



NEW LIGHT



You must work. We all must work to make this place worthy of its children.

New Light Annual Newsletter

2017

Courage – how we practice it around the world everyday

“At a time when one of the most inspiring world leaders Hillary Clinton was months away from breaking through the glass ceiling of the last bastion of male supremacy it is ironic that the global conversation is about gender equality and gender based violence. Never before has the world witnessed the degree of atrocity directed at women around the world as it is seen today. While women everywhere are contributing more to the respective GDP of each and every country the burning issue remains that of women`s position and safety. On my recent travels the most consistent and important topic that I have been asked to comment on has been the status of women in India. Leaning in alone is not enough to guarantee safe passage from home to school or from work to playground. From Seattle to Satkhira and from Kansas to Karachi girls and women are being tortured, lynched, molested, paraded naked, raped and killed for reasons inexplicable for anything other than power, subjugation and control. Gender based violence unfortunately seems to be emerging as directly proportional to the progress of girls and women in many parts of the developing world.





Jana Mackay was all of 26 years old when she was killed at home by her estranged boyfriend. Jana, a gifted, bright, committed young student who dedicated her life on campus to working on women's safety and gender equity while pursuing a career in law had her young life snuffed out by someone she trusted to be her closest. I could barely look her parents Chris and Kurt Brungardt in the eye when I was asked to share my experience of working

with girls and women who are trafficked and sold for the purpose of prostitution and sex slavery. Meeting Jana's parents and friends at a memorial lecture at the Emily Parker Women's Resource Centre in Kansas University only drove home the point that women are rarely free of violence that is gender specific irrespective of where they live or come from. The courage and perseverance that Chris and Kurt Brungardt demonstrated through their fight to stop gender based violence strengthened my belief that only true empathy of shared experiences can create a global movement that would put an end to the continued barbaric stranglehold of patriarchy.



It was also in Lawrence, Kansas that I first came to realize what the Middle America actually felt or did about abortion. I was told by a worker at a rape crisis centre that



young girls have little access to contraception and literally no safe place to go for an abortion if required. Often the clinics that offer the services and doctors who support the choice are attacked, vandalized and even killed by those who consider themselves pro life while not stopping to blink when they shoot someone through their heart. As a contrast it would be interesting to note how increasingly in most of the swank shopping mall toilets around India one sees extensive advertisements promoting I-pill while safe sex and condoms are relegated to the back rows of young adult conversation. It would not be unrealistic to expect a surge in the

number of new HIV infections and an entire generation of young women made infertile due to repeated abortions caused by the day after contraception that the pharmaceuticals are so intent on getting this generation hooked onto.



Speaking at an event, television anchor and a secondary survivor of domestic violence Joya Dass could not be more direct and honest while she recounted her life of nightmares watching her mother being brutalized at the hands of her otherwise suave and charming father. It took her years of silent suffering and total loss of self esteem till one day she broke through the veil of denial and shame and made a go at getting full control of her life. Sitting in the crowd I thought of thousands of girls and women in my very own city who suffer silently and fear the stigma they will be subjected to if they take the right action of protesting against the perpetrators of violence within the four walls of their domestic existence. I easily lose count of the times when I have been approached by total strangers narrating and sharing the stories of helplessness and paralyzing fear that victims of domestic violence experience. In a culture where even today girls are raised to be docile, obedient and bear everything that comes their way with grace and kindness any act of defiance is seen as the worst offence. And the punishment for that can be anything from ridicule, humiliation, physical torture, sexual abuse to even rape in marriage. The stories of domestic violence among the South Asian communities in the United States of America represented by India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Maldives is no shade lighter than that we see and hear about everyday in this very city.

Santa Fe, New Mexico the city synonymous with the legendary painter Georgia O`Keeffe is one the most charming places one can find oneself in. It is also the city where I met leaders from five extraordinary organizations that are fighting against gender based violence. At a seminar titled Trafficking and survival: Creating Solutions held at Santa Fe Women`s Club organized by The Storydancer Project, the leaders came together to find a collective voice and explore possible solutions to end modern day slavery.



For most in the audience who had little or no knowledge of trafficking as a global phenomenon the stories of survival as presented through dance and narrative by Zuleikha Bethami acted as a trigger for action. It took young Tamara of Esperanza shelter and veteran activist Keahi Souza to elaborate on the linkages between lack of education, non-supportive social network and vulnerability to abuse. Each of the leaders spoke deeply and clearly and brought their expertise through to the heart of the matter. It was more than coincidence that driving around in my friend`s car through the back roads of Santa Fe in the brilliant afternoon sun of the 28thth of May we were silenced by the outpouring of loss and grief on the radio at the passing on of one of the most respected author, poet, dancer, actress and singer and certainly indomitable women`s rights activist Maya Angelou. In the minutes that followed I found something that I would gift to each and every girl I come across in my life. It is silence and fear that keep women around the world positioned as victims.



Therefore to break free from that, in Maya Angelou`s words we learn that courage is the most important of all virtues because without courage you can`t practice any other virtue consistently”

Urmi Basu

We were delighted to welcome Village Volunteers and New Light Kolkata supporters Rumela Ganguly and daughter Riyanka Ganguly at the project on the first work day of the New Year. Riyanka, a young scholar and apprentice activist under the table guidance of Shana Greene represented Empowering Women Period at the recently held UN Women Project Inspire 2016. New Light Kolkata represented by Avantika Kar emerged as the winner of the Financial Inclusion and Popular Vote Award for our project Mukti.



On January 5th, we had our first team meeting of the year 2017. We look forward to yet another happening and fabulous year.

Teamwork is the ability to work together toward our common mission to promote gender equality through education and life skill training thereby reducing harm caused by violence and abuse to women and children - The ability to direct individual accomplishment toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows us to attain uncommon results.

On January 10th, our hearts beamed! At New Light, we see the importance of giving back and investing in young adolescents, willing to do whatever it takes to succeed. Salma Molla, Bulti Bera, Joyeta Sarkar and Pinki Das from New Light Kalighat graduated to Soma Memorial Girls Home, New Light's residential facility for young girls at risk, where they will be provided all support to pursue their dreams and soar high.





We watch sports for the excitement, but even more so, we watch it for the fun.

Sports Day is about those incredible moments where children desire and overcome the odds. These are the moments we remember. Given the nature of sports, it's not surprising that the children learn a lot about hard work, leadership, perseverance, winning, and much more. Annual Sports Day is an important event in the life of every child in New Light.



On January 19th, there were about 250 participants including children, their mothers and the staff. All got good results and some of them won exciting prizes too! We all enjoyed ourselves and had an unforgettable Sports Day!

