

Darjeeling Children's Trust Newsletter



Autumn 2009

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Summer in Darjeeling is a damp time when the monsoon sets in and the town and hills are often covered in mist. Sales of umbrellas take off but school carries on as normal as the children sponsored through the Trust enjoy the benefits of the gum boots and plastic macs they are given to keep them dry through the downpours. The monsoon has been relatively short this year though and already some of the days are sunny and the mountains are appearing through the cloud. Work on outdoor projects by the Trust is about to begin again.

We are very happy to be able to announce that by December the Trust will have achieved the milestone of having raised £20,000 since it began, a great sum to help the children in Darjeeling. A very big thank you to everyone for helping us do this. None of the Trustees claim expenses and the expenses we have are small, for example they are needed to pay for our web site. These all come out of gift aid - a present from the government!



Some of the children who have benefited from your generosity

Hot news! Approval of a Five Year Plan

DCT Trustees have just approved our first strategic plan to guide Trust activities. During the next five years we will:

- Continue to facilitate child sponsorship from children in the poorest schools into better education.
- Build one new toilet a year in a municipal primary school, including a water harvesting scheme where appropriate, to encourage good hygiene.
- Undertake repairs to schools to improve conditions for children and staff including building a ramp to access a toilet at a school for disabled children.
- Support the poorest schools and children by providing supplies such as pencils and other stationery.
- Maintain the travelling library to encourage literacy and help improve access to information.

- Support the girls' orphanage by providing supplies such as soap and a qualified health visitor to work with the girls.
- Support the boys' orphanage by supporting the rebuilding programme and providing some basic supplies such as toothbrushes.
- Implement a programme of vocational training for older children.

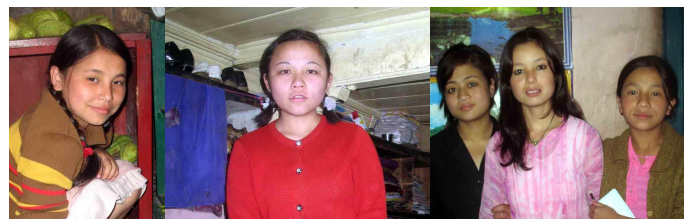
Trustees will be visiting Darjeeling in Oct-November 2009 and will be working with Major Wangdi, Pema Bhante who runs the orphanages, and the local community to make these projects happen.

Vocational training- a new project

We are delighted to announce that we have been given a grant by the Evan Cornish Foundation of 50% towards the costs of implementing a new project which will develop vocational skills in young people.

We will set up training in skills such as dressmaking, tailoring, carpentry and plumbing for girls and boys unlikely to pursue a more academic path. At the end of their training, we will provide them with small start-up business grants. We will also sponsor children to attend classes in computer studies. Initially all these children will come from the orphanages.

We will also provide English teaching to primary school teachers to help them in teaching English to their pupils in the future.



Some of the older girls likely to benefit from the new project

Child sponsorship

We are always looking for new sponsors and this is the best time of year to express an interest. If you don't already do so and are interested in sponsoring a child through the Trust please get in touch - it costs £240 a year which provides everything - including those much needed wellies and macs!

e-mail us at: info@darjeelingchildrenstrust.com