

Newsletter November 2023



“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.” Dr Seuss

Dear Peter

Lessons can be learnt by children in many ways, in the classroom, learning music, playing sport.....

We work hard to cater to all our children's needs. The direct Future Hope community is now more than 3000 strong with us joining together with Khelo Rugby. That is a lot of children we need to work for and support. We have infrastructure in Kolkata and in the villages of Saraswatipur in the north of West Bengal. And most exciting of all is perhaps the school project gathering pace in Rajarhat.

We now have our James Harding Pavilion, cricket pitch and rugby and football ground. We are working every day on these and just played our first cricket practice match of the season. Holiday season in particular saw life spilling all over Rajarhat, the vision is becoming a reality.

Every child having the chance to realise their potential is at the heart of that vision and learning new sports can offer benefits from confidence to teamwork and better school attainment. Every child in Future Hope plays a sport, with our children playing a total of 22 sports and champions in a few.

In the past couple of years one youngster's passion for cycling has been infectious, with 50 youngsters now taking on challenges from time trials to endurance. Meanwhile the introduction of Karate for the children in fastrack is providing an outlet from the classroom and an area to shine.

Rugby is a part of the DNA of Future Hope and Khelo Rugby, it really glues us all together. And what better way to have celebrated this than with a medal for West Bengal Women's 7s at the India National Games— 10 of the 12 squad having grown up with Future Hope Khelo Rugby by their side. This will motivate a whole lot more children to play in the communities we work in.

Lessons learnt through sport reach far further than the pitch, they result in more children staying in school, more young people having opportunities in higher education, more access to skills training and so much more hope.

Best wishes,
Paul, the Sports Team, Sujata, Tim and Erica.

Rugby opens the door for a vulnerable child to realise his dream as a sportsman and uni student....

Future Hope community rugby, Khelo Rugby, is all about encouraging and motivating young boys and girls to achieve their best. The catalyst for this is the bond they all share through rugby. Some children just enjoy playing, some want to learn more and play for India, others are motivated by organising and becoming leaders in their communities. The programme is run by youth from the communities for the benefit of the communities.



Today Arjun is 18 years old, he has played rugby for India, is a community leader for Khelo Rugby and has just started a degree in sports management.

This wasn't always where he was headed. Arjun grew up in a small room in a slum on the edge of Kolkata's port area, with just his mother and brother.

Most young people in his community end up doing daily wage jobs, dropping out of school early and many get involved with groups earning money however they can, often older boys disappear to jail or just disappear.



At 8 years old Arjun noticed a group of children playing rugby, it looked like fun so he joined in. On Saturday mornings a few of the older boys who are Khelo leaders offered to take him for extra rugby practice at the Maidan and his love of the sport grew from there.

Arjun attended the local government school, often teachers didn't turn up, the classrooms were overcrowded but the midday meal kept hunger at bay. The Khelo coaches discussed with Arjun why it was important to carry on in school. When he needed help with school fees, or having some extra classes to pass exams the seniors at Khelo would organise this.



Over the years Arjun threw himself into community activities, loved hearing stories of rugby adventures and wanted to be a good player. His first competitive match was a celebration of Future Hope's 30th anniversary "I got to play athletes from around the world. Even though we lost it instilled a desire to keep doing better".

From then he worked hard and his talent grew until the proud moment recently when he could share with his Mum the news he would play for India U20. On representing his country he says, **"I was very proud, it was always a dream. Now I have to go further." His next target is India seniors "One day I want to hear A slumdog is playing for India!"**

On top of this success, Arjun was invited by Future Hope to apply for a scholarship to go to University, a rare opportunity in his community and one they all encouraged him to take up.

**"My family didn't have the money to educate me.
The greatest thing rugby has given me is an education."**

Her time to shine - Karate



Living on the pavement with her parents, life was tough. Confined to the bus stand all day long with no education, they survived on food scraps.

Joining our little girls home she settled well and started school in KG, but malnourished and with no education, she needed help to keep up with class so joined our FastTrack programme. Fasttrack is a dedicated space and approach, providing special learning support for children not ready for mainstream classroom.

Several years on she is doing well but still finds academics hard, however the introduction of Karate has offered her a new area in which she can shine. She loves the classes and was delighted to win a medal in her first tournament.

Karate classes for FastTrack students are helping them to gain a huge sense of achievement as well as teaching focus, self confidence and strength.

An adventure to the Himalayas for girls football



Sport creates a passion that is infectious



During the Covid pandemic we supported Sunny to start his own business, servicing and repairing cycles, something he was good at. We had several community cycles he repaired and Kolkata's cycling community sought him out.

Soon more children had caught the cycling bug and were clamouring to cycle more and are now enjoying long distance cycling adventures. Suddenly our young cyclists were in demand to ride in state cycling teams.

Now Sunny and three of our youngsters, Kajol, Manju and Aditya, have been selected to cycle for West Bengal in the Nationals! At the same time, three of our other cycling enthusiasts will race over 800km from the southern tip of West Bengal to the northern point of Darjeeling.

Rajarhat land offers greater opportunity each year

As plans for the new school construction continue to move forward with aims to start in 2024, we continue to develop and utilise the land to full advantage of the children. Growing our own fruit and vegetables to move towards greater sustainability, swimming in the pond and playing sports are favourites for our children, and now we boast our own proper Rugby, Football and Cricket pitches.

Through much hard work and determination the team managed to level, sow and mow to make the dream of real pitches a reality for our children. Seeing the pride and delight on the children's faces playing there we can only imagine how special it is going to be when the new school project is realised.





If You Would Like To Help



Create opportunity for youngsters in the community

A game of rugby in their community can lead to hope, self belief, support and opportunity for a child in the slum. 2,000+ children already play and its growing.

Euro 35 per year per child



Provide a child with an all-round education to change their future

Our children start life with little chance to create a better future for themselves. An education gives them this opportunity to thrive and reach for their dreams

Euro 55 per month

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Future Hope was founded in 1987 to provide a home, an education, medical aid and opportunity to some of the children of Kolkata who found themselves living on the streets. We started with just a handful of boys but there are now 6 homes to accommodate 130 children, our Future Hope School where more than 350 children enjoy an all-round education, and skills training or higher education for our young adults. Our aim is to help them become happy, independent, self supporting members of society.

Registered Address

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