

Vellore Ludhiana Committee of Canada

*Ministering God's love through medical training & care at CMC Vellore & CMC Ludhiana
since 1913*



Committee News

Dear Supporters,

We have great news to report regarding the future of the Vellore Ludhiana Committee of Canada! The committee have been working very hard over the past two years to set the organization up as an independent, not for profit corporation with it's own Canada Revenue Agency charitable license. Our efforts were finally rewarded with both the incorporation and the granting of our charitable status this spring! We are extremely grateful to our lawyer who very patiently led us through the process, even when Canada Revenue Agency initially rejected our application. She worked hand in hand with us and assembled over sixty pages of documentation in order to answer CRA's objections, after which, they granted us our status. This is very welcome news! After operating, for years, with the uncertainty of being under the umbrella of another charity, we now feel we have a solid foundation from which to work.

You may have already noticed a slight change in our name, we are now known as the Vellore Ludhiana Committee of Canada. Other changes include being incorporated, a new constitution and, as a result, some new ways of operating. We'll introduce you to some of these new things but try not to overwhelm you with everything at once. To us, this is all positive; the changes will enable us to run a very transparent system that will carefully track the work to which your donations are going.

In order to meet Canada Revenue Agency's requirements for charitable work outside of Canada we first must have a detailed agreement with both CMC Vellore and CMC Ludhiana. These agreements have been drafted and we are currently working on them in conjunction with the hospitals. Our hope is to have mutually agreeable documents ready for signing by the Fall. With that in mind, Doug Virgin (Chair) will plan to travel to both Vellore and Ludhiana to complete the signing process and meet with the appropriate administrators to set up a practical system to implement these new agreements.

We are now required to create a "project" for each different task we wish to accomplish or support and specify exactly how funds that we send are to be used. This will be achieved with thorough and regular financial reporting. Project progress reports will keep us up to date on what has been accomplished. A little later in this letter we will list the projects we have already established that you can immediately support with donations.

For now, we would encourage you to support our existing projects. However, any particular area not listed that you wish to support, must first have a project set up with the hospital concerned. Our intention is to add projects as we become aware of needs; we welcome your suggestions and you will be updated whenever a new project is ready. This may seem overly complicated but it does mean you will know exactly what your donations are accomplishing. This we see as a very positive thing!

One caution, we do not want set up too many small projects that will become an overwhelming burden of paperwork for the hospitals. If we feel this is happening, we will try to provide appropriate guidance as needed.

"My work is for a King." Dame Edith Brown, founder of CMC Ludhiana

Vellore News

We have word from Vellore regarding individuals who have been directly impacted by assistance from you, our supporters, through the Vellore Ludhiana Committee of Canada. The first two we hear about are nursing students who have received scholarships from **The Gladys Hamilton Scholarship in Nursing**. These are students who would not be training otherwise.

Miss Banu K.

Banu is a cheerful and a talented student doing I year Diploma Nursing. She is the eldest child to her parents. Banu comes from a family with a very low socio economic status. Her father was a beedi worker and is presently unemployed. He is unable to walk due to a long term illness. Her mother is working as a house maid and manages to maintain the family with great difficulty.



She has one younger sister studying class 12. Banu wants to help people who are sick and poor and hence she wanted to join nursing. She and her family we're very happy after she was selected for nursing. Banu shows interest in academic and clinical performance. She also participated in extracurricular activities. Your generous contribution is of great help to this deserving student.

Mr. Jayapal

Mr. Jayapal is a simple, poised polite and hardworking student. He comes from a poor tribal background. His parents are farmers and he has 4 siblings 2 elder and 2 younger. His village is located on a hill which does not have proper access by road. The nearest primary health care facility is available at a distance of 5 kilometers away from the village. Jayapal is very happy about joining nursing as his

major aim is to serve the sick people in his village and also young students in that place. Jayapal is good in academic performance and in technical skills. He participates in extracurricular activities. Your heartfelt contribution to this deserving students is of great help to him and his family.



Next we invite you to read about four patients who could not afford the serious medical treatment they needed. The Vellore Ludhiana Committee of Canada have made contributions to **The Development Office Emergency Fund** in Vellore and in the following cases, these contributions have helped to provide the much needed treatment.

