

Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation

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MONTREAL RUN ON CANADA DAY



On July 1st the children of the GGSCF celebrated Canada Day in a unique way. Over 100 children and youth traveled to Montreal on the night of June 30th to take part in a relay run, the first of this type involving Sikh youth from Quebec and Ontario. The run was about 50km and started from DDO Gurdwara at 9:am. The route wound it away through the city streets and along the St. Lawrence River. Lunch was held at the old Gurdwara in Lachine. From there along LaSalle Boulevard the runners went to Quebec Gurdwara at Wellington Road. From there along the old Lachine canal the runner finished at the new LaSalle Gurdwara. Quite a number of supporters were at the finish and although it rained it did not dampen anyone's spirits. At LaSalle Gurdwara, Minister Paul Martin greeted the participants and congratulated them on the unique way they had celebrated Canada Day. A statement from the GGSCF that addressed issues relating to injustices against children in the world, in particular girls and women who were discriminated against. The issues related to the treatment of women in Afghanistan and the increasing grave statistics in Punjab of the termination of life of girls in the wombs of mothers. Although there was silence from the sangat in the Gurdwara and silence from the community on this issue, the content of the statement was acknowledged by Minister Paul Martin. He mentioned that in his career he heard any speeches but never one so moving and with so much emotion and especially from someone so young, referring to Navneet Kaur Jaswal who delivered the statement. The GGSCF was thankful for the kind words but was hoping that the community will deal with these issues, otherwise the statement is just words. The situation in Afghanistan is hopefully turning better although after a lot of bloodshed, maybe in time the situation in Punjab will also change if people could reflect on what they are doing and value and love girls the same ways as boys.

MONTREAL RUN TOTAL DONATIONS

\$ 15,538.20

SCOTIABANK

COVERED THE COST OF THE RUN THANK YOU

The GGSCF would like to thank the youth in Montreal who helped to make the run possible. A special mention to Anjan Kaur Sohi, Gursimran Kaur Hundel, Harminder Kaur Randhawa, Anit Singh Saini and Kulwant Singh Sandhu who worked on much of the preparation for the run months ahead of the event and enlisted the help of all the Gurdwaras in Montreal.

1000 KM RELAY RUN 2nd YEAR

On August 18th, children and youth from the Gurmat Training Institute with the GGSCF held the 2nd 1000km relay run. Over 200 children and youth some as young as 5 years old took part in the teams that ran in a relay around the Guru Gobind Singh stadium. The event started at 9am and it took about 6 hours to complete. Like last year the adults also helped out during the lunchtime break. On the last lap all the participants ran together and you could see the dust cloud that they left behind. The event was much enjoyed by all those present. Due to the number of participants there were also seminars held by Harmeeet Singh in a tent inside the stadium where the participants could ask questions and learn more about the Gurmat Training Institute.



The money raised by the event will be used to sponsor children in India through the Gur Aasra Trust. The event was primarily organized by Diljot and Jaspreet Kaur Bal, Taranpreet Kaur Billing, Jagdeep Singh Mann, Tajinder Kaur Sanghera, Rajvinder Singh and Harjot Singh Bains after attending the Montreal Run. The youth wanted the younger children, who did not get a chance to go to Montreal, to also take part and help out the GGSCF under the slogan of "...children helping children..."

1000KM RUN TOTAL DONATIONS

\$ 15,284.11



OVER 500 HOMELESS FED ON BAISAKHI



In April Sikhs celebrated the 302nd anniversary of the formation of the Khalsa. It was a difficult time for those in Toronto with the issue of two Nagar Kirtans arising, planned for the same day. Even in this time of difficulty, some children and youth from the GGSCF went to homeless shelters in Toronto to let the larger Canadian community know of our celebrations. On April 14th, the GGSCF took food to the Fred Victor Centre, the Good Shepherd Centre and a Women's Hostel where over 500 homeless people were fed with a hot meal. The volunteers were grateful to help out, as were the recipients who received the food.

FOOD DRIVE AT NAGAR KIRTAN



Children and youth under the direction of Itasha Kaur Parmar helped to collect food for the Toronto Daily Bread Food Bank at the Better Living Center on April 22nd before the annual Nagar Kirtan in downtown Toronto. The effort was much appreciated by all, as Baisakhi is not just a time of celebrating but also giving.

