

Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation

Issue 4

April 2001

ਖਾਲਸਾ ਦੇ 302 ਵੇ ਸਾਜਣਾ ਦਿਵਸ ਦੇ ਮੌਕੇ ਤੇ ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਚਿਲਡਰਨਜ਼ ਫਾਊਂਡੇਸ਼ਨ ਵਲੋਂ ਆਪ ਸਭ ਨੂੰ ਬਹੁਤ ਬਹੁਤ ਵਧਾਈ ਹੋਵੇ। ਇਸ ਮੌਕੇ ਤੇ ਫਾਊਂਡੇਸ਼ਨ ਨੂੰ ਹੋਂਦ ਵਿਚ ਆਇਆਂ ਵੀ ਦੋ ਸਾਲ ਹੋ ਚੁਕੇ ਹਨ ਅਤੇ ਇਸ ਸਮੇਂ ਵਿਚ ਫਾਊਂਡੇਸ਼ਨ ਦੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਵਧਾ ਹੋਇਆ ਹੈ। ਅਜ ਅਸੀਂ ਸਾਰੇ ਮਿਲਕੇ 40 ਗਰੀਬ ਬੱਚਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਸਪਾਂਸਰ ਕਰ ਰਹੇ ਹਾਂ।

FEEDING THE HOMELESS OR THOSE IN POVERTY IN TORONTO – Harjot Singh Bains

A new initiative was started by the GGSCF in November 2000. The GGSCF had approached the Fred Victor Center to help give free meals to those in poverty or the homeless in Toronto. The Fred Victor Center was established more than a 100 years ago. Its mission is to help those in poverty and address their needs and hopes, and to build a more just society. It is funded by donations and charities such as the United Way.



On November 12, 2000, on the occasion of Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Gurburab, the following individuals took food to the center: Harjot, Amanjit, Pritpal, Jastej, Nimratvir, Sarpreet, Maninder, Amardeep, Taranpreet, Amritvir, Binesh, Jagdish, Ajmer, Hardev, Tarlochan, Ranbir and Paramjit. The vegetarian meal was prepared at Scarborough Gurdwara by children and some parents. The event was very successful and the food was really enjoyed by everyone, so much so that the volunteers had to return to the Gurdwara and local stores to bring more food. Here are comments from some of the participants:

"... my father was a little worried where we were going as the people in shelters can be rough..., but the place was really nice, it was like a café..., we really enjoyed the experience and it also made us realize how lucky we are".

Gagandeep Kaur Babra (15 year old)

"...the poor people were nice to us, they all clapped when we finished and asked us to come back with the nice food we have brought them..."

Amanjit Singh Dhillon (8 year old)

".....when we went to the shelter the homeless people were banging on the door to let them in and were upset because they were hungry, however when we let them in and I explained the food was free one of the persons who was upset earlier said that I was an angel, it was really touching...."

Manninder Kaur Jaswal (18 year old)

In January 14, 2001, as a way to celebrate Guru Gobind Singh Ji's Gurburab, a second trip was made by the following individuals: Kimpreet, Manroop, Manpreet, Gagandeep, Hardev and Tarlochan. This time the GGSCF was more prepared with plenty of food. Anyone wanting to help in the future should contact Gagandeep Kaur Babra.

FOOD DRIVE – Itasha Kaur Parmar



On November 11, for Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Gurburab the GGSCF held a Food Drive for the Toronto Daily Bread Food Bank. The food drive without a doubt was very successful. The Daily Bread Food Bank and the GGSCF would like to thank all the Sangat for their outstanding support to this effort. The GGSCF would like to hold regular food drives that are managed by children. It is planned to hold one during the month of April for the Baisakhi celebrations and again in November for Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Gurburab.

AUTUMN HIKE

On Sunday October 22, 2000 about 60 participants who help out with the GGSCF went on an autumn hike along the Niagara escarpment.



The hike started at Rattlesnake Point Conservation Area and wound its way over 5 km to the Crawford Lake Conservation Area. Although the distance was not significant, some thought it was too long as it took about 2 hours to complete. This is because the walk was in the rough and up and down hills, ravines, creeks and woodlots. Since it was fall the leaves were in every colour from green to red maple leaves (like on the Canadian flag) and every colour in between. The lookout points were great to see the fall colours and some of the wildlife, although our group was too big and noisy and must have frightened off many animals. The participants also got to see an Iroquoian village that showed how people in the mid-1400's lived long before Europeans settled in Canada.

