

# The Emirates Airline foundation



A quarterly newsletter about projects funded by your donations

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## New international curriculum school in Dhaka Project

The Dhaka Project has opened its first international curriculum school, the Emirates Airline Foundation School, with the help of donations.



Future leaders in the making

Founded and run by Cabin Crew Maria Conceicao, and a team of staff and volunteers, the Dhaka Project is an NGO working to improve the lives of people living in the slums of the Bangladeshi capital.

The school currently being run by the project follows the Bangladeshi curriculum and provides an education to some 450 children. Recognising that the more intelligent children required a higher level of education to realise their potential, Maria had approached international schools in Dhaka. "Unfortunately, there is a lot of prejudice against these children in Dhaka, even the gifted ones, just because they are poor," she said. "I'm grateful to the foundation for funding this new school which will help the children overcome these barriers and achieve their individual dreams."

(Continued overleaf)



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## Cover story (Contd.)

Donations of more than US\$68,000 funded the construction of the school, plus stocking it with educational materials. The facility has 20 classrooms and 21 teachers who follow the Cambridge International Examination curriculum.

### Mosharof's story

The Emirates Airline Foundation School is for children like Mosharof. Taken out of the Korail slum two years ago, with his

single mother and three-year-old brother, the Dhaka Project gave him decent housing and the chance to go to school.

Mosharof is now succeeding at everything he does and has been the school's top student for the past two consecutive years. As a role model, he is captain of his class cricket and football teams and is even teaching his family the English language. Having tried unsuccessfully in the past to be admitted into one of Dhaka's best schools because of his origins, Mosharof will continue to be a role model and mentor in his new school where his future looks bright.



Mosharof

Donations are funding a unique project that aims to support young people as they make the transition into independent adulthood. Beyond the Orphanage (BTO) is an NGO run by former Emirates Pilot Geoff Hucker who works voluntarily at Kidane Mehret Orphanage in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa.



# Beyond the Orphanage

"I was concerned that some young people, without home support but too old to live at the orphanage, would end up on the streets, so I did something about it," said Geoff.

With some US\$900 per month from the foundation, BTO now supports 10 young people, in various circumstances, as they finish their education and embark on their careers, with the help of weekly visits by social workers. The BTO 'family' is now a strong unit, with the older orphans mentoring the younger ones who relish having older 'brothers' and 'sisters'.

## Zenbaba's story

One of the children supported by BTO is twelve-year-old Zenbaba Mekonen, who, having lost her parents, was taken in by her

aunt. However, living in a one-room mud house and with three children of her own, the aunt was already struggling to survive. They approached orphanages in the area, but were told that Zenbaba was 'too old' to be accepted. With its policy of ensuring that families stay together where possible, BTO stepped in and now pays half of the house rent, a food allowance for Zenbaba and her school fees. She is now going from strength to strength, coming top in her class of 60 children and looking forward to a bright future!



Zenbaba with her 'brothers and sisters'

Some 150 children in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, are sleeping peacefully at night, knowing that their home, the Kidane Mehret Orphanage, has a comprehensive fire alarm system. The system is the latest in a series of initiatives to brighten and enrich the children's lives, with the help of



# Safe haven in Addis

donations and the hard work of volunteer Emirates staff members.

The entire interior of the home has been given a colourful lick of paint to complement new window blinds which brighten all the main rooms and bedrooms. Beds have new, locally-sourced mattresses, pillows, sheets and blankets, and brightly-coloured desks and benches were also locally made for the school rooms.

Brooke's of Australia donated smoke alarms, and fire extinguishers have been installed. "With 150 people housed in one building, this was an important consideration, and it is a relief to me to know that everyone is now protected to a good level" said one volunteer.

Donations had earlier funded the home's Emirates Airline Foundation Learning Resource Centre, plus a playground with the latest equipment for outdoor fun! Sister Lutgarda, who runs Kidane Mehret, along with a team of devoted Franciscan Sisters, said: "We are all thankful for the support from the foundation. Over the last year, our children have been the lucky ones, and are thrilled with the changes in their surroundings. Many of them would not have been able to even imagine such a bright, positive environment in which to live, work and play."

In response, the Emirates volunteers involved in the projects consider themselves to be the lucky ones, having had the chance to know such wonderful children and share in their delight.



Diagram of new home



Dr. Manorama (left) of CHES discuss the new facilities with the children

## Ground-breaking for Emirates-CHES Home in Chennai

A brand-new home and space to play is fast becoming a reality for abandoned HIV+ children in the Indian city of Chennai, thanks to donations to the foundation. The children are currently looked after in rented villas by the non-governmental organisation, Community Health Education Society (CHES).

