

# Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation

Issue 2

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ਅਜ ਦੇ ਸਮਾਜ ਵਿੱਚ ਆਪਣੀ ਕੌਮ ਨੂੰ ਜਿੰਦਾ ਰੱਖਣ ਲਈ ਅਤੇ ਕੌਮ ਦਾ ਨਾਂ ਉੱਚਾ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਸਾਰੀ ਦੁਨੀਆਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਨੇ ਵੱਖਰੇ ਵੱਖਰੇ ਕਿਸਮ ਦੇ ਉਪਰਾਲੇ ਇਸ ਉਮੀਦ ਨਾਲ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਕੀਤੇ ਕਿ ਜਿਸ ਨਾਲ ਆਉਣ ਵਾਲੀਆਂ ਪੀੜ੍ਹੀਆਂ ਆਪਣੇ ਇਤਿਹਾਸ ਤੋਂ ਸਿੱਖਿਆ ਲੈਂਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਇਸ ਕੌਮ ਨੂੰ ਉਸ ਉਚਾਈ ਤਕ ਪਹੁੰਚਾ ਸਕਣ ਜਿਥੇ ਸਾਡੇ ਗੁਰੂ ਵੀ ਸਾਡੇ ਤੇ ਨਾਜ਼ ਕਰ ਸਕਣ। ਵਹਿਗੁਰੂ ਦੀ ਮਿਹਨਤ ਨਾਲ ਉਹ ਸਾਰੇ ਹੀ ਉਪਰਾਲੇ ਉਸੇ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਸਫਲ ਹੋਣ ਜਿਸ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਪਿਛਲੇ ਸਾਲ ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਚਿਲਡਰਨਜ਼ ਫਾਊਂਡੇਸ਼ਨ ਦੇ ਪਹਿਲੇ ਕਦਮ ਨੂੰ ਸਫਲਤਾ ਮਿਲੀ ਸੀ। ਇਸ ਪਹਿਲੀ ਕਾਮਯਾਬੀ ਦਾ ਸਿਹਰਾ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਸਾਰਿਆਂ ਬੱਚਿਆਂ, ਮਾਤਾ ਪਿਤਾ ਅਤੇ ਅਨਗਿਣਤ ਸੇਵਾਦਾਰਾਂ ਦੇ ਸਿਰ ਹੈ ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੇ ਮਹੀਨਿਆਂ ਤਕ ਦਿਨ ਰਾਤ ਮਿਹਨਤ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਹ ਸਾਬਤ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਕਿ ਅਜ ਦੇ ਨੌਜਵਾਨ ਬੱਚਿਆਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਆਪਣੀ ਕੌਮ ਅਤੇ ਇਤਿਹਾਸ ਲਈ ਪਿਆਰ, ਜੋਸ਼ ਅਤੇ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਦਾਰੀ ਅਜ ਵੀ ਮੌਜੂਦ ਹੈ।

ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਚਿਲਡਰਨਜ਼ ਫਾਊਂਡੇਸ਼ਨ ਦੇ ਇਸ ਪਹਿਲੇ ਉਪਰਾਲੇ ਨੇ ਨਾ ਸਿਰਫ ਕੌਮ ਦਾ ਨਾਂ ਹੀ ਉੱਚਾ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੈ ਸਗੋਂ ਇਸ ਉਪਰਾਲੇ ਨਾਲ ਬੱਚਿਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਸਾਰੇ ਹੀ ਸੇਵਾਦਾਰਾਂ ਨੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਗੁਰੂਆਂ ਦੀ ਸਿੱਖਿਆ ਤੇ ਚਲਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਗਰੀਬ ਅਤੇ ਲੋੜਵੰਦ ਬੱਚਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਮਦਦ ਕਰਨ ਦਾ ਮਕਸਦ ਵੀ ਪੂਰਾ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਨਿਊਜ਼ਲੈਂਟ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਅਸੀਂ ਸਮੂਹ ਸੰਗਤ ਅਤੇ ਸੇਵਾਦਾਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਧੰਨਵਾਦ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਾਂ ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੇ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਰਲ ਕੇ ਸਾਡੇ ਮਕਸਦ ਨੂੰ ਕਾਮਯਾਬੀ ਬਖਸ਼ੀ ਹੈ।