The day would not have been possible without the generous support of Hemant Goenka and Diamond Beverages, Neha Mohta, Monisha at Hindustan Unilver, Vibha Kumar and all the other volunteers.



We are very proud of one of our New Light kids, Kajol Mallick. The artwork on the album cover was done by Kajol, who was rescued from slavery. Her work has become the image of this movement with the butterflies that make up the blue heart of the UNODC - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's Blue Heart Campaign. Thank you Anchal Leela Chand and Sammy Chand, we couldn't have done this without your support!

On January 25th, we bid farewell to three magical days of rising above pain with shared fate named the Kalpataru Project in Kolkata. We danced like no one was watching us, sang like no one was listening, loved with the knowledge of having been hurt and created a tiny piece of heaven on earth. Created things, made jewellery, pampered ourselves and ate the healthiest of foods. The Storydancer

Project with Storydancer Zuleikha touched the lives of survivors in a way to make them warriors of love. New Light continues to explore and expand the gender binary through path breaking creative projects like The Kalpataru Project.



On February 2nd, the Kalpataru project for survivors of Witch Hunt at Asha Ngo Jharkhand, trained 35 Saṅgharṣaśīla women who came from Bokaro, Ranchi, Pegs, Gumla and Lohardaga to be a part of this three day project. The project aims at transforming lives through yoga and wellness practice, clay work, painting and dancing.

When hope brings light into the lives of forgotten, love brings courage. New Light Kolkata Asha Ngo Jharkhand and Storydancer Zuleikha from the The Storydancer Project joined hands to restore dignity to brutalized women among the tribal communities of Jharkhand.



On February 7th, Ms. Mary Kay Carlson, US Charge d'Affaires, visited New Light. She interacted with the survivors of sex trafficking, young women and children of the Kalighat community and left us with this message: "We must fight discrimination everyday with every breath. Thank you to the Political Economic Department of the U.S. Consulate General Kolkata Office and the support staff. We were honored."



Barsha Sarkar, from Sonar Tori, secured the First prize in Solo Dance category and Second position in Debate Competition. The group participation from New Light won the Second position in Drama Competition and Third position in Collage Making.

On February 13th, RYLA (Rotary Young-Person Leadership Awards) Rotary's leadership training program for 14-30 year old participants was hosted and sponsored by Rotary Chowringhee, Kolkata. RYLA emphasizes leadership, citizenship and personal growth, and aims to demonstrate Rotary's respect and concern for youth, provide an effective training experience for selected youth and potential leaders, encourage leadership of youth by youth and recognize publicly young people who are rendering service to their communities.



Team New Light stood Second in Overall Participation. Kudos to the entire team!

ONE BILLION RISING: SOLIDARITY AGAINST THE EXPLOITATION OF WOMEN
RISE! DISRUPT! CONNECT!



One Billion Rising first began in 2013 with the fierce struggle against sexual and physical violence – taking on the advocacy against rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation and sex trafficking that V-Day campaigns over 18 years have been at the forefront of.

Over the last four years, as One Billion Rising has grown and the local campaigns deepened, it has also brought in economic violence and the violence of poverty, racial violence, gender violence, violence caused by corruption, occupation and aggression, violence caused by environmental disasters, climate change and environmental plunder, violence impacting women in the context of state sponsored wars, militarization, and the worsening internal and international displacement of millions of people, and violence created by capitalist greed, among so many others.

This year, One Billion Rising Revolution is giving sharper focus and visibility to the exploitation of women, and to harnessing even stronger global solidarity to demand an end to violence in all forms.

Because there can be no **REVOLUTION** without **SOLIDARITY**. We cannot call for system change – change of mindsets; change of structures that keep violence in place; change in consciousness, awareness and understanding of violence; the end of patriarchal values and cultures; change in policies that affect women economically, socially, sexually, physically, emotionally; the end of the revolving patterns of control, oppression and exploitation – **ALONE**.





The easiest way to do well in your exams is to treat them like a giant punching bag. Use all the strength of your memory and punch the daylight of your tests. Nothing can stop you from doing your best, nothing can pull you down. Farhana, Riya, Indira and Puja appeared for their Madhyamik Exams (Class X) in February.

A big Thank you to Jaclyn and Ben Harper for their generosity in putting on a benefit in San Francisco in support of Khela-Ghar on 24th February. The home provides the boys of women in prostitution safety from the violence filled environment of the red light district along with education, counseling, healthcare, meals, vocational training and recreational opportunities to ensure they reach their potential to live a life of dignity.



Pillars of Paper is a joint initiative between [Enactus St. Xavier's](#) and Rotaract Club of Calcutta Park Point. They collected and sold old newspapers and underutilized sheets of paper and from the money collected, bought notebooks, stationery and food packets. These were distributed amongst the children during a Fun Fiesta on Feb. 25th. Thank you for spreading smiles!



March 2nd was filled with so many hugs! Big congratulations to all the participants of the Tamalpa Expressive Arts Workshop, a dance form to share the art of self expression and storytelling for empowerment, in partnership with [Blossomy](#) and [Tamalpa Institute Art Corps](#). The New Light participants completed a month-long arts therapy intensive dance workshop. The workshop aimed at working with both those vulnerable to as well as those rescued from human trafficking and is designed for healing and self-expression. This certificate course exposed the participants to the Tamalpa Institute Expressive Arts method.



“For throughout history, you can read the stories of women who - against all the odds - got being a woman right, but ended up being compromised, unhappy, hobbled or ruined, because all around them, society was still wrong. Show a girl a pioneering hero - Sylvia Plath, Dorothy Parker, Frida Kahlo, Cleopatra, Boudicca, Joan of Arc - and you also, more often than not, show a girl a woman who was eventually crushed.” — Caitlin Moran



On March 8th, we celebrated International Women's Day!!



On March 11th, we were delighted to welcome Linda Henry and Chris Beukenkamp, joining forces with [Salesforce.org](https://www.salesforce.org). Thank you [Casey Allred](https://www.effect.org) - [Effect.org](https://www.effect.org), for being the precious link.

On March 13th, we celebrated the Holi Festival - Colors of Spring! The festival of holi marks the end of winter and honors the triumph of good over evil. We celebrated holi in the most colourful way possible! From throwing coloured powder called ABIR in the air (and on each other), and eating sweets and amongst lots of love and laughter made Holi one of the most beautiful and fun festivals that welcomes the Spring.



Thank you Sophia Anderson from [Carpe Diem Education](https://www.carpediemeducation.com) for being a part of this festival and for spending lovely time with the kids!

On March 15th, Mary and Sudipto had their Class XII board exams. We wished them good luck!

