LET'S HELP EACH OTHER FOR A BETTER TODAY AND A SECURE TOMORROW
Kolkatans for Kolkata

Once the capital of India, Kolkata has many faces, many moods. Like every metropolis, it too has its quirks and its charms with music and theatre, pujo and adda, films and food...And it continues to be home to millions who live in, and love, their city. Even though many Kolkatans may have migrated to other cities and countries, a strong emotional chord still exists. A spirit that calls them back to support their home in any way they can. It is not for nothing that they say, "You can take a person out of Kolkata but you can't take Kolkata out of a person."

Not all Kolkatans however are fortunate or prosperous and there are many today who survive in more constrained circumstances and with far fewer opportunities than others have.

Kolkata Initiatives has been set up as a platform to find ways in which the more fortunate among the Kolkatans can support those who may need their help.

The ‘Bridge’ of Opportunities

Kolkata Initiatives is being promoted as a city-specific citizen's initiative for community development. It aims to bring together concerned citizens who will engage with the underprivileged citizens and help them change their lives. They will contribute whatever they can to change the situation through small-scale, community-based interventions. Kolkata Initiatives builds upon the fact that, in the last 20 years, there has been a growing prosperity among a section of Indians but this prosperity has not touched the lives of many others and we owe it to each other to share these opportunities.

There are still many among the youth who lack livelihood opportunities. This is not for want of effort or aspiration but for lack of adequate opportunities. Also, there are many who require extra help to get around the rapidly changing reality of contemporary India. These include senior citizens who live alone and need additional care and support. Girls, too, need a helping hand while they negotiate these times. They too dream to become leaders but are often caught in a relentless cycle of housekeeping and child-rearing.
Kolkata Initiatives is partnering with existing organisations working with poor and disadvantaged groups in the city and its surroundings. Some of the disadvantaged groups Kolkata Initiatives aims to work with include the following:

1. Care and support of the elderly: as the social structure of families and communities undergo rapid changes, the elderly are getting isolated and more vulnerable. They need support so that they are able to live lives of self-respect and security.

2. Empowerment of young girls and women from underprivileged communities.

3. Educational and employment opportunities for adolescents and young people to develop positive values, sound knowledge as well as employable skills.

4. Child care support for women who are busy working to make ends meet.

5. Support for physically challenged children and youth and so on.

Kolkata Initiatives aims to reach out to underprivileged urban populations who today receive the least amount of support.

Kolkata Initiatives has started its journey by sponsoring for a Day Care Centre for Elderly Women, and a Centre for Adolescent Girls which are being run by Parichiti a women's group. A Community Centre is has been established at Shahid Smriti, a neighbourhood in South Kolkata, off the EM Bypass, near Peerless Hospital.

We need your support

Kolkata Initiatives needs to grow through your support. Kolkata Initiatives is envisioned as a group of people who care for Kolkata and who will provide support through donations, volunteer time or materials which can be used for supporting community level activities. We expect supporters of Kolkata Initiatives to also encourage their friends and associates to also join in this cause. We urge you to join Kolkata Initiatives and support us in any way that is convenient for you.

Donations: We need Financial Contributions to support the activities at the community

Volunteer your time: Join us as a Volunteer and

a. Support activities at the Community Centre - with the elderly, with young girls, with youth
b. Build our social media presence
c. Help out in fund raising
d. Help out in our office
Gifts for our Centre: Our activities will need materials for running Our Community Centres. From old furniture and books for the library to Computers for the Computer Centre being planned for the youth... if you have these lying unused at home or in your Workplace, why not put it to good use?

Please visit our website at www.kolkatainitiatives.net for making online donations

Join our conversations at www.facebook.com/groups/KolkataInitiatives

(All donations will be eligible for deductions under Sec 80G of the income Tax Act 1961)

Contact us:
Kolkata Initiatives is being promoted by the Centre for Health and Social Justice (CHSJ: www.chsj.org) a reputed national voluntary (non-profit) organization which works on various social issues in different states including West Bengal. Over the last year, the idea of Kolkata Initiatives has received the endorsement of over a hundred supporters through face-to-face meetings, email conversations and an internet based poll. A Facebook page has been established and people who have some association with Kolkata have signed up in support. Kolkata Initiatives also includes an advisory board of prominent citizens of Kolkata.

We request you to give back to the city that gave you so much. A small initiative on your part today could go to long way in helping another Kolkatan tomorrow.

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