

# Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation

Issue 6

April 2002

ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਚਿਲਡਰਨਜ਼ ਫਾਓਂਡੇਸ਼ਨ ਵਲੋਂ ਸਮੂਹ ਸਾਧ ਸੰਗਤਿ ਨੂੰ ਵਸਾਖੀ ਦੀ ਲੱਖ ਲੱਖ ਵਧਾਈ ਹੋਵੇ। ਹਰ ਸਾਲ ਦੀ ਤਰਾਂ ਇਕ ਵਾਰੀ ਫਿਰ ਅਸੀਂ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਸੇਵਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਇਹ ਨਿਉਜ਼ਲੈਟਰ ਲੈ ਕੇ ਹਾਜ਼ਿਰ ਹਾਂ। ਵਾਹਿਗੁਰੂ ਦੀ ਮਿਹਰ ਨਾਲ ਇਸ ਸਾਲ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਉਹ ਕਾਮਯਾਬੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਹੋਈ ਹੈ ਜਿਸ ਲਈ ਸੇਵਕਾਂ ਨੇ ਕੋਸ਼ਿਸ਼ ਕਰਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਦੋ ਸਾਲ ਲਾ ਦਿੱਤੇ। ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਦਸਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਖੁਸ਼ੀ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਰੈਵੇਨਿਊ ਕੈਨੇਡਾ ਨੇ ਜਨਵਰੀ 1, 2002 ਤੋਂ ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਚਿਲਡਰਨਜ਼ ਫਾਓਂਡੇਸ਼ਨ ਨੂੰ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਡ ਚੈਰਿਟੀ ਦਾ ਸਟੈਟਸ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਹੈ। ਵਾਹਿਗੁਰੂ ਦੀ ਇਸ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਸਦਕਾ ਅਸੀਂ ਆਪਣੇ ਗੁਰੂਆਂ ਦੇ ਦਸੇ ਹੋਏ ਮਾਰਗ ਤੇ ਚਲਦੇ ਹੋਏ, ਲੋੜਵੰਦ ਬੱਚਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਕਰਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਸਿੱਖੀ ਅਤੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਗੁਰੂਆਂ ਦਾ ਨਾਂ ਸਾਰੇ ਜਗਤ ਵਿਚ ਉਚਾ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਾਂ। ਸਾਡੀ ਸਦਾ ਹੀ ਇਹ ਅਰਦਾਸ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਵਾਹਿਗੁਰੂ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਸੁਮਤਿ ਬਖਸ਼ੇ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਸਲਾ ਦੇਵੇ ਕਿ ਅਸੀਂ ਸਿੱਖੀ ਜੀਵਨ ਬਤੀਤ ਕਰਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਬੱਚਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਕਰ ਸਕੀਏ ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸਾਡੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ।

## GGSCF REGISTERED CHARITY STATUS



Effective January 1, 2002 the Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation (GGSCF) is now a registered charity under its own name. A charity business number was issued by Revenue Canada following more than eighteen months of effort.

This is good news that will allow the children and youth to run the organization in a way they want to rather than being tied to another institution. The present management of Scarborough

Gurdwara have been very supportive of the GGSCF and of youth involvement generally. The registration means that the children and youth with the GGSCF will be able to focus on charity work and not be at the mercy of changing Gurdwara managements some of which can make life very difficult. The GGSCF is very thankful to the staff at Revenue Canada who were helpful and assisted us in this effort.



Children celebrate the registration by sharing a cake

The GGSCF Board realizes the significance of the registration and this will now require filing of annual returns and audits to ensure that

we meet, comply and continue to comply with the requirements of the Government of Canada. However with the blessings of Waheguru we know all the children and youth can overcome these challenges and with help and support from parents and the community.

## FOOD FOR THE NEEDY AND HOMELESS DURING WINTER MONTHS



During the winter months from December to March children from the GGSCF took food for the homeless or those in poverty living in subsidized housing. At the Fred Victor Center the children and youth together with one or two parents served free food from the Sikh community, that is taken once a month.



Gagandeep Kaur Babra who organizes the event for the GGSCF said, "...there is always children willing to help out, in fact sometimes we have too many and have to ask them to hold off until the following month. We could take food more often and we will be reviewing this for next year, however we want to move slowly and not over commit our selves. Many times we have seen in our community that we start things with great enthusiasm and then within a couple of months the interest dies down. We want to do and plan things for the long term. We have many more ideas but are cautious and would like to move and grow slowly as the number of youth who are willing to take on more of these responsibilities grow. With the children and youth involved we have school work and other chores at home and some of us work part times as well, so we have to balance all these things otherwise our parents would be concerned..."