On March 21st, around 60 children visited Alipore Zoological Gardens popularly known as The Alipore Zoo, on a day trip recently. Thank you Mr. & Mrs. Bonerji for sponsoring the trip! The children were accompanied by staff members and all had a wonderful morning and enjoyed the day at the zoo.



On March 24th, we participated in the Kolkata Classics Club Hathon Health Fair and Concert! We uplifted our spirits, got inspired and healed our minds, bodies and souls. The free concert was put on by a special guest Bickram Ghosh on

tabla & entertainment by four international artists including Jennifer Heemstra, performing on the cello, violin and piano. There was free Health Camp for the women from the community and children offering health checkups, TB screening, anti-lice medication and nutritional supplements. The children from Jhinuk, Soma Memorial Girls Home and New Light performed dance numbers too for the audience at the event.





On Saturday, March 25th, the Media Centre had on display artwork done by the children of New Light. The project was called The Pop-Up Art Show! Gabriela Mesa-Jonassen, a volunteer from New York and through our partner in the US - [Village Volunteers](#), spent the last couple months doing visual art workshops with the children in all the New Light centers. The children have done such outstanding work that she decided to organize a gathering to appreciate and celebrate the talent of these phenomenal artists. We had such great work on display!

Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence wins championships.

- Michael Jordan

We ended the month with a team meeting at New Light.





Thank you all donors and construction workers for injecting colors and life blood in to New Light Shelter II. Popular choice in the renaming has been Syamatara, the Bodhisattva of enlightened activity.



On April 3rd, we were proud to share the certificates and trophies for extraordinary performance won by the girls at [New Light Kolkata](#) Soma Home at the St. Sebastian's School. While Rani and Shibani secured the first and second prize in the Music Competition, Madhabi won the second prize for outstanding performance for Dance. The girls also secured various other positions in the categories like Bengali Handwriting Competition, Poster Making Competition, Quiz Competition and Non-Fire Cooking Competition. We are incredibly proud of you girls!! Keep it up!!

In the beginning of April, we were honored to have amongst us [Simone Utler](#), freelance journalist, presenter and author for print, online and radio media.



When Gabriela Mesa-Jonassen heard of New Light through [Village Volunteers](#), she fell in love with the project and although she had so much going on in the USA, she managed to squeeze in three months to volunteer with us. We would like to thank Gabriela for everything she has accomplished with us here, through her selfless sense of wanting to give back to the community.



In mid-April, we re-opened Syamatara in association with [BONO Direkthilfe e.V.](#) The brand new and expanded shelter will cater to the children of the Dalit community and is located behind the crematorium in Keoratala, Kolkata. We are so pleased that Simone Utler could join us and thank you to all of you who were a part of our special day and helped us make this day possible.



On April 19th, Zoological Garden, Alipore celebrated Earth Day 2017 in collaboration with [Earth Day Network](#) team on 19th April, 2017. Children from New Light between the ages of 10 to 12 participated in the Sit and Draw competition organized by the team. The West Bengal Zoo Authority, in regular intervals conducts, different awareness programmes to educate the visitors, students, research scholars etc. about value of wildlife, need of conservation and conducts study tours for explaining various information regarding wild animals, their habit and habitat.



On April 22nd we planted with the fabulous girls at Soma Home to celebrate Earth Day.



On May 9th, Ace Climber, Everest Conqueror [Chetna Sahoo](#), inspired and shared her experience of climbing the Everest with the children of New Light while her friends felicitate her for her 50th birthday. We were delighted and honored to have you with us!! Happy climbing forever Chetna!



On May 11th, Rabindra Jayanti, was celebrated in a much grandeur manner at New Light to celebrate Rabindranath Tagore's 157th birthday anniversary this year. Several cultural programmes were organized where the children danced to the tunes of Tagore's composition, singing his songs, reciting his poems and demonstrating his written plays. Few pictures from the celebration at Star Fish and New Light Kalighat, where everyone commemorated Tagore's birthday by rejoicing to the bard's songs, poems, plays and dances.

Eight students successfully cleared their Class X and Class XII board exams this year. Mary Mondal, all set to join University to study Business Management and Banking, Sudipto Saha set to enter the Hotel Management Industry whereas Rima Shaw and Bicky Sarkar are ready to complete graduation and chase their dreams, all of them after having successfully cleared their Class XII examinations. The other champions, Farhana Khatun, Indra Sarkar, Puja Sarder and Riya Mitra have successfully cleared their Class X exams, making all of us very proud. Exams or not, we always knew that you were champions in the making. Well done!!



On June 2nd, 19 children between the age of 6 to 16 along with 4 teachers and a volunteer spent a day at the Indian Museum. The Indian Museum is the largest and oldest museum in India and has rare collections of antiques, armor and ornaments, fossils, skeletons, mummies, and Mughal paintings. To visit the museum is an education in itself and for this reason the day was much enjoyed by the children. They were fascinated to see galleries of cultural and

scientific artifacts namely Art, Archaeology, Anthropology, Geology, Zoology and Economic Botany. They thoroughly enjoyed the day and realized how valuable museums are because they can teach them about so many things.

Mukti Project brings freedom from stigma and dignity for all with the help of our valued partner, Village Volunteers - Shana Greene. Health and safety for all and ensuring livelihood with dignity is our mission. Thank you to Jaydeep Mandal - Aakar Innovations for bringing reproductive health through community participation.





Play Fest has associated with New Light Kolkata, employed 20 human trafficking survivors to work with their team. These girls were initially trained by Monica Watkins from the non-profit in New York, Beauty for Freedom, under the creative project "Lavanyashakti" which was co-hosted by New Light Kolkata.

On June 19th, we prepared for Play Fest Calcutta's first weekend getaway festival, immersive summer & resort fashion edition with music & art experience at Vedic Village Spa Resort.

PLAYFEST - Fashion, Music and Art Festival - at Vedic Village. PLAY is a unique festival where we will be celebrating creative art(s) and talent from all walks of life. PLAY has organized a line-up of three fashion shows, with live music performances, in the holistic location of Vedic Village. PLAY has collaborated with New Light and has engaged many young girls, from extremely difficult and challenging backgrounds, many of whom are victims of gender-based violence, to work on this unique project. Some of them will also be walking the ramp at PLAY Fashion, Music and Art Festival along with established models from Kolkata and other cities.



We are so proud of Soma Home Graduates, residents of Sonar Tori, of their participation at PLAYFEST. What a proud moment for all of us. Thank you Ushoshi Sengupta and team for creating this unique opportunity and experience for all of them. Reshmi Pal and Mamani Jana were featured in [the Telegraph!](#)

On June 20th, Mrs. Parbati Mitra and Mrs. Putul Roy Chowdhury from 'MAYA' visited New Light. They distributed cakes and mangoes amongst the children at New Light. The children danced and sang songs for the visitors. Thank you for visiting us!



