

Stepping Stones

Supports

LIFE INSTITUTE FOR GIRLS

May 2006



The girls & one of their Administrators at the Institute

Thought is a powerful weapon which changes the world. This thinking is encapsulated in the Life Institute for Girls, Pune, India. Since its establishment in 2001, this institute is dedicated to providing for the well being, care and requirements of approximately 100 destitute children. The children range in ages between 4 to 12 years. The institute aimed at providing good education as well as boarding with inexpensive and sustainable standard of living.

The three-storied building, with 28 rooms and 12 full bathrooms, is both educational and residential. There is an open garden and a terrace for physical activities. The hostel is divided into four sections/ houses: yellow, green, blue and red houses, allocated according to the appropriate age groups. A full-time residential administrator manages the hostel. There is a fully equipped hygienic kitchen and dining room providing the girls with a variety of cuisines.



The Institute

People Behind the Institute

The Visram Memorial Foundation supports "the Life Institute for Girls in Pune, India". The Visram children formed the Visram Memorial Foundation in honour of their parents, Malek Khan and Sherali. The Foundation's core belief is derived from the lives of Malek Khan and Sherali Fazal Visram who exemplified that the greatest gift of all human achievements is found in the simple yet powerful acts of everyday men and women who lead their lives with grace, wisdom and a deep spiritual and emotional commitment to human compassion.

Student of the Month



SHABNAM ANKLESWARI

Shabnam was born in a small town called Ankleshwar in Gujarat, India. She is currently a student of the prestigious Stella Mary's High School in Pune, India. Her determination and hard work attest to the fact that she excelled in her previous exams among all her classmates without any extra/help or tutoring, all on her own merits. Indeed an exceptional young girl!

Shabnam enjoys playing badminton, karate, and is currently participating in yoga at her school. She is an avid reader and is fascinated with astronomy and loves to know more about the planets. She enjoys playing and chatting with her friends from the institute and from her school after she completes her homework and chores. The person that she most looks up to and greatly idolizes is Sonia Gandhi. Shabnam, is also very creative and enjoys art and would like to be an Interior Decorator when she finishes her schooling. Recently, Shabnam was a contestant in an art/drawing competition in her school and she won the top prize. Shabnam dreams of visiting Canada in the winter so that she may watch snowflakes dancing.

Please note: Donations may now be made on line at www.visramfoundation.com



Your generous gift will keep our children's faith alive. Dreams will become realities!

Name: _____

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Please make your cheque payable to:
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M & SFV Memorial Foundation
55 King Street West, Suite 801, Kitchener, ON, Canada N2G 4W1

Thank you for your support

Improvement to Property

Having acquired the land and building on which the Institute is situated, the Foundation carried out a number of improvements; including brick interlocking of the open areas and driveway, installation of water treatment plants and a solar heating system. Pune becomes quite cold in the winter and the solar heating system provides a comfortable atmosphere and hot water availability to the girls. The computer lab has been refurbished and a number of new computers have been added to enable the girls to have more access to computers.

Intended Development

- Creation of exercise facilities and other extra curricular activities
- Acquisition of adjacent land for Expansion
- An additional building on adjacent lands to house girls aged 10 and up (The current building would house girls aged 4 to 10 years)

'... if the next generation is to face the future with zest and self-confidence, we must educate them to be original as well as competent.'

Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi