54A A.J.C. Bose Road, Kolkata 700016
"As long as you did it to one of these My least brother. You did it to $\mathrm{Me}^{*}$

16th July 2002

## TO HHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Ms. Annie Joseph is well known to us. She is a qualified Social Worker and has been working for more than 20 years with the poor and destitute especially women in Mumbai and Kolkata。

ANKUR Kali is an organisation started by lis. annie Joseph in 1982 with the blessings of Mother Teresa M.C. It provides self employment training to the poor and marginalised women of all communities in the slums and suburbs of Kolkata.

This organisation, over the last 20. years, has provided vocational training and marketing support to many of the se women, some of whom are now training other women. In recent years, ankur Gala has also taken up the challenge of providing training to other women groups in and outside Kolkata and also creating an alternative market for handicraft products made by small producer groups.

We wish Annie Joseph and ankur Gala every success in their efforts to uplift the poor and destitute and so do something beautiful for God.


Registered Charity S 3509 of 1958-1959

This is to certify that Mrs. Annie Joseph is well know to me as a social worker, with a life commitment to this work, a deep love for the poor, and the desire to help them to stand on their own feet in self-respect socially and economical/y.

She is directing a social centre in Calcutta, 'Ankurkala', which provides employment for destitute women and training in cottage industry in various lines.

Se is a lay member of the Social Apostolate Commission of the Calcutta Province of the Society of Jesus.

She is a person of genuine integrity and commitment. / am confident that she will make the best possible use of any assistance that may be extended to the work of Ankurkala.

16 August 2002

18th November, 1983

## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Miss Annie Joseph and her family are very well known to me. She has for a number of years, with great dedication, been working for the poor, especially women in the slums of Howrah, Bombay and Gujarat.

Miss Joseph is deeply concerned about the plight of the many poor and distressed women she has come in contact with and wishes to start 'Ankar Kalat' (Seed of Art) Which will give women a sense of dignity, self respect and participation in their work 。

Any help you can give her in the implementation of this project would be most appreciated.

I wish her every success in her efforts to do something Beautiful For God 。


Salesian Province of St. John Bosco Kolkata

## Provincial Office

Salesians of Don Bosco, 52A Radhanath Chowdhury Road, Kolkata 700015 (India) Phones : (0091-33) 329-7851 (Provincial), 329-7922/1122/2224/1223, Fax: 329-4144 E-mail : sdbincgusnicom

20 June 2002

## TO WHOME IT MAY CONCERN

This is to state that Ann Joseph is very well know to me since the last 20 years. She is also a very close Family Friend. I have watched with joy her great enthusiasm in working for the poor Women of the area through the NGO, Ankur Kala. I have recently visited the office and work place of the NGO and found them doing commendable work for these poor women. Besides teaching them various skills they see to their education and total formation as human persons. They find a new sense of dignity as they go along with the various programmes. Ann Joseph has been very much the main stay and dynamic mover of the programmes. She is very dedicated to her mission and finds much fulfillment in it. She is definitely a very involved person. I wish her all Gods blessings in her continued effort to take care of the poor and down trodden women of the area.

Yours sincerely


Fr. John Berger sdb
Provincial

Provincial Office
Kolkata 700015
Ph. 3297972 / 1122
e-mail incpro@vsnt net and jaberger11@hotmailcom

54A. A. T. C. Bose Road, Calcutta-16 WB 30th January 1993
"As long as you did it to one of these My least brethren. You did it to Me"

## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Ms. Annie Joseph and her family are very well known to me. She has for a number of years, with great dedication, been working for the poor especially women in the slums of Howrah, Bombay and Gujarat.

Ankur Kale was started by Ms. Annie Joseph in 1982 for the rights and dignity of poor, destitute single women coming from the slums and suburbs of Calcutta. Over these last ten years, Annie Joseph along with her colleagues have strove with feat dedication and perseverance to provide training and market for these women through their batik, tailoring, catering, greeting curs departments. Any support that you can give for the continuation of her project would be most appreciated I wish her every success in her efforts to do Something Beautiful for God.


## MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE



Mennonite Central Committee India believes in the work of Ankur Kala. We appreciate the way they do business and have enjoyed a good relationship with them over the years. Seldom does one see an organisation helping destitute women in such concrete ways. Ankur Kala gives the women comprehensive, practical training and truly prepares them to find sustainable employment after they leave Ankur Kala. Their crafts are well made, and their attractive food products are nutritious. We really like their jam!
-- Twila Miller, Director, Mennonite Central Committee India,


Ankur Kala
June 01, 2011

## Kind Attn : Ms Annie Joseph

## Greetings !!

As in the past Public Relations Society of India-Kolkata Chapter in association with INFINITY is organizing an event titled 'BETTER CITY BETTER LIFE'. The objective of this event is to create a sense of understanding of a Better City Life in the backdrop of our very own Kolkata and acknowledge citizens of Kolkata who have contributed in their respective fields for the betterment of various aspects of the societal life of the city. We would also give away awards to winners of a school level Power Point competition on Future Kolkata - A Dream.