On June 27th, at the Syamatara Shelter, Piya Mallick was awarded for winning the sit-and-draw competition 'Earth Day', organized by [Earth Day Network](#) at the [Alipore Zoological Gardens](#). Piya was also gifted with a beautiful hamper of stationery courtesy [Classmate](#). Piya's drawing illustrated good green practices such as switching off lights and fans when not in use, not to litter, avoid the use of plastic bags. Congratulations Piya!!



On July 1, we organized a Health Camp in collaboration with Tuberculosis Health Action Learning Initiative (THALI). THALI is working with the Revised National TB Control Program, municipal governments, and private providers to improve TB control across three classifications of cities, grouped based on population.

On July 10th, our group of talented young girls performed at the free health camp for women and children offering health checkups and more organized by the [Kolkata Classics Club](#)! The concert was attended by special guests and performance by international artists performing American pop and Broadway songs. The concert's motto was to uplift the spirits, get inspired and heal mind, body and soul! Thank you [Jennifer Heemstra](#) for this opportunity. View the video here: <https://www.facebook.com/newlightkolkata/videos/1459699940754356/>

We believe the first step to empowerment is self-determination. It is with the active participation of the



women most of whom are totally illiterate that New Light has been able to bring hundreds of child beneficiaries within the fold of the education system. New Light is only a catalyst in the process of transformation whereas the real players are the women who despite all stigma and abuse forge ahead in making the dreams of their children a reality. On the afternoon of July 15th, 60 of the mothers of children supported in different residential programs of New Light came together in a meeting to share and determine the future course of their lives. We are ever thankful for their expression of love and gratitude. Post-meeting, they participated in a community outreach awareness program on prevention of tuberculosis

under the THALI program. New Light alumna Biki Sarker and THALI coordinator Raju Mondal keep the action going week after week in 12 Wards of KMC.



Thanks to the extraordinary team at Unilever for their constant engagement and support to the program that was demonstrated by the distribution of self-care gift hampers at the meeting. Nothing is as precious as a smile on the face of a woman who rises above the challenges of poverty, ill health, abuse and stigma every day. Dear sisters, we don't just want you to survive. We want to see you fight and thrive. And we shall rise together.

On July 20th, *Harper's Bazaar* published an article on Project Illuminate, a photo-book curated by *Beauty for Freedom* and its founder *Monica Watkins* featuring the photographs of the kids and young people from New Light. Project India, a series of art therapy workshops taught by the *Beauty for Freedom* team this past October focused on community portraiture, captured by the immensely talented youth of New Light featured very personal moments, the innocence of the people of the Kalighat community. This was juxtaposed to the visibility of the red-light district's intergenerational horrors of sex trafficking, violence and

prostitution. "Illuminate" has a transcendent quality that engages the viewer to see beyond the difficult circumstances surrounding life in Kalighat and leaves all with a lasting impression that love truly exists in this place and that life is not as polarizing as one might think, given the fact that creativity, culture and pride thrive in Kalighat.

The photography students were welcomed into homes and gained entrance into the daily lives of the people of the community. *Beauty for Freedom's* intensive photography program instructed 40 youth ages 9-27 over a 5-day course and yielded over 5000 images. The final collection of images and the "Illuminate" book project written by Varunrana Official with foreword by *Shashi Tharoor* curated by *Artinmotion Show* and designed by Anil Adireddi was produced by *Beauty for Freedom* and published the same year.

Read the article here: <https://beautyforfreedom.org/destinys-children-by-esha-mahajan-bazaar-india/>

Bazaar **HOT LIST**

What chance do you have when home is a brothel? When that's the distinction that precedes, or rather determines, who you are. When your address isn't just geography but a marker of your identity. Resident of Kalighat, one of Kolkata's oldest and most thriving red-light districts. You take control of your story and the way you tell it. You pick up a camera and focus on a heart-wrenching truth of a heartbreaking experience. You prove that they can both co-exist.

That's what happened last October, when NYC-based nonprofit *Beauty for Freedom* arrived in Kolkata to work with over 100 survivors of human trafficking, children of sex workers, and at-risk youth at *New Light*, a public charitable trust in Kalighat. Among its many workshops—health, fitness, beauty, art, fashion—was a five-day photography course for 40 students. Armed with DSLR cameras, they traveled through their neighbourhood and captured intimate portraits of life as it happened. Amidst the reality of violence and prostitution, what they saw wasn't despair but hope. Laughter. Friendship. Innocence. The results, a selection from over 5,000 images, comprise an upcoming book *Illuminate*.

"We have held these workshops all over the world, and this is the first time that we had images good enough to compile into a book," says *Monica Watkins*, who founded the anti-trafficking organization *Beauty for Freedom* in 2014, and has also worked as a model for over 27 years. The extensive travel her career afforded her also showed her a darker side—if South Africa revealed the ramifications of the AIDS crisis, Paris displayed racial prejudice towards people of African descent, such as herself. "I felt there were so many people from the beauty and fashion industries who wanted to give back." And she wasn't wrong. Today, she counts international models like *Sofia Loren*, *Deva Dhaswan*, *Diana Forrest*, *Olaya Sanchez*, and *Vika Lerina* as global ambassadors for *Beauty for Freedom*.

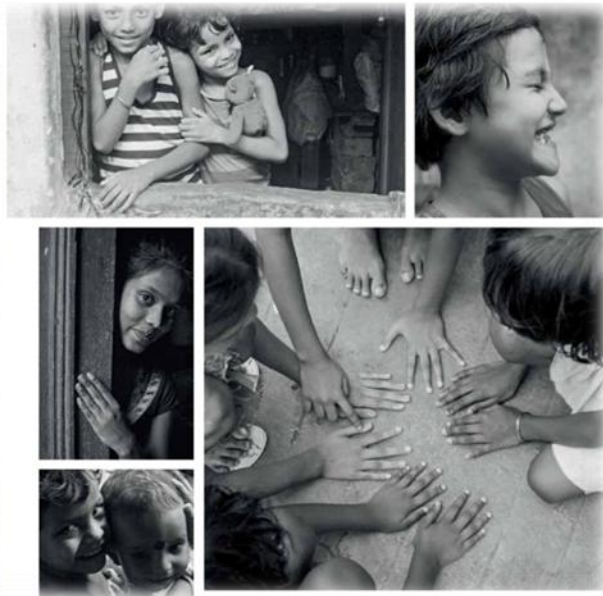
Watkins had previously raised funds in NYC for *New Light*, so the opportunity to assemble a team and actually work in India, she says, was a "dream come true".