## FOUNDATION HAS A HOME

Another achievement for the GGSCF as a home was donated by the family of late Mata Kishan Kaur Sidhu in her memory. The home is a "portable" that is located at Scarborough Gurdwara. The Gurdwara was very cooperative and supportive in allowing the portable to be placed on the Gurdwara property in particular the President of the Gurdwara, Gobinder Singh Randhawa. Many volunteers contributed to this effort to which the GGSCF is thankful. They included Balwant Singh who made arrangements for the portable with the Toronto Education Board and the transportation to the Gurdwara, Ajmer Singh Sidhu who made the financial arrangements and made sure it was made ready for the opening with many volunteers from East Metal and others who helped to paint, carpet, clean, build a deck and electrical hookup etc.



On November 29, 2001, the Sri Guru Granth Sahib was brought to the portable and a short kirtan program was held by the children, youth and many parents. Baba Inderjit Singh Ji commended the direction taken by the children in supporting other children and doing this under the name of our Guru whose children also sacrificed their life for the Sikh faith. Ujagar Singh Sidhu unveiled a plaque at the opening of the portable the costs of which were given by his family in memory of Mata Kishan Kaur Sidhu.



The ladies at Scarborough Gurdwara who hold Sukhmani Sahib prayers every week, blessed the portable by having an Akhand Path held on January 12-14, 2002. They have supported the GGSCF in all their events and the children and youth are thankful for their support.

Having the portable allows the GGSCF children and youth to display their achievements as well as give details of the children that are being sponsored. It also provides a place for the youth to meet and plan events. The GGSCF also permits the use for the portable for harmonium and prayer classes arranged by the Gurdwara and also to hold workshops that are focused on children and youth.



## FOOD DRIVE ON GURPURAB

On Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Gurdpurab the children and youth again collected for the Toronto Daily Bread Food Bank. Itasha Kaur Parmar who organizes the collection said, "... the response was very positive and individuals in the sangat are now starting to realize that we are doing this on a regular basis, twice a year once at Baisakhi and then again at Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Gurdpurab. Both are significant days of celebrations for Sikhs and sharing what we have on such occasions with those in need is a good way to celebrate and one which makes are proud to be Sikhs..".



On Gurdpurab some children under the guidance of Nimratvir and Rupinder arranged a "kids kornr" in the school room. It gave a chance for the younger children to play and learn about Guru Nanak Dev Ji and also parents a break to listen to the kirtan.



## SUMEET SINGH

Several people have been asking about Sumeet Singh and his treatment at St. Margaret's Hospital. Although Sumeet Singh did make it from India to the hospital he was too sick to obtain treatment and had other complications that were not diagnosed while he was in India. He left this earth on January 13, 2002. We hope God gives peace to his soul and his family during this most difficult time.

## VISIT TO CHILDREN IN INDIA

Amanjit Singh aged 9 years and Jasjit Singh aged 11 years visited India at the beginning of January 2002 and took the opportunity to see the 20 children the GGSCF is sponsoring through the Joti Saroop Kanya Aasra Trust (JSKAT) and the Vocational Rehabilitation Training Centre (VRTC). Here is a brief report from them:

Jasjit: The VRTC has four floors and is tall. It is a nice place for the children who live there as it has bedrooms, classrooms and offices. The children who live here are blind or they cannot walk properly. The VRTC helps them to read and learn so it is like a school for them. We gave the children some gifts like pens, badges and a Canadian flag. They were happy and they gave the GGSCF gifts of three candles that they had made. The VRTC also have a nice bus.



Amanjit: The JSKAT was hard to find as there was no house number or sign. The house had three rooms and seemed crowded. We gave some "smile face" mugs to the children, some games and a Canadian flag. They were happy and took pictures with us and we have sent a copy of the pictures to them.



The GGSCF would like to thank Dr. E.M. Johnson at the VRTC and Dr. Harminster Singh at the JSKAT for providing information and details of the children, their financial information, their registration information and for executing agreements. This cooperation has assisted the GGSCF and will permit for all the organizations to work together to help children in need.

## MORE CHILDREN SPONSORED

With the two runs last year one in Montreal and one at Dixie Gurdwara, the GGSCF has been able to sponsor ten more children bringing the total number of children sponsored to 50. The children presently being supported through the following organizations:

Foster Parents Plan of Canada	25 children
Joti Saroop Kanya Aasra Trust	12 children
Vocational Rehabilitation Training Centre	8 children
World Vision of Canada	5 children

Manpreet who looks after the children profiles, says that many of the children wanted to sponsor children in Afghanistan due to the recent coverage of the country in the media. However the charities have no long term programs and in fact many charities are not working there due to the war. However when ever we get the chance we will undertake to support some children there also.

