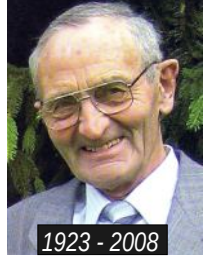


POLIO CHILD RELIEF MUMBAI

103-104 Sagar Centre, 76 J. P. Road, Andheri West, Mumbai 400 058 INDIA
 ☎ : 26775796 /26775499 /26775797 /Dir: 9920450154 ● Fax: 0091-22-26775706
 Email: pcr_mumbai@hotmail.com ● Web.: www.familycare.org/network/i16.htm

May 2009 Project Report / Patients Update and News from our Unit

We hope this note finds you in good health! With this brief news-update and progress report PCR-Mumbai sends you warm greetings and prayers for your well-being. Thank you for the kind help and support, which have aided us in carrying on our Charity project with success and continuance! We treasure this teamwork and friendship greatly. We have not been able to update in recent years as much as we would have liked to; a visit to Switzerland in 2008 to complete legal formalities took time, during which also Josef's beloved father passed away. The recent months have again been very eventful and challenging - with important and happy events taking place.



Picture-Log:

Left: Our new home and unit of PCR-Mumbai. We moved from an independent bungalow to this nice apartment building. The large, spacious flat is more economical and is situated in the hills of suburban area of Mumbai. Surrounded by much greenery it is ideal for our health and still centrally enough located for our project. Behind our building starts the Gandhi National Park, from where at night leopards occasionally enter our Society in search of their daily food.

Right: PCR-volunteer Josef (r) with Bandu (l) and helpers during the move. Our helpers are like the fire brigade; always on the spot to give a hand!



Picture-Log:

Left: Carpenters are making a set of diningroom chairs with a table; good, solid furniture - all made at home, the traditional way in India.

Right: The little miracle of 2009, our new Maruti-Suzuki WagonR. The 1100cc is a comfy, economical car, the biggest one of its size in India. Our old Jeep was in total disrepair, ready for the junk pile. Instead of a bigger vehicle are we blessed with a very user-friendly little car, ideal for our new beginning. We are so glad for the Maruti, out here where the next bus stops are 15-20 min away and daily needs have to be shopped at quite a distance. God is good to us.



The Birth of Leron-Roshan

On March 11th, 2009 at 10:54AM was born 'Leron-Roshan', our sweet boy, weighing 3,3kg and being 50cm tall. The birth happened right on the auspicious holiday 'HOLI', the festival of colours, celebrated all over India. In the early hours of this holiday we reached the clinic of Dr. Padma, Padmalaya Hospital in Powai, Mumbai. Everything was going well for a possible natural delivery as Nisha had so hoped for very much. But in the end a Caesarean-section was needed, which went well and after only four days Nisha and Leron-Roshan were discharged from the hospital. Both are well and we all rejoice for our sweet boy sent from God in Heaven to cheer our hearts. Leron is an Arabic name, meaning 'song/music'. Roshan is an Indian name from Sanskrit, meaning 'shining/bright light'.

Left: In this fashion was our son handed over to us by the nurses of the hospital - as a bundle, so cute and wrapped up just like a present. Truly God's wonderful gift to us!

Right: Our little family Suess of four: Josef, Leron-Roshan, Nisha and Michelle at our new home. We are so happy for our lively and healthy Leron, an added joy much to our lives.





Aditya Ganpatil(8), Progress and Problem of Osteogenesis Imperfecta
Aditya has a serious sickness, disability called 'Osteogenesis Imperfecta'. As explained earlier, in such a child's body due to a genetic disorder the bones are not forming properly. Instead of a healthy and strong bone, too much tissue and cartilage are being produced, causing an imbalance, usually all over the body. When a little child begins to walk, the legs start getting bent and crippled. Disfigurement is mostly seen in the legs, though the problem persists all over the body. This is a lifelong condition, which in some cases lessens with time. But there is no relying on this. Good diet and nutrition can help, but life expectancy of such patients is said to be 30-40 years.

When Aditya went in for four stages of surgeries, Dr. Desai explained about the seriousness of his problem, yet everyone hoped for a lasting progress. This happened in part only. In the picture left, we see Aditya after some of the surgeries, his legs became straight. The thighs remained in good condition to this day. However in the lower parts, again crippling took place after a few months, as is seen in the picture on the right. This is caused due to the presence of Osteogenesis Imperfecta, which causes many, many micro fractures taking place in his bones. This makes it very difficult to achieve a lasting improvement. Even walking aids and calipers cannot prevent such micro fractures to recur.

At a checkup Dr. Desai suggested waiting for six months and then reevaluate his case. We do hope, together with the parents that his condition will stabilize somewhat, so that he can get further help. Aditya is a nice, alert boy. His father Ramesh is a rickshaw driver and brings him daily to the nearby public school.