Over 20 days, the camera crew saw the world's healthiest everything from the

DESTINY'S CHILDREN

PHOTOGRAPHY

A new book, Illuminate, showcases intimate portraits of life and love in Kolkata's red-light district, captured by the area's at-risk youth
By *Esha Mahajan*





Even on July 21st, the Fashion, Music and Art Festival PLAY spirit is still throbbing. With our beauty partner, [Club Salon, The Style Raiser](#), the PLAY community decided to turn morning blues into a makeover Monday with three young bloggers from our city and our dearest Sandip Sandy Ghosal (lovingly known by all as Sandy da) and the beautiful Mamoni and Rashmi, from New Light. Pampering them was a delight because of how special they are to us. We, at [Play Fest](#), are immensely thankful to all the love and support we have received ever since our journey began. New Light takes this opportunity to thank Ushoshi Sengupta for all her efforts and for making this huge opportunity possible for the girls.

When your vision is to reach the summit, keep looking only at where the next step is going to be. Looking up to the top will only make you dizzy. [Mukti Project](#) after having taken a thousand baby steps is closer to the summit by one more. Honored and immensely proud to welcome the Director, Dr. U.S. Sarma, Deputy Director, Dr. S.K.Chakraborty and the amazing team of scientists from the [Indian Jute Industries' Research Association](#) to our tiny facility manufacturing sanitary napkins. Creating a sustainable, eco-friendly and completely bio degradable product is our challenge. The women of #MuktiProject are more than ready to scale the summit. Our partnership with [Shana Greene](#) and [Village Volunteers](#) just got a new meaning. More research, more innovation, more freedom and more dignity is what we want to bring to the table. [Jaydeep Mandal](#) and [Aakar Innovations](#) thank you for pushing the boundaries of acceptable norms every day.



July 27th, it turned out to be a fun filled and interactive day for the children at New Light as they got to spend some fun moments with 2 teachers and 8 students from the [Silver Point School](#), Kasba, Kolkata. The school chose to celebrate its 20th Foundation Day with the children at New Light and the children got beautiful and useful gifts from the team to celebrate the day. To add to the celebration, the students from Silver Point performed a dance and also narrated poems for the children. In return, our young dancers from Jhinuk, performed for them too!





In an ever expanding yet critically competitive global market, the corporate world today is acutely aware of their impact on the lives of their consumers. Never before in the history of business have companies invested so much in building the positive image they create in the market place. With an objective to engage the companies and to make the atmosphere of business in general more consumer friendly, the government of India represented by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs has recently notified Section 135 and Schedule VII of the Companies Act as well as the provisions of the Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Rules, 2014 (CSR Rules) which has come into effect from 1 April 2014. In such a scenario the companies are looking for direction to structure, identify, evaluate and monitor the projects and programs that would offer higher social engagement.

On July 31st, Team Future and New Light collaborated in establishing a unique platform for knowledge sharing and skill building among professionals from both Corporate and Social Development Sector and to create a human centric curriculum for the Future-New Light School of Social Studies.

We take this opportunity to thank Mr. R Bandopadhyay IAS, person responsible for structuring CSR provisions for the Government of India and who set the tone for the Think Tank session. Our appreciation for members of the corporates without whom the session wouldn't have been half as effective.



We worked with the NGOs Missing, Jabala Action Research Organisation and Apne Aap, in association with the German consulate in Calcutta, organized a flash mob at Quest Mall to raise awareness about human trafficking on July 30, the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. Read the Telegraph article here:

https://www.telegraphindia.com/1170801/jsp/calcutta/story_164934.jsp#.WYHZc1CNhuU.facebook





On August 3rd, we celebrated New Light Syamatara's 14th birthday celebration.

"I am Riya Mullick and I am a student of New Light Syamatara. Today, I am very proud and happy to state that I have been a student of this centre since its inception in 2003, 16th July and when it was known as the Dalit Centre.

Dalit, meaning "oppressed" in Sanskrit and "broken/scattered" in Hindi/Urdu, is a term for the members of lower castes in India. The term is mostly used for the ones that have been subjected to untouchability. Dalits are the manual scavengers, the removers of human waste and dead animals, leather workers, street sweepers and cobblers. The mere touch of a Dalit was considered "polluting" to a caste member. Thus, the concept of "untouchability" was born.

New Light set up a multi-functional shelter for the children of the Dalit community located behind the crematorium in Keoratala, Kolkata and till date the shelter offers all the services to the targeted community that were originally offered at the Kalighat shelter. It was with the aspiration of changing the lives of the young ones in that community through education, healthcare, nutritional support, recreational facility and HIV/AIDS care that New Light set up this shelter.

In April 2017 the centre got a grand face-lift and there stood in front of us a brand new, expanded shelter for the children at the Keoratala grounds and the then Dalit Centre was now known as New Light Syamatara. Today the total number of children registered at Syamatara is 50 and all of them are beneficiaries of New Light.

I am extremely proud of the fact that today, I am a student at New Light Syamatara. I take this opportunity to thank Urmi Ma'am from the bottom of my heart for giving me this opportunity and for giving opportunity to many more oppressed children like me who today dare to dream and look forward to achieving their dreams. We love and respect you a lot Ma'am. Would also like to take this opportunity to thank all my teachers at New Light who have stood beside and supported us throughout."

– Riya Mullick, Class IX, Vidya Niketan on New Light Syamatara's 14th birthday celebration.



August 4th was the beginning of a journey... another day of love, pride and reward! It was an awesome first day of college for Sudipto Saha. Sudipto joined the IIHM, International Institute of Hotel Management after lifelong care and education at New Light.

Thank you Sanjukta Bose and Dr. Subarna Bose for your year after year support to our students. Our best appreciation always.

Thank you Sima Banerjee and Krishna Mondal for being witness to the beginning of more than a hundred feet journey.

The only way we can teach the value of real freedom to children is by teaching them tolerance. We keep tolerance and inclusion at the heart of everything we do. And we are lucky to be in a community that shuns all religion, caste, gender and ethnic bias. Nowhere else are people as loved, included and respected as in the deprived fringe communities. May India continue to shine in its true glory always. Happy Independence Day.. Jai Hind!



