FRIENDS OF LIFE GLOBAL AU

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

With Gratitude

Our June Newsletter has a fitting focus on LifeGA's support for the Project Life Blood Bank in Gujarat. World Blood Donor Day in June each year draws attention not only to the need for blood products globally, but also to the work done by volunteers and charitable organisations, such as ours, to enhance the quality of life for thousands dependent on the operation of high quality blood banks. LifeGA directors and donors were privileged to meet Dhaval Gadhiya in Gujarat on their January 2024 philanthropic tour, and we are pleased to share his story.

Planning for Life GA's 2025 tour is underway. Donors to, and all those interested in, any of LifeGA's programmes are invited to join directors to witness the transformative effect that even small contributions can have on the lives of people living in some of the poorest areas in the world. Participants will visit the Project Life Blood Bank, internationally recognised for its world class equipment and commitment to providing scientifically validated processes. They will also see students and teachers in schools established or under development with LifeGA support, and meet some of the women who have become financially independent through the Women's Empowerment Programme. More than that, with the help of guides who speak the local language, the 2025 tour will be an enriching, holistic experience in which the culture of India shines. There is more information available in the article "Compassion, Culture and Citizenship" at the end of the Newsletter, and at www.lifeglobal.org.au.

A life changed

Dhaval Gadhiya is grateful for LifeGA's support of the Project Life Blood Bank in Rajkot. Dhaval was diagnosed with Thallasemia Major when he was three-years-old, and has received regular blood transfusions ever since. To date, he has needed 600 transfusions.

Thalassemia is an incurable, hereditary blood disorder in which there is faulty synthesis of haemoglobin. A child with the condition is susceptible to difficulties including bone deformities, delayed or stunted physical growth, lowered immunity and general weakness.

While few children with Thalassemia Major live past their teens, the regular blood transfusions Dhaval has received from the Project Life Blood Bank have extended his life. He is now 33, and still working as a labourer. Dhaval tires easily, and would like to decrease the amount of laboring in his employment. He remains hopeful, however, and very enthusiastic about the support of LifeGA. He sees the Thalassemia Awareness Programme and screening tests as a way of reducing the number of people suffering from the effects of Thalassemia Major.

"Please keep up your good work so that others don't have such a tough journey," Dhaval said. It only costs $30 for a unit of blood that can clearly transform a life.

Learn more about LifeGA's Life Blood Centre

Making it possible

A personal connection to Gujarat, and the influence of a work colleague already interested in Life Global Australia, led to Vijay Raghvani's involvement with LGA. Vijay was particularly drawn to the Women's Empowerment Programme, and excited by the possibility of visiting India to see how his donation could change the lives of the women receiving training and equipment. Vijay is a business executive from Sydney, Australia.

Operating behind the scenes

When Bec Reeve joined LifeGA in mid-2023 as Director of Social Media, she already had a long pedigree in volunteering. While at university in England she started a student film project focusing on the charity, House of Bread.

"Their passion rubbed off on me quickly, and I soon found myself joining for their weekly meetup, helping to prepare food bags and essentials, cooking meals and meeting and connecting with vulnerable people across Stafford."

Charity work has been a major part of her life ever since. Bec is always looking for involvement in something bigger than an individual's daily life.

"It's very easy to forget about the world outside of your own. I think it's important to do what is possible to make the world a fairer place for all."

With broad experience in marketing and media, Bec is enjoying improving LifeGA's connection with its audience by increasing engagement and optimising our operation in the digital space.

"I want to increase our number of supporters and donations, with the outcome of improving as many lives as possible across the globe."

Bec travelled in India before moving to Australia and felt an instant connection to the country. LifeGA's mission to change lives in remote and impoverished communities in India matches her values, and Bec is excited by the potential for positive change.

"I have learnt that what can be considered a small amount of money in Australia can make a huge impact overseas. We can change lives and increase opportunities for so many."

Activities, accomplishments and aspirations

2023 was a big year for LifeGA. Finally freed of the restrictions created by the pandemic, our Advisory Board was established, and we held launch events in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and the Gold Coast. Since then, we have concentrated on making connections and raising awareness of both the need for our work, and the incredible outcomes that work can achieve.

Our goal for 2024 is to raise funds to build a primary school in rural remote India. The cost of this project is $200,000. We are collaborating with individuals, families, not-for-profit organisations and with corporate sponsors to raise these funds by setting each one a target of $20,000. Every $20,000 raised builds one classroom, and each donation of $20,000 will be honoured with a commemorative plaque at the school. To this end, our partner not-for-profits on the Gold Coast have several events planned to attract sponsorship, including the Kite Festival on the Broadwater in August, and a Diwali Event at Dreamworld in November. Further, preparations for a fundraising Gala Dinner in Sydney are underway.

Compassion, culture and citizenship: a different international experience

Some international trips are for romance, for relaxation or for adventure. Others are for business, for family or for nostalgia. One international trip to India is for compassion, for culture and, most importantly for its travellers, for global citizenship.

Full article available here

Save Lives, One Donation

Find out how to give blood today

Donating blood in Australia is a simple yet profound way to give back to the community. If you're considering becoming a life-saver, start by checking your eligibility here. The process is straightforward: find your nearest donor centre, book an appointment, and after a quick health check, you'll be ready to donate.

Join Team Life Global Australia at your local Red Cross Life Blood Centre, and we will keep you updated on units donated and lives saved in Australia.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to what the rest of 2024 has in store.

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