CLEAN CARS

Cars must be getting cleaner with all the car washes that the GGSCF has had this year. It started off in August when children and youth from Brampton and Mississauga had a car wash as a fundraiser for the 1000km relay run at the Guru Gobind Singh Stadium at Dixie Gurdwara. In September the children and youth in Montreal held a car wash to help raise money for the Red Cross appeal to help those affected by the September 11th events. In September the Brampton and Mississauga children and youth had another car wash in aid of Sumeet Singh who is suffering from Leukemia. To make sure the cars in the east end of Toronto were not left dirty, the children and youth at Scarborough Gurdwara held a car wash in November. Yes, in the middle of November with temperatures just above freezing. The car wash was also for Sumeet Singh a resident of Punjab who has Leukemia and needs a bone marrow transplant at Princess Margaret Hospital.



To all those who get their cars washed and many others who just donate, the GGSCF would like to thank you. Some of you will understand that these small events are not about the money raised, although that too is important, the real win is the confidence the children and youth have that they too can do something to change the world and make it a little better place.

OTHER EVENTS

On August 11, 2001 three youth represented the Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation at the World Sikh Organization youth conference and dinner. One of the main purposes of this conference was to bring forth problems facing Sikh youth, and to introduce methods of solving them.

On August 6, 2001, members of the Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation seized the opportunity to go to the annual Kabbadi cup. The Foundation's goal was to raise money through donations from the fans attending the event. The event was a huge success and the Foundation raised over \$6 000. This money was put forward towards the fund raising for the 1000km relay run-a-thon.

For the 2nd year the GGSCF entered in the Guru Nanak Car Rally on October 14th. The participants who represented the GGSCF were Kunal Singh Parmar, the driver and Harpreet Singh Khara, the navigator. It was a terrible day in terms of weather but the two completed the course successfully.

SENIORS GO TO THE NIAGARA FALLS

Many may think that the GGSCF is only for children because of past events, but Amarpreet Kaur Jaswal a university student changed that by herself because she has empathy towards the elderly. It also showed the Foundation is driven by youth in particular those who are willing to come up with new ideas and then work hard to make them a reality. She organized a trip for seniors as a small way to thank all



those who had contributed and struggled to make life better for their families. Amarpreet said "we are very lucky for these hard working individuals upon whom the community is built". So on August 25th, two bus full of seniors 85 in total ranging in age from just under 60 to 91 years in age. It appears everyone had an enjoyable time seeing the falls, the flowers and enjoying a picnic of food prepared and served by the volunteers the youngest was only 9 years old.

CN TOWER STAIR CLIMB



On April 22, 2001 another climb for the World Wildlife Fund raising \$2942. Each year since 1995 there have been more and more participants. Awards are given to the fastest climbers. This year the fastest time was 14m 32s. A big thanks to Taranpreet Kaur Chadha who has organized this for several years.



VRTC VISIT DURING THE SUMMER

During the summer there were two visits to the Vocational Rehabilitation Training Center (VRTC) in Ludhiana, Punjab by youth from the GGSCF. Bineesh Kaur Chadha visited the center in July.



Then in August Manpreet, Manninder and Navneet Kaur Jaswal also visited the VRTC and spent the day with the children. The children who are either handicap or blind appreciated the visits as did Dr. Johnson who founded and manages the center. The GGSCF representatives said they were impressed at the skills the children at the center had learned. They were also impressed by the programs and professional way the institution was run.

THANKSGIVING PARADE



On Monday October 8th, over 60 children/youth and some parents took part in the 2nd parade for the Toronto Daily Bread Food Bank. The parade was from City TV at John/Queen to the Better Living Center at the CNE, where many volunteers sorted the donated food. Tajinder Kaur from Malton who organized the event for the Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation said "She was very pleased to see the turn out as it was the first time we have done this. Also because there were so many of us, we lead the parade, made lots of noise, blew whistles and had a great time. The children also got to carry the Food Bank banner and it was such a positive image for all our young helpers and our community".

At the Better Living Center Inderpal Kaur and Tajinder Kaur presented the Food Bank with a cheque for \$1039 from the Sikh community as the money was collected in Sikh Gurdwaras by the GGSCF. The Toronto Daily Food Bank acknowledged the strong support from the Sikh



Sikh community saying that Sikhs drop off lots of food through out the year but that they were really glad that so many youngsters had come out to the parade and welcomed everyone back for next year.