## 500 Km RELAY RUN-A-THON

Well almost 18 months after the project was first started the children and youth met every one of the challenges they had set for themselves. At the beginning many thought this could not be done but the children proved that they have our Guru's spirit inside them. They proved it is possible to have fun, meet a challenge, while also helping others less fortunate than us and carrying out all this in the spirit of the teaching of our Gurus.

The journey itself could take a book to explain but we will try to cover some of the main observations and remarks made along the way. In total about 300 children and youth took part in the run (exact number is unknown as many joined in Ottawa but did not register). On the first day July 11<sup>th</sup>, 141 runners started the run from Dixie Gurdwara. However, most participants gathered for the last stretch on July 17<sup>th</sup> from Ottawa Gurdwara to Parliament Hill, where the children and youth of Toronto met with others from Montreal and Ottawa.

**MONEY RAISED FOR SUPPORTING  
CHILDREN THROUGH  
FOSTER PARENTS PLAN  
\$ 109,270.31**

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Although many many individuals took part in this event we particularly want to mention the efforts of the 51 runners and 15

volunteers who kept the pace for the full seven days to cover the total distance of 582km. In the hot humid weather of July with temperatures of over 30°C they ran and ran on rough gravel roads and shoulders, next to fast cars and big trucks, without breaks and at a sprinting pace when they were behind schedule. The children ranged in age from 6 years to young adults and each and every one gave everything. There was much eagerness to run especially from the younger participants wanting to be given an equal share of the route and to take every turn. At no time during the seven days did these runners or volunteers give up or complain that they were tired, even after long 16 hour days. There were so many sacrifices made by these individuals that we could never mention them here and only WaheGuru knows the contribution every individual young and old made. This is why when there was any failure on part of the organizers our Guru made things turn out all right and without his support and guidance we would not have made it.

All along the way the runners were greeted with love and respect. Many people in vehicles blew their horns in support, many stopped and donated money some even wanted pictures taken with the participants. Mayors, MPs, MPPs, local councilors, and the local communities all got to see the spirit our children and youth have. Local police forces in Peterborough, Belleville, Kingston, Brockville and Ottawa-Carleton went out of their way to accommodate the inconvenience we must have caused and assured the safety of the participants. In Peterborough they welcomed us with a band that led the runners to the City Hall. The response from the local Sikh communities with food, drinks, accommodation, donations and the overwhelming warmth was something the participants will never forget.



In addition Peter Adams MP, Derek Lee MP, Herb Dhaliwal MP, Raminder Gill MPP, David Pratt MP, actually took part in the run while others Mayor Hazel MacCallion, Mayor Sylvia Sutherland, Joe Vople MP, Colleen Beaaumier MP, turned up in support. Gurbax Malhi MP, Paul Martin MP, and Maria Minna MP who were unable to come sent letters of support. Carol Wilding the National Director of Foster Parents Plan, Baltej Singh Dhillon first Sikh RCMP officer, Daljit Singh Gill President of Ottawa Gurdwara and many others turned up on Parliament Hill to congratulate the participants.

Upon reaching Parliament Hill a statement was read out on behalf of the Foundation by Manpreet Kaur Jaswal to the Citizens of Canada. The statement explained that Sikhs were celebrating the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Khalsa across the world, how the children and youth were celebrating in Canada, who Guru Gobind Singh was, the sacrifices he and his family made and all Sikhs were asked to look within themselves and reflect on what we do in our lives and consider whether our Gurus would be proud of us.

