

Mary Lou Kalla Foundation helps

276

POOR TRIBAL FAMILIES AFFECTED BY COVID-19 SHUTDOWN IN SYLHET, BANGLADESH

MLKF donated rice and lentils to 276 families in three tea gardens in Srimangal and Mugaipur in the Sylhet district of Bangladesh due to the spread of COVID-19.

Many day laborers were not able to work in the tea gardens during the regional shutdown. Each tea garden worker earns about USD \$1.25 (about Takas 102) per day – barely enough to afford daily necessities. The families were very

happy to receive the food items and were thankful to our donors.



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125

FAMILIES IN CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS IN BANGLADESH WITH BASIC FOOD ITEMS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

MLKF helped 125 tribal families in Lama, Khagrachori and Thanchi area of the Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh with basic food items like rice, cooking oil, lentils and hand washing soap. Many adult people were not able to work during the COVID-19 pandemic due to a regional lockdown. The families who received the basic food items were grateful for our

contribution at this time of need. We thank our donors for bringing joy to these families.



MARY LOU KALLA FOUNDATION, INC

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Dear Friends of Mary Lou Kalla Foundation:

December 2020

We hope this newsletter comes at a time of peace and prosperity and pray that you and your loved ones have remained in good health.

Our foundation strives to continue to uplift the lives of children and elderly in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many have faced great challenges during these unprecedented times, and we offer our most sincere condolences and prayers to those who have lost loved ones.

With a heavy heart, we mourn the passing of Most Reverend Moses Costa, CSC, Archbishop of Chittagong on July 13, 2020 in Dhaka, Bangladesh due to COVID-19 at the age of 69. He dedicated his life in service of the marginalized groups within the tribal communities in Dinajpur and Chittagong, Bangladesh. In honor of his legacy, we have doubled down on our commitment to continuing his life's work and will strive to advocate for social equity in his name.

We also mourn the passing of Mary Lou Kalla's husband, Harvey Joseph Kalla who died on May 15, 2020 in Waite Park, Minnesota, USA at the age of 90. Jude Gomez paid his respects by attending the funeral. Jude lived with the Kalla family as a foreign student during his studies at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota from 1976 to 1980.

This year, we continued our work in Chittagong and Sylhet in Bangladesh, Colombo, Sri Lanka and in Goa, India. We have continued our unfaltering commitment to improving the education of impoverished students. Education is a lifeline to prosperity. Research shows that supporting education is one of the most effective and efficient ways of promoting social justice and equity. Through our initiatives, we continue our mission to safeguard and uplift the less fortunate. We also were able to feed the hungry among the tribal communities in Bangladesh this summer, alleviating the burden placed on many families due to the pandemic.

MLKF was also fortunate to give a grant of \$20,000.00 towards constructing a new college library extension at Fr. Agnel College in Pilar, Goa, India – in a predominantly rural area surrounded by several villages. This library will be used not only by the college students, but also individuals from the neighboring villages.

We would like to thank our generous donors for their financial support and dedication in supporting our work over the years. We are also grateful to Donald De Alwis of The Motion Project in partnering with us to work in Sri Lanka, and for supporting in the creation of this newsletter.

MLKF is a volunteer run 501(3) nonprofit organization and is solely funded through your generous donations. We look forward to your continued support for our efforts to uplift the lives of those in need by making a tax-deductible gift to Mary Lou Kalla Foundation, Inc.

**BOARD MEMBERS OF MARY LOU KALLA FOUNDATION
WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A PEACEFUL AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON**

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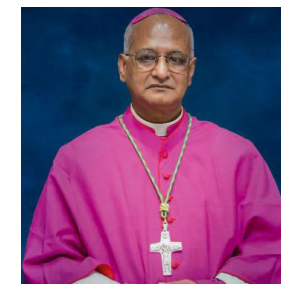
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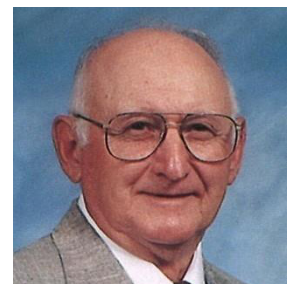
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IN MEMORIUM

Archbishop Moses Costa and Harvey Kalla were very much involved with various projects within the Mary Lou Kalla Foundation from its inception. We will continue to keep them in our thoughts as a constant source of inspiration to all of us.