GURU NANAK BLOCK & PHARMACY at CREDIT VALLEY HOSPITAL

On Saturday 27th October nearly 200 toddlers, children, youth, parents and grandparents all took part in an 8-km walk-a-thon organized by the GGSCF. Participants from across Toronto, Brampton and Mississauga took part. Buses came from Dixie and Scarborough Gurdwaras to the City Hall in Mississauga. The objective of the walk was to raise awareness of the "Guru Nanak Block and Pharmacy \$1.1 million Fund Raising Campaign" and to give an opportunity for children and youth to also be involved in this unique project. The walk was held as a challenge, not just the length of the route but as it turned out the weather at this time of the year. By the end of the walk a total of \$211,100 had been pledged for this campaign. The GGSCF would like to acknowledge the following who pledged \$15,000 each over the next five years and whose names will be acknowledged at the hospital:

Ajmer and Baldev Singh Sidhu in memory of their late mother Mata Kishan Kaur Sidhu : Gary Singh and family : Gursikh Sabha Canada, Scarborough Gurdwara : Surrinder Sahota and family : Kuldip Singh from Co-up Autobody Repair : Sekhon Brothers : Mohinder Singh from Eglinton Carpet : Sadhu Singh Sidhu in memory of his father Jaswant Singh Sidhu : Nirmal Singh in memory of his son Kuldeep Singh Bhandol : J.R. Sports : Payal Banquet Hall : North American Saini Cultural Association : World Wide Immigration : Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation



Minister Herb Dhailwal, M.P. Gurbax Malhi and Region of Peel Police Chief Noel Catney all came out to support the walkers at City Hall. At the finish all the walkers gathered in the hospital auditorium and Jagdeep Singh made a statement for the GGSCF. Then Jatinder Singh Dhillon a doctor at the hospital and the person who initiated the project presented to Bob Ferchat Vice President of the Credit Valley Hospital Foundation the pledges from this event.



Sukhdeep Singh Samra who represented the GGSCF said the biggest thanks should be to the organizing committee who let us be a part of this effort. In times to come the participants especially the kids will remember the walk and the steps they took to name the block and the pharmacy under the name of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

SOCCER CLUB

One of the best development at Scarborough Gurdwara this year is the new soccer club for the children and youth. Although this is not related to the GGSCF we wanted to mention the special effort made by Sidd Nijhawan and Birinder Atwal who have been involved with the GGSCF in many charity events.



Some have asked why the soccer club is not a part of the GGSCF. This seems an attractive proposition but the GGSCF objectives are not related to sports as its primary objective is to help children in poverty. The GGSCF however support the development of any clubs and events that allows more children and youth to develop themselves to their full potential in what ever field that interests them.

VIGIL FOR SEPTEMBER 11th



Hundreds of Sikhs turned up for a candle lit vigil to remember those who perished on September 11th terrorist attack in the United States and all those who have been effected by subsequent racial attacks. The GGSCF made a statement read by Navneet Kaur Jaswal at Nathan Philips Square, Toronto City Hall on September 24th with other leaders of the community.

On September 25th at 6:00am representatives of the GGSCF also handed out Canadian Maple Leaf fleece shirts to the two coach full of volunteers from Construction Volunteers Canada who went down to New York to held out at Ground Zero.

CHARITABLE STATUS FOR GGSCF

Last year an application was submitted by the GGSCF to seek charitable status for the Foundation. It took some time for Revenue Canada to review the application but they have indicated that the Foundation probably will not be able to qualify as a charity as it does not meet the requirements of the Income Tax Act. Of issue is the sponsorship of children overseas by charities not recognized by Canada. The Board of the GGSCF is seeking some clarification on this decision. Until this matter is resolved the GGSCF continues to function with Gursikh Sabha. The GGSCF representative is Avneet Kaur Jaswal who coordinator issues and events with the Gurdwara.

EDITOR - Inderpal Kaur Wig

This issue comes up as we approach Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Gurburab at the end of the month. All of us celebrate this occasion in some way some by prayers, some by sewa and some by eating sweets and giving gifts. However, I would suggest the best way to celebrate the day was if we could reflect on what Guru Ji taught us and try to maybe change in a small way so that we can be better Sikhs.

The time has really gone by fast since the last issue in April. The GGSCF has grown in the number of events we have been involved with and also there is encouragement from children and youth in Brampton, Mississauga and Montreal who want to get involved. My wish on the coming Gurburab is to ask for the blessing of Waheguru to help grow the GGSCF to one worthy of the name it carries and allow me to continue to serve in any way possible. Suggestions and comments always welcome.

Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation

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