## COMMENTS ON THE RUN

The following comments were made by individuals during the run:



*.....this is the best youth project that I have seen across the world ...*

Herb Dhaliwal, Minister

*....brothers and sisters look at our future, it stands in front of you, we are now reaping the rewards of the seeds that we have sown....*

Baltej Singh Dhillon, RCMP



*....this event broke all traditions ....I saw all the generations children, youth, adults and seniors all working in a team.....who says our youngsters do not come to the Gurdwara look around you.....tomorrow they will take our Guru's teachings out of these walls to tell the larger Canadian community who we are, something we the older generation have not done very well even though we have been here now for over a 100 years...*

Gobinder Singh Randhawa

*....the children were like the Sikhs who lived hundreds of years ago, they gave everything in reaching Parliament Hill and having done all that they asked for nothing for themselves....*

Narinder Kaur Jaswal



*....what a wonderful way to celebrate the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Khalsa ....you stand at the steps where Terry Fox stood many years ago...*

Peter Adams, MP

*....it's a wonderful thing that you are doing, children helping children....*

Mayor Sylvia Sutherland, Peterborough



When asked by a reporter in Belleville why she was taking part in the run Sonia Kaur Pirhar (9 years) replied

*.....because God wants us to.....*

*....the children seemed as motivated and with a sense of purpose, it was very moving to see all the motion and energy from such a young group.....*

Kevin O'Keef, Producer Vision TV

*....the day the children spent with us in Peterborough was like being in heaven, when they left we cried and then got in our cars and followed them to Ottawa....*

Mohinder Singh, Peterborough

*....with the will of WaheGuru our dreams can become a reality when we carry our Guru's spirit in our hearts ....*

Karindeep Kaur Jaswal, Event Coordinator

## SEVEN DAY RUNNERS

Birinder Singh Atwal, Gagandeep Kaur Babra(14), Harjot Singh Bains(17), Navneet Kaur Bal(14), Navneet Kaur Judge(14), Amritvir Kaur Bhangoo(11), Nimratvir Kaur Bhangoo(9), Sunita Bhowmik, Taranpreet Kaur Chadha(14), Amanjit Singh Dhillon(7), Jasjit Singh Dhillon(8), Anuroop Singh Duggal(15), Sneh Kaur Duggal(12), Inderpal Singh Dulkhu(13), Gurjit Kaur Flora(13), Amarpreet Kaur Jaswal, Maninder Kaur Jaswal(17), Manpreet Kaur Jaswal(18), Navneet Kaur Jaswal(15), Ramjit Kaur Jaswal, Avneet Kaur Jaswal(14), Rupinder Kaur Jaswal(10), Sarpreet Kaur Khera(11), Kimpreet Kaur Mann(13), Dalveer Singh Minhas(18), Harpreet Singh Minhas(11), Sanjeev Singh Minhas(9), Aman Kaur Minhas(13), Sidd Singh Nijhawan, Saranpal Singh Panesar(15), Kunal Singh Parmar(17), Itasha Kaur Parmar(14), Karan Singh Parmar(10), Kunal Singh Parmar(10), Rajesh Singh Parmar(7), Ramesh Kaur Parmar(13), Amrit Singh Perhar(11), Gurnick Singh Perhar(13), Sam Singh Perhar(16), Aman Pirani(8), Sandeep Singh Prihar(11), Sonia Kaur Prihar(9), Chashmeen Kaur Rekhi(14), Jagdeep Singh Saggi(8), Ranbir Singh Sidhu(17), Ranvir Kaur Singh(10), Sanvir Singh(9), Japteg Singh(9), Chiranjeev Singh(10), Jaipal Singh(6), Inderpal Kaur Wig(19).

