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 Me"

16th July 2002

TO WHOM 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 KALA is an organisation started by Ms. 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 these women, some of whom are now training other women. In recent years, Ankur Kala has also taken up the challenge of providing training to other women's 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 Kala every success in their efforts to uplift the poor and destitute and so do something beautiful for God.

[Signature]

Registered Charity S 3509 of 1958-1959
This is to certify that Mrs. Annie Joseph is well known 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 economically.

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

She 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. I am confident that she will make the best possible use of any assistance that may be extended to the work of Ankurkala.

Jerome Francis, SJ
Provincial

16 August 2002
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 Kala' (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.

God bless you,

[Signature]

Registered Charity S 3539 of 1958-1959
Income Tax Exemption 1878 C. T. BE/100/65-66
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. 329 7972 / 1122

e-mail incpro@vsnl.net and jaberger11@hotmail.com
54A. A.J.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 great dedication and perseverance to provide training and market for these women through their batik, tailoring, catering, greeting cards 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.

God bless you

Sr Teresa me
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
3 Meher Ali Road
Kolkata 700017

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
094330 00672

Venue: Rang Darbar, Swabhumi
Date: June 04, 2011
Award giving ceremony: 5-15 pm
No words are adequate enough for the excellent work done by 'ANKUR KALA'.

St Xavier's Collegiate School
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,

[Signature]

Tony Devassy
President, Care and Share

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Serving the needy with compassion. Become a partner in caring and sharing.
November 14, 2009

Ankur Kala
3 Mohur Ali Road
Kolkata 700 017
INDIA

Dear Directors:

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

Silvia Ríos

Laura Schmidt Roberts
- här kan Indiens förtryckta kvinnor återfå hoppet

Det syns inte på kvinnorna vad många av dem varit med om. De bär sina vackert förklädda kläder med självtjänst. Ändå är det fortfarande vanligt med hemgift, bordeller och abort av flickor på många platser i Indien. Denna den fjärde och sista delen i en artikelserie om Indien handlar om kvinnor.

Sita är en änkam som återfatt tron på framtiden. Hon talar starta ett väveri i sin hemby.
- Där ska de kvinnor som tidig sitter sig på fälten för en dag lönn få arbeta och en rättvis behandling. Siger Sita som tanger sig nära och en del av ekonomin i det unika kvinnotjänstet Arkur Kala.

Jag ville tala vidare bespå samma med orden av de sprangskalor, som sig utom förbindelse med en smärre grupp av flickar i Calcutta för mig kunde det inte något att sytta symbol för källornas. En kväll när jag var på väg hem från en restaurang kom dock en av studens många ena barna sprangskalor att tala med meg.
- Vill du så någonstans Till Morder Tereas: nen för missioner? - Ny, thank.
- Vill du tala hon natu? Sugen dup pen i dag - Ny, thank.
- Okej Vill du att jag ska körja till en sjuk? Det finns att ställa huru en kvartar sam.

Blickningar barn talar om att du kan jag vara antingen en flicka som har en flicka eller en indisk...
- Ny, thank.
- De ovan bara 100 rupies, så här.

Det byggde sig 20 kronor vilket är mycket pengar för någon un... (frågan inte fullständig)

Förstå beströmmer

Det finns att förklara att de inte kan på sig såna flickor till bordeller. Hår...
Calcuttans exchange ideas on transforming their home city

Thoughts on a better city

CHANDREYEE GHOSH

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 “Better City 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.

“Unless 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 panelists included painter Suvarnasana, cricketer Devang Gandhi, the chairman and managing director of Infinity Infotech Parks Limited, Ravindra Chamaraj, the chairman of Loyal and FS Group, Pradip Bhore, and the founder and vice-chairperson of the Indian Institute of Central Palsy, Sudha Kaul.

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

Chamaraj, 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 2030, we will have a single hungry child in the city. This scheme may bring more students back to school,” he said.

Suvarnasana highlighted how Calcuttans often shirk their responsibility of improving their city. “Aparna bhai boli bhalo theko Kolkata. Aparna bhai boli bhalo theko Kolkata,” he said. “We always say long live Calcutta, but let us live elsewhere,” he joked.

