

## Chairman's Message

Greetings!

It was yet another glorious year for the more than 550 children at the Sucheta Kriplani Shiksha Niketan (SKSN), the largest school for physically handicapped children in India and Polio Children's primary program of support. A record number of graduates enrolled in university programs, a prosthetics department was established on site, the school library hugely expanded its operation, the computer lab was fully equipped, and a residential vocational training program was initiated. And to top it all, wedding bells pealed for a female alumnus (and now a teacher at the school) who has polio in both her lower limbs— wooed by an able bodied man, no less!



Within a short span of 4 years, the dairy project has turned a full circle. Started at a cost of just \$8000 as Polio Children's premier project, a glass of milk and a spoonful of *ghee* (clarified butter) a day for each child, the dairy project has blossomed into a profitable self-supporting venture. Eco-friendly to the core, here, nothing goes to waste. In addition to ensuring a regular supply of milk and other dairy products, the cow-dung is used as fuel for the production of gobar methane gas and as fertilizer for the vegetable and fodder farms. This is yet another landmark achievement for SKSN as it moves towards its ultimate goal of becoming a self-sustaining community.

None of this, however, would have been possible without the generosity of donors like you. Despite massive nationwide vaccination campaigns, new cases of polio continue to emerge. This, coupled with the government's cap of supporting only 350 students at any one time, continues to strain SKSN's meager budget. In an effort to ease their burden, Polio Children has embarked on a unique fund raising activity (*please see inside*). As in the past and so in the future, we continue to count on your support. We realize that there are many charities competing for your valuable contributions. We plead our case on the basis of zero dollar administrative expense. Yes, every penny you contribute goes directly to the children in need. During these festive times, please spare a moment for these unfortunate children in whose lives you *have* and can continue to make a difference. Please give generously. We know that you have the undying gratitude of hundreds of children and their care providers.

Happy Holidays!

*Shirish Patel*

Board of Directors : Shirish Patel (Chairman), Arun Sangave (Treasurer), Shashi Patel, Dhuru Prema, Shobhana Patel

### Inside This Issue

<b>Progress and Updates</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Personal Appeal for Funds</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Words of Gratitude from Children of SKSN</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Financial Summaries</b>	<b>5</b>

In the last issue of this newsletter, we had featured an article about two girls at SKSN who desperately needed your help.



First the good news. Miss Anuradha Rathod, the first year medical student, continues to excel in her studies despite seemingly insurmountable physical challenges. Says Mr. James Morris, of the Rochester Area Post-Polio Support Group, “We were moved to action when we saw a video of the work going on at SKSN. Our focus honed in on Miss Rathod who is determined to obtain her Medical Degree and to fulfill her dream of becoming a Neurosurgeon”. Thanks to our supporters, Anuradha (*shown here riding to college on a scooter funded by Polio Children*) no longer has to depend upon public transport to get to her classes and hospital rotations.



The news regarding Miss Sumant Kanwar, the 12-year old girl who has paralysis in 3 of her 4 limbs and has to rely on her friends for the simplest of the tasks, is not so encouraging. We were unable to raise sufficient funds to bring her to the States for treatment. However, because of the generosity of an Australian donor, she now has a personal attendant. While this has helped her perform better at school, her physical health remains precarious.



SKSN alumna Miss Rekha Kanwar at her wedding (*left*) and teaching 5th graders also at SKSN (*right*) epitomizes Polio Children’s mission of giving hope and dignity to every child with polio.

Dear Friend of Polio Children:

1. In an effort to cut costs, this newsletter is being sent to a limited number of people – 200 in all. Polio Children (USA) must raise \$20,000 to meet it's existing commitments to SKSN, specifically, the education, nutritional, and medical needs of the 25 most severely crippled children ("Class of 2004"). With your help, we have been supporting this group of children for the past 2 years.
2. In an effort to raise this sum, we are embarking on an unique fund raising effort. We appeal to you to contribute a minimum of \$25 (of course, any higher figure would be most appreciated).
3. We then ask you to solicit donations from 3 of your friends, family members, or co-workers each of whom is willing to contribute \$25. Once again, the more the merrier – both in terms of the amount and the number of donors.
4. Then please fill out the names and addresses (so that we can acknowledge their tax-deductible donations) in the spaces below and mail your forms and the checks in the S.A.S.E. It is as easy as that. We will take care of the rest.
5. We are really towing a very fine line here. We are banking on each and every one of you to raise \$100 to enable us to reach our goal of \$20,000. We know you can do it and pray that you will. We wish to assure you, once again, that every penny you donate goes directly to the children in need. For the past 4 years, the founding trustees have fully borne all administrative expenses associated with this project and will continue to do so.

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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*Please make your checks payable to 'Polio Children' and mail them*

*to 155 Dunrovin Lane, Rochester, NY 14618*





Respected Arun Uncle (chairman polio children (UK),

My self Hema Kanwar say my heartily thanks to you.

