



Catenian Daughter at £12,000 Fundraising Mark

Marianne, Alex and Martin, the trio who make up the overland-underwater team, have now been driving on their epic journey from the UK to New Zealand for 8 months (see 'Catena' July 2005). We last heard from them after visiting the water management and sanitation CARE projects in Egypt.

Aiming to raise £25,000 for the NGO CARE international, the team have raised just over £12,000 so far, nearly reaching their half way target. Once in India, the insane traffic and potholed roads made it very difficult to traverse the subcontinent. Having spent Christmas Day fixing make-shift brake pads for one of the cars, then limping to Delhi to get the car fixed properly, the team are still having their fair share of exciting moments!

The team were able to visit a couple of areas where CARE are active in the community. The first was the tiny and remote village of Saidpur to see a community schooling project. Prior to this initiative there were no schooling facilities in this remote area. Care India worked closely with the local people to define the model for the community school. A person from the area is chosen to become the teacher receiving their salary and training from Care. The funds to start the school (books and other materials) are also provided by Care. The school building is provided by the community.

50 children study from 10am to 3pm every day except Sunday. Care India is lucky to have on its staff some experts in education, so the teaching methods and

curriculum they have defined for the schools are very modern.

The approximate costs for setting up such a school are very low: £76 to train the teacher and buy a few books. The annual cost of running a school is £200 which covers the teacher's salary and a few replacement books and materials. This works out at less than £5 per child per year for a basic education, with which many children take their learning home with them and pass it on to the rest of the family!



The next project visited was the Udaan residential school for girls, part of Care India's efforts for the education of girls, providing learning opportunities to 10-14 years old. 100 girls from remote communities who had been deprived of a basic education are provided with a ten month course of intensive schooling. The school basically consists of two long halls which serve as the classroom and dormitory.

One of the major obstacles which Care had to overcome was the attitude that education for girls is unimportant, and that they couldn't be spared from their paid work or domestic chores. A three-

day camp was organised as a forerunner to the actual programme and the 68 girls taking part were exposed to various learning games and activities after which time the parents were invited back. They could see their girls reciting poems on stage, writing their names etc. and many parents thought that if this much could be achieved in three days, it is worth sending them for ten months.

They were so successful in changing the parents' attitudes that there were 250 applicants for the 100 spaces in the first year - unfortunately the level of funding meant that increasing the student intake was impossible but the decision was made to accept older girls from the age range 12-14 leaving the younger ones another chance in subsequent years. With more funds, more girls could benefit from this education. The running cost is around £140 per student for the ten month course.

With Care's help, the cycle of illiteracy and under-education can be broken. All generous donations so far are enough to make a real difference to a lot of lives around the world, but the team still need your help. Any pennies or pounds you can donate would help CARE achieve their goals.

You can donate through their website <http://www.overland-underwater.com>. Please dig deep; small amounts of money can make a big difference to children in Uttar Pradesh, so even if you can't afford much, please donate what you can. Someone, somewhere will see the benefit. We wish the team continuing good luck and safe travels.

Highgate Circle Raise £5,000 for The Passage Day Centre

Highgate Circle ran a charity event in February for The Passage at the Crown Moran Hotel raising £5,000 as well as having a great evening. The Passage runs London's largest voluntary sector day centre for homeless and vulnerable people: each day they help more than 250 men and women. A six-strong team of Street Link workers make contact, often late at night or early in the morning, with those sleeping rough in Victoria as they are bedding down or getting up. Their 49-bed emergency night shelter, Passage House, was officially opened on 1 March 2000.

For the past three years they have also run Montfort House, which contains 16 self-contained studio flats with staff support on site for those preparing for independent living.

Of the more than £3.5 million a year it costs to keep The Passage going, only half is funded from statutory sources; the rest comes from donations from individuals, church organisations, charitable trusts and companies.

The Passage can be contacted on 020 7592 1850, or you can visit their website at www.passage.org.uk



Pictured from left are: Jayne O'Flynn, Michael O'Flynn (President of Highgate circle), Kathleen Taylor, Peter Docherty (Provincial President, Province 14), Marion Docherty, Andrew Hollingsworth (Assistant Director of The Passage), Paul Whitfield (President of North London Circle), Denise Whitfield and David Taylor (Provincial Director, Province 14)