



ON THE WINGS OF HOPE

NEWSLETTER OF
SOCIETY FOR THE EDUCATION
OF THE CHALLENGED



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*What we have done for ourselves dies with us;
what we have done for others will always remain, and is immortal*

Raised in an affluent family, Zarine had but one goal in life, and that was to cater to the varied needs of the poor. Having procured a degree as a fine arts student in the USA, Zarine returned back home to Bombay in the year 1950.

Her journey as a social worker started at a very young age of 20. She began by offering her services at the Orthopedic Hospital at Haji Ali. Her devotion towards the work assigned to her in the hospital greatly relieved the burden on the over-worked nurses.

Weekend outings with the family to her bungalow were mixed with fun and good work. A glass of milk was provided to the children of fisher-folks, and toys were distributed to them. Christmas was always celebrated with the fisher-folks in the village.

She later started 'mela' in her backyard for the handicapped children who came from economically deprived background. She totally understood the needs of these children who had never experienced such an outing and a day full of fun and games. The 'mela' later moved to larger grounds and became an annual feature for nearly 2000 handicapped

Zarine Chothia

1932 – 2018

*Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there, I did not sleep;
I am the gentle winds that blow,
I am the diamond glints on snow;
I am the sunlight that ripens grain,
I am the tender autumn rain;*

*When you awaken in the morning hush
I am the swift uplifting rush;
Of free-spirited birds in circled flight,
I am the soft stars that shine at night;
Do not stand at my grave and cry,
I am not there, I did not die.*



children from all over Mumbai, an experience that they looked forward to each year.

She also arranged for free medical camps for 4 days each year at Dharavi, where patients were treated and surgeries were performed for those in need.

She organized 'garden sales', the proceeds of which were used to buy clothes for the new born babies at the Wadia Maternity Hospital. When she was informed that a lot of babies at the hospital contacted jaundice, a Photo-Therapy machine was donated to the Wadia Maternity Hospital to eradicate jaundice in the new-borns.

The work that was closest to her heart was being a part of the Society for the Education of the Challenged (SEC), a school with the objective to educate the handicapped children from the under-privileged strata of society. She was instrumental in encouraging the handicapped children to create various utility articles, such as hand bags, paper bags, greeting cards, trays, coasters, mini lap top tables, and many such items which provided income not only to the handicapped ex-students of the school, but also supplemented extra income for the institution.

Being a connoisseur of art, some years ago Zarine noticed that a boy without arms studying at SEC was a good artist who painted with his feet. She appointed an art teacher for the boy, who soon blossomed into a good artist. Soon many more boys joined the art classes which were now being held at the school itself. The boys produced one marvel after the other.

In 2010, with the initiative taken by Zarine, SEC presented its first Art Exhibition 'From Shadows to Limelight' of the paintings by its ex-students, at the Jehangir Art Gallery. Every piece of their work was sold out.

The confidence that the students procured with the success of the exhibition went a long way to enable them and their families to live a life of dignity and respect by earning a livelihood. All the boys opened their own Bank accounts, they supplemented family income, and some of them even became the main providers for their families. Many of them bought their own lap tops with the money from their paintings.



The second art exhibition too was a grand success. It was time for the boys to have a regular employment



to sustain them and their families. Zarine helped them in finding suitable employment. Through all these years the boys kept in touch with the person who was responsible for changing their lives. Recently, a few boys once again approached her

for work on the one free day that they had per week. Once again Zarine got busy with helping them out to supplement their income. A tutor was appointed and the boys started painting for a huge project, now being completed by her supportive family, as her meaningful journey on this planet came to an end on 2nd October 2018.



This confidence boosted their morale and they put together 80 pieces of art-work, to stage their second art exhibition 'Living Their Dreams' at the Jehangir Art Gallery in the year 2013.



Her richest wealth was kindness and compassion for everyone;
 Her strongest weapon was patience and care;
 Her philosophy in life was to have faith and courage to accomplish every task;
 And her most endearing quality was her smile through all situations.



She cared without expectation

She gave without reason



She worked without intention

She smiled without condition



Zarine touched the lives of thousands of people who needed her help and guidance.
 She touched the souls of all those who came in contact with her.
 She would be sorely missed for her selfless work and devotion, and for bringing in new ideas to all the institutions that she had helped for many years.

Our deep gratitude to:

Piloo Cooper

Samir Lalvani - In memory of Late
Mrs. Mithu Lalvani

Warburg Pincus India Pvt. Limited

Tapia Charitable Trust

Mahindra Agri Solutions Limited

Vishal Mahadevia

Hindustan Lever Educational &
Welfare Trust

Heart & Hand for the Handicapped

Shishu Niketan Panchkula
Educational Society

I K Ghai - Kwality Bombay
Foundation

Inditrade Capital Limited

The Executors of the Estate of
Late Mrs. Shirin Sabavala

Pramila Chanra

Rotary Club of Bombay Hillside

*We are eternally grateful to all our
donors and benefactors. We regret that
due to shortage of space we have not
been able to acknowledge each of you
individually by name*

*We are today where we are
because of you*

Executive Committee

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Overall Sponsorship Of A Child

Rs. 15,000/ annually in Mumbai Day Schools

Rs. 25,000/ in Naigaon Residential School

Transport

Rs. 1,400/ per child per month

Rs. 15,400/ p.a. per child (11 months)

Nutrition

Rs. 4,000/ per day per unit (Vegetarian meal)

Rs. 5,000/ per day per unit (Non-vegetarian meal)

Rs. 5,000/ per day per unit (Vegetarian meal + dessert)

Appliances

Rs. 5,000/ per Light Weight Appliance

Rs. 6,000/ per Wheelchair

Rs. 10,000/ per Customized Special Wheelchair

Merit Scholarship For Integrated Students

Rs. 3,000/ per student each year

Educational Outings

Rs. 20,000/ per trip per unit

Annual Day Celebrations

Rs. 1 lakh per event

Sports Day

Rs. 50,000/ per event

Hydrotherapy

Rs. 40,000/ annually

**DD /Cheques be drawn in favour of 'Society for the
Education of the Challenged (Child & Adult)', Mumbai.**