Reshma Tambe, 27years old Polio patient from Malad in Mumbai

Reshma suffers from moderate disability, due to Polio-Meningitis contracted in her infancy. In the picture to the left she is seen with her mother. Reshma has to support her left leg, not only with every step she walks, but while she is standing as well, in order for her leg not to cave in. Moving around is difficult for her. She mostly stays at home helping her family with household chores. Her family is quite poor and live in one of the bigger slum area of suburban Mumbai.

As usual the case in such patients, there is a multistage surgery/release operations needed, i.e. in hip, knee and foot. Reshma received the main correctional surgery in her left knee. Her operations went well and correction of deformity in the left knee has been achieved. The remaining operations are left to do. She will also need some extra Physiotherapy, after which a checkup will determine if a walking aid/caliper could be a help to her. Reshma has good changes to get a considerable, lasting improvement of her mobility.



Layak Kureshi, 8years old Polio-patient from Aurangabad in Maharastra

This boy lives with his family in, what is considered in India a 'smaller town' Aurangabad. The population of this rural town of Maharastra is at least 4Mio people. Layak was brought to us, by word of mouth from relatives who live in Mumbai and heard about our project of *Free Correctional Surgery*.

Layak suffers from deformities in both legs due to Polio. His muscle power was very low giving him just enough strength to stand up, but unable to walk. Dr. Desai examined him and schedule two stages of surgery, which were both carried out and went well. Layak had to lie in the hospital for some time with casts on both legs from hips on down.

In the picture to the left he is seen with his father a couple of months after removal of the casts. Layak responded well to the treatment and some sessions of therapy gave to him an extra boost. Our Ortho-technician then took measurements and made a special lightweight caliper with a pelvic band as well as shoes attached to it. This was done really well and was a perfect fit. Layak is getting slowly used to his new equipment. It is heartwarming to see the little fellow start moving around on his own! In the meantime, Layak with his daddy, have returned to their native place.





Aarti P. Dharoliya, 7years old patients from Vasai near Mumbai

Aarti is from an area north of Mumbai, where a lot of the labourers live, who work in Mumbai. Housing is cheaper there. Aarti suffers, due to Polio, from a deformity mainly in her right leg. Her right leg is also slightly shorter. She is able to walk, but cannot run. If not attended to, her disability will cause more discomfort with age. The diagnosis by Dr. Desai for Aarti was this: A total of three operations on her right side, hip, knee and foot. The last one is a 'Steindler Plantar Fasciotomy'. Treatment for Aarti started in autumn 2008. All the operations were performed and went well. She responded very positively to the treatment. In the picture to the left is Aarti seen after one of the operations at the hospital with her mother Samrath. Aarti has just completed her treatment, she has gained the desired increase of mobility and stability in her left foot, the shortness has decreased partly too. She will be called for regular checkups about twice a year.



Dipti A. Kamble, 8years old patient with 'Rickets' disease

Dipti lives in downtown Mumbai with her sisters and parents. She suffers from deformities due to Rickets, also known as Glisson's disease, i.e. Infantile Malacia. Such deformities can in an early infant hood be helped with nutritional correction, i.e. Vit D, E and C. Often, children with minor and moderate deformities will then outgrow the deformities with age. However, due to the severity of Dipti's deformities the degree of her deformity only slightly decreased between age three and seven. Such deformities as hers will not be outgrown by the process of aging. She suffers from deformity in both legs, up and down, which hinders her mobility considerably. Due to this disease her body height is also less than in normal children. She can only wobble around like a baby or a lame duck. At the age of seven she received a free medical checkup, at which time correctional surgery was suggested for her.

PCR-Mumbai is very glad to be able to help Dipti and her family. The operations on both legs were successful and she is doing quite well. Her casts had to be changed once, but the progress is good. In the picture we see Dipti with her mother Ashwira at the hospital recovering from the operations. We visited her and presented her with some children's story books, which Dipti enjoys looking at.



Rijwana Shaikh(24), Polio-patient

In the picture to the left is seen the patient Rijwana Shaikh with PCR volunteer Bandu at the hospital. Rijwana has completed several correctional surgeries. The overall progress has been well. She is still in the recuperation process. Another checkup, after exercising and Physiotherapy, will determine if a new caliper /walking aid will be necessary and beneficial to her.

Visiting Dr. Desai at his clinic

In our regular interaction with Dr Desai and his family we have memorable moments of being together. In the picture are seen (from left): Michelle(13), Nisha and Dr. Desai at the office of his clinic.



Thank you for taking part in our humanitarian project. We appreciate your kind help and support very much! Thanks to this, we have been able to carry on our services to those in need. Please do continue with us in caring for those in need and giving them hope with Gods love, encouragement, physical improvement and healing. We especially need financial help towards operations of poor, crippled Polio-children and Disabled. May your life and work also greatly prosper and be blessed. We close with this quote: *With every act of love you do today, you weave one more golden thread of the blanket that will warm you tomorrow.*

With warm greetings and best wishes,

PCR-Mumbai Team, Josef S. with family