

CANADIAN FRIENDS of  
the CALCUTTA  
CATHEDRAL RELIEF  
SERVICE (CCRS)

ANNUAL REPORT  
2017



Beth Fortin, a member of the Anglican Church Women (A.C.W.) group at St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church in Delta, is pictured above with the unique Batik Bags that are made by women in Kolkata. The Cdn. Friends/CCRS raises donations by selling these beautiful bags.

In no particular order, listed below are the  
2017 Canadian Friends of the Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service.

Thank you to the Donors & Supporters who live in:

**Surrey, White Rock, Delta, Richmond, Vancouver, North Vancouver, Maple Ridge,  
West Vancouver, Saltspring Island, and in  
Paris, Ontario, & London, Ontario**

A.C.W. St. Mark Ocean Park, Surrey	Jan Rups Lovett
Pat Aiken	J. Adrian Grant Duff
Karen Benge	Keith Bunnell & David Swan
Cindy Bouvet	Capilano University in North Vancouver
Anne Schreck,	Michele Ebel
Janet Coghlan	Florence Mulhern
Ann Colman	A.C.W. St. Mary's Kerrisdale, Vancouver
T.O.P.S. of South Surrey	Andrew Gauntley
Jim & Diane Cousar	Elli Mitchell
Ken Overby	Ruth Nichol
Efrat El-Hanany	John & Joan Spencer
Ladies Guild, St. Mark Ocean Park, Surrey	June Martin
Sue Indridson	Liz MacDonald
Linda & Kerry Zeal	Alex Nixon & Megan
Betty-Ann Bainbridge	Audrey Mistiades
Margaret Appleton	Deborah Spafford
Parish of St. Mark Ocean Park, Surrey	Barb Grantham & Sharon
Paulette Smith	Ken Miles
Bea Ross	G. Douglas Fenton
Lynne Brownridge	William Johnston
Lynne & Lawrence Hurd	Susan Lazar
Simon & Sheila Johnston	Evan Palmer
Karen Nichol	Phyllis Ogis
A.C.W. the Church of Holy Trinity, White Rock	Joanne Walker
St. John the Divine Church in Maple Ridge	Mary Thirsk
Peter Johnson	Brian & Ingrid Switzer
John & Maureen Gaudreau	Ifon Boone
Barbara Carington Smith	Evelyn Baker
Joanne Walker	Mitzi Tyler
Roma Palmer	Mary Price
Cory McCaig	Nancy Boresky
Paul Bartlett	Sara Badyal
Roy & Marion Cleaver	Sherry Elasoff
A.C.W. St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church, Delta	Jack & Pauline Blatchford
Vera Morgan	

## 2017 Activities by the Cdn. Friends/CCRS

- (1) **Jan 14** – delivered to Beth Fortin in Delta for the A.C.W. at St. Cuthbert's, the Batik Bags from Kolkata
- (2) **Jan. 22** – Keith and Sheila spoke to the Men's Breakfast Club at St. Mary's Kerrisdale
- (3) **Jan 30.** Cdn. Friends/CCRS's AGM in Vancouver
- (4) **Feb. 6** – in Surrey Sheila met with Dr. Andrea Mann, Director of Global Affairs for the Anglican Church of Canada
- (5) **March 1** – speaking engagement at St. Christopher's in West Vancouver at the invitation of the PWRDF\* representative (\*Primate's World Relief and Development Fund)
- (6) **March 20** – Diocese of New Westminster forwarded Bishop Melissa Skelton's letter to Bishop Ashoke Biswas, Diocese of Calcutta, inviting him and Rig David, Executive Director of CCRS, to visit B.C.
- (7) **March 23** – speaking engagement at All Saints, in Ladner, at the invitation of Liz MacDonald
- (8) **March 25** - speaking engagement at Maple Ridge at St. John the Divine at the invitation of Janet Coghlan
- (9) **April 1** – the annual Penny Pot Tea, where it was announced that the 2017 donation to CCRS would be \$4,000; it was also announced to donors that the Home Ministry of India had withheld the charitable registration certificate of up to 11,000 non-profit organizations, and that CCRS was among that number
- (10) **April 13** – Sheila met with Will Postma, Executive Director of PWRDF, at Church House in Toronto, Ontario
- (11) **April 25** – speaking engagement, with the Youth Group at St. Mark Ocean Park, at the invitation of Youth Pastor Joshua Brown
- (12) **May 1** – email from webmaster and photographer Sudipta Jana advising that he donated the cost of renewing the Society's website domain
- (13) **May 2** – email from Rig David advising that in the spring of 2018 is when he and the Bishop want to travel to Canada for speaking engagements
- (14) **May 15** – an email from Rig David advised that “on May 13 CCRS had learned from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India, that it had approved the renewal of CCRS's charitable registration certificate”. He added: “We are very thankful to all our partners who have supported us during this period with their patient waiting.”
- (15) **June** - The Board of the Cdn. Friends decided to donate \$5,375 in 2017
- (16) **June 29** – receipt of the letter of request from CCRS in Kolkata (see below)
- (17) **July 13** – wired 2017 donation of \$5375