Patient 1, Mrs "T", is a 30 year old housewife. She was deserted by her husband and her father, a labourer, is now supporting her. When she came, she was diagnosed with Lupus, a kidney infection, a blood clotting condition and, consequently, a stroke. She received medications to suppress the immune system (for the Lupus), antibiotics for the infection and anti coagulants for the clotting problem. This treatment is not curative but disease modifying. Continuing treatment will be necessary. The cost for this was Rs. 30,000, a grant of Rs. 26,700 was given.

Patient 2, Mr. "A", is a 26 year old single farmer working on his father's farm. He came in suffering from Tetanus. He required antibiotics, ventilation, sedatives and surveillance in ICU until deemed well enough to be discharged. He should require no further treatment. The cost for this was Rs. 400,000 and a grant of Rs. 100,000 was provided.

Patient 3, Mr. "G", is a married, 30 year old milk plant employee. He and his wife are expecting their first child. When he arrived it was determined that his pacemaker was no longer functional and needed immediate replacement. He also needed essential orthopaedic surgery to remove an implanted nail in his leg but he would not survive this surgery without a new pacemaker. The cost of replacement was Rs. 65,000, a grant of Rs. 50,000 was given.

Patient 4, "Ali", is the 7 month old baby boy of a farmer/labourer. He was brought all the way from Kolkata to Vellore, 1450 km, in congestive heart failure with a hole in his heart. Life saving surgery will now allow him to live a normal life. The cost for this was Rs. 450,000, a grant of Rs. 100,000 was given to make the treatment financially possible for his family.

Although these examples seem like such a small sample when you consider the almost incomprehensible need in India, these are stories of real people. They received the treatment they desperately needed and now can continue on with their lives. It is such a privilege for us to be a part of making such differences in peoples lives!

Ludhiana News

As he has for many years now, committee member Rev. William Virgin travelled to CMC Ludhiana this March but this time with two Canadian nurses. While there, Bill represented us at the Ludhiana governing body meetings, conducted seminars for staff and students in Counselling and spoke in campus chapels and other meetings. He received answers to many questions asked on our behalf and had the pleasure of meeting some of the recipients of our scholarships.

For 2013-14, CMC Ludhiana granted the William & Zelma Virgin Memorial Scholarship to the following MBBS students: **Miss Jannet Mary John, Mr. Robin William and Mr. Rodel Robert Gill**. Jannet wrote a brief note of thanks.

I am Jannet Mary John, daughter of Pastor John Samuel and Mrs. Leelamma T. After 12th grade I got admission to CMC last year. Though I made it here, the payment of the complete fees was of a great concern. I got in here through the Punjab Christian Category by securing the 1st Rank. My Full Family was very upset because we had no clue regarding how I would be able to pursue my dream of becoming a Doctor. But our Lord is great and He works miracles when all the doors seem to be closed and moving forward becomes nearly impossible. Then we heard of the scholarship that was given by you. Me, and my Family are grateful for the helping hand that you put forward.

I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the help you provided me. By the help of the Lord Jesus, I'll prove that I was worth your help.

Thanking you once again.

Yours sincerely, Jannet Mary John, MBBS 1st year, CMC Ludhiana



2013-14 MBBS Recipients with Bill



Our two nurses, Debbie and Maryrose, who work in the field of mental health, spent their first week at the Bethel Ashram, a school in rural Punjab for about 100 girls. Their second week was at CMC Ludhiana.

Maryrose: *As a nurse, my purpose for going to India was simple - to learn about the culture that flourished so predominantly where I lived and to see different practices in medical and mental health care. I received so much more than what I expected.*

At CMC (Ludhiana) we were able to speak with the Faculty, MSc and BSc students and give a presentation on Forensic Psychiatry. It was exciting for me to share this with them. I witnessed the fellowship department desperately praying over patients, willing for a healthy recovery. Amazing! I have yet to see this in a Western Hospital.

The sense of community and family in the hospital was quite overwhelming. Family members slept in hospital rooms with their sleeping bags. They did not know me, yet they offered whatever they could. That was amazing, unheard of from where I am from; something that the Western world has shamefully forgotten.

