



# MARY LOU KALLA FOUNDATION, INC

13111 Bellevue Street, Silver Spring, MD 20904, USA

Tel: 301-706-9602 Email: judevgomez@gmail.com

Dear Friends of Mary Lou Kalla Foundation:

December 2018

Mary Lou Kalla Foundation, Inc. extends our deepest gratitude and warm regards during this holiday season to all our benefactors. Your generous support has offered newfound hope and happiness to our beneficiaries, and has provided them with the second chance they deserve. Our programs in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka continue to prosper as a result of your donations. With your help, we have continued to offer educational and medical services to communities in need and we are sincerely appreciative of your commitment to our mission.

Despite our successes, we continue to look forward to the challenges of the future. Child labor in Bangladesh threatens the education of many young children and disability stigma in Sri Lanka continues to ostracize students with mobility restrictions. We are determined to fight for justice and equality for these marginalized groups, and are over-joyed by your solidarity as we embark on a new year of progress.

We thank Reverend Robi Hubert Gomes, CSC, our Bangladesh Representative of MLKF for his assistance and we also thank Donald De Alwis for helping with this newsletter.

MLKF is a volunteer run 501©(3) nonprofit organization and is funded through your generosity. We hope you will support our projects by making a tax-deductible gift to MLKF.

## BOARD MEMBERS OF MARY LOU KALLA FOUNDATION

### WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR 2019

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## Making strides in Sri Lanka for disabled children with prosthetic devices

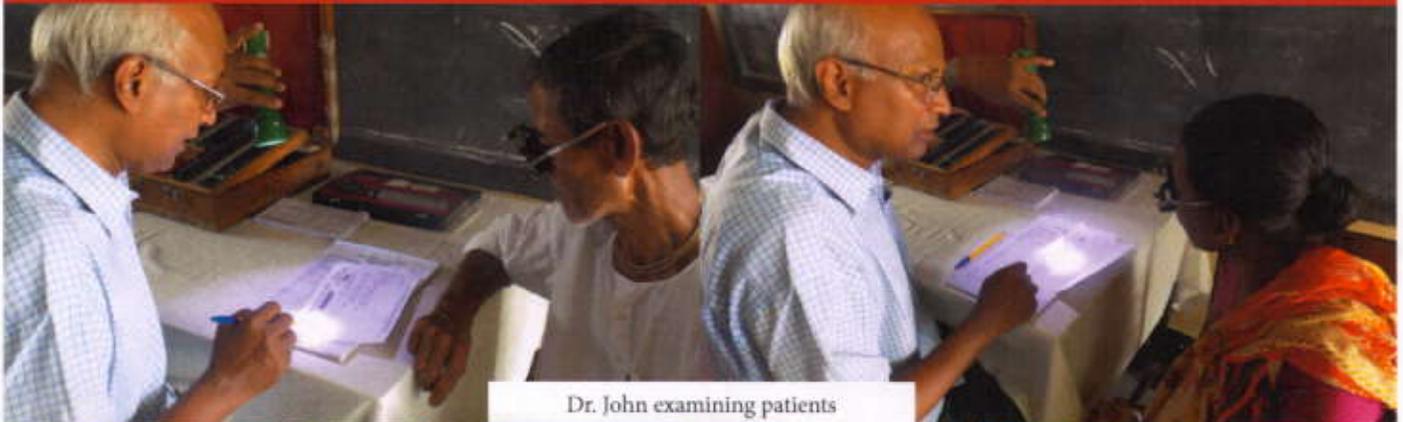


Donald De Alwis with disabled children



The Motion Project aims to uplift students with physical disabilities in Sri Lanka by providing the educational and social resources necessary to excel in the workforce. Early this year, Donald De Alwis travelled to Sri Lanka to discuss 3-D printing as a promising tool to provide durable, custom-fit prosthetic devices free-of-charge to the clinic's underserved population. He also made home visits to several students to determine their needs at home-project initiated include retrofitting a disability accessible bathroom, and initiating after school courses in English and computer skills. Future collaboration with the clinic will focus on empowering students to see past their disability through clinic based activities and programs. The Motion Project is enormously grateful for the support of donors who understand that at empowering students with physical disabilities is the solution to combating disability stigma in the country

Mary Lou Kalla Foundation organizes an  
**Eye and Medical Camp at  
St. Paul's School in Dinajpur, Bangladesh**  
22 elderly patients are now able to see clearly after cataract surgeries