- (18) **August 21** – Miranda Young advised that her “Rangers” group would help at the next Penny Pot Tea (spring of 2018)
- (19) **Sept. 1** – receipt arrived from Kolkata (see photo attached)
- (20) **Sept. 8** – Sheila spoke to the A.C.W. at St. Mary’s Kerrisdale (see photo)
- (21) **Sept. 11** – Board Meeting of the Cdn. Friends/CCRS
- (22) **Sept 25 & Sept 26** – Sheila, at the invitation of Dr. Andrea Mann, was in Toronto, Ontario, to participate as a member of the Reference Group on Human Trafficking, Anglican Church of Canada
- (23) **Nov. 20** – Roma and Sheila, at the invitation of Professor Efrat El-Hanany, spoke to Women’s Studies students at Capilano University, N. Vancouver
- (24) **Nov. 25** – Christmas Fair at St. John the Divine in Maple Ridge; Janet Coughlan had arranged the sale of CCRS-made items to raise funds
- (25) **Nov 30** – Exec. Dir. of CCRS, Rig David, advised that in mid-May, 2018, he and his Board Chair, Bishop Ashoke Biswas, Diocese of Calcutta, would travel to B.C. to attend the 2018 Penny Pot Tea
- (26) **Dec. 21** – Sheila was invited by the A.C.W. group of Holy Trinity White Rock, to join them as a guest at their annual Christmas lunch
- (27) **Dec. 27** – Sheila met with Sherin Joy, a student from Capilano University, to discuss the work of CCRS in Kolkata

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In October, CCRS launched “Nari Dana”.

*Nari Dana* means “women’s wings” and is an exciting new social enterprise that has been established in Kolkata with the support of the UK Friends of CCRS. CCRS’s women’s empowerment program provides skills training for women and girls in the slums. *Nari Dana* takes the emancipation of women a stage further by providing a business to develop and sell products made by the women to enable them to earn a decent and secure living.

Ritu Ghosh is the Quality and Production Manager of the new business, and has been working for over a year with an initial cohort of about 30 women, developing high quality products to be sold both locally and on overseas western markets, primarily in the UK.

A production centre has been established next to the CCRS offices, and a number of Juki industrial sewing machines have been bought and are housed there. A limited company (Nari Dana Home Accessories Private Ltd.) has been incorporated in Kolkata,

and will be the vehicle through which the new business will be run. It will employ the women and market the products.

The project was inspired by teaming up with Veronica, a former product manager from the UK textile industry, who has started a web-based business called **Tabitha Living** to sell Freedom Products, including items which she has designed to be made by women from the CCRS slums. Veronica has been working closely with Ritu to develop a range of good quality sewn and hand-embroidered household products.

Ritu has also developed a range of products which are being made by the women and sold on the local market. It is hoped that, in time, *Nari Dana* will be recognised as a distinctive brand of quality goods. A website has been established for *Nari Dana* and, in due course, it is intended to sell online to the local market.

In November 2014, Veronica joined two of the UK Friends of CCRS trustees on a trip to Kolkata. About 140 women from the slums came to meet her, all of whom were eager to take part in the project. *Nari Dana* was then born, and we believe that it will provide a large step beyond the existing self-help groups, and provide a regular and sustained income for women trapped by poverty, prostitution and other social ills. In Ritu's words: "Nari Dana believes that women are the largest untapped source of talent in the world".

- Rig David, Executive Director, CCRS, Kolkata



Photo Above: October launch day in Kolkata for the new Nari Dana initiative.

# Cdn. Friends/CCRS<sup>6</sup> ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Month End	Balance	Activity	Notes
January 1, 2017	\$3929.49		Carried over from 2016
February 1	\$4009.52		Donations – various
March 1	\$4694.56		“
April 1	\$4987.61		“
May 1	\$6685.66		“
June 1	\$7079.70		“
July 1	\$7393.24		“
July 13 (see table below)		\$5375.00	To CCRS in Kolkata – the 2017 donation by the Cdn. Friends/CCRS donors
July 13		\$10	Fee for transfer – paid to “Payline By Ice”, Victoria
July 14	\$2008.24		The basis for the 2018 donation by the Cdn. Friends/CCRS donors
August 1	\$2239.28		Donations – various
September 1	\$3563.29		“
October 1	\$3613.32		“
November 1	\$3728.35		“
December 1	\$4293.38		“
December 31	\$4547.38		Year end balance