A.R.Rahman an Indian composer, singer-songwriter, music producer, musician and philanthropist and Quincy Jones an American record producer, actor, conductor, arranger, composer, musician, television producer, film producer, instrumentalist, magazine founder, entertainment company executive, and humanitarian holding copies of the album Music To Inspire, Artists UNited Against Humn Trafficking, the cover of which is designed by Kajol Mallick a student of New Light Kolkata, Soma Memorial Girls Home and the album produced by #RukusAvenueMusicGroup



“Never before have I felt this grateful for being raised fearless. The only gift I can leave for my loved ones is to be that way” -- Urmi Basu

On August 24th, Urmi participated actively in the project Rescue #18for18 created by the beautiful and talented Serinda Swan and this year for the first time in her life, she jumped out of a plane from 18,000 feet in Santa Barbara, California. For the past 5 years, Serinda Swan and her team, with the support of Hudson Jean, created awareness and raised funds for organizations that fight human and sex trafficking. New Light has been one of the recipients of the grant for the last three years.



7th September is the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan {Teacher, Philosopher & President of India} is celebrated as Teachers' Day in India and this particular day is dedicated to all the teachers across the country, every year.

On this special occasion, the children celebrated Teachers Day in honor of the great contribution of all the teachers, mentors and gurus who have played a major role in shaping lives of the under privileged children of the red-light community of Kalighat and the children from the Dalit community at the Keoratala crematorium grounds.

The day was filled with lots of excitement, joy and happiness as students were eagerly looking forward to tell their teachers how and why are they special to them. But the day was all the more exciting because the children got new school bags, bed linen and pillow covers, school shoes, soft toys, dry snacks and toffees donated by Swetanjali Mehrotra Wharton and her team.

Thank you for making the day so memorable for the children!

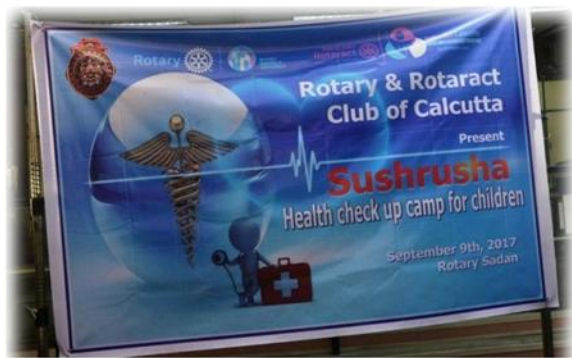


Udita, Inspiring Empowerment for Young Women, a career leadership program, aims to reach out to young women, survivors of trafficking and gender based violence with minimal exposure to education and mostly to the English Language and offer a capacity building program on Communicative English, Career Counselling, Digital Literacy and Financial Literacy.

It strives to ensure that these survivors feel enabled and empowered to speak for themselves and their rights. The program perceives English as an empowering tool, something that will give these women the edge to compete in a variety of life and work situations.

Six months swiftly passed by and today we take the opportunity to congratulate our graduates from - Krishna Sarkar, Puja Sarder and Barsha Sarkar for making us this proud. We also take this opportunity to thank Vikramshila Education Resource Society and the American Center for giving the girls this amazing opportunity to transform themselves and emerge as much more confident beings.

On September 12th, about one hundred children attended the Health Check Up Camp organized by Rotary and Rotaract Club of Calcutta at the Rotary Sadan. The camp included General Health, Eye and Skin check up by registered doctors. The team from RC Calcutta helped supervise the operation of the camp along with teachers and staff members of New Light, throughout. The students had their eyes tested and complete health check up thoroughly done. Special thanks to the team and to our medical volunteer Jaleila, for assisting and supervising throughout and for successful completion of the medical camp.



On September 22nd, Shoshauna, Julie, Firdaus and Rudra from the U.S. Consulate General Kolkata visited and spent their time with 30 children for an hour and half as part of their Team Building exercise. They narrated picture-stories to the children, who listened in awe and taught art & craft to the children. The children made small colorful paper bags and posed for the camera with their creativity too! The children in return danced and sang songs for the guests. A wonderful creative morning spent indeed!



For a Bengali, the year comprises of two parts — Durga Puja and waiting for Durga Puja, and let no one tell you differently. The days of Puja are when families come together, Bengal comes alive like none other and everything else forgotten but the festivities around the Goddess. Because the Kolkata puja is always about the street, its avenues and by lanes a portal that, for five nights only, transports all celebrants into wonderland. The traffic snarls untangle themselves, the bamboo barricades create effective walkways, and the food stalls do brisk business.

While most of the children go back home to celebrate the Durga Puja's with their families,

the festivities were not less celebrated for all those who could not make it home. The first day of the Puja began with Pandal hopping followed by gorging on sumptuous food along with a lot of fun and laughter. The five-day Durga Puja festival came to an end on Tuesday with the immersion of idol and people exchanging greetings with each other on the occasion of 'Bijoya Dashami'.

Oral hygiene is about more than just having a good smile. Children who have good oral hygiene will generally be healthier and happier than children who have dental issues. Corrective dental care can be expensive. This means that we have to be certain that children are practicing good oral hygiene habits to keep teeth clean and healthy. Our volunteer [Jaleila King](#) helps prevent dental issues through brushing, flossing and regular dental check-ups during her volunteering period.



On October 13th, we conducted a fire drill at Khelaghar and Soma Memorial Girls Home, the girls' residential facility, to make the children, the staff members and care givers know the important procedures and practices during fire. Remember, fire never takes a break! Such fire drills are important for many reasons. It ensures that all the children and the staff members understand what they need to do if there is a fire. It is also a help to test how effective our fire evacuation plan is. The drill conducted was a successful one. It was a fast, systematic and structured drill! Thank you Mr. Saikat Das for your guidance and time.





Diwali is celebrated by Hindus, Jains, and Sikhs and Newar Buddhists to mark different historical events and stories, but they all symbolize the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, good over evil, hope over despair. The mythical stories told for Diwali vary regionally and within the traditions of Hinduism. Yet, they all point to joy and the celebration of Diwali with lights to be a reminder of the importance of knowledge, self inquiry, self-improvement, knowing and seeking the good and the right path. It is a metaphor for resisting evil, for dispelling darkness and for compassion to others.

This year we celebrated Diwali at New Light to celebrate this inner light over spiritual darkness, of knowledge over ignorance and right over wrong. It is a festive restatement of the Hindu belief that the good ultimately triumphs over evil.



In the year 2012, a team of veteran filmmakers collaborated to make a four hour television series inspired by Pulitzer Prizes winning journalists Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn's book - Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide.

The series was premiered in the United States in October 2012. The movement raised funds for the upliftment of women worldwide. Through screening of entries, Krishna Mondal, the

youngest member of the New Light Kolkata Trust, won with the highest number of votes.

Krishna's award came with a financial component which New Light used to start a play school for toddlers and other out of school young children in Sonagachi, the biggest sex worker district in Kolkata. The play school aptly named "HTS - Operation Starfish" was launched in October 2013.

