

GREEN DISABLE FOUNDATION

Sylhet, Bangladesh

Green Disable Foundation (GDF) is a small, not-for-profit organization, chaired by Dr. Mustafa Shahzaman Chowdhury, which works with disabled children and adults in Sylhet, Bangladesh.

The foundation supports a group of adults who have physical or mental challenges and creates enterprise opportunities for them. The adults work on various projects and the profits from these projects is given back to them. The foundation also has a computer lab available to those who would like to learn computer skills.

In addition, the foundation feeds, clothes, shelters and schools orphan children who are visually impaired. The children, similar to other children in the region, sing, play sports, and participate in religious studies. The only difference is that they read Braille.

WHAT DOES GDF OFFER?

1. School for Visually Impaired Children:

Established in 1997, the school currently educates 20 visually impaired children in the Braille. All residential facilities include teaching [books and equipment], food, clothing, toiletries, and medical facilities. The students are trained in general education, sports and cultural activities. At present the students are enrolled in grades 1-4. GDF is the only institution for girls with disabilities in Sylhet.



Student playing the Tabla (traditional drum)

2. Training and Employment Centre:

Persons with disabilities are trained in Book Binding and the trainees are employed in the bookbinding project through BRAC Bangladesh [NGO] They earn a monthly salary and support their families. Other projects include sewing for women and candle making.

3. Information and Resource Centre:

GDF works as an information and resource center for people with different disabilities. Dr. Mustafa aims to educate them about their fundamental human rights. GDF also actively works with people with disabilities to provide them with information on career opportunities.



Dr. Mustafa S. Chowdhury

4. Information Technology Training Centre:

This program has given, to date, over 80 people with various impairments an opportunity to train in computer with special software suitable to them. [5 people per session to provide individual attention]

5. Professional Resource Centre:

Individual professionals including, teachers, social workers, researchers and journalists, can find information, data, publications, legislation & conventions on disabilities.

6. Physiotherapy Centre:

There are many people for whom physiotherapy may be helpful however they are unable to afford the treatment. Considering this GDF started a mini physiotherapy centre. In this centre more than 100 physically affected people of all ages benefit from primary rehabilitation therapies such as physiotherapy, occupational and speech therapy.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

GDF seeks help to provide aid such as wheelchairs, crutches, standing tables, white sticks, Braille reading and writing materials, tape recorders, cassettes, and more to those who are unable to afford them.



Nahid (left) and Dr. Mustafa (right) with children and adults of GDF

Nahid and Yamin visited the school, met the children as well as those who run the school. They were moved by the dedication and perseverance of the staff and how they use the little they have to create lasting change and numerous opportunities for the adults and children who benefit from the foundation.

OUR FUNDRAISING GOAL...

Through our joint effort we want to raise \$6000 CAD in order to purchase a Braille Printer and the special paper for GDF.

The Braille Printer will support the teachers in their efforts to educate. New books and lessons are essential for children’s development. It is difficult to find books in Braille in Bangladesh. A Braille Printer will create access to such materials, as well as aid Dr. Mustafa’s philosophy and create a facility that is free of barriers and social stigma.

WITH YOUR HELP, WE CAN BRING THESE CHILDREN ONE STEP CLOSER TO ATTAINING A HIGHER EDUCATION, REACHING THEIR FULL POTENTIAL AND ACHIEVING THEIR DREAMS!

We believe the GDF is a worthwhile organization and deserves a helping hand. Please consider donating towards the Braille Machine Fund and help make this vision a reality.

HOW CAN I HELP?

Join us on September 27th! Be sure to spread the word about what we are doing and bring a friend!



Students of GDF singing along with Harmonium

We are holding the event at 201 City Center Drive, [Suite 409] Mississauga, ON. Sunday 27th September from 2-5PM!

WHAT’S HAPPENING ON SEPTEMBER 27TH?

Silpada Designs: Anjum, an independent Silpada Designs representative, will showcase stunning Sterling Silver jewelry. They are committed to maintaining a standard of excellence in providing the highest-quality .925 Sterling Silver Jewelry, sold at a reasonable price and supported by a Lifetime Guarantee. Preview the collection at: www.mysilpada.ca/anjum.madan

Epicure Selections: Lisa Sinichko, an independent consultant for Epicure Selections, a direct sales company that is 100% Canadian Owned and Operated, will be offering delicious spice blends that are a healthy alternative to store bought brands. The product has NO added MSG, fillers, or preservatives; as well the majority of the product is Gluten free making it great for those with Celiac disease. Preview collections at <http://www.epicureselections.com>

Cross Connect Associates: Cross Connect Associates’ primary focus is to help organizations and individuals to purchase fair trade products that enable disadvantaged women from Kolkata, in turn helping them to rise above their circumstances. They will be bringing us colorful, affordable and eco-friendly purses, satchel, carry bags and gifts bags. Visit www.crossconnectassociates.com for more information.

Young Living Essential Oils: Learn about the benefits of Essential Oils! Nahid will be there with a wealth of information to help you select the perfect oils for you! Visit: <https://www.youngliving.org/US/products.asp>

Mendhi [Henna]: Mendhi artist Kinnery Ganatra from Kismet Wedding Shows for Brides will be on site. Treat yourself to a traditional Henna design, or choose something more contemporary from her selection.

Reiki: Reiki Master Teacher, Sonia, [Member of Canadian Reiki Association] will be offering information and 10-minute mini-sessions. She has over 10 years of experience.

Yoga: Certified Yoga Instructor Nidhi Kohli [Canadian Yoga Alliance] will be showing you breathing techniques and postures. Nidhi will be available to answer all your questions on Yoga and Ayurveda.

Pace Fitness: Aqua-massage sessions available for a donation to the cause.

Be sure to join us on September 27th for all this and much more, including door prizes and raffles!

A portion of the profit from the sales of from these vendors made on this date will be donated to the fundraiser.