(age of runners under 21 years old)

### Seven Day Helpers

Renu Kaur Duggal, Ajit Kaur Grewal, Ganga Singh Jaswal, Karindeep Kaur Jaswal, Surjit Singh Mann, Parmjit Kaur Parmar, Ranbir Singh Perhar, Tarlochan Singh Perhar, Manjit Kaur Pirani, Lakhbir Kaur Saggi, Ajmer Singh Sidhu, Sudarshan Kaur Sidhu, Manjinder Kaur Singh, Kamalpreet Kaur Dhillon, Paramjit Singh Dhillon.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE DONATIONS

Many individuals have been asking what has happened to the money collected. Of the money collected \$109,270.31 will be given to Foster Parents Plan. Negotiations are being carried out with Foster Parents Plan to set up a trust under the name of the Foundation. Foster Parents Plan will invest the money with other trust money they have already invested. The interest earned from the investment will be used to sponsor children through Foster Parents Plan. This process meets the Foundations long term objectives to continue to support the children until they leave the sponsorship program. As some children leave the program the Foundation will sponsor other children in need. The Foundation can also add more money to this trust at a future date in other fund raising events.

The Foundation is also looking for Sikh children in India that need support on a basis that is similar to that undertaken by Foster Parents Plan. This search is to fill a need expressed by some contributors who wish to support Sikh children on a monthly basis. The Foundation however will not choose to help only Sikh children as this belief is counter to the teaching of our Gurus. They taught us that there is only One God and that we are all his children and in front of God all are equal. All the money raised will only be used to help children as set out in the vision of the Foundation.

## MILLENNIUM WISH



On January 1, 2000 in the first few minutes of the new millennium the children and youth of the Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation made a request to WaheGuru during the Ardas based on what one individual had wished for earlier. The wish was for the opportunity to continue to do more sewa in 2000 than the sewa that our Guru blessed us with during 1999.

## 1999 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The following financial statement represents a summary of the 1999 Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation Bank Account.

Opening Account Balance January 1, 1999		\$0.00
Income		
Deposits	\$144,701.90	
Interest	\$313.42	
	Total	\$145,015.32
Expenses		
Bank Fees	\$3.50	
Ottawa Run	\$17,822.98	
Foster Parents Plan	\$1,305.00	
Miscellaneous	\$115.50	
	Total	\$19,246.98
Closing Account Balance on December 31, 1999		\$125,768.34

The above account is operated through Gursikh Sabha Canada. If you have any questions about the accounts we will be pleased to answer them. The above expenses are not the total expenses for the run as the Youth Account was also used prior to setting up the Foundation account. The total expenses for the run also included donations of food and materials by many individuals that have not been acknowledged in the financial statement above. Details of the expenses are given below.

## EXPENSES - 500 KM RELAY RUN-A-THON

The following is a summary of all the expenses for the 1999 run.

Donations		
Food	\$657.00	
Motel Belleville	\$1,170.40	
T-shirts	\$2,516.55	
Gas donated	\$236.62	
Tip for coach & buses	\$150.00	
	Sub-total	\$4,730.57
Expenses from Foundation Account		
School Bus first day	\$285.01	
School Buses last day	\$2,815.17	
Coach	\$4,494.00	
Insurance	\$1,620.00	
Signs for run-van	\$738.20	
Permits	\$107.00	
Rental van & gas	\$1,399.51	
Motels	\$5,849.44	
Photocopies	\$239.78	
Postal costs	\$261.45	
Stationary	\$13.42	
	Sub-total	\$17,822.98
Unpaid expenses		
Sprint 1-800 number	\$45.13	
Newsletter first issue	\$520.00	
	Sub-total	\$565.13
Expenses from Youth Account		
Foundation letterheads	\$74.75	
Photocopies	\$374.70	
Rubber Stamps	\$52.90	
Postal costs	\$147.66	
Food during run	\$238.00	
Colour flyers	\$954.00	
Rental van & gas	\$1,778.99	
	Sub-total	\$3,621.50
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$26,740.18

Neither of the two dinners held at Payal Banquet Halls were managed through the Foundation Account. The expenses for the kick off dinner were managed through the Youth Account with a net contribution to the Foundation. The post event dinner was not managed through either account. The budget for expenses approved by the Youth Group were \$30,000. However excluding donations the net expense was \$22,009.61. As the \$30,000 had been raised from sponsors the surplus money was contributed back to the run and helped to exceed the \$100,000 target.