It would be our privilege to honor your organization at the said occasion in recognition for helping women artisans to develop self-confidence, on June 04, 2011 at Rang Darbar, Swabhumi at 5-15 pm. We would be obliged to have a line in confirmation in this regard.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,


Soumyajit Mahapatra
Secretary
Public Relations Society of India-Kolkata
09433000672

| Venue: | Rang Darbar, Swabhumi |
| :--- | :--- |
| Date: | June 04, 2011 |
| Award giving ceremony: | $5-15 \mathrm{pm}$ |

INFISITY

THE PREFECT
ST XAVIER'S COLLEGIATE SGHOOL
30 PARK STREET
KOLKATA 700016
Phone 247-7276

No words are adequate enough for the excellent work done by 'ANKUR KALA':

St Xavier's Collegiate School


A Non-profit International Charitable Organization
16612 W. 159th St., Suite 204, Lockport, IL 60441, USA
Tel: (815) 588-1403 Fax: (815) 588-1414
Web: www.careandshare.com
E-mail: president@careandshare.com

Dear Annie,

It is my great pleasure to inform you that the Care and Share Board of Directors has decided to bestow upon you our Humanitarian of the Year Award for 2010. Our Board is very impressed by your charitable efforts in Calcutta to sustain a livelihood for the poorest of the poor. Apart from teaching them how to earn a living, you have been instrumental in improving the self image and confidence level of those hopeless women. Having your MSW designation from Tata Institute, you could have landed in an excellent job somewhere else. You decided to forgo such a promising career in order to help those less fortunate than you.

I am planning to be in Calcutta on Saturday, January 16, 2010, to present this award to you. I hope you will be able to get Sister Nirmala as a chief guest in order to give this award to you since you are connected with Mother Teresa's institution. With my limited contact in Calcutta, I will be requesting my contact people in Calcutta to help coordinate this ceremony.

Through this mail, I am asking those people to contact you. I hope you will accept this award for the benefit of the needy people in Calcutta. The whole idea of giving this award is to make other people know the good work you are doing in order to enhance the quality of life of the less fortunate. It has been Care and Share's tradition to give Rs. 25,000 as a token of our appreciation, which you can use towards your humanitarian causes.

Yours Truly,


Antony Thaliath
Director
770-923-8866

November 14, 2009

## Ankur Kala

3 Meher Ali Road
Kolkata 700017
INDIA

Dear Directors:

Mennonite
Central Committee


1010 G Slreel
Reedley
Califoma
93654
5596386911 Phone
5596386914 Fax westcoastiemcc. org
www mec orgh/westcoast

Thank you for your wonderful hospitality, your strength of spirit, and your faithful good work!

We were deeply inspired by the stories of the women we met - all of them! The leaders are extraordinary in their commitment to empowering and transforming the lives of women, and the women involved in the work of Ankur Kala are clearly being impacted themselves, and are impacting others in a positive way. There is much we have to learn from Ankur Kala and we are grateful for the vivid example of hope, unlimited potential, and the stories of restored lives that evidence the results of Ankur Kala's programs.


Our prayers are with you and we will continue to tell the story!


Sheri Wiedenhoefer
Dina Gonzalez-Piña


Laura Schmidt Roberts


Flitiga kimnor vid Ankur Kala
Calcutta.
Sita är en änka som àterfátt tron
på framtiden.
Hon tänker starta ert väveri $i$ sin hemby.

- Där ska de kvinnor som idag sliter ut sig pa falten for en dabehandling, säger Sita som lärt sig vävning och en del om ekonomi vid det unika kvinnoträ. ningscentret Ankur Kala.
Jag skulle saly aldrig lata mas tramspor, som sags vara Forbudna men wim $i$ högsta grad finns knar i Calcutsa. Far mig kanns det pá nagot satt som en symbol for kolonialism. En kvall mar kom dock en av stadens mangs ensusa barfota springrikshaforare fram till - Vill du ảka nágonstans? Till Moder Teresas hem for missiomater? - No, thanks. sa dig det?
- No, thanks. - Okej Vill du att jag ska kora dig till kvarter bort.
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# Calcuttans exchange ideas on transforming their hon Thoughts on a better city 

## CHANDREYEE GHOSE

They came from various walks of life with one item on the agenda: to make Calcutta a better place.