Dr. John examining patients



Ms. Rupa giving injection in the eye



Lenses for examining patients



Free medicines given to patients



Patients for cataract surgery



Dr. John Costa with his medical team

Mary Lou Kalla Foundation (MLKF) organized an annual Eye and Medical Camp for the 6th year and partnered with Khanjanpur Mission Health Service (KMHS) on September 17, 2018. Dr. John Costa, an eye doctor with KMHS and his team screened 87 patients for their eye ailments. He then identified 22 elderly patients who needed cataract surgeries. The patients were then transported to KMHS clinic which is about 80 miles from St. Paul's School. Dr. Costa performed cataract surgeries on the 22 patients. The patients

were picked up from St. Paul's School by minivan and after the surgeries and recovery were dropped off at St. Paul's School. The cataract surgeries were performed free of charge to the patients. The patients thanked Dr. John Costa and Mary Lou Kalla Foundation for helping them see clearly now after the surgeries.

Sister Anjali (CIC) & Ms. Putul Minze (midwife) performed basis medical check-ups on the 80 students of St. Paul's School and 25 parents. All of them received free medicines

as they are very poor and cannot afford basic healthcare. They were also introduced to personal hygiene in their daily lives and hand-washing before their meals.

We thank Reverend Robi Hubert Gomes, CSC, MLKF Bangladesh representative for organizing the medical camp on our behalf. We also thank our donors who made it possible to give these elderly patients clear vision after their cataract surgeries.

# Mary Lou Kalla Foundation donates 17 new laptop computers and inaugurates Computer Learning & Training Center at Corpus Christi Parish in Jalchatra, Mymensingh, Bangladesh



Jude Gomez giving laptop computer to Rev. Robi Gomes



Tribal students in computer class



Mary Lou Kalla Foundation is pleased to announce that a new Computer Learning & Training Center was inaugurated by Jude Gomez, President of MLKF on September 18, 2018. This is a new project of MLKF to help high school students get exposed to learning and using computers for school related assignments. Previously, the students only learned about computers from books, and did not use computers in their classes. Most of the time, the school's few computers were not being used due to power outages. MLKF donated 17 new laptop computers in order for the students to have hands-on experience with computers at the Parish center, aided by power from solar batteries as a backup.

The total number of students at the center is 65 (35 girls and 30 boys) students. The center is open from Saturday to Thursday and students get to use the computers (about 3 students per computer). Rev. Robi Hubert Gomes, CSC along with some instructors are teaching basic Words, Excel, Power Point, Photoshop, Illustrator, etc. The students will also be able to learn graphic design after learning basic skills through elementary computer courses.

The students are from the tribal areas of Mymensingh and are very poor. Many of them do not have electricity in their homes and those that do only have it for a few hours per day. They cannot afford computers and at home like our children

have. Therefore, this Computer Learning and Training Center will benefit the students for their education and use.

We thank Reverend Robi Hubert Gomes, CSC to manage this center and also teach the students. Most of all, we thank our doners for their generosity in funding computer education to the underserved and poor tribal students.



Welcome dance group students



Backup solar panels for computer class

Mary Lou Kalla Foundation  
distributes school backpacks and umbrellas  
to St. Paul's School students on September 17, 2018



Umbrellas and backpacks for students

Jude Gomez, President of MLKF  
distributing backpack and umbrella



Students of St. Paul's school welcoming  
Jude Gomez, Hubert A. Rozario, Rev. Robi Gomes, CSC and Dr. John Costa



St. Paul's School students and their families welcomed Jude Gomez, President of MLKF and Hubert Arun Rozario who travelled from Woodbridge, Virginia, USA to visit the school. The students sang songs at the arrival of the guests and had a short cultural program. Dr. John Costa, Reverend Robi Hubert Gomes, CSC, Reverend Lazarus Soren of Nijpara Catholic Church, school managing

committee members and the student's parents were also present during the program.

Jude Gomez, Hubert Arun Rozario and Dr. John Costa then distributed school backpacks and umbrellas to about 80 students and the teachers. The students were very happy to receive the gifts from Mary Lou Kalla Foundation and expressed their thanks to the benefactors. The students also

were treated to snacks after the distribution ceremony. They were very excited with the gifts since they could carry their school items in their backpacks and also use the umbrella during the rainy days while walking to school and during hot days to protect from the sun's heat.

**PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION TODAY**

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

**Tax Exempt: 501(c)3**

**Tax ID# 26-3925304**

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