## SPONSORS

Brampton Kitchen Cabinets, Best Electric Company, Co-up Auto Body Repairs, HomeLife Metro (Jagdeep S. Sidhu), Jaguar Insurance Broker, LaSalle Dodge Chrysler, Malkit S. Brarch Dentist, Metro Punjabi Sports Club, Payal Banquet Halls, Premium Management Inc., Satwant Singh Khosla Barrister & Solicitor, Scarborough City Cab, Scarborough Textiles & Fabric, Taj Supermarket, Dollar Rent-a-Car and Scotiabank Group.

In memory of Mata Kishan Kaur Sidhu from all her family, Sukdev Singh Toor & family, Bibian Sukhmani Sahib Scarborough Gurdwara, Charan Singh Sahota & family, Darshan Singh Samra & family, Gajenderpal Singh Kalra & family, Gobinder Singh Randhawa & family, Gurmit Singh Rayat & family, Harcharan Singh & family, Malkit Singh & family, Mohinder Singh Padda & family, Surjit Singh Mann & family, Jasjit & Amanjit Singh Dhillon & family, In memory of Bibi Hardeep Kaur Jaswal from her family.



Scarborough Sukhmani Sahib Bibian sponsor the Guru's Foundation and children with \$4000 donation

## COMMENTS FROM THE RUNNERS

.....the last day was best.....I felt so happy and proud at what we had accomplished....the run ended perfectly when Sarpreet handed the Nishan Sahib to Davina who took it to the finish.....I also noticed the sun came out when Bineesh, Taranpreet and Harjot sang the shabad on Parliament Hill.....  
Sneh Kaur Duggal (12 years)

.....people may have doubted if we would make it but I did not because we have special people (seven day volunteers) with us..... we demolished the \$100,000 target that was cool.....the best thing was that we had fun and also helped other children who really needed it.....the Guru's Foundation will have my support in the years to come.....  
Itasha Kaur Parmar (14 years)

.....I would like to thank our Gurus for letting be a part of this achievement for the Sikh community.....  
Harjot Singh Bains (17 years)

## MEDIA CONTRIBUTION

The media was a very powerful tool that contributed to the success of the Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation. The children would like to send out a heartfelt thank you to all the media (Sur Sagar, Sant Sipahi, Punjab di Goonj, Geet Mala, Desi Awaaz, Nagara, Sanjh Savera, Ankhila Punjab, Eye on Asia, ATN, Global TV, City TV, Toronto Star, Scarborough Mirror, The Examiner, Economist & Sun, Hamdard and Voice) for supporting them, their cause and allowing them to reach the larger community.

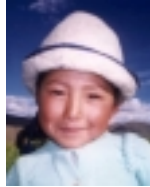
In particular we would like to mention Vision TV who made a seven minute documentary that illustrated the dedication and commitment made by the children and youth. It was broadcast across Canada and resulted in calls to the Foundation from as far away as Yukon. Kevin O'Keefe, the Producer for SkyLight, Vision TV explained how moving the whole story was and the initial viewing in his office drew awe from some staff, in particular the young age of some of the participants and the sense of mission they showed. Our hope is that the documentary will inspire other children.



## TEN MORE CHILDREN



Viswanatha



Ruth Duenas



Racheal-Waruguru



Liu Xuejiao



Bhagyamma



Zhang Bo



Laxmi Kumari Sah



Joko Adi Prasetyo



Edmond Ramos



Peter-Mararo

While the trust is being set up with Foster Parents Plan, the Foundation undertook to support 10 more children. This brings the total number of children supported to 16. With your generous support and donations these 16 children will never go hungry again and some of them will have the opportunity to go to school and pick up some life skills with which to make a better life for themselves tomorrow. Details of the ten new children are given below:

**Viswanatha** lives in India with his parents, sister and grandmother. He is 5 years old and his favourite subject in school is Telugu Alphabet and he enjoys playing with his friends in his free time.