Although some felt the route was too long "...kept going forever..." most agreed it was nice to spend time outdoors and see the fall colours and enjoy being with friends out of the city. Many welcomed more scenic hikes so if you know of any let us know.

CAR RALLEY - Ranbir Singh Perhar

For the first time the GGSCF entered a team in the Guru Nanak Car Rally. All proceeds were collected for the Brampton Memorial Hospital. About 50 teams entered as they traveled a 90-km course taking some 3 hours or so. The GGSCF team said it was hard work trying to follow the maps, looking out for clues along the route and not being confused by all the other teams many of whom were. The GGSCF team did finish, however the position was unknown as it takes a computer to work out the results. There are penalties for being too fast or too slow so you have to keep to the legal speed limit if you want to win.

The teams that did the best were mixed teams of children and adults. This is because the children focus on the clues while the adults are usually busy driving, talking or looking at all the other lost teams. It was great fun and hopefully more teams will enter in the future.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT - Sunita Bhowmik

The following financial statement represents a summary of the 2000 Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation Bank Account.

Opening Account Balance January 1, 2000	\$125,768.34
Income	
Deposits	\$ 35622.86
Interest	\$ 539.63
Total	\$ 36,162.49
Expenses	
Foster Parents Plan	\$ 2,610.00
Foster Parents Plan - Trust	\$ 109,270.31
1000 Km Run	\$ 1,453.00
Vocational Rehabilitation	\$ 3,450.00
Joti Saroop Kanya Aasra Trust	\$ 1,800.00
Investment for long term support	\$ 35,000.00
Total	\$153,875.81
Closing Account Balance on December 31, 2000	\$ 8,347.52

The above account is operated through Gursikh Sabha Canada. Some individuals have been questioning the accounts but have not been directing questions to the members of the Board. Please ask these questions and have the GGSCF answer them.

Other contributions made by the Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation that were not managed through the account but were supported by individual sponsored donation or institutional support are outlined below:

CN Tower climb buses rental	\$ 635.58	Scarborough Gurdwara
Old Mill School Family Center (Peterboro)	\$ 250.00	Sponsor
Seniors Trip to the ROM bus rental	\$ 146.59	Sikh Foundation
Brampton Memorial Hospital Foundation	\$ 320.00	Sponsors
Shriner Foundation (Peterborough)	\$ 250.00	Sponsor

Message to those who contribute to the GGSCF: Because most of the money the GGSCF collects are through children and youth there is chances of misunderstanding and mistakes. As an example last summer during the 1000km run some individuals donated cash that was recorded on pledge sheets. Much later on we had requests for receipts even though most receipts were mailed in the fall of last year. We were able to look through our records and confirm the donations and subsequently issue receipts. However the problem arose because when individuals donated they did not complete the pledge sheet with an address, postal code and telephone number. The GGSCF asks all those who do contribute to fill in this information or make a donation by cheque where this information is printed on the cheque. With this help we can make things run smoother. Thank you.

WEBSITE

After almost a couple of years we have activity on the GGSCF web site. Amardeep Singh Wig has been quietly working away on the new site adding more and more information. Those who know Amardeep know that he does not like to speak in public and shies away from any attention. However, he has been putting his "web" talent to good use and thereby helping the GGSCF. Check out the site at:

www.ggscf.com

Any suggestions, ideas and comments can be forwarded by email to: ggscf@mail.com

SPONSORED CHILDREN - Manpreet Kaur Jaswal

Foster Parents Plan

With the endowment agreement with FPP the GGSCF was in a position to sponsor 4 more children. The following children are now also being sponsored by the Foundation:



Tambulani Chisi from Malawi.



Ervisa Nurja from Albania

Aroldo Mateo Lorenzo from El Progreso in Guatemala
Paulina Vargas from Altiplano La Paz in Bolivia.

Vocational Rehabilitation Training Center

During February Brinder Singh Athwal from the GGSCF and his wife visited the VRTC in Ludhiana, Punjab. He met with Dr. Johnson and his wife to see the important work being done with blind children. The GGSCF sponsors eight children with the VRTC.



