

## SHIS NEWS LETTER – NOVEMBER 2012

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# SHIS EYE CARE HOSPITAL PROGRAMME ON WORLD SIGHT DAY

- Sk. Soharab Uddin

A clutch of awareness programmes was undertaken by SHIS Eye Care Hospital on the World Sight Day on October, 11 2012. Doctors, nurses SHIS workers, teachers and students of SHIS Sishu Bikash Academy and SHIS Girls' academy assembled at the SHIS headquarter compound in the morning. Presence of a good number of local people and outdoor patients made the event ever more meaningful. Doctors and Eye care hospital workers explained to the gathering different types of eye ailments and the aspect of eye



care. A road-show which was taken out from the SHIS headquarters went round Bhangar-Kanthalia Market, Bhangore Bijoygang Market, Bhangar College road along with eye-catching and instructive festoons, posters and banners on eye care awareness. The main point made was that 80% of blindness is avoidable.

In the afternoon, a session of eye examination for the students of Shishu Bikash Academy was held. The doctor prescribed medicines, sometimes lenses for the examined children. The health care workers counselled the guardians and students as to how to take care of the eyes and what kind of diet they should take to have healthy eyes all through their life.

The day was also observed at the Minakhan Panchayat Samity (PS) campus under the joint aegis of SHIS Eye care Hospital of the PS. Jogesh Kumar Patra, vice president of the PS took the initiative. There was an awareness-building roadshow as well as a seminar. A total of 195 patients were examined, of whom 46 were found to have developed cataract.

Awareness tableaux mounted on motor vans went round the Park Circus and adjoining ares of Topsia for the benefit of the slumdweller on the day as the initiator of SHIS Kolkata Urban Comprehensive Eye Care Project (KUCECP). Sushil Sharma, councilor of Ward 65 of Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC), launched the tableaux in the presence of Sightsavers Documentation Officer, Amita Bagchi, KUCECP in-charge, Bulbul Hossain, and others.

## **BROTHER GASTON CELEBRATES HIS 40 YEARS OF SERVICE IN INDIA BY EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO HIS CO-WORKERS AND FELLOW TRAVELERS**

- Own correspondent

October 2, 2012 was a memorable day at ICOD (interreligious centre for development (ICOD) which is the centre of Brother Gaston's philanthropic and spiritual activities. On that day Brother felicitated those with whom he had been carrying out his service to the poor, the underprivileged, and the physically and mentally challenged people in different parts of the state since his arrival in India 40 years ago of Brother remembered his indebtedness to the Departed souls like Dr. S.K. Sen, Lucy Singh, Ellis John, Mrityunjoy Mukherhee, Buddhadeb Mishra, Amalesh Sarkar, Peter Joseph and Kanai babu then he gave away citation and mementos to a number of people who he said had been instrumental in his being of some help to the people.



The recipients included SHIS president, Sabitri Pal, SHIS director, M.A. Wohab, Parashpadma (NGO helping physically and mentally challenged children and arranging for their education) leaders, Ebadat and Tahamina Parvin, as well as other NGO heads like Dr. Md. Ansari Kamruddin, Sukeshi Barui, Noorjahan Begum, Br. Ephrem Tinkey, Br. Marcus Toppo, Mamata Ghosh (Gopa), Kajal Maity and John Mary Barui (Papu). Brother personally carried the citation for Tarit Kumar Santra who was recovering from an illness in a room of the ICOD.

Brother acknowledged his gratitude to Dominique Lapierre, the best-selling French author of the books like "City of Joy" & "Freedom at Midnight" for his unstinted support all through.

All the recipients of awards of Brother Gaston reminisced on their long association with Brother and expressed their gratitude for the kind guidance he had been offering them relentlessly in their service to the "wretched of the earth". They touched his feet and sought his blessings. Brother conducted the whole proceeding like the ebullient conductor of an orchestra in which the harmony was there for all to feel just because it was never overstated.