On October 25th, Starfish turned 4 years old caring for almost 25 children aged between 3 to 6 years. It has been 4 years since New Light HTS - Operation Starfish has been taking care of welfare of toddlers and older out of school children whose needs are largely neglected.

It was wonderful to reconnect with our circle of sisterhood at [Bharatpur W.B.](#) on October 26th. Thank you [Abad Ahamed](#) and friends for keeping the momentum of this movement. Talking about reproductive health and menstrual hygiene with young girls and women.

When black cat's prowls and pumpkins gleam, may luck be yours on Halloween! Glimpses of Halloween fun at New Light Kolkata. Very Happy Halloween!!



Lavanya meaning "beauty and grace" in Sanskrit brings to mind the eternal presence and manifestation of feminine charm. Shakti in principle represents the creative and sustaining divine energy personified as the supreme deity. Lavanyashakti is the feminine power that rules the universe, is pure of existence and transcends all barriers of human experience. Lavanya Shaktimoyee is one who seeks

a higher existence through beauty, courage, compassion and love.

Lavanyashakti I was launched last year and aimed to expand and explore all aspects of beauty as it is understood in the modern world. It created an ever morphing, yet beyond seasonal concept of beauty; to seek beauty born of inner purpose, strength, positivity, and action. Lavanyashakti I was that experience which illuminated one from within to exist at a higher purpose.

On November 9th, we accomplished one of the most courageous projects anyone could ever dream of. Through Lavanyashakti II, five women who have been exemplary survivors of trafficking and sex trade, emerged from the shadows with unspeakable resilience and transformation. The women [Kajol](#), [Siuli](#), [Sima](#), [Pratima](#) and [Rupa](#) reached across the darkness and pain to touch the colors of [Coloroso](#).

They reposed their trust and love in the hands of designer and creator of [Coloroso](#) [Joydeep Roy](#), photographer [Nilanjan Basu](#), stylist and artist [Shubha Kenworthy](#), makeover magician [Makeover Abhijit](#) and [Urmi Basu](#), to be the first women to emerge from the shadows of five red-light districts of Kolkata.



Yes they are real. They are daughters, sisters, mothers and friends. If beauty is power, these women can launch a spaceship. We believe in real empowerment through restoration of dignity and right to freedom.

KALIGHAT WOMEN TURN MODELS & MASCOTS FOR BEAUTY WITH COURAGE



Power of change in six yards

CHANDREYEE
CHATTERJEE

Calcutta: Five women from the red-light areas in and around Kalighat broke away from their daily lives to turn models for a sari brand on Wednesday.

Decked out in Benarasi saris designed by Joydeep Roy and woven by master-weavers from Varanasi, Seema, 26, Rupa, 24, Kajal, 26, Shiuli, 28, and Pratima, 28, were living proof of what the initiative, Lavanyashakti, aims at—marriage of beauty and courage.

"I feel beautiful," said Seema, whose three-year-old daughter is with New Light, the NGO that launched La-

vanyashakti in November last year with a wellness and beauty workshop.

The women were up working till late but didn't miss the 8am call-time for a grooming and make-up session with Abhijit Chanda. Pinky Kenworthy took care of the styling. They modelled two saris each from brand Coloroso, sashaying in front of the camera and oozing confidence at every step.

"It was fun posing in front of the camera. We usually wear saris, but never anything this beautiful or expensive," said Pratima, who was forced into prostitution by her husband 12 years ago. A mother of two teenage boys, this opportunity

opened her heart to more dreams. "I would really like to do some more modelling," she smiled, resplendent in a bright pink Benarasi, a huge red bindi on her forehead.

Lavanyashakti 2 came about when Urmi Basu, the founder of New Light, met Roy and the talk turned to how his saris could benefit the women.

"These women are in extreme life situations but they have the courage to conquer that every single day. We want to encourage people to look at them as individuals and help them make that transition from abuse to freedom," Basu said.

All five women want to begin anew, some like Seema

and Rupa have already bought land and are waiting to save enough to build a house where they can move with their children. Others like Shiuli and Pratima are hoping to save enough to make their bid for freedom.

The compensation the women get for the project will take them a step closer to their dream. "We will give them an empowerment fund that can help start a small business. We will monitor the funds and give financial advice too," Basu promised.

Coloroso will do its bit by borrowing the girls' names for labels, with 10 saris under each. "The sales proceeds will help women like them," said Roy.

Women from Kalighat model for Benarasi saris designed by Joydeep Roy for brand Coloroso on Wednesday. Pictures by Pabitra Das

Thank you members and friends at Rotary Club of Calcutta Chowrenghee for celebrating Children's Day with the kids. President Ritu Almal, Rtn Rita Punwani, Rtn Kavita Himatsingka, Rtn Nutan Jayaswal, Rtn Vartika Bhuwalka, Rtn Anuradha Bhagat - it was a pleasure to host you on this special day.

Much appreciation for Rtn Anita Agarwal, Rtn Yashodhara Khaitan, Rtn Manisha Srivastava and Rtn Kavita Himatsingka for all the goodies that you brought for the kids!!

On November 15th, we had the most powerful feminist activist intellectual voice of Dr. Suraiya Naik addressing twenty five women. Rare and Inspiring case stories of women's fight against existing structures of hegemony brought by Dr. Andrea Tarachand left us more powerful. In our sharing and showering of love language is never a barrier.

Deep appreciation for standing in and your time Mistu Saha. What an amazing experience to be in a room with such incredible feminine power.





On November 17th, we were so happy to celebrate Khelaghar's third birthday! It has been three years since we have been helping at-risk boys grow up to be good men. In these years we have learned that boys need to be parented in a different way from girls with their own very special psychological and physical make-up. That home, society, environment and education play a very strong role in raising boys and these finally are the deciding factors for these boys to grow up to be happy, responsible and emotionally confident adults.

On November 20th, several NGOs participated in the great initiative, Observation of Protection of Child Rights Day initiated by West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights. Ritika, Amina, Bulti, Jyoti and Salma from Soma Memorial Girls Home performed under the guidance of Ms. Krishna Sarkar from Sonar Tori.



On November 24th, we were immensely grateful to bring the healing powers of [Kalpataru](#) to the women inmates at the Dum Dum Correctional home on its second edition. What one comes away with is the power of human resilience and fragility of freedom that we take so much for granted. A joint project of [New Light](#) and [The Storydancer Project](#), Kalpataru leaves behind understanding, compassion and love. It is just one defining moment that separates life of freedom to captivity. Kalpataru is a three day healing and restorative workshop for survivors involving yoga, meditation, dance, movement, play with clay and art came to a close on such a day when, one inmate,

Radha (name changed) received the blessing from the universe in the form of her release after ten years of imprisonment. Mother of four sons aged between 17 and 25 now could not believe she was only days away from embracing her children now much older soon again. It was deeply moving and inspiring to witness her fight for justice and eventual redemption.