The event was a panel discussion on "BetterCity Better Life", organised by the Calcutta Chapter of Public Relations Society of India and Infinity group, in association with The Telegraph, at Swabhumi on Saturday, the eve of World Environment Day
"Uniess we follow some basic etiquette, we cannot make our city a better place. So please switch off your mobile phones," said panel member actor Parambrata Chattopadhyay to the audience, which saw an interesting mix of students, celebrities, industrialists and social workers.

The other panellists included painter Suvaprasanna, cricketer Devang Gandhi, the chairman and managing director of Infinity Infotech Parks Limited, Ravindra Chamaria, the chairman of iLead and PS Group, Pradip Chopra, and the founder and vice-chairperson of the Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy Sudha Kaul.

The speakers all came up with various suggestions on how we can work towards a better Calcutta.

Chamaria, for instance, wanted the Akshaya Patra project, the country's largest NGO-run school meal programme that Infinity is associated with, to be introduced in Calcutta soon. "Then, by 2020, we will see not a single hungry child in the ciry This scheme may bring more students back to school," he said.

Suvaprasanna highlighted how Calcuttans often shirked their responsibility of improving their city "Amra khali boli bhalo theko Kolkata, amra jeno onyo jaygay chole jai (We always say long live Calcutta, but let us live else-

(Clockwise from left) Devang Gandhi and Parambrata Chattopadhyay, Suvaprasanna and Sudha Kaul at the panel discussion. Pictures by Rashbehari Das
where), "he joked.
"In the 70s, while I was visiting London, many people fondly asked me about the roads and bylanes of Calcutta," the painter recalled. The city was so beautiful then. But how much have we been able to preserve that beauty? I am not blaming anyone, but what has happened to that beautiful Calcutia?

The painter pointed at the statue of Subhas Chandra Bose at the Shyambazar crossing. That ugly thing cannot be a tribute to Netaji. Why do we let our heritage rot like that "' he demanded.

Actor Chattopadhyay himself took up the cause of heritage buildings. "It is a crime to demolish old buildings, "he said. "The city is witnessing monstrous constructions. It is an assault on our aesthetics. In Delhi and Mumbai, the con-
structions are much more planned in Calcutta, we let go of our beautiful colonial architecture"

Real estate developer Chopra claimed that three years ago, a group of builders had submitted to the civic authorities a "fool-proof" plan for restaring some heritage buildings in the city "We are still awaiting the CMC's response. Builders are not that bad; they are equally concerned about the city," headded.

Chopra invited professionals from all fields to spare some time for teaching. "We need good teachers every. where," he said.

Gandhi wanted sports to be included in school curricula to builda "fitter Calcutta", while Kanil sought the inclusion of all those who are "different".

One of her students from HCP. Rick Sen, was awarded
for his PowerPoint presentation on "Future Kolkata". The first prize in this category went to Rachit Parasrampuria of La Martiniere for Boys. Sveta Shaw of Ballygunge Shiksha Sadan was second while Ritwika Dasgupta of Loreto Day School, Bowhazar, wasthird.

The best three presentations were shown to the audfence. All of them highlighted the traffic and pollution problem of the city

Some celebrity award winners included dancer Alokananda Roy actress Ananya Chatterjee, green architect Ayan Sen, animal activist Satarupa Sanyal and educationist Shimanti Das, Institutions like Ankur Kala, that helps destitute women, and the Centre for Ecological Movement, among others, were also honoured.

# "Andlighet ock enkeffet, fiåt arbete ocf ärfighet är riktlinjer för Ankur Kala" 

per pà golvet med sina läroböcker. De undervisar varandra medan vi bjuds pà te och kex.

När undervisningen är över berättar Annie om arbetet pà Ankur Kala. Man forsöker att arbeta på ett personligt och enkelt sätt med varje kvinna. Traningen gảr ut pâ att lära sig ett hantverk, ekonomi och försaljning. Kvinnorna far behâlla 70 procent av inkomsten frỉn försäljningen och resten gảr till Ankur Kala. Ungefar 30 kvinnor komnel varje dag. Tvà gànger
naden har man solidaax smoten for alla kvinthe som varit pà centret. Cirka 70 kvimor brukar komma till mötena.

Man ägnar sig åt bön, reflektion och delar erfarenheter med varandra. lbland tar man upp ect tema, till exempel korrup. tion och hur man ska forhallla sig till den. Ankur Kalas värderingar gàr ut pả "loving, caring and sharing" - kärlek, att bry sig om och att dela erfarenheter.
och att läsa och skriva. Försörjningen av familjen hänger på henne nu. Innan hon kom till Ankur Kala kände hon sig deprimerad och hon kan nästan inte beskriva hur mycket hon har förändrats under de fyra afr som hon har kommit till centret.

