

# The DHAKA Project Newsletter

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## New Year, New Beginnings

A New Year is always an exciting time. Suddenly the world seems so full of new opportunities. Things that seemed impossible in December became our new year's resolutions. Lose 10 kgs, stop smoking, exercise more... how many of you are actually sticking to those resolutions? If all is going well, then good luck to you!

Now, take a moment to consider what 2007 might mean to a child living on the streets of Dhaka. The new year has probably passed with no impact on your life whatsoever. It'll just be another year of working, no opportunity for school and playtime, disease and danger on every corner. The average life expectancy for a Bengali child is just 11 years old, and if you make it past that, some may say you're lucky.

Many of the children cared for by The Dhaka Project were taken away from this abysmal lifestyle up to 18 months ago, and during that time things have certainly changed for them. With a safe roof over their heads, many of their parents now have jobs and are bringing in money. The kids go to school, where a loving and dedicated staff ensure that they get a good, balanced diet as well as an education. Vaccinations have eradicated all chance of disease for these kids. Last month, they enjoyed the privilege of hot running water for the first time, and yes, now it's much easier to get them to take a shower! Life is brighter for our kids than ever before.

Our school is filling up faster than ever, and we now have 430 pupils. 30 new children and their families joined the Project in January, and the kids who've been in the Project a little longer have been helping to raise awareness with other local families in Gawair by talking to the parents of kids who are being forced to work instead of going to school. Although the Dhaka Project School is full, we've been able to fund many other kids' attendance at several other local schools. (Sometimes, it's simply a case of not being able to afford school supplies.)

Even children who have been orphaned need no longer lead a life of poverty, as our dormitory is now fully functional and is providing 24 hour care by our devoted employees. Yes, things are really looking up. The future's so bright, who knows what will happen in 2007!



### Lucky Stars Luckier Than Ever



Remember our Lucky Stars - Kristen, Rachel and Ryan De Sousa? These kids had massive success selling their home made Lucky Stars at The Dhaka Project's fundraiser on December 15th.

The fundraiser was held in the home/music school of music teacher Sara Balluch, who is a big supporter of The Dhaka Project. The 10 dhs-a-head Christmas music concert raised 4825 dhs for us, and our Lucky Stars raised a staggering 1630 dhs!

Another fantastic contributor was Richard Ng, the Senior Vice President Of Customer Affairs for Emirates, who brought along his guitar and raised 300 dhs for performing just two songs!

The holiday spirit was really on display at the fundraiser. Everyone had a great time and we all remembered how good it feels to give, especially when your gifts of love and kindness are going somewhere so special.

### What Is The

Founded by Emirates Cabin Crew member Maria Conceicao, The Dhaka Project is an all-round education and care program for children and their parents.



We provide many of the impoverished people of Dhaka, Bangladesh, with the tools to build a better life: education, workplace training, safe accommodation, food and water, healthcare and so much more. Literally hundreds of people have benefited from The Dhaka Project, and it's all thanks to your continued support and donations! We're always desperately in need of any used goods and sundries, food, baby milk, rice, clothing, money, and especially sponsors for our kids! You can sponsor a child for just 500 dhs a year - money that will really change their life. See inside for details. Thanks!