

The Headmistress Reflects...

Over the past four years, we started with a vision to provide underprivileged girls with a safe, healthy and happy environment where they could receive an education in spite of conditions of poverty, gender bias and illiteracy.

We have given them the opportunity to go to the Sulaxmi School and experience a whole new world being opened to them. We have helped them to realize that through education their lives can be better. We have seen each girl's potential easily and effortlessly come to light. We are made aware of their needs by everyday occurrences during the course of the school day.



Shashi Mehta, Headmistress

We've overcome one of our biggest challenges. The parents were uncertain about their daughters attending school, but with many discussions and persistence, attendance has steadily increased. Since the school's opening, we have enrolled approximately 85 girls. Although some students may have studied with us for a few months, we are convinced that they did learn and took away some knowledge that would make a difference in their lives.

One of our biggest accomplishments is stabilizing the girl's attendance. By implementing a mid-day meal program their attendance, health and learning has improved tremendously. In addition to academics, they also exhibit an artistic talent for drawing, painting and craftwork. We hope to continue to share their creativity with you.

We are providing the students with the opportunity to flower and grow in a wholesome environment. It's really amazing watching these flowers bloom!



Shashi and Suri Mehta

We believe that literacy is the key to alleviate poverty. We strive to assist and play a crucial role in their community, working side by side with their families to improve conditions in their lives. However, our vision is just being realized and much remains to be done.

We strive to play a crucial role, in the community; working side by side with the students and their families to make a difference in their lives.



This has been an exciting time for the Salus Foundation and the Sulaxmi School for Girls.

The School has enjoyed visits from Hans Hageman and friends, Lisa Kamen, Sofia Serpas and Sue Waterbury.

We wish to thank all our donors for their continued support. We would also like to acknowledge the extreme generosity of Magnus Ahlquist, Lisa and Michael Kamen, Felix and Klaus Holzapfel, Joseph Perella, Judy Reinicke and Anna and Michael Vranos.

Our donors will enable us to provide the girls with a mid-day meal, all school clothing and supplies, and now provide two new classes: music and art. We are confident that all of these things will help to improve health, raise attendance and increase academic performance.

This year promises to be bittersweet as we prepare our first “graduating class” to leave the Sulaxmi School to pursue higher education. The Foundation’s goal is to maintain its relationship with the departing girls and provide them and their families with the necessary support to enable the girls to be successful in their future schools.

This means we will need to secure additional financial resources. We will need your help now more than ever. We need to continue our mission of support to the girls and their families. We believe our continued support will help to ensure their future academic success.

We invite you to visit the Sulaxmi School. It is our belief that the best way to understand the work of the organization you support, is to spend time with the children whose lives you are selflessly changing for the better. We know that India is a long way to go, but we promise you, it is a trip worth taking.



Thank you for your continued loyalty and support.



Hans E. Hageman
Chair of the Board



Bernadette Baptiste-Hageman
Executive Director

Give and Receive...



Beautiful Notecards Designed by the Students of the Sulaxmi School

Landscape



Butterfly, Bird, Flowers



Flowers



We are very proud to offer you artwork from the students of the Sulaxmi School. With the generous help of our friend Mara Jerman, we were able to turn their beautiful art into notecards.

These one-of-a-kind notecards are perfect to write thank you notes, birthday wishes, or whatever you desire. Twelve of these beautiful notecards can be yours for a small tax-deductible donation of \$25.00 to The Salus Foundation.

To order the notecards please send an e-mail to info@salusfoundation.org and send a check for \$25.00 payable to:

The Salus Foundation
PO Box 286222
New York, NY 10128

Please allow two weeks for delivery. We thank you in advance for your order.

Butterfly



Landscape



Landscape



Sofia Serpas Visits the Sulaxmi School for One Month

Experiencing poverty through seeing innocent children begging for food and money was one of the hardest sights of my visit.

I knew my life would never be the same when I met the girls at the Sulaxmi School in Gomti Nagar. The girls, ranging from ages 4 to 13 were so eager and excited to be there. I knew immediately that this school was very important and had to flourish.

The Sulaxmi School makes a huge difference in the community. I was there for a month and got to see how irreplaceable the school is to the lives of the girls.

Every morning the girls come to school ready and willing to learn. Their day begins with prayers and morning exercises. Then its off to the classroom to read, write and do math. They are very happy to do their classwork. During the day, they often ask their teacher many questions to make sure that they are doing their work correctly. It is so moving to see their face as they go through their day absorbing everything like a sponge, fighting for a chance at a decent life.



Most, if not all of the girls are from families who are uneducated. The Sulaxmi School is giving each girl the opportunity to receive a basic education which will give them a choice to be more than someone's servant. A choice that may even turn into a dream of becoming a doctor, a lawyer, maybe their choice.

An issue that is always vitally important to the Headmistress, Shashi, is that a daily nutritional meal be served at the Sulaxmi School. Many of the girl's families struggle to provide for them, and often this meal is their only meal of the day.

I cannot emphasize enough what a wonderful opportunity the school is providing for the girls. The educational progress that some of the girls have made is

incredible. They are learning about the three "R's" as well about this remarkable mystery to them called the world.

I left with a heavy heart, knowing it would be a while before I could return to see the girls at this amazing school. Amazing because of the girls and their teachers.

I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the Sulaxmi School where they are providing an education and opportunities for girls to lead better lives.

Photographs by Hans Hageman



Lisa Kamen Visits the Sulaxmi School



Recently Lisa embarked on a bicycle tour to India. Here is what Lisa said of her tour and her visit to the Sulaxmi School. "India is a land like no other. It is full of contrast, stunning visuals, rich texture and unforgettable surprises." Lisa doesn't really know why after 10 years of living life at a very hectic speed, she decided to travel to India. As she searched her soul for answers, she believes that maybe it was "her yearning for adventure; the beauty and spirit of the people; the rich heritage that is theirs or maybe it was simply to try and make a small difference in lives of girls less fortunate".