**Ruth** lives in Peru with her parents and grandmother. Ruth just turned 7, and is in grade 2. She enjoys math and drawing at school, and is a good horse-back rider. She likes to play with her friends, and is a very shy girl.

**Rachel** is 4 years old and lives in Kenya with her parents. She goes to nursery school but cannot read or write yet, but she likes playing games and she helps out her parents in doing chores.

**Liu Xuejiao** is an active 8 year old girl who lives in China with her parents. She is currently in the first grade and her favourite subject is mathematics. In her spare time, she likes elastic band skipping, and she also helps around the house by sweeping the floor.

**Bhagyamma** is 9 years old and lives in India with her parents, three sisters and one brother. She is studying in the second grade and likes playing with her friends.

**Zhang Bo** is an active 8 year old from China. He is studying in the second grade, and he loves mathematics. He likes running and rope skipping and also helps out his parents by doing chores at home.

**Laxmi** is a 6 year old girl from Nepal. She is in the first grade in primary school and enjoys playing with pieces of tiles with her friends and also does small household chores.

**Joko** is 3 years old and lives in Indonesia with his parents and grandparents. He is too young to go to school now, but he enjoys playing with his toy guns and toy cars.

**Edmond** is from the Philippines and is a healthy 4 year old boy living with his parents. He is too young to go to school, but is a playful child.

**Mararo** lives in Kenya with his parents. He is a healthy 2 year old boy, but does not go to school.

With your help and God's will maybe our Guru's Foundation can help many many more children.

## RECOGNITION

The work of the Foundation was recognized by the following:

- Humanitarian Award from Kesri Ribbon
- Markham Liberal Party presented by Paul Martin

We would like to thank these organizations for recognizing and supporting the efforts of the children and youth.

On October 29, 1999 there was a Special Dinner gathering of all the runners, volunteers, sponsors and supporters. This was to recognize the many individuals who had made the run to Ottawa possible and thereby helped in the establishment of the Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation.



Although the evening started a little late it was made memorable by classical punjabi songs by Asha Chabra, the magical tabla tunes and lights by Gurpreet Singh, the Gidha by the Foundation's girls and the Bhangra by the CanSikh Junior Bhangra team. We are thankful to all of performers gladly donated their talent and made this special evening for all the participants of the run.



## EDITOR - Inderpal Kaur Wig

Readers there are not enough words to describe the feelings and emotions that we, the children and youth, experienced throughout the course of the project. Being one of the runners, it was an incredible feeling to simply be part of such a memorable event to celebrate a milestone in our history. Seeing the enthusiasm, love, and pride in the eyes of every youth, volunteer, and parent would have made anyone realize the impact of this event on the future of our religion and society as a whole. Carrying the Nishan Sahib through the streets of various cities made us proud of our history and religion, and proud of who we are. We did face challenges, but the encouragement and support we received could have kept us running forever. This was only our first step in achieving goals that our Gurus would be proud of, but we need your lasting support to help us succeed further in providing a better life for our brothers and sisters in other parts of the world. The challenges we face perhaps don't compare at all with the ones that the young children who we are helping have to live with in their everyday lives. We have been blessed with comfortable lifestyles, and it is our duty as Sikhs and as human beings to share our good fortune and happiness with those who are less fortunate. This is what our Gurus did for us and what we need to do for others.

This is the second publication of the Foundation's newsletter, which was started to commemorate the efforts of children and youth on the 300th anniversary of the Khalsa. We are late with this issue but we wished to provide a financial statement for all those who have donated so much. We thank everyone who gave so generously and we hope you will continue to support us in the future. If you have any ideas, suggestions or wish to contribute to the newsletter, please write to us at:

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