

# Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation

Issue 8

January 2003

## GGSCF BRANCH IN BRAMPTON

On January 26<sup>th</sup>, a meeting was held with the Management Committee of the Sikh Heritage Centre, where some of the children and youth of the GGSCF presented a proposal seeking permission to set up a branch of the GGSCF at the Gurdwara. The proposal was made because some of the children and youth from Brampton who lived very close to the Sikh Heritage Centre had to travel long distance involving more than an hour of travel each way to attend meetings or events. A branch would mean they could meet at the Sikh Heritage Centre and carry on events in the Brampton area and also work with other children and youth who were local to the Gurdawara.



The proposal was presented to the Committee by the children and youth pictured above. Speaking on behalf of the Committee, Sher Daljit Singh Dhillon commended the GGSCF for their work, the presentation and accepted completely the proposal and said the Committee would support the branch in any way and that the GGSCF should consider the Gurdawara as their own. Other Committee members (Ajit Singh Bawa, Kehar Singh, Balwinder Singh, Aman Singh Dulay, Pall Singh Badwal, Roop Singh) also extended a very warm welcome and complimented the children.

The GGSCF children and youth would like to acknowledge the enormous support by the Sikh Heritage Centre for which they are extremely thankful. The youth in Brampton have taken on the initiative to start monthly meetings at the Sikh Heritage Centre starting on February 9<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. Parents of the children and youth who came to the meeting Jassie Kaur Billing, Kulwant Kaur and Tanvir Singh Bhangoo have agreed to support the children and youth whenever requested. Needless to say there will be a lot of work in establishing a new branch but with all this support and God's blessing it is just a matter of time before we have active branch.

## HUNGRY MOOSE PARADE

Over 50 children youth and some parents from the Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation celebrated "Thanks Giving" by taking part in the Hungry Moose Parade that was organized by the Toronto Daily Bread Food Bank and the North York Harvest Food Bank. The parade started at a Fire Hall on Yonge Street and went along



Lawrence Street to the North York Harvest Food Bank. It was a good walk as people cheered, blew horns and waved. Some donated food that was placed on the flat bed truck carrying the Moose. Food was also picked up from fire hall along the way as participants got to meet fire fighters and also check out fire trucks. At the end of the parade a cheque for \$1100 was presented by Taranpreet Kaur to the organizers on behalf of the Sikh community. The money was collected by children to help those without food. The Food Bank organizers said donations were down this year by 35% in comparison with last year. Taranpreet from Brampton also committed to the Food Bank staff that on Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Gurburab, the GGSCF will make an extra effort in the Sikh community to try to meet the shortfall.

## GURSIKH SOCCER CLUB FUND RAISING

The children's soccer club "Gursikh United", raised funds for the GGSCF from a number of events this year. These were from a Mega Carnival, car washes and also a trip to Marineland in September. All these events were great fun for all family members and helped to raise money for the children we are sponsoring. Sidd and BA were the primary leadership behind these effort and the GGSCF would like to thank them for their dedication and on-going support.



The soccer club also presented an award to the GGSCF's Gagandeep Kaur presented by one of the young players on Sunday September 22, 2002. All the players, teams, volunteers and sponsors were recognized by the club in a special out door presentation.

## GURU NANAK FOOD DRIVE

As committed to the Food Bank at the Hungry Moose Parade on Thanks Giving the GGSCF made an extra effort on Guru Nanak

Dev Ji's birthday. The GGSCF approached all the Gurdwaras and many other organizations to try to get the whole Sikh community involved.



The collection was held from November 17<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> by the Sikh community on the occasion of Guru Nanak Dev Ji's birthday, celebrated on November 19, 2002. It was one of the largest ethnic group food collections with food drop-off locations throughout the Greater Toronto Area.



On Saturday November 30, 2002 the GGSCF delivered over 5 tons of food (11,867 lbs) and \$3000 to the Daily Bread Food Bank. Lynda Champagne from the Daily Bread Food Bank greeted the children and youth and gave a tour of the facility as well as explaining how the food bank works. She helped weigh the food which the children had brought, and thanked all the Sikh community for their support this time and in the past. She explained the Daily Bread Food Bank helps 150 agencies to supply food to those in need and in particular during the winter months.

This enormous effort would not have been possible without the support of:

Oakville Gurdawara  
Sikh Heritage Centre Gurdwara in Brampton  
Ramgarhia Gurdwara at Rivalda Road  
North York Sikh Temple  
Gursikh Sabha Canada in Scarborough

Donations were also collected by the:

Airport Taxi and Limousine Drivers  
Punjabi Truck Drivers  
J.R. Sportswear

In addition, there was a huge donation from Gurdev Singh Gill and his family. The GGSCF also had great support from all the ethnic media, in particular from SurSagar, who promoted the effort and took donations of food at their radio/tv station in Rexdale. Jagdish Singh Grewal led the effort with radio and TV broadcastings to get

the message to all the community. To all those involved, those that gave time or those that gave food or cash the GGSCF would like to thank you for helping with this effort from the Sikh community.

