

MONTHLY NEWS UPDATE- JANUARY 2012

Australian High Commissioner visits Walk For Life clinic in Dhaka



Dr. Justin Lee, Australian High Commissioner visited Walk For Life clinic at NITOR(National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopedic Rehabilitation) on January 18, 2012. Dr. Kh. Abdul Awal Rizvi, Director,NITOR; Colin Macfarlane, Country Director, Walk For Life; Tim Bolotnikoff, Deputy High Commissioner, Ms. Amanda Jennings, First Secretary, AusAid, Simeen Sabha, Communications & Research officer, Australian High Commission and Steve Barker, Ponseti expert and Orthopedic surgeon from UK were present at the occasion.

The Australian High Commission has been a supporter of the clubfoot program in Bangladesh and has funded treatment of 250 children last year. Through this visit the team from the High Commissioner gained a practical experience about the operation of Walk For Life's clubfoot clinics in government hospitals in Bangladesh.

During the discussion session, Walk For Life presented an overview of the project that was followed by questions from the visitor.

“We are visiting Walk For Life clinic to assess ways in which the Australian Government can be involved with development projects in Bangladesh,” the High Commissioner said.

“With over 6000 feet under treatment, Walk For Life is surely leading the clubfoot treatment in the developing world. No other project has made such progress in just two years!” commented Dr. Simon Barker, a Ponseti expert from UK.

Professor Rizvi thanked Walk For Life’s founder and country director Colin Macfarlane for his visionary project and pledged to provide all support necessary to continue the success of the program. Followed by the discussion session, the visitors visited the clinic where they saw different stages of clubfoot treatment.

Clinic opening of Madaripur and Bogra



Walk For Life opened clinic at Madaripur Sadar Hospital and **Shahid Zia Medical College, Bogra**. Walk For Life now has 38 free clinics all around the country and very close to completing the network so that no child has to travel more than 60km to get receive treatment

Simon Barker MD visits Bangladesh



Simon Barker MD, volunteer trainer of Walk For Life came to Bangladesh for his second visit. He came to Bangladesh 2 years ago during the inception of the Walk For Life. “The progress to date has been nothing less than breathtaking” he commented after his visit to Jessore, where the first Walk For Life clinic is situated. He is also visiting clinics in Dhaka Shirajganj, and was present at the Australian High Commissioner’s visit.

Dr. Barker is a Consultant Trauma & Orthopedic Surgery at Royal Aberdeen Children’s Hospital, UK. He is a Ponseti expert with active research interest in foot deformity of children.

Discussion Seminar titled “A Success Story” held at Jessore.



Walk For Life organized a discussion seminar titled “A Success Story” at Jessore Medical College Hospital on January 11, 2012.

The event emphasized on the success of the pilot project that that started in Jessore two years back and has now spread to 38 clinics around the country. Dr. Atikur Rahman Khan, Jessore’s civil surgeon donated 10, 000 Taka

requesting Walk For Life to start program on Cerebral Palsy.

Rotarians visit Walk For Life clinic at DMCH



Rotarian Albert Felsenstein and Rotarian Nurul Alam, President and Vice President from Dhaka-Buriganga visited Walk For Life clinic at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Rotarian Colin Macfarlane, our country director, and Rotaract Zahangir Alam, our

Program Director and Rotaract Shakib Shahriyar, PA to the Country Director were also present at the occasion.

January 29, 2012

Colin Macfarlane speaks at Rotary Baridhara



Colin Macfarlane, country director, spoke about Walk For Life's activities in Bangladesh at Rotary-Dhaka Baridhara's meeting at Hotel Westin. The members of Rotary Baridhara appreciated Walk For Life's activities and thanked Colin for initiating such a project that is changing lives of thousands of babies.

Walk For Life at celebration of Australia Day 2012 and the 40th anniversary of Australia-Bangladesh diplomatic relations



Colin Macfarlane, Country Director and Kazi Priyanka Silmi, Manager-Donor relations, represented Walk For Life at the celebration of Australia Day 2012 and the 40th anniversary of Australia-Bangladesh diplomatic relations at the residence of Justin Lee, Australian High Commissioner. Also present at the occasion were Dr. Dipu Moni is Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, ambassadors, development practitioners and dignitaries.

Upcoming Events

- Dr. Steve Mannion is coming to visit Walk For Life clinics in Bangladesh. He will also speak about the Ponseti Method and Walk For Life at BOSCON 2012(Annual Conference of Bangladesh Orthopedic Society). Dr. Mannion is an Orthopedic Consultant of National Health Services, UK who has years of experience working with Ponseti Method in Africa.
- Walk For Life clinic opening at Jamalpur and associated partner Zero Clubfoot's clinic opening at Feni and Brahmanbaria.