The GGSCF have also agreed to support 10 children through the Gur Aasra Trust. Profiles of children have been requested through the organization's branch in Vancouver, the Gur Aasra Foundation.

During the March break Sanjeev, Sanvir, Japteg, Jasjit, Amanjit, Sid, Ranvir, Avneet and Navneet gathered to write letters to some of the children the GGSCF is supporting. Many of the children write back and send photographs. Manpreet who organized the letter writing evening said, "...I plans to do this at least a couple of times a year. Getting a letter is special for these children, it shows there is someone out there who took time to think of them and write to them and it gives them hope. I did not see this side of the Foundation's work until I sent to see some of the children last summer in India. They were so happy to see us and some of them share personal stories that are very moving and they do so much with so little, it makes one humble and realize what we have and how lucky we are....".



## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

One of the things the GGSCF Board has been planning was to hold a leadership development program for the children and youth that do aspire and take on responsibility for events. The Board realizes that there is no training involved for such activities. Yet it is probably the most important issue if the GGSCF is to have a successful future. If the present leadership does not develop new leadership then there will be no one to carry on and the long term objectives of the Foundation will not be met.

With this belief in mind two sessions were held on December 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. One of the sessions was a discussion between older youth that have helped out with the GGSCF from different geographical areas. The aim of the session was to let the youth get to know each other, to share common concerns and aspirations for the future of the GGSCF. The youth determined if and how they can work together even when they were located in different cities. They also learned about the history and the vision the present leadership of the GGSCF has.

The second session was more focused on younger youth and exposed them to what is leadership, how to develop these skills, how to manage events from setting objectives, carrying out the planning, identifying resources, execution and closure/follow-up. The session included leadership video tapes and work breakout groups to plan projects. The feedback was very positive and a follow-up session was requested by the participants.



## MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monthly meetings of the GGSCF take place on the first Saturday each month at 7pm at Scarborough Gurdwara and now in the portable. This is not new news, however the format of the meetings has been changed. This followed from the leadership team who held the leadership development training. After reviewing how productive our meetings they were found them to be very poorly organized and so the format was completely changed.



So far the response has been very positive and the meetings have seen some new members who have joined in and are taking on responsibilities. The

meeting are organized to allow all age groups to contribute, for the youth to take control of the meetings and get practice to run meetings, for everyone who attends to participate and for those with responsibility to come prepared for the meeting.

Another motivation at the meetings is a "leadership award" that is presented by the GGSCF every month to a youth by the youth. It was donated in memory of the late Bibi Herdeep Kaur Jaswal by her family.



Gagandeep Kaur receives award from Karindeep Kaur

## WINTER FUN - Gurnick Singh Perhar

On December 30, 2001 an excursion to the ice rink at Nathan Phillips Square took place where a bus full of children, youth participated to skate and have a good time. Although the weather was bitterly cold that evening most of the children and youth didn't seem to mind and

had a great time. Many who came skated for the first time and although they had a few set backs trying to skate they got help from the more experienced skaters who helped them learn the fundamentals of skating and how fun skating can be. The youth also managed to see the Christmas lights and decorations outside City Hall and the preparations for the New Year's Celebration taking place two days later.



Hot french fries purchased by the grownups helped to warm up the youth and was appreciated by all. When the skating came to an end many didn't want to leave but some were happy, as although they had a great time that day they couldn't stand the winters cold any longer.



On February 10, 2002 a second fun winter event "tobogganing" in Milliken Park took place. It was organized by Amrit Singh Perhar and was well attended as kids slid down the snow covered hill. Those more adventurous also tried skateboarding although everyone would agree more practice was needed. Some even made snow men, snow forts and played snow soccer before going off indoors to dry out and have donuts and hot chocolate. For those who think only kids can have fun, you should have seen all the adults or "big kids".

## EDITOR - Inderpal Kaur Wig

As always it is a pleasure to edit this newsletter and print all the things the GGSCF has been able to do since the last newsletter. The biggest news has been the charity registration with Revenue Canada, however this itself brings new and greater responsibility for the older youth. This achievement will help the GGSCF to sponsor more children and allow the Foundation to grow. The other good news is the website is up and running so you can now read this newsletter and previous issues online and in full colour from anywhere in the world. Within the coming month we plan to have all events and financial statements on the web site as well. Feedback on the newsletter or the activities of the GGSCF via email, telephone or mail is always most welcome.

### Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation

905 Middlefield Road, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M1V 4X1

Tel: 905-201-0755 Toll Free 1-800-684-0048

website: [www.ggscf.com](http://www.ggscf.com) email: [mail@ggscf.com](mailto:mail@ggscf.com)