## GURU NANAK CAR RALLY - Japteg Singh

On October 20, 2002 the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Guru Nanak Car Rally was held in Brampton to raise awareness and reach the goal of collecting \$25,000 for the William Osler Health Centre.

From the GGSCF, Sidd, BA, Gurjit, Jaspal, and I took part in this rally. We left early morning to reach there at 10am, and we looked like a professional team in our matching black soccer jackets with the G.S. United and the GGSCF logo. When we arrived, we paid our respects to the Guru Granth Sahib Ji, which was set up in a tent, and then after some speeches and the singing of the Sikh and Canadian National anthems, the Rally was on!

Out of the 20 teams, we were the tenth car to leave. In the car, everyone was assigned tasks: Sidd was the driver, Jaspal the navigator, Gurjit wrote the answers and read the instruction, and BA and I looked out for clues. In my opinion we were the most organized and thus we functioned the best and knew what were doing, unlike some other teams who missed checkpoints, got lost and missed the clues.

We finally arrived back at the start point, and after some more speeches, the winners were announced. Our team (GGSCF), came in 4<sup>th</sup> out of 20, and all of the team members were presented with a trophy. All in all, this was one of the best days ever and one of the most fun and enjoyable car rally ever. More people should go in the future to help the good cause, and because this is an event they won't forget!

## TOY DRIVE

Each year the CHUM City, Christmas Wish Foundation, holds a Toy Drive, requesting unwrapped toys so that they can provide children in need with a toy for Christmas when there is such a high expectation placed on poor families. The GGSCF worked with Scotiabank branch in Malton to collect toys. To understand the program about 30 children from Dixie Gurdwara went to the CHUM warehouse on November 16, 2002 to help sort out the toys that were donated, and also held a Toy Drive until December to help out with the effort



In support of the Toy Drive and to celebrate Guru Nanak Dev Ji's gurburab a kirtan darbar was held on November 23, 2002 together with the Sikh Student Associations from universities in Ontario. The event was a great success with a lot of enthusiasm by all the children and youth as they recited shabads, while also using the latest technology to project the shabads onto a screen both in Gurmuki and in English. In total, the GGSCF collected over 60 toys for children of ages 2 to 17.

## CHILDREN SPONSORED



Additional children have been sponsored with the money raised this year. The total number of children sponsored at the time of this newsletter is as follows:

Foster Parents Plan (from 1999 run)	19
Foster Parents Plan	11
Joti Saroop Kanya Aasra Trust	12
Vocational Rehabilitation Training Centre	8
World Vision Canada	5
SOS Children's Villages	5

In 2002 support for 10 children was also sent to the Gur Aasra Trust but this was discontinued as the GGSCF were not able to obtain any support documentation that has been requested from their office in Vancouver. In total 70 children were supported in 2002.

New children that have been added to those previously supported by the GGSCF. Some of these are new children and some are children who are now being supported as other children have left the program.



In early December, Ranbir Singh Perhar visited the JSKAT and the VRTC and brought back pictures (above) of the children. Ranbir was impressed with the work being done, especially for the handicap children in Ludhiana, who are being trained so that they can support themselves as adults. As the children become adults, the centre also places them into jobs in the community so that they can contribute to the society they live in and have some independence and live as normal a life as possible even with their disability.

Dr. C. Mander a medial family practitioner in Burlington also visited the children and will assess if the GGSCF can provide any additional support. She has discussed the needs with the Doctors who run both organizations and also explain the administrative needs of the GGSCF. Dr. Mander and some of her patients have also been supporting children at both institutions for many years. She is pleased with the progress the GGSCF is making and in 2003 the children her patients support may come under the administration of the GGSCF.

## MONTHLY SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

For quite some time now, many have requested the GGSCF for supporting children on a monthly basis directly through GGSCF. This is something that has been the goal of GGSCF from the beginning, and Manpreet Kaur has taken the initiative to have the monthly sponsorship program started with a presentation to the youth explaining the process. Currently, it is being tested through five individuals. We hope to have this program running on a regular basis this year.

## COUNCIL & BOARD

With the recognition of the GGSCF as a charity in January 2002, the Board needed to formally appoint a Council. The Council is charged with the responsibility of changing the Board and reviewing whether the activities of the Foundation meet the objectives, vision, mission and values of the GGSCF as stated in the by-laws approved by

Revenue Canada. They are also empowered to change these by-laws to meet the needs of the GGSCF in the future.

Four individuals were chosen to serve on the Council, they are Karindeep Kaur, Ajmer Singh, Hardev Singh and Ranbir Singh. All of them met the criteria set out in the by-laws and have made exceptional leadership contribution to the GGSCF in various roles. Even if we were to dedicate the whole newsletter, there would not be sufficient space to mention their contribution, but we will keep this to a minimum, as they are all very humble. In keeping with their request, a small quite event was held on October 16, 2002 to recognize their new responsibility, although some have served in this capacity since 1999. The Board wishes them God's grace and wisdom as they serve the GGSCF until God has other plans for each of them.