Joti Saroop Kanya Aasra Trust

Brinder Singh Athwal also visited the JSKAT in Kharar, Punjab. He was able to meet Dr. Harminder Singh and his wife and also saw six of the twelve girls the GGSCF is supporting.

Manjit Singh Randhawa one of the volunteers from Montreal who helped in the 1999 run to Ottawa also visited the JSKAT in March and brought back the photographs below of the children the GGSCF is helping. Manjit said, ".....if we can make a difference in the lives of these children what better sewa could there be.....". He also mentioned



the children are living in a three-room house where the children sleep in bunk beds and attend the local school. Dr. Harminder Singh who is in charge of the Trust advised that a local woman had been retained by the JSKAT to live with and manage the house and day to day needs of the children.

EARTHQUAKE IN INDIA - Bineesh Kaur Chadha

On January 26, 2001 an earthquake measuring 7.9 on the Richter scale devastated parts of Gurjat in India. The amount of damage in terms of human life and also in property damage was astounding as reports on the media showed. On January 27th some of the children and youth in the GGSCF wanted to help. A collection was started on January 28th at the open house held in the langar hall in Scarborough Gurdwara. After permission from the Gurdwara, Bineesh Kaur Chadha who was looking after the open house display placed a donation box for all those who wanted to help. In total by the end of the day \$3200 was collected for the Red Cross relief effort in India.

The Scarborough Gurdwara Committee continued the effort setting a target of \$10,000. However by February, 2001 just over \$16,000 had been collected and the Gurdwara presented a cheque to the Red Cross representative in the diwan hall for \$17,000.

Some of the media have been critical over the Red Cross that they take funds out for administration. Although this is true the amount quoted is inaccurate the maximum taken out is 15% but in many cases it is less. Marion Gamester the volunteer representative from the Red

Cross explained this was needed to cover cost and to put the money to disaster relief fund for other emergency relief situations in the future. She explained that immediately after the disaster the Red Cross had teams in the field even before the government institutions responded. The Canadian Red Cross through donations and collections had raised over \$2.4 million by February 25th. The GGSCF would like to acknowledge the outstanding work being done by the Red Cross and for helping the GGSCF to be a part of their relief effort.

EVENTS PLANNED FOR 2001

The Board of the GGSCF had a meeting on January 6, 2001 and planned the following events for the upcoming year. Inderpal Kaur Wig mentioned at the monthly meeting, *"this was the minimum the GGSCF wanted to do and hopefully we do other things throughout the year depending upon what the children and youth volunteers were prepared to take responsibility for"*.

January

Make and take food for the homeless at the Fred Victor Center

February

Meeting with Montreal Youth to organize main event for 2001

Letter writing to sponsored children

March

Winter Sports Day - Skating

Make and take food for the homeless at the Fred Victor Center

April

Issue Newsletter

CN Tower Climb for the World Wildlife Fund (our 6th year of participation)

Design and make float for Nagar Kirtan

Food Drive for Food Bank at Gurdwara and Nagar Kirtan

May

Victoria Day – Fireworks Trip

June

Preparation for Run in Montreal – Collect pledges, go on TV/Radio, practice runs etc.

July

Run in Montreal - July 1st tentative date (Main Fund Raising Event for GGSCF this year)

August

Help with summer children/youth camp

Taking Seniors on day trip to Thousand Islands

September

10 Km Charity Wheelchair Relay Race for the Canadian Paraplegic Association

Letter writing to sponsored children

October

Guru Nanak Car Rally for local hospital

Autumn Hike – Trip

November

Guru Nanak Dev Ji Gurdwara – Food Drive

Make and take food for the homeless at the Fred Victor Centre

December

Annual Dinner or other event

Toy Drive/ Clothing Drive

Make and take food for the homeless at the Fred Victor Centre

WINTER SKATING

On Saturday February 24th, 2001 in the middle of the cold winter, 61 were brave enough to go on a trip to Nathan Philips Square to skate. The trip was arranged in the evening from 4 to 7 pm so that we could see the lights downtown. For those who skated it seemed they were having a great time. For the non-skaters mostly the older age group (parents) it was cold. After about an hour this group ran for some warmth at the Eaton Center. Clearly more of us need to learn how to skate so at least we can keep warm.



On the way back the weather got even worse and it was good to get back on the bus heading to the Gurdwara. Itasha kept everyone warm by getting everyone to join in some songs. If we had known all the talent we had on the bus we could have planned a talent show. Maybe next time. A big thank you was offered to Sidd Singh Nijhawan who initiated the idea and make the flyers for the event and Bineesh who made sure the right number got back home.