As we all said goodbye to the twenty five participants at the workshop our only prayer was not to see them again within the confines of the prison. We wished them courage and resilience to face whatever life is there to bring for them. What an experience to witness a story being given a new life.



On December 1st, New Light turned 17 years old! What began as an audacious journey of hope and aspiration is transforming thousands of lives today. Humbled and inspired by the help of all those who have walked alongside. A morning of love, laughter, health, hope and sisterhood - Thank you friends from around the world for keeping us in your heart every day. Thank you partners from Life Line Foundation, Rakshak Foundation, Child In Need Institute (CINI), WBSACS and ARGOBBHAWVA Humanity Development Society and Dr Deepika Kedia for your support today and every day.

"Success is not about what you accomplish in life, it is about what you inspire others to do."

In November, Ms. Urmi Basu was presented the prestigious Parivartan Inspire Awards, a **BWW** initiative, in the field of Women and Child Development. The Inspire Awards is to honor all those who lead the way in certain social areas with their exemplary contributions, which otherwise goes unsung and unheard. And so, Parivartan recognizes noble individuals who have made significant contributions to make this world a better place to live in, selflessly, without even waiting for recognition or appreciation.



The Universal Declaration of Human Rights turned 70 this year. We stood up to equality, justice and human dignity.

"To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity."

- Nelson Mandela
1918 - 2013





On December 14th, 86 beneficiaries, including women, men and children, benefited from a free health check up which included free X-Ray and sputum test for Tuberculosis screening. We are extremely thankful to District TB Officer, Dr. Mukherjee and his team from Urban Health District (UHD), Alipore, for their continuous support throughout the day. We are grateful to them for this excellent initiative.

"The difference between success and failure is a great team"

- *Urmi Basu*



We've come through a year that was filled with both challenges and victories in the year 2017. How reassuring it has been to know that we can count on each other regardless of what we have to face. The success of New Lightis built on the efforts of our consultants and their continuous dedication and commitment. We celebrated the end of the year during our final meeting.

“Never be afraid to raise your voice for honesty and truth and compassion against injustice and lying and greed. If people all over the world would do this, it would change the earth.”

- William Faulkner



The terror and magnitude of rape, assault and molestation seem to be staring the country down. It is time we raised the slogan ‘STOP RAPE’ that should resonate across the nation at every station of life. An all-out State policy of zero tolerance and social campaign against rape would have to be ensued to stem the onslaught of this heinous crime before it torments the nation’s conscience to death. Juvenile or adult, a rapist must be dealt without any mercy.

The barbaric rape of 23 year old, young professional Ms. Jyoti Singh, who was initially referred to as ‘Nirbhaya’ in Delhi on December 16, 2012 and her tragic death in a Singapore hospital, shook the collective consciousness of the nation and led to the demand of stringent laws and measures. But nothing in India has changed since December 16, 2012.

Referring to the recent incident where a 4 year old from a reputed school in Kolkata, was sexually assaulted by two teachers in the school premises, we can surely say that all promises and statements made by our leaders and ministers have failed to provide protection and security. From a 70 year old nun to a 4 year old toddler, no one seems to be able to avoid the worst possible kind of sexual violence. **THIS HAS TO STOP.**

Our strive to create a violence-free nation for women where each women, irrespective of age, will be respected, protected and empowered, continues. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who supported New Light in the silent march to mark 16 December as a day for ‘Zero Tolerance for Rape in India’. Our fight will go on.

Annual Sports Day of St. Sebastian's School was celebrated with great enthusiasm on December 20th. The playground was overflowing with zeal, passion and excitement. The students displayed a wide array of energetic and bouncy sports events ranging from the 3-legged race, flat race, frog race, relay, march past, track events, school drill and dance performance.

Our girls from Soma Memorial Girls' Home participated in various events and made us proud by winning 9 medals in different categories. The teachers from Soma Memorial Girls' Home were present to raise the morale of the students. Big congratulations and kudos to all the girls!!



"Christmas is not a time nor a season but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas."

The children celebrated the spirit of Christmas with much joy and cheer. The celebration included all the children from all the six centres of New Light - The New Light creche-cum-shelter, Jhinuk, Syamatara, Star Fish, Soma Home and Sonar Tori. The festivities included Christmas carol singing and delicious holiday treats! We also had Santa Claus from a very far off place who joined in the celebrations and distributed lovely gifts to the students. Children and all the staff members had a great time participating in the games and activities and taking photos with Santa.



As we bring this 2017 year to an end, let us pray the new year will be a year with new peace, new understanding, new happiness and new hope. New Light Kolkata wishes all its friends, partners, well wishers, donors, supporters and all those who have stood beside us through thick and thin a very Happy & Prosperous New Year 2018!!

Special thank you to all of our volunteers and interns:

Will Brown, Maharnab Mukhopadhyay, Aritri Chowdhury, Rohan S. Nandy, Karishma Sethia, Bernardita Rodriguez, Isable Alcable, Joyita Chakrabarti, Antonia Cooper, Eloina Pose, Vibha Kumar Dharmavani, Sara Otto, Sara-Jayne Moss, Su Nandy, Ipsita Kundu, Victoria Birch, Cecilia Barlassina, Martina Nardi, Sumu Kukesh, Sales Force Team, Mariah Weber, Dominique Pozo, Hannah Shaub, Sophia Anderson, Gabriela Mesa-Jonassen, Shermaine Singh, Ishita Chatterjee, Tiyasa Ghosh, Simone Utler, Karin Linn Dimmlich, Sadie Traylor, Krishangi Bansal, Shreyaparna Mukherjee, Elizabeth Sangeta Paul, Alphonsa Kumari, Yugsrestha Das, Karen Holliday, Rebecca Vallis, Jessica Gallo, Maria Suarez, Neha Ghosh, Nohemy Johnson, Solange Bitjenis, Zoë Bergman, Emeraude Lapointe, Moyuree Mukherjee, Judit Balazs, Rachel Weening, Teresa Nicoletta, Saumya Varma, Rajit Sensharma, Kristopher Gero, Balazs Franko, Dhun Rajda, Jaleila King, Carly Sternberg & Haley Sparks, Joy and Maria, Tiffani Fest, Prateeti Chakraborty, Sunnie Niklaus, Kate Walkom, Alexandra D'agostini, Cassandra Lim and Bisou, Genia Hill, Janna Fuhrig, Camille Ferretti, Udeshi Basu, Mansi Sanghvi, Kushal Saha.

