



Issue # 2  
April 2013

# PAPER Kite News

## Introduction

Welcome to our Spring 2013 issue of Paper Kite News. Inside you will find the latest updates about Paper Kite's events, fundraising initiatives and other highlights. This issue highlights our Bihar 2012 implementation field trip which took place in December 2012. We hope you enjoy reading this issue.

Paper Kite is a grassroots, 100% volunteer-run charity that is committed to helping secure basic necessities for orphans in Bihar, one of the poorest states in India. With the intention of empowering children and ensuring they have access to proper nutrition, clean water, valuable education and appropriate health care, volunteers work diligently to raise awareness and funds. Paper Kite supports children who are at a higher risk of suffering discrimination, inadequate care, abuse and exploitation.

Visit [www.paperkitefoundation.com](http://www.paperkitefoundation.com) for more information about us and the orphans we support. If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter, please contact us at [volunteerofficertoronto@paperkitefoundation.com](mailto:volunteerofficertoronto@paperkitefoundation.com).

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Give Dreams Flight

# Bihar Field Trip - December 2012

By Liana Spada

In December, Paper Kite president Tarik Kadri and three other dedicated volunteers travelled to India to carry out Paper Kite's mission of supporting the Jeanamitabh and Sunway orphanages in Bodh Gaya, Bihar.

Armed with the \$8,000 raised through last year's fundraising efforts, several forms of aid were provided for the orphanages. At Sunway, a girl's bathroom was built, a roof was installed, and the facility's plumbing system – initially made from plastic – was replaced with steel. At Jeanamitabh, the money was used to pay for one month's worth of teachers' salaries and food for the children.

We carried out other important tasks as well; Volunteers, Derek and Vinyse Barber, spent their days evaluating and assessing the orphanages and the impact Paper Kite has had on them.

“We visited the orphanages, played with the children, and held meetings with the management teams of Sunway and Jeanamitabh. The outcome of our work was a report to the Paper Kite board, which included observations and impact of past Paper Kite purchases, an analysis of how the orphanages are currently being managed, what their immediate and long-term needs are, and recommendations on how Paper Kite can continue to ensure that donor dollars are spent in a meaningful and impactful way.”

Derek and Vinyse's findings were positive, citing that the orphanages were well-run and that the children seemed relatively happy, educated, and healthy. “However,” they point out, “perhaps the greatest thing that we noticed was that the orphanages gave the children purpose, encouragement, and hope... we feel comforted that Paper Kite, Sunway, and

Jeanamitabh are doing their part to not only meet the children's immediate needs for shelter, food, health, and love, but also for the opportunity to gain an education that may lift them out of poverty in the future.”

Another volunteer, Xilo Lopez, spent her time documenting the children and their environment through photographs and videos. She also conducted interviews with some of the children and helped them fill out postcards for donors back in Canada. The rich collection of material she obtained will be important elements in the creation of future marketing materials designed to connect supporters to the children in an intimate, authentic way.

In order to ensure that donors' funds are used effectively, all items purchased by the volunteers in Bihar were approved beforehand by Paper Kite's Board of Directors. Volunteers were also present for the whole process of purchasing items and overseeing the work completed before they left the country. Xilo reflects on this practice, saying that, “joining Tarik in documenting the purchasing of materials to build a new bathroom at Sunway Children's Home was a lesson in how far Paper Kite goes to maintain transparency and accountability for our supporters”.

Each of the volunteers who took part in this venture agree that the experience was a rewarding one. Says Xilo, “Seeing first-hand the poverty and challenges these children face each day and the courage and humour with which they work to overcome these challenges was tremendously inspiring.”

Though they were impressed by the impact that Paper Kite and the two orphanages have had on the children, Derek and Vinyse are quick to say that they encourage Canadians to continue their support, as there is still much more work that needs to be done. “Every little bit we can contribute here makes a positive impact to the children in India.”

# Reflections and New Directions

By Liana Spada

Last year's National Fundraiser had volunteers making and selling glycerin soaps, which came in a variety of playful shapes and colours. These were extremely popular and sold quickly, generating a total of \$850!

Moving forward, Paper Kite aspires to raise even more money this year by making fundraising a top priority. A key part of this will be 2013's National Fundraiser – a cookbook containing simple, yet delicious, Indian food recipes ranging from appetizers to desserts and

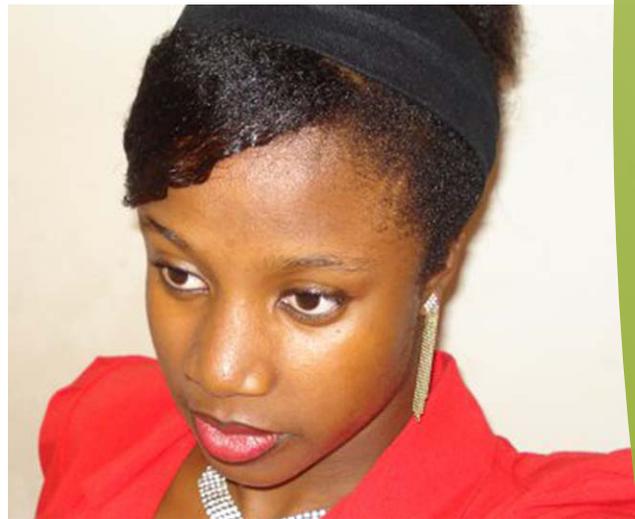
everything in between. The book is expected to be ready for sale, this fall.

In addition, several exciting fundraising events are being planned this year, including a Healing Day (Toronto) and a dinner fundraiser (Vancouver) planned for Spring 2013. Keep your eyes and ears posted for event details, by connecting with Paper Kite through Facebook or Twitter.

## Feature Volunteer: Ijeoma Metuh

By Xilo Lopez

Ijeoma Metuh has been volunteering with Paper Kite in Toronto for over a year. She has been a constant presence at our team meetings and events, since she joined. Despite her busy and fluctuating work schedule, she helped-out as an event volunteer in 2012 at our Movie Night and at the Dinner/Cake Auction Night. At each of these events, her helpful attitude, friendly smile, and calm demeanour were much appreciated and helped make the events a success. I look forward to continuing to work with Ijeoma this year to help Toronto raise funds and awareness to benefit the children we help at Paper Kite.





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\*Please note the address above is for postal delivery only. We are a grassroots charity, and as such, we do not have a main office to ensure that more of your donated money goes to the orphanages we support in India.