branch decided to divide into groups and have a particular game every other month. We're all now looking forward to the March meeting, as Jeopardy will be in full force!

## PLANNING AHEAD - BRANCH 0510

Sukhpreet Kaur Punia

The Rexdale Branch of GGSCF is in the process of coming up with ideas for events which could be held at the Branch location. One interesting event that we have come up with is to have a Roti eating contest.



Events such as this would not only be fun and entertaining, but will also get the youth from Rexdale involved with the branch and more volunteers would turn up for the monthly meetings. We are also currently in the process of creating posters and flyers to hand out to Punjabi class students as well as the Karate class students.

We feel that our small core group will develop into a large group with over 50 people turning up for the meetings by the end of the year. If you have an idea to share, or want to get involved with the Rexdale Branch 0510, you can join us at our monthly meetings held every 4th Sunday at 7pm at Rexdale Gurdwara.

## GET TO KNOW US...

**Manminder Mokha**  
*Branch Administrator*



My name's Manminder Mokha and I am 17 years old. Joining GGSCF, I feel was a really good decision as I am glad to be part of such an organization. GGSCF has helped me to develop my communication skills along with many other characteristics. I currently am the branch administrator for the Rexdale location. Currently, I am enrolled in high school and will attend University to study Business Administration in the fall of 2006.

## SKATING TRIP 2005 - A SPECIAL TREAT!

Puneet Kaur Aujla

On December 17th, like every year, the GGSCF kids went for a skating trip at Nathan Phillips Square, and like every year, it was another cold night – but this year was a bit extra special because whether or not the organizers planned it, our skating trip date also happened to be part of the Cavalcade of Lights Festival put together by the City of Toronto.



Nathan Phillips Square was full of people from everywhere who were celebrating the winter season with a show, music, and even fireworks!! It was definitely a special trip giving many people the chance to enjoy themselves as they skated, mingled, and enjoyed the great culture of Toronto and the winter season! It would be great fun to go during the Cavalcade of Lights Festival again this year!

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Kimpreet Kaur Mann

Well the children, youth, volunteers, and organizers of the GGSCF have certainly made a noticeable effort to make sure that the GGSCF gets out there and puts together great, and successful events, and what an excellent first three months we've had from Building Bridges Session, to the oh-so-popular and memorable Punjabi Idol, and successes at old branches to opportunities at new ones. You can mark it that these kids are hard at work and play! As the spring rolls in, the fun is going to keep growing, and so are the events, so make sure you join us to be part of all that is going on throughout the year - and of course, what better place to find out about the GGSCF and its events than our brand new website launched April 1st - and that's no April Fools Joke!

Please send comments, questions, and/or suggestions to:

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