

Vellore Ludhiana Committee of Canada

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



Dear Friends & Supporters,

Our first full year as a registered charity has been an eventful one! We have been able to supplement each of our existing scholarship funds to protect them against inflation and provide more substantial awards. We are excited to announce several new projects as well as our first recipient of the James Ashwin Memorial Scholarship in Physiology (CMC Ludhiana). As a new feature, we will begin introducing our directors and committee members so you'll know a little background about the great people we have working on the committee.

Mary Self Skarsten, Director:

Mary was born to Canadian parents in Landour Community Hospital, Landour, Mussoorie, India and is an alumnus of Woodstock School. Ever since her childhood days in India, she has been a lover of the Indian people and all things Indian.

A few years ago she was invited to attend a Vellore Ludhiana Committee meeting as a guest. In getting to know the committee and what it was doing, her love of India and its people took over and moved her to join. We have all been the benefactors of her energy and wisdom in our meetings as we deliberate over directions and decisions. In the past year, going through the process of incorporating as a charity, she agreed to serve as one of our three directors. We are blessed to have her with us!



"Not to be ministered unto but to minister" – Dr. Ida S. Scudder, founder of CMC Vellore

Dr. Seema Sharma M.B.B.S, M.D (Physiology), Committee Member:

Seema grew up in Ludhiana and joined the committee soon after coming to Canada from CMC Ludhiana. At CMC, she served on staff as an assistant professor in the Department of Physiology. She says CMC has "one of the most productive atmospheres" that exhibited incomparable "compassion, respect and understanding."

She understands the workings and ethos of CMC and brings us an invaluable perspective that only someone who has worked in Ludhiana can.



Ludhiana News

James Ashwin Memorial Scholarship in Physiology

Our revised agreement for this scholarship was completed early this Fall and Rev. Bill Virgin had it signed while attending the Governing Board Meetings in Ludhiana in September. We are very happy to announce Dr. Nancy Job as the first recipient of the James Ashwin Memorial Scholarship in Physiology.



James Ashwin

Dr. Job's research will be a study on local urban Punjabi women about the effect of a mother's anemia on her newborn child. She states in her "profoma": "In India, anemia affects 65-75% of the population and is one of the commonest causes of maternal mortality, affecting around 84% of pregnant women and is responsible for 20% of the total maternal deaths."



Dr. Nancy Job & Rev Bill Virgin

In the early 1950's, James Ashwin arrived in Ludhiana, from Canada. His purpose was to set



1st yr. students, Geoff & Viola Mitchell, James on right

up a Physiology Department for CMC as part of their upgrading process to offer MBBS degrees. He was successful in doing so but his time in Ludhiana was tragically cut short when he was stricken with polio. Creative thinking and skillful work building a mechanical lung saved his life but he was forced to return to Canada for ongoing care. We are very grateful to the Ashwin family for partnering with us to create this memorial to James that will continue to benefit the Physiology Department of CMC Ludhiana for years to come!

Vellore News

We are very pleased to announce two new projects for CMC Vellore. New agreements have been set up and we will be sending the approved funding before the 2015 year end. The 1st project is to help provide things such as wheelchairs, special prosthetics, orthotic fittings and diabetic footwear for under privileged patients. The 2nd is a new scholarship for students of the Allied Health Sciences.

The Vellore Ludhiana Committee of Canada Rehabilitation Fund

The Rehabilitation Department in Vellore has a longstanding and historical record for its excellent care and provision of devices, such as wheelchairs, prosthetics, orthotics or other assistive devices.



Workshop

The department has its own custom workshop to craft and fit what is needed. The facilities have just been refurbished and visitors were invited to come and see the improvements.



Children's Playground

Vellore Ludhiana Committee of Canada Scholarship in Allied Health Sciences

Conversations with various leaders from both CMC Vellore & Ludhiana informed us that scholarships for students in the Allied Health Sciences would be highly beneficial in many ways. The skills are needed in greater numbers by the healthcare system and there are many young people who may not qualify for or be able to afford medical or nursing degrees. Once trained, these young people enter the workforce and provide a stable income for an entire family. This seems a win, win, win opportunity and we are delighted to be able to provide this scholarship!

Our Donation To The Deveopment Office Emergency Fund (names changed for confidentiality)



Madhu: Madhu arrived from West Bengal, his mother clutching a letter from the Bishop of Asansol, requesting urgent help. Suffering from kidney problems for most of his short life (10 months), the family tried various remedies and hospitals to no avail. Abandoned by the father, his mother is the only breadwinner - a housemaid. With no savings, a monthly income of Rs.2,500 (\$ 50) she took a loan to pay for this treatment. The community helped by raising Rs.10,000 for them to travel to CMC Vellore. There, in the Paediatric Surgery Department, he was diagnosed with a non-functioning right kidney and an obstructed left kidney as well as a urinary tract infection. IV antibiotics were given and surgery was performed, nephrectomy (right) and pyeloplasty to repair his left kidney. The cost of Rs.50,000 was paid for through an Emergency Fund grant; the Department bore the cost of in-patient treatment & antibiotics.



Lalit is 9 and comes from a village in Orissa, second of three children. His father is the pastor of a small church, with family income around Rs.5,000 (\$100) a month. Sadly, he has been diagnosed with acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. His chemo will cost more than Rs. 400,000, an impossible sum for this family to raise to save the life of their precious child. Dr. Deepthi from the Paediatric Oncology Unit contacted us to see if we could provide immediate help while looking for additional funds from a number of different sources. We were able to give a grant of Rs.70,000 from the Emergency Fund in order to begin treatment immediately.

In Closing

-> Linnea Good, David Jonsson & family are currently in Vellore working with the Fellowship Department in ministry and the writing, production, rehearsal & performance of a Christmas cantata (see photo updates on our Facebook page). They will also travel to Ludhiana to do the same. Thanks to all who have supported their ministry, we welcome you to our newsletter!

-> We were saddened to hear of the passing of Dr. Rachel Eappen when we received a donation in her honour & memory this past June.

-> Please visit us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/www.cmchospitals.ca.

*** The members and directors of the committee wish each of you, your families and loved ones a joyous Christmas filled with peace and goodwill and a Happy New Year! Thank you for your support through the past year! ***

Our Current projects:

Vellore: VLCC Rehabilitation Fund, VLCC Scholarship in Allied Health Sciences, Anna Gupta Nursing Scholarship, VLCC Nursing Scholarship, Gladys Hamilton Nursing Scholarship, Development Office Emergency & PTP Fund.

Ludhiana: William and Zelma Virgin Memorial Scholarship in Medicine, James Ashwin Memorial Scholarship in Physiology, Helen Flanagan Memorial Scholarship in Nursing, Good Samaritan Fund

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: info@cmchospitals.ca, web: www.cmchospitals.ca,

Facebook: www.facebook.com/www.cmchospitals.ca

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

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