The ground-breaking ceremony for the new orphanage was held at the site in the presence of all the children, and attended by Emirates staff members.

### Quality health care

The Emirates-CHES Home, which is costing US\$642,000 to construct, will have dormitories, a medical care centre, an indoor recreation centre, a swimming pool and an education centre that can teach students

up to the fourth standard. The foundation will also fund its running costs of nearly US\$86,000 a year for the next 20 years. Speaking at the ground-breaking ceremony, CHES Founder and President Dr Pinagapany Manorama, said: "Emirates Airline's gesture has come at a time when space is a huge constraint in the city. We are extremely glad that our dream project is taking shape."

She added: "I would like to take this opportunity to thank Emirates Airline on behalf of the entire CHES family, for joining hands with us in supporting the noble cause of providing quality health care to HIV+ children."



Closeup of the Administration block

Donations will fund the construction of an extension to the Emirates-AIM for Seva Student Home for Girls, which was opened last July in India's Tamil Nadu state. The home provides a secure place to live for up to 50 girls from remote areas while they attend the nearby government school.



# Student home to be extended

The first batch of 34 girls are flourishing in the new environment, with 11 taking the 10th Standard government examination that will enable them graduate from secondary school and seek a career that will provide for them and their families.



## Developing education

The home, run by the non-governmental organisation (NGO) AIM for Seva, is now seen as a vital element in the development of education in the area, with a request from the local government administrator,

the District Collector, to accommodate 78 more girls from the area who have no means of transport to attend the government school. While the government pays a nominal fee to the home, the difference in expenses is absorbed by the home, in addition to providing extra tutoring for students who need help in their studies.

In the coming academic year, the home will accept 50 girls, plus another 100 in the government-assisted scheme, for whom more dormitories and washing facilities are required.

Initial donations of US\$69,000 funded the construction of the home, plus its running costs over the next 20 years. Additional donations will fund the building of the extension.

Girls living in remote villages in the foothills of the Himalayas in northern India have been given the chance of an education through the 'Bus them to Purkal' project. A donation of US\$12,000 is part-funding the ten-year project, run by the NGO the Purkal Youth Development Society (PYDS)



# Drive to Learn

in Uttarakhand, which buses 20 girls to English-medium schools in the city, and later to the society's school for classes and a daily meal. It is preparing them for entry into English-medium schools in the city in the coming year.

The society already sends 100 sponsored children from the surrounding areas to city schools and gives them additional tutoring to help them keep up with their studies. Society founder G.K. Swamy says the girls are thriving. "They are attending classes

regularly, eating their meals with relish, playing and generally growing up well. Their complaint is that we do not wish them to be with us on Sundays!"

## Top scorers

Two nine-year-olds have been named top students for the month of March. Prachi, from Kimadi village and Akansha from Bhitharli were noticed as bright sparks during their initial assessment and they have proved themselves to be diligent students with a love for learning.



I am Akansha Purdit. I am 9 years old. I come from Bhitharli. It takes me half an hour to reach there. I like to go by our new BUS very much. I love to study English.



I am Prachi Bhatia. I am 9 years old. I come from Kimadi village (Uttarakhand) and my father takes me half an hour to reach there. I like the bus very much. My favourite subject is English.



the first four rain water-harvesting tanks in the Karagwe district.

"During the rainy season, the tanks will collect rain to provide a vital source of drinking water to communities," said Volunteer Marko Faber, who worked on the

## Donate your Skywards Miles

The foundation has a bank of Skywards Miles, ready to exchange for Emirates Airline tickets to transport volunteers working on humanitarian missions around the world. If you are a Skywards member and would like to donate some of your Miles, log onto [www.skywards.com](http://www.skywards.com) and select Donate Miles from the Earn and Spend drop-down menu on the top bar of the website. Donations can be made in multiple units of 2,500 Skywards Miles.

## Fresh water in Tanzania

Tickets exchanged for Miles flew three volunteer members of Engineers without Borders Germany ([www.ewb-germany.org](http://www.ewb-germany.org)) to Tanzania to work with one of the country's non-governmental agencies (NGO) Mavuno ([www.mavunoproject.org](http://www.mavunoproject.org)) and their Kenyan partner OWCC, to construct

project with colleagues Kathrina Kühnel and Viet Duc Tran.

Two tanks will supply water to families living in a rural Tansaarea, another to the Chonyonyo secondary school and the fourth for public use, close to a technical centre owned by Mavuno.

Two Mavuno trainees - Emanuel Andrew and Sweetbert Daudi - and four local technicians - Joas, Bennett, Robert and Florence - were also trained in the building of water tanks that will last and ensure the cleanliness of the stored water.