**In June, 2017, we received the following  
“Requisition of Fund from Friends of Cathedral Relief Service – CANADA”**

	Budget	Amount (Indian Rupees)	Amount (Canadian \$)
01	Teachers Honorarium	218,280	4500
02	Education Materials	12,000	250
03	Doctors Honorarium	12,000	250
04	Medicine	18,000	375
		<b>260,280</b>	<b>\$5375</b>

The photo on the next page features the receipt sent to the Cdn. Friends/CCRS by the accounting department at Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service’s confirming that they had received the 2017 donation from the Canadian Friends.

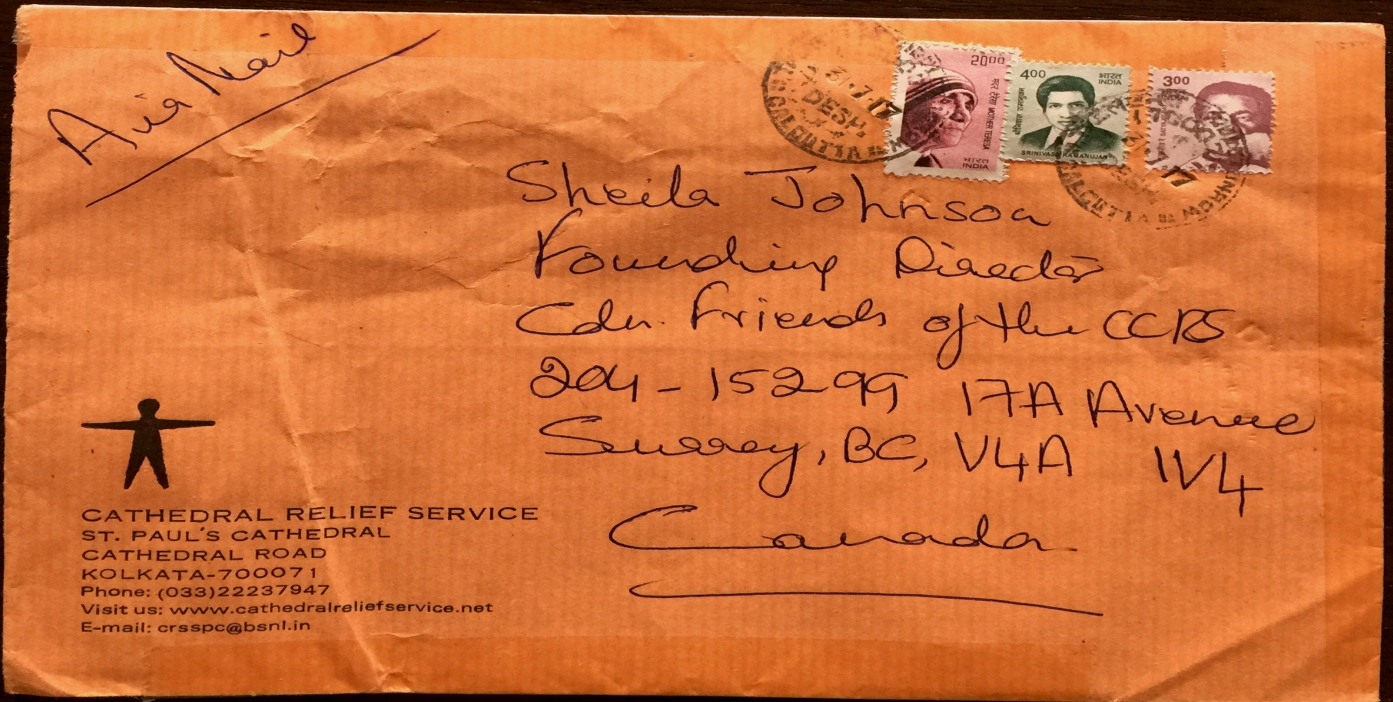
No. **035** Date.....19/7/..... 2017

**CATHEDRAL RELIEF SERVICE**  
ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL  
Cathedral Road, Kolkata-700 071

Received with thanks from *Canadian Friends of the C.C.R.S.*.....  
.....the sum of  
Rupees *Two Lakhs Sixty thousand and Six hundred* by Direct Remittance/  
*Eighty & four fifty Seven only*  
\*Cheque payment *of amount towards Total Education Project*

Rs. ( 260280.57 ) Cathedral Relief Service  
*S. J. D. S.*  
Secretary

\*This receipt is valid subject to realisation of the cheque.



