Spring 2020

Picture: January ‘20

Probini Kolkata Meet at Hungerford Street:

Chair Srimati Professor Sujata Ghosh Dastidar, 3rd from the left, and Sri Arindam Banerjee, Secretary of Bankuta and 4 more centers, 2nd from right.

Wishing you a Happy Corona-Free Balsakh New Year!

Check our webs www.probini.org & www.ispad1947.org

***30 Years of Probini ***

15th Annual Kolkata Meeting of Probini Foundation

Report by Arindam Banerjee

The 15th Annual Meet of Probini Foundation Inc. was held on January 19, 2020 at Hungerford Street, Flat No.5, Kolkata-700017 beginning at 11.30 AM.

Members present were, Prof. Dr. (Srimati) Sujata Ghosh Dastidar, Sri. Arindam Banerjee, Sri Ratnapratim Sengupta, Sri Tirthankar Mukherjee, Sri Bikash Biswas, Sm. Sipra Sarkar and Sm. Utpal Mukherjee. (Indian Probini-supported projects in Dibrugarh, Assam and Tuichwang, Mizoram couldn’t join because of distance and cost. Nandigram and Kharagpur of West Bengal couldn’t attend. Durgapur project supports dozen and a half schools and vocational centers, whereas Bankura project supports 5 institutions.)

At the beginning of the session Prof. Ghosh Dastidar was unanimously elected as the Chair of the 2020 Kolkata meeting.

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OUR MOST RECENT BENEFACTORS: (October 15, 2019 — March 15, 2020)

Sponsor: Ms. Geeta Bhatt, Drs. Arvind Chandrakantan and Kripa Krishnan, Ajoy & Subhra Nayak

Patron: Milita C Das, Sachi G & Shefali S Dastidar

Donor: Satya Vijoy Bhoumik, Prabhangsu Kumar & Sibani Ghoshal, Prof. Jill Hamberg, Prof. Dr. Rachel McDermott, Korah T & Dr. Shobha Mani, Pia Owens, Esq.

Contributor: Lorne & Candida Birch, Prof. Sashi Shah, Shuvo G & SUMEDHA J Dastidar in Honor of his Parents Anniversary, Donation in Honor of Ajoy & Subhra Nayak, Subir Mazumdar (Bangladesh)
Message from Probini Friends:

Dear Probini:

Here is a $1,000 (one thousand dollar check) for your life’s sadhana (prayer).

Geeta Bhatt, Queens, New York


Dear Probini:

This ($200) is for the girls’ dorm construction as it is described in the Fall 2019 newsletter. We should meet once-in-a-while with our old fellows.

Sincerely, Thattenkal Pennsylvania


Dear Probini:

Happy New Year! I’d like to make a contribution to Probini. Thank you for all the good work. Sincerely, and with all good wishes.

Rachel (Prof. Dr. R C McDermott)
Manhattan, New York


Remember!

Donations to Probini are fully tax deductible.

Tuichwng Panchasheel Probini Chhatribash
Mizoram State, India

**Update:** After appeal in the Fall 2019 newsletter, Probini was able to raise funds to complete the girls’ hostel. Its name will be Tuichwng (village name) Panchasheel (Buddha’s 5 principles of inclusion) Probini Chhatribash (girls’ dormitory). Thank you all.


Probini Foundation’s Indirect Beneficiary; A 500 Year Old Bishnu Temple, Bangladesh

The granite-built statue of the deity is in good condition, yet the tin shed was leaking and windows and doors, and parts of the structure was in bad shape. During earlier 1950s pogrom the original temple structure was damaged but the murti (statue of deity) survived. (Adjacent to the temple, the 18th Century Black Mother Kali Madir temple was demolished during that pogrom.)


P R O B I N I  P R O J E C T S

- Probini is providing scholarships for school children.
- Jagatpur Ashram Orphanage (1898), Chittagong, Bangladesh – supporting boys’ & girls’ education.
- Madarpur Pranab Ashram, Bangladesh – Probini is providing salaries for teachers and has built a boys’ dormitory.
- Mahilara Ashram School, Barisal, Bangladesh – Probini is providing teachers and built a school.
- Mizoram State, Tuichawng Village, India – Probini has built a school at that poor, remote, isolated, picturesque place.
- Nandigram, Medinipur, India – Probini is providing teachers at Kasturba Gandhi Memorial School.
- Nayagram, Paschim Medinipur, India – Probini has provided books for the poor tribal school & library.
- Netrokona Manab Kalyan Kmai [Improvement of Mankind] Orphanage, Bangladesh – Probini is providing student scholarships, has created agricultural projects for self-sufficiency in food and has built a girls’ dormitory.
- Pirojpur SriRamKathi Pranav Shishu BidyaNiketan School, Bangladesh – Probini is providing salaries for teachers and has built a school building.
- Uzirpur Surya Sen Anath Sishu Sadan [Orphanage], Bangladesh – Probini is supporting students at the Orphanage and has built a kitchen for the dorm.

