

How You Can Help

Volunteer: In the USA, senior citizens and school children assist in assembling lesson plan materials. Across the United States and

Europe, volunteers hold fund-raising

events on behalf of ETC. People from all over the world come to Kolkata to give their time, energy and talents directly to the children.

Support: Your dollars and euros go far in Kolkata:

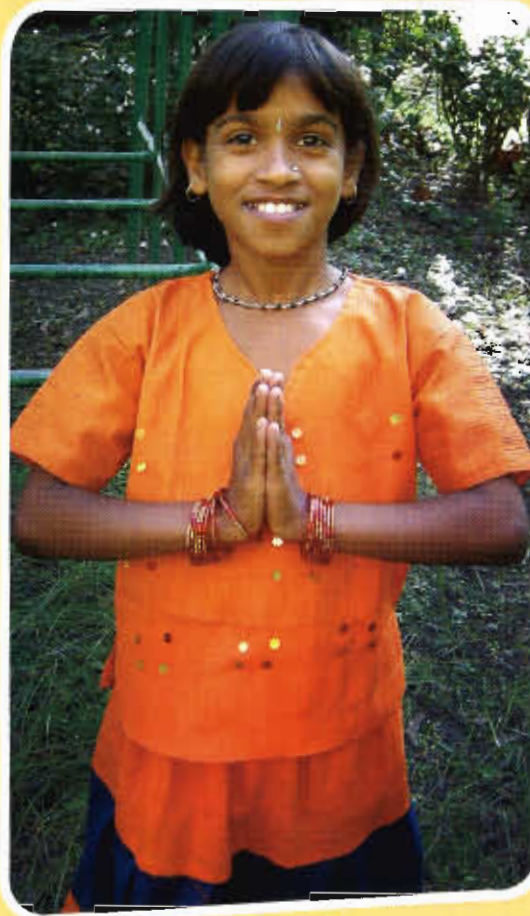
1. \$4,000 (€ 3,100) can fully fund a non-formal school for as many as 40 children living in slums.
2. \$1,200 (€ 925) allows us to fund curriculum development and obtain supplies for the lesson.
3. \$100 (€ 77) provides school lunches for more than 400 children.

Not a single dollar of your donations goes toward overhead or administrative expenses – 100% is spent for funding programs.

Partner: ETC has worked with Rotary Club of Kolkata, Airline Ambassadors, To Love Children, Project Ahimsa, Indian American Education Foundation, CharityFocus, and other organizations to underwrite specific programs, and serve more of the children who need our help.

Empower the Children is a USA-registered nonprofit organization. All donations within the United States are tax deductible.

**Thank you
for your support
and encouragement.**



Empower the Children

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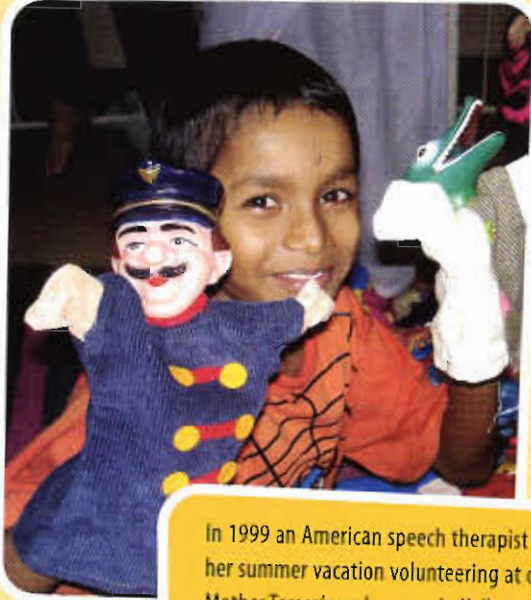
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www.empower-children.org

Empower the
 **Children**



**Serving Kolkata's
Disabled and Disadvantaged
Children**



In 1999 an American speech therapist spent her summer vacation volunteering at one of Mother Teresa's orphanages in Kolkata. What Rosalie Giffoniello observed during that experience shocked her. The disabled children were left lying all day in their cribs or on the floor, without any stimulation or educational opportunity whatsoever. Without hesitation, Rosalie took an early retirement from the New Jersey Public School System and returned to Kolkata to develop the special education programs these children required.

Rosalie soon set her sights beyond the orphanages, to the disadvantaged and disabled children living on the streets and in the slums, for whom basic needs are often beyond the financial capabilities of their families.

In 2001, Rosalie teamed with Janet Grosshandler, a school guidance counselor, to found Empower the Children, giving formal structure to the work on-the-ground in Kolkata. Thanks to the generous support of donors, volunteers, and partner NGOs from around the world, ETC has been able to provide security and opportunity to Kolkata's most vulnerable children.

Programs

Bulbulir Basa Orphanage opened its doors in September 2000, housing five boys in a rented flat. By 2005, a building was purchased which now accommodates 18 boys in a family-like setting. Having successfully initiated and implemented this project, ETC handed it to a philanthropist from New Jersey, who now supports its ongoing operations.

ETC School Lunch Programs serve the destitute children of the Muraripukur, Kakurgachi, Lake Town, and Belegkata slums with their only nutritious meal each day. This has not only boosted school enrollment and attendance, it has produced better academic performance and demonstrably reduced illness among the students.

Disha is a non-formal school for children from Manoharpukur slum, where ETC offers teacher training and curriculum development. The teachers utilize ETC's comprehensive pre-school language course and a computer skills program designed to prepare the older children for 21st Century employment.

Praroyna is a comprehensive learning center for slum-dwelling children, primarily girls. It provides formal curriculum as well as music, drama, art, language development and work education.

Dankuni Tutorial Centers offer after-school educational support to children of illiterate parents.

Prabartak Home houses 50 physically and mentally challenged orphans, many with seizure disorders. ETC has created an educational program aimed at improvement of verbal proficiency, social interaction, and life-skills. The students make extensive use of drama and music for both self-expression and the development of self-esteem.

Rehabilitation Center for Children offers free medical services for children suffering from orthopedic deformities. ETC has not only upgraded the school curriculum, it has also introduced music therapy as a tool for pain and stress management. Recently, an ETC volunteer from Holland raised the funds for a much-needed ambulance.



The "Celebration of Diversity" Drama is an annual musical theater production in which disabled children join economically disadvantaged children to produce a spectacular and inspirational night of first-rate entertainment.