Cathedral Relief Service in Kolkata believes that:  
***“If enough people care they can and will bring about change.”***

In 2017 Canadian donors & supporters once again demonstrated that they care about the children, women and families in Kolkata, India, served by the Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service (CCRS).

Our annual donation ensured that a positive difference was made in the lives of those who rely on CCRS for Education, Health, and Empowerment programs.

**Registered Office Address**.....#204-15299 17A Avenue, Surrey, BC, V4A 1V4

**Society Email Address**.....sheilajohnston@shaw.ca

**Society Directors:**

- Sara Badyal, Richmond, - Keith Bunnell, Vancouver,
- Sheila Johnston, Surrey, - Roma Palmer, Vancouver, - David Swan, Vancouver

**Constitution of the Canadian Friends of the Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service Society**

- (a) To further the work of the Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service (CCRS) among the destitute population of the City of Kolkata, as well as residents of impoverished rural villages surrounding Kolkata, in West Bengal, India;
- (b) To support the development programs in the areas of education, employment, and health, created and delivered by CCRS, a secular, non-governmental organization, registered since 1974 in the Province of West Bengal, Kolkata, India; and
- (c) *To disburse 100% of donations received by the Canadian Friends of the Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service to CCRS in Kolkata, India, so that CCRS's Executive Director, and his Board of Trustees, may apply these funds, as they see fit, to their development programs, in the belief that: education programs, empowerment initiatives and health services provide hope, and are directly associated with breaking the cycle of poverty.*

**Information**

**Sources:**

<a href="http://www.cathedralreliefservice.net">www.cathedralreliefservice.net</a>	(India)
facebook: Cathedral Relief Service	(India)
<a href="http://www.canadianfriends.net">www.canadianfriends.net</a>	(Canada)
<a href="http://www.friendsofcrs.co.uk">www.friendsofcrs.co.uk</a>	(England)



# Cdn. Friends/CCRS ANNUAL REPORT 2017



Photo taken by Sheila Johnston on Sept. 28, 2017 of the Anglican Church Women (A.C.W.) at St. Mary's Kerrisdale in Vancouver. The group's first donation to the Cdn. Friends/CCRS was in May of 2011. Since that time the group has made 10 more donations.

**100%** of Canadian donations are sent to CCRS in Kolkata, India.  
In India CCRS invests **22%** of its annual budget in Administration.

The rest of their annual budget is invested in:

- Education programs
- Health programs
- Empowerment programs, and programs at their
- T.C.D.P. = Training Centre for Differently-Abled Persons



Sharon – pictured above – was the youngest guest at the 2017 Penny Pot Tea. She posed in front of the Penny Pot table. Her grandmother – Barb – sewed unique “soft” Penny Pots. These were so popular that they were the first to be “adopted” by donors, and taken home to be filled with small change.

Annual School Supplies for a CCRS student at one of their schools  
is 102 Indian Rupees...\$2/Cdn.

Annual Salary for a CCRS school teacher  
is 35,979 Indian Rupees...\$706/Cdn.

A year's education for a CCRS student  
is 2,621 Indian Rupees...\$51/Cdn.

The annual budget to run a CCRS school for 25 students  
is 55,311 Indian Rupees...\$1,086/Cdn.



In a typical year CCRS spends 11,750 Indian Rupees on Doctors Honorariums  
in order to provide child labourers with free medical care...\$230/Cdn.

CCRS invests approximately 168,000 Indian Rupees per year to purchase materials needed for its  
Empowerment Projects...\$3,299/Cdn.

It costs 20,000 Indian Rupees annually to train an Empowerment Program teacher ...\$392/Cdn.

Per day Nutritional Support for a CCRS student  
is 6 Indian Rupees ...\$0.11/Cdn.

Five CCRS motivational and orientation workshops for parents of child labourers  
is 1,000...\$19.63 Cdn.

Pictured below: Donor Mitzi with Sheila Johnston.

Mitzi called and advised that during the set up of the annual Spring Tea at the Church of the Holy Trinity in White Rock, a ceramic piggy bank had been found among the donated items. A decision was made by the conveners and volunteers of the Tea that the piggy - and its mystery contents - would be donated to the Cdn. Friends/CCRS. Upon extricating the coins, without having to break the piggy bank, the donation amounted to \$4.11 or 209 Rupees. THANK YOU!





**We are grateful to each one of our donors and supporters. Thank You!**

A gentle reminder... we still accept Canadian pennies when they come our way. Donors say they find them in a deep drawer, or a crevice in the car, or a forgotten container in the garage. We accept Canadian and American pennies – no pennies are turned away. As with all donations, we send all proceeds from all pennies received to CCRS in Kolkata.