Archbishop Moses Costa, CSC
Born: 17 November 1950
Died: 13 July 2020
Dhaka, Bangladesh



Harvey Joseph Kalla
Born: 2 May 1930
Died: 15 May 2020
Waite Park, Minnesota, USA

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION TODAY

***** Donation is 100% tax deductible*****

Tax Exempt: 501(c)3 Tax ID# 26-3925304

MLKF gives a \$20,000.00 grant towards library expansion at Fr. Agnel College in Pilar, Goa, India



Fr. Agnel College of Arts and Commerce was established in June of 1991 to fulfil the needs of the students from the area surrounding the historic Pilar sanctuary, where the remains of Venerable Fr. Agnel are enshrined. Many of the students are academically below average and some belong to economically and socially disadvantaged groups. This college is an extension of the Fr. Agnel High School, which was founded in 1953 and raised to a Higher Secondary level in 1976.

The vision of Fr. Agnel College is education for all without any discrimination. Intellectual competitiveness, hard work, and the values of truth, love and justice are considered core to building a successful group of citizens from all walks of life.

The college is affiliated with the Goa University and was accredited by the National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC) in 2016. NAAC recommended increasing the seating capacity of the present library hall to meet the demands and challenges of the students using the library for studies and research. In addition, the library would also serve the surrounding communities.

Presently, there are about nine hundred (900) students attending the college, of which about 300 are considered as socially disadvantaged. The current library has about 18,000 books, over 100 journals and magazines, newspapers, maps, charts, projects and other digital documents. All the students and staff members are given ID numbers and passwords whereby they can access over 5000 e-journals, 2100 e-books and other digital documents. Since there is no other library in the vicinity, the proposed library when completed will also allow access to members of the community from the neighboring villages.

The Library space will be on the second and the third floors of a new building. Construction is currently underway and is expected to be complete in June of 2021. MLKF has raised money in support of the Library sections/floors in this new building extension. We have already sent a donation of \$20,000.00 to the Fr. Agnel College in June this year.

We are grateful to our donors and appreciate their generous support. We look forward to raising additional money to help see this Library to fruition. For further information or to donate for this Project please contact Agnelo G. Gonsalves, CPA, Treasurer – MLKF at: agg2100@gmail.com

Mary Lou Kalla Foundation partners with The Motion Project to provide prosthetic devices and eye screening in Sri Lanka



The Motion Project supports the social and educational welfare of physically disabled students in Sri Lanka through targeted services that address their educational and social determinants of health. The Motion Project has continued to support individual students with physical disabilities, in addition to the Colombo Friend-In-Need Society – the island's oldest charity. This year, the Colombo Friend-In-Need Society (CFINS) has conducted several mobile clinic services all around the island. Many patients in rural villages in Sri Lanka struggle with access to healthcare facilities, and have poor health as a result. The CFINS mitigates this challenge by bringing the clinic to the patients. Equipped with a bus that has been converted into a fully operational clinic, the organization travels to remote regions of

Sri Lanka to provide non-communicable disease screenings, including eye screenings and prosthetic devices to individuals in need. The Motion Project facilitated and partially funded these endeavors to improve healthcare access in remote regions of Sri Lanka. The CFINS traveled to Pollonnaruwa and Trincomalee, and held medical camps in isolated villages in these regions. During one mobile camp alone, they were able to provide 40 below-the-knee prosthetic devices, and eye screenings to about 90 people free-of-charge. Particularly due to the impacts of COVID-19, The Motion Project has supported such initiatives to promote health equity and encourage positive health behaviors.