- Akbarhi ar muslim, men en mycket öppen muslim, säger Annic, som tolkar vad Akbahri berättar.


Pà Meher Ali Rood 9 i Calcutio fär ensamstóende kvinnor en chans till ett bättre liv. Foto: Carolina Gustovsson.

De kvinnor som avslutat sin lănga träning pâ Ankur Kala kommer tillbaka en gàng i veckan, för att arbeta eller haimta arbeten som de slutfor hemma. Andlighet och enkelhet, hart arbete
och arlighet är riktlinjer för Ankur och arligher är riktlinjer för Ankur Kala, och stoltheten och gliadjen kams pataglig bland kvimorna.

AKBARHI TROR att hon är mellan 40 och 45 âr gammal. Hon har tvat barn, E11 son pi 14 är och en dotter som är 12 ir. Mannen är utan arbete och vistas just nu pa sjukhus for hjärtbesvär. Sonen har ett enklare mekaniskt arbete och dottern gatr i skolan. Akbarhi brukade arb :ta i hushâll som tvätter. ska.

Hon fick höra talas om Ankur Kala genom en amman kvinna som besökte centrer. Hon har lärt sig massor av nya saker: mod, självfortroende och kärlek


Akbarhi accepterar och älskar alla religioner. Hennes man brukade arbeta som cykelrikshaforare innan han blev sjuk. En găng när kvinnorna hade en utställning av sina arbeten fick Akbarhis man fungera som dörrvakt. Han fick betalt för sitr arbete och han kände sig väldigt uppskartad, berättar Akbarhi.

Reba kommer frán en forort till Calcutta. Det tar henne tvá timmar att aka till centret om allt fungerar som der ska. Innan hon kom till Ankur Kala brukade hon arbeta som sömmerska med mycket lagg lön. För ett dussin byxor fick hon twas rupees, cirka en krona.

Nu tjänar hon 800 rs pá en dag och känner sig mycket gladare. Mänadskortet för thig och buss kostar ca 250 rs per månad och maten for hennes
tamilj pa fyra personer kostar $25 \cdot 30$ rs per dag. De kan bara äta lisk en gàng I veckan.

Reba har en son som ar 20 ar och en dotter som àr 22. Dottern far tràning i barnkunskap pá Ankur Kala. Reba har varit pá Ankur Kala i tre ar och hon har lärt sig myeker. Annes beskriver Reba som en adel och kar leksfull person som bryr sig om andra och har formaga att ta ansvar. Amme skulle vilja att Reba blev larare pa Ankur Kala i framtiden.

- Reba har ett härra av guld, sayer Anmie, och hon har ledarskapsforma. ga. Reba har hand om matlagningen pá Ankur Kala. Hon tyek. er om att ta kontakt och prata med andra manns kor. Reba ar omkring 40 âr och hon ar hindu.
Akbarhi och Reba hate vänder till sina wsslor wen Annic berattar att man pa Ankur Kala ocksì arbeear med familjeradgiming och gör hembesok Det händer att nàgra av kum norna gifter sig cller gir tillbaka till sima man.

TILL FRAMTIDsPL 4 N: NA hör att kuma skatit en bit land i urkanten al Cal cutta for att krama odia cgna gronsaker och to: ant kvinnorna fran staden och landstoxg. den ska kuma traffa varandr..

Innan vi lämnar Ankur Kala bjuds en på lunch, vackert upplagd av kventes: na i koket. Vi äter sitrande pi bastemattor ps det röda golver i somlingesum men. Moder Teresa och Eransineds vakar over over oss frân vars ean ulkik. pose pa vaggen.

Och jag tänker pả motet mellan stad och land, mellan land och land. mellan väst och öst. Pa Ankur Kila tir varje kvinna behålla sin kultur och , tha religioner respekteras.

Utmaningen at att ge varce kenna en mojlighet ate befras sig fran tatergdom och fortryck.

Drommen är att varje kumas sem áterfatt sin värdighet och lart sig ett yrke ska leva cfter Ankur Kalas warderingar och sit nya frön av hopp, vardig het och mspiration i sin omgivneng 6

## Prime Nlinister of Luxembourg

lis Sxeellency IIr. Jearl- Claule Juncher with Imiie Joseph, Chiee C Co-vridinator of Ankurr Kila during his isist to Ankirr Killa in 1999


> Pg.-2-

Very Special moments