I cleared my XII (grade exams) with good marks but still my future is in dark because my father is not allowing me to study further...with your help I went to college...one day my legs slept from the moving city bus...some college students rescued me and saved my life. I was much horrified and stopped going out of my home. I stopped the dreams of carrier and future instantly. I was not aware that such generous people like you are also available in this world. It is said, "A blind needs only the joy of two eyes" which is provided by you. You people have first right in my life .You not only helped me but helped my family members also.

*My self Shobha says thank you to you.*

*When I went to my village is my summer holidays than sir (Dr. Bahti ) came to my village and explain me that Polio Children gave me sponsorship for my further studies. Then I feel very happy like top of the world with tears in my eyes. It is my dream come true. "THANKS" is very short word to say but what can I do? I don't find any words except this.*

*With due respect, myself Permeshwar Ram Godara, student of BA Part 1<sup>st</sup> year. I was very happy when I was selected in this hostel because my village is 140 kms from Jodhpur. I promise you that I fetch my target and become something in future. Thank you very much sir, selecting me for this hostel. Without your blessings I am unable to continue my further studies. I am very grateful to you.*

Respected Sir,

I, Sahi Ram Bishnoi, am the student of B.A. first year and I am admitted in this hostel in this year which is sponsor by you. And I am very grateful to you and all the polio children's. Sir, you are my Ideal

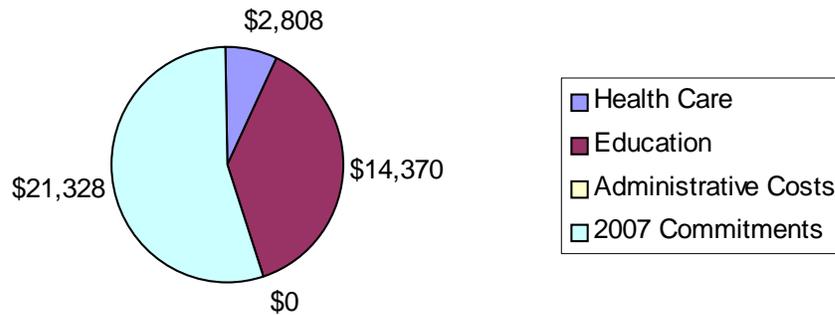
One more thing I would like to share with you that if I were not admitted in this hostel my future will be in dark and could not be able to fulfill my dreams. Once more thanks a lot Today "what I am" for this the credit goes to you, my mother father and all the polio children's. I am feeling very proud that you and polio children's are behind me and provide me all the facilities according to my need

Respected Sir,

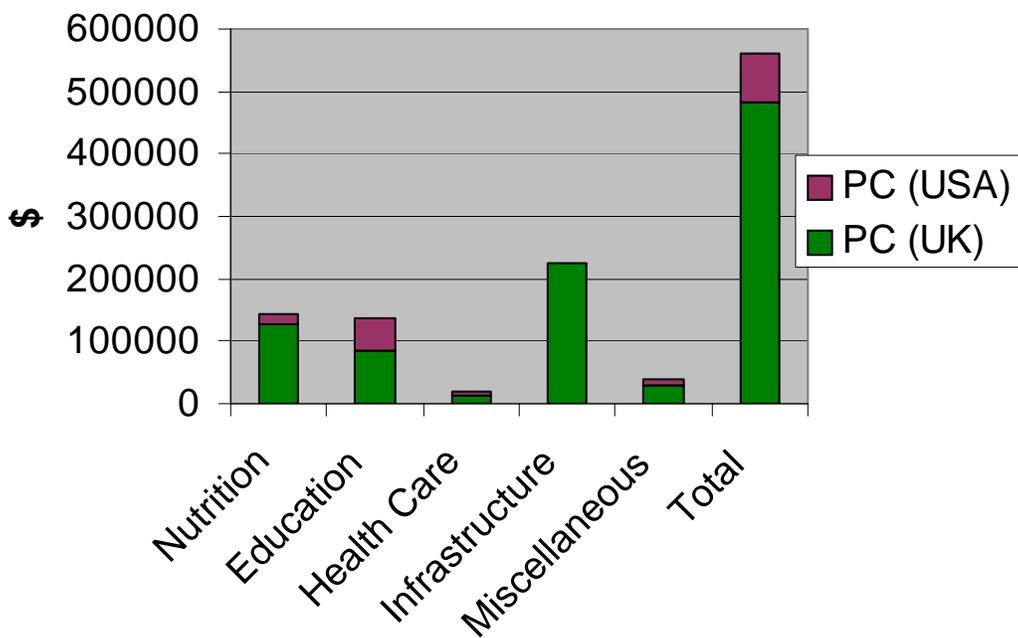
I am student of B.A. 1 year. My name is Mool Singh Inda I am very happy that I got admission in university hostel which is managed by you. Sir if you will never provide such services to us then we were not able to continue our studies for this I must convey my sincere thanks to polio children.



**Polio Children (USA) - Financial Summary**  
**2006**



**Programs Supported By**  
**Polio Children**  
**2002-2006**



[www.poliochildren.org](http://www.poliochildren.org)

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*Giving Hope and Dignity*

Polio   
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*Thank You For Your Generosity!*