I was constantly on a journey to fill a void inside, unsure of it, or where it stemmed from. I tried to fill it with materialistic things. To my shame, I was never content. I always wanted more, hoping that I could fill it. My 2 weeks in India filled this void.

Debbie: *(at the Bethel Ashram) These girls were taken out of their homes where their parents lived and battled a life of leprosy. Leprosy victims in India are still being shunned, and are unable to find stable forms of employment, therefore not being able to provide the very basic needs of their families. In order to support their family most of the girls would have been put into a life of begging. Some would have been married off @ a very young age, & others could have been sold to a prostitution ring.*

Ignorant Debbie went there thinking I would be able to provide these girls with so much, considering they had so little. Oh boy was I wrong. What they were able to provide us with was much greater than we ever expected.

These girls love Christ they way He loves us ... unconditionally. They didn't care that they slept on a bed with 3 other girls on a mattress as thin as a yoga mat. They still woke up every morning & gave praise. I have been blessed to work with these girls, teaching them English, computer classes, basic hygiene skills and infection control practices.

Those that had the littlest gave us the most, excited to share what ever they had. All I had in return was a thank you - for them that was enough.

In Closing

As we wrap this letter up, here are several important things.

Projects we have established with CMC Vellore and Ludhiana that can be supported immediately.

CMC Vellore:

The Anna Gupta Family Scholarship in Nursing

- not awarded as yet, the endowment fund accrues insufficient interest to make awards. Our goal: raise additional funds in order to enable scholarship awards in the near future.

The Canadian Vellore Ludhiana Scholarship in Nursing

- not awarded as yet for the same financial reasons. Our goal: raise additional funds to enable scholarship awards.

The Gladys Hamilton Scholarship in Nursing

- has sufficient funding and is now helping students get their training - see the beneficiaries noted earlier.

The Development Office Emergency Fund

- assists patients needing major medical treatment that is beyond their financial means – see cases above. Our goal: continue providing assistance as we receive donations for it.

The PTP Fund

- similar to the above fund but provides assistance for less costly treatments that, nonetheless, patients cannot afford.

CMC Ludhiana:

The William and Zelma Virgin Memorial Scholarship

- awarded to first year medical students (MBBS) in need of financial assistance. Our goal: add to the endowment fund to accrue more interest, thereby provide greater assistance to the students seeking help.

The James Ashwin Memorial Scholarship in Physiology

- not awarded as yet. It should accrue enough interest sometime this year to be awarded. Our goal: at least double the fund to provide greater assistance.

The Good Samaritan Fund

- Similar to funds in Vellore - assists patients needing major medical treatment that is beyond their financial means. Our goal: continue providing assistance as we receive donations for it.

The Helen Flanagan Memorial Scholarship in Nursing

- a scholarship the committee has approved and plans to establish this year. It will be to assist diploma nursing students with their tuition for the 3^{1/2} year course. These students will likely be the future “hands on” community caregivers in the areas of greatest medical need.

Please visit our website: www.cmchospitals.ca. In future, this will become a hub of information and activity; with project updates, news & items of interest. We now offer the convenience of donating right on our website via PayPal and credit card, look for the “Donate” button.

Please make special note of our new address and name:

The Vellore Ludhiana Committee of Canada
722 Coxwell Ave.
Toronto, Ontario
M4C 3C2

And, very important, please note that cheques should be made out to: Vellore Ludhiana Committee of Canada.

Now that we are fully recognized as a charity in Canada, we are very excited about all the future possibilities for continuing service as partners in the work of CMC Vellore and Ludhiana. We invite you to continue on with us as we help to provide compassionate medical care to those in need and help to educate medical professionals who will minister with Christian love to those in need throughout India.

We are thankful to God for this privilege and honour!

DONATION & CONTACT FORM

Please complete and mail to:

Vellore Ludhiana Committee of Canada, 722 Coxwell Ave., Toronto, Ontario M4C 3C2

Tel. 416-921-2301, email: vel.lud@sympatico.com, please visit us on the web at: www.cmchospitals.ca

Please make cheque payable to: Vellore Ludhiana Committee of Canada.

Date: _____ Please accept my gift of \$ _____ to be used:

[] As needed [] CMC Vellore [] CMC Ludhiana [] Divided equally [] Specific Project: _____

Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____ Email: _____