In keeping with the by-laws the new Council made changes to the Board of the GGSCF. Tajinder Kaur was appointed as the new Board member on December 26, 2002. All five Board members who take legal responsibility of the GGSCF are identified on the Foundations web site.

## FOOD FOR HOMELESS



On Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> and January 12<sup>th</sup>, children and youth with the GGSCF took food for homeless people or those with low income. The food was served at the Fred Victor Centre in downtown Toronto. The centre usually serves a low cost meal for about \$2, but those who ate the vegetarian meal were grateful for the free food from the Sikh community and also for the service by the younger members in our community. Gagandeep Kaur, a grade 12 student who is in charge of the project said, "I was surprised how many of them remembered us from last year and were glad to see us. They like the spicy food and ask us each time when we would be coming again." The GGSCF will continue to take free hot meals from the Sikh community to these people in need at least once a month throughout the winter months.



## FAITH IN THE FIELD DAY - Amee Kaur Walia

On Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, over 100 children, youth and parents were invited to a Blue Jays Baseball game, for the Faith in the Field Day, celebrating the multiculturalism of Canada. As a follow-up event, on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, members of various faith groups attended an interfaith gathering at Mel Lastman Square. Individuals from each group spoke of teachings from their respective religions. A youth member of the GGSCF also gave a speech on behalf of the Sikh community. In the speech, the youth quoted a gurbani quotation and spoke of teachings of the Sikh religion and of peace and harmony amongst us all. The speech also mentioned how the GGSCF was practicing these teachings by sponsoring children of different faiths and races from all around the world.

Needless to say, the main message of each speech given by the various members of the community was the belief that acceptance must be promoted amongst everyone.

The faith day concluded with a traditional African dance group followed by the singing of "O Canada" by all who were in attendance. The gathering was held in order to promote peace and understanding amongst Canada's multicultural community and to celebrate that diversity.



## GURU NANAK HIKE - Jaspreet Kaur Flora

The GGSCF has been having hiking trips or walks for the past couple of years on an annual basis. This year, a Guru Nanak Hike was held on Saturday, November 3, 2002, where 60+ kids and adults went to the Rouge River Valley for a hike.

The hike lasted around 2 to 3 hours. We left Scarborough Gurdwara around 12 noon, and returned by 2:30pm. The hike was nice because most of the walk was beside the river, the weather was great, and it was a good time of the year. The leaves on the trees and the ground were bright red and yellow, which made everything a great view. Some parts of the hike were a lot of fun because it was a challenge to go up the mountain where there was no trail, and everyone was having trouble getting to the top. It was nice to get together with everyone, including the parents, and have lots of fun and I hope we have a chance to go back next year.

## SKATING TRIP

The annual skating trip was organized this year by Parmjit Kaur (who is only 11 years old) and Tajinder Kaur on Saturday, December 21st. Two buses, one from Scarborough and one from Mississauga both full with children, youth, and parents enjoyed an evening of skating under the stars at the Nathan Phillips square at City Hall.

The weather was great, and for once, not everyone was freezing like popsicles in fifteen minutes, and actually enjoyed skating for over an hour. The event also helped in collecting \$200 in donations that will be used for sponsoring children. Our thanks to Parmjit Kaur, who at such a young age took the initiative to organize the trip this year, and did an excellent job as well!



## BUILDING BRIDGES SESSION

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Building Bridges session was held on December 26, 2002 at the GGSCF Portable. This year 33 participants were involved in the session, that sought to "build bridges" into the future. The sessions focused on building friendships, teamwork, leadership and sought to empower the youth to take responsibility for and direct the future path of GGSCF.

It was a full day with a lot of shared thoughts, visions, ideas, and planning for the future. The GGSCF is fortunate to have so many dedicated young children and youth who gave up their holiday and boxing day sales to further the mission and growth of the GGSCF. They are the reason that hopefully will keep the Foundation growing and continuing its work for years to come.

The facilitators and organizers thank the youth for their commitment and for showing insight into what the GGSCF future may be like.



## EDITOR - Inderpal Kaur Wig

The year 2002 brought many challenges and some accomplishments for the GGSCF. This has allowed us to grow and learn more about our society, the shortfalls that exist and the precautions we need to take to ensure a secure future. The year 2003, we hope will be filled with just as many challenges and even more accomplishments so that we can continue to grow and get more involvement from the children and youth. To have an organization run by children involves a huge effort and commitment by the youth of today and in doing so we hope to help to meet the objective of the GGSCF, that is to add meaning to the lives of children across the world. This year promises many changes, and with Waheguru's blessings, they will set a path to a better future for the GGSCF and for children helping children.

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