“In the 70s, while I was visiting London, many people fondly asked me about the roads and bylanes of Calcutta, 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 Calcutta?”

The panelist 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 constructions 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 restoring some heritage buildings in the city. “We are still awaiting the CM’s response. Builders are not that bad; they are equally concerned about the city,” he added.

Chopra invited professionals from all fields to spare some time for teaching. “We need good teachers everywhere,” he said.

Gandhi wanted sports to be included in school curricula to build a “fitter Calcutta”, while Kaul sought the inclusion of all those who are “different”.

One of her students from ICP, Rich Sen, was awarded for his PowerPoint presentation on “Future Kolkata”. The first prize in this category went to Ruchita Parasarampuria of La Martiniere for Boys.

Nesha Shaw of Ballygunge Shiksha Sadan was second while Ritwick Dasgupta of Loreto Day School, Bowbazar, was third.

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

Some celebrities’ award winners included dancer Akanksha Roy, actress Ananya Chatterjee, green architect Ayan Sen, animal activist Satarupa Sanyal and educationist Shishir Das. Institutions like Ankur Kals, that helps destitute women, and the Centre for Ecological Movement, among others, were also honoured.
"Anullighet och enkelhet, hårt arbete och ärlighet är riktlinjer för Ankur Kala"

per på golvet med sina läroböcker. De undervisar varandra medan vi bjöds på te och kex.


Ungelärare 30 kvinnor kommer varje dag. Två gånger om natten har man solceller som motar för alla kvinnor som var på centret. Cirka 70 kvinnor brukar komma till morgonen.

Man ägnar sig åt kök, rengöring och utomstående arbete av andra. I bland tar man upp ett tema, till exempel korruption och hur man ska förhålla sig till den Ankur Kala värderingar är att ha i "loving, caring and sharing" kärlek, att bry sig om och att dela en enhet.

De kvinnor som avslutar sina lärbandspress på Ankur Kala kommer tillbaka en gång i veckan, för att arbeta eller hänvisa arbeten de skulle ha haft.

Andlighet och enhet, hårt arbete och ärlighet är riktlinjer för Ankur Kala och stoltheten och glädjen känner alla pågående bland kvinnorna.

AVSLUT: 

HON TALAS OM Ankur Kala genom en annan kvinna som besökte centret. Hon har lätt sig massor av ny säker: mod, självförtröstande och kärlek

och att läsa och skriva. Föreningen av familjen hänger på henne nu. Innan hon kom till Ankur Kala känt hon sig deprimerad och hon kan nästan inte beskriva hur mycket hon har förändrats under de fyra åren sedan hon har kommit till centret.

- AKBARI ÄR MUSLIM, men en mycket öppen muslim, säger Annie, som tolkar vad Akbari berättar.

- Reba har fått ha ett hjärtärt, säger Annie, och hon har ledarskapstillgång. Reba har hand om målningar på Ankur Kala. Hon står Werk och konst och hon har ett stort kapacitet att ta ansvar. Annie skulle vilja att Reba blev lärare på Ankur Kala i framtiden.

- Akbari och Reba återvänder till sina visor och Annie berättar om den på Ankur Kala också arbetar med familjeföreningen och gör hemsök. Det händer att några av kvinnorna gifta sig eller gå tillbaka till sina man.

TILL KORTES PLANSERNA hör att kunna skaffa en bit land i utkanten av Calcutta för att kunna hitta egena arbeten och ha tillgång till kvinnor från staden och landsbygdens skola kunna träffas varandra.

Innan vi lämnar Ankur Kala byrde vi på lunch, faste av rent av kvinnornas köket. Vi atter stod på hustrummet på det rika golvet i mängden som inte. Moder Tereza och frälsningsvakter över oss var av mycket intresse på reggen.


Utmanningen är att ge varje kvinna en möjlighet att befinna sig från frihetsdom och förtryck.

Drommen är att varje kvinna som återfinns sin egenlighet och låt sig att vara ett yrke ska bevara efter Ankur Kala. Vårdning och vård som en känn från av hopp, värde, och inspiration i sin omgivning.

Prime Minister of Luxembourg
His Excellency Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker with Annie Joseph, Chief Co-ordinator of Ankur Kala during his visit to Ankur Kala in 1999

Very Special moments