SPEECH ON CHILD POVERTY

The Peterborough Community and Race Relations Committee invited the GGSCF to make a speech on Human Rights day. There were several dignitaries local MP Peter Adams and Mayor J. Sutherland. Inderpal Kaur Wig spoke on behalf of the GGSCF on child poverty in Canada and in the world.

The GGSCF with the help of Scarborough Gurdwara also took food for the event. The GGSCF also presented a cheque to the Shriners whose band had welcomed the runners to Peterborough on the way to Ottawa in 1999.



Inderpal with Gurnick, Amrit, Jasjit and Amanjit at the GGSCF Human Rights display on child poverty in Peterborough, December 9, 2000.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

On February 24, 2001 at the B'hai Center in Toronto, the Scarborough Mission held a multifaitth event with representatives from all religions explaining their belief system. About 300 people attended the event and during the morning youth from different religious backgrounds explained how they were involved in "community service". Manpreet Kaur Jaswal spoke about the Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation and how it was having children help other children. She also explained about what it means to be a Sikh youth and the perspective of "sewa" in Sikhism.

BOARD –Paramjit Singh Dhillon

As reported in the last newsletter the Board of the GGSCF was changed on July 1, 2000. Since that time the Board has been working on the following issues to further strengthen the GGSCF:

- A constitution has been prepared for the GGSCF that was endorsed by all the members of the Board on September 28, 2000. The constitution sets out the objectives, the visions, the mission, the core values and the structure of the GGSCF.
- An application was made to Revenue Canada for charitable status for the GGSCF in October 2000.

- The Board is now operating in accordance with the new constitution. A precedence was set to rotate individuals out of the Board each year on a voluntary basis so that there is continuity in leadership and management of the GGSCF. To set the precedence Ranbir Singh Perhar stepped down even though he was only a member of the Board for six months. Ranbir said, "...we need to break the tradition that people don't leave and give others an opportunity. It should be a privilege to serve in such a position and not a right..."
- The new constitution placed the responsibility of picking Board members on the Central Council who have the authority to replace and stop any activities of the Board members. In accordance with the constitution the Central Council would qualify for three members, however since this group has not been officially established the Board took on the responsibility to choose a replacement. The new person added to the Board is Bineesh Kaur Chadha (19 years old) and a long time volunteer with the GGSCF and the former youth group. She was also responsible last year for organizing the 1000-km relay run-a-thon with Harjot Singh Bains. Putting Bineesh on the Board also complies with the constitution that requires that at least a majority of the Board shall be less than 25 years of age. At present 4 out of the 5 members of the Board are less than 25 years of age.
- Although the Board has only five members those on the Board would like to expand those children and youth that can be involved in the decision making body of the GGSCF. To permit this additional children and youth were approved to be on the Board the requirement was that they take a position of responsibility for organization of events. The following individuals who already hold positions of responsibility were added to the Board. These individually are however not legally responsible for the Board.

Gagandeep Kaur Babra	Food for Homeless
Sunita Bhowmik	Treasurer
Taranpreet Kaur Chadha	CN Tower Stair Climb
Amarpreet Kaur Jaswal	Senior's Trip
Avneet Kaur Jaswal	Gurdwara Representative
Sidd Singh Nijhawan	Sports Events
Itasha Kaur Parmar	Food Drives
Maninderpal Singh	Wheelchair Race
Anjan Kaur Sohi	Montreal Representative
Amardeep Singh Wig	Web site

The GGSCF has a very open policy about the organization and explaining to all those who contribute/donate how we are organized. If you have any questions please contact us.

EDITOR - Inderpal Kaur Wig

This issue comes out during the month of Baisakhi and on behalf of the GGSCF we would like to wish everyone greetings on this special occasion. It also marks two years since the Foundation began to mark the 300th Anniversary of the Khalsa. During this time the GGSCF has grown and we have had the opportunity to be involved in many more events. This year we have planned out the schedule to have some activity every month, as most children and youth volunteers are busy with school.

Suggestion and ideas are always welcome and these can now be sent by email. Donations are also always welcome as it goes to help children and many of them are just like us or if you would like to contribute or sponsor a child please contact us.

Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation

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