Lisa's trip to India opened her eyes and heart to the possibility of making a difference in the lives of children around the world. To accomplish this mission, Lisa created a film (to be broadcasted on channel G) to create awareness and raise funds for the school. Lisa also founded ARKA Gem Goddess, a jewelry company created to embody the ideal woman who is imbued with intelligence, beauty, integrity, grace, style and humor.

Lisa and her husband Michael are also committed to the Foundation's work. In addition to her family's annual donation, Lisa recently donated a percentage of the proceeds from her first jewelry show to the Foundation.

The Salus Foundation is thankful to Lisa and Michael Kamen and ARKA Gem Goddess for believing in our mission to improve the lives of children wherever we encounter them, one child at a time.



Photographs by Lisa Kamen

Sue Waterbury Visits the Sulaxmi School



Having arrived in India for the first time, I found life in India to be hot, spiritual and a mixture of hectic and peace. My goal in traveling around northern India was to learn about the land, the people, their education and their businesses.

Hans and Bernadette Hageman introduced me to the Sulaxmi School, and I decided to drop by for a visit while traveling around India. Shashi and Suri Mehta were my hosts. (Shashi and Suri helped to establish the school with Hans and Bernadette in 2001. Suri is an engineer and Shashi teaches at a school

in Lucknow as well as the Sulaxmi School on Saturdays. The all girl school has about 20-30 children ages 5-14 who attend school on a regular basis. The school teaches them about hygiene, exercise, how to dress, as well as reading, writing, english and math.

What really impressed me was how respondent and happy the children were. It is hard to imagine a culture where girls are usually not educated and some are even married at the age of 11!

The budget to support the girls at the Sulaxmi School is very small. I urge anyone interested in improving education for children, especially young girls to take a look at this organization and their positive results.



Photographs by Sue Waterbury

The Foundation Has a New Phone Number!

The Foundation's telephone number has changed!
Our new number is (212) 663-1105.



Shop On-Line at The Salus Foundation!

The Salus Foundation will open its virtual store in the summer of 2007. The on-line store is being opened as a fundraising venture to help support our work. At its opening, you may purchase beautiful note cards created by the students. In the future we hope to offer items from our travels to India. Look for the Foundation's announcement for the store's grand opening to shop on-line at The Salus Foundation!

Foundation Featured on Universal Giving Website

In December, the Foundation was highlighted on the Universal Giving website. Universal Giving is a social entrepreneurship nonprofit, dedicated to making giving and volunteering a natural part of everyday life. Their service connects donors and volunteers with exceptional organizations all over the world. In fact, our listing on their website raised \$800 in December 2006!

To view the Salus Foundation on Universal Giving's website go to www.universalgiving.org/in_the_news/index.jsp.



Make Your Donation On-line!

You can now donate to the Salus Foundation by going to the foundation's website at www.salusfoundation.org. Click on the Support Us link, then click on the Donate button. Upon completion of the information, your donation will be received immediately into the Foundation's account. This on-line donation option is secure, and makes it possible for us to easily accept donations from around the globe!

We Welcome Your Feedback!

We would love your feedback on our newsletter, website or the Foundation in general. Please feel free to drop us a line at info@salusfoundation.org.



Donations



Arielle Patrick Heads School Supplies Drive for the Sulaxmi School

Arielle Patrick, a senior at the independent Chapin School in New York City, led a school supplies drive for the Sulaxmi School. Arielle and her friends donated over 1200 notebooks, pencils, pens, crayons, markers and other school supplies to the girls. Bernadette Hageman said “Arielle proposed the idea and just ran with it after that.” Hans Hageman personally delivered the supplies to the Sulaxmi School and he and the supplies were received with tremendous excitement and fanfare.

Conceptbakery Raises Tens of Thousands for the Salus Foundation

During the Soccer World Cup, Conceptbakery, LLC raised \$30,800 to support the Salus Foundation.

Conceptbakery was founded in 2002, by Felix Holzapfel of Cologne, Germany and Klaus Holzapfel of Westminster, Colorado who are veterans in the field of online and guerilla marketing and other web related services. Inspired by the book the “World is Flat” by Tom Friedman, Conceptbakery was looking to support a project where a relatively small amount could make a real impact in other people’s lives.

When Conceptbakery learned about the Salus Foundation’s work from Lisa Kamen, one of our trustees, they decided to donate parts of the proceeds from their World Cup e-card project “Send a Player.”

The Salus Foundation is thankful to Klaus and Felix and all those who participated in their World Cup e-card project for their generosity. Visit their website at www.conceptbakery.com.

The Foundation Is Now Accepting Donations On-line!

You can now donate to the Salus Foundation by going to the foundation’s website at www.salusfoundation.org, clicking on the **Support Us** link, and clicking on the **donate** button. Your donation is received immediately into the Foundation’s account. This on-line donation option is secure and makes it possible for us to quickly and easily accept donations from around the globe!

We thank you for your continued support!

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Your Contribution *Will* Make A Difference!

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The cost of educating a child is about 80 cents a day, or \$300 annually.

It costs \$5 a day or \$1,800 annually to support a teacher's salary.

It costs 17 cents a day or \$62 annually to provide a daily meal to a child.

It costs 7 cents a day, or \$26 annually to provide two school uniforms, a pair of shoes and a coat to a child.



The Salus Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization. All contributions are 100% tax-deductible.

Mail your donation to:

The Salus Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 286222
New York, NY 10128

Make your check payable to The Salus Foundation, Inc.

or visit our website at:
www.SalusFoundation.org,
and click on **Support Us**.

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