- Assam Buddhist Vihar Orphanage, Dibrugarh, India – Probini is providing teachers’ salary.
- Bagerhat-Khulna AndharManik Girls’ High School: Probini has built a girls’ dormitory.
- Bankura, India—Probini provides teachers’ salary at Purokonda Ashram school for the poor.
- Barisal: Poor Student Scholarship at Ramakrishna Mission, Bangladesh.
- Comilla: Ramakrishna Orphange, Bangladesh – Probini is providing scholarships to several boys.
- Dhaka Girls Orphange Society, 1908, Bangladesh – Probini is providing scores of scholarships to girls for school education.
- Dhowa Danga Santhali Tribal Village School, Bardhamaan, India—Providing teachers at school.
- Dhoilari Sahid Smriti (Martyr’s Memorial) Girl’s High School, Swarupkathi, Bangladesh: Probini has rebuilt the cyclone-destroyed school and dorm.
- Gargapur 8 Separate Schools – Probini is providing salaries for teachers.
- Gandhi Ashram Trust, Noakhali, Bangladesh – Probini has provided salaries for teachers.
Proceedings of the meeting:

All the members from different organizations present in meeting unanimously appreciate and acknowledge the continuous help and support from Probini Foundation Inc. without which the aim and goal of respective organizations could not be achieved. At the same time the members discuss about the difficulty in encashing the cheque of foreign money.

Some organizations like OAR — Our Association for Remedy — has applied for registration under FCRA (federal approval for accepting foreign funds), some organizations like Children's Welfare Association has applied for renewal of FCRA registration for acceptance of foreign contribution. Since it takes a very long time for final approval and since it is not permissible to accept foreign money without FCRA, the members present in the meeting opined that Probini Foundation be requested to make donations to the respective organizations in Indian currency. Without the financial aid from Probini Foundation, the mission and aim of the organizations to serve humanity will suffer a lot.

Organization present in the meeting briefed their activities that are given here:

1. Swami Vivekananda Vani Prachar Samity (of Durgapur):

   The organization is running 17 education centers in nearby tribal, rural and slum areas where people of very low income groups live. Samity is getting financial aid from Probini every year since 2002-03. All the money is kept FD scheme in bank. 10 teachers are getting honorarium from the interest of fixed deposits.

   Samity carries out other activities like running of vocational training courses for unemployed youth, medical and health care units for people living below poverty level, running of mobile dispensary in rural areas, etc.

2. Our Association of Remedy, Kolkata:

   The organization has received a sum of Rs.1000/= (Rupees One thousand only. In 2017 OAR received 15 copies of S G Dastidar & S S Dastidar books for fund-raising at Rs. 450 each.) from Probini Foundation. Sri. Bikash Biswas, Secretary of OAR reports that OAR has bought school bags for street children with the money. He also appealed to Probini Foundation to grant some more donation which can be used to improve the way of living of the street children. (Probini Board in USA hasn’t approved any new grantee since 2008. As their resources are very limited, Probini hasn’t added new institutions for help.)

3. Children's Welfare Association (Sishu Kalyan Parishad), Kolkata:

   The sole objective of the organization is to help destitute girls with food, shelter, education & healthcare and give them a roadmap to settle their lives with dignity. At present there are 105 destitute girls. Their overall development is a huge task and requires a lot of expenditure which cannot be met without donation. Dr. (Smt.) Sujata Ghosh Dastidar, the President, reports that a cheque of $1,000 (one thousand dollars) in the previous year has been received by the organization from Probini Foundation but it couldn't be utilized as renewal of FCRA is in process. As final approval of FCRA is still not received by the organization, the President hereby appeals to make donation in Indian currency until FCRA renewal is approved.

I'd like to help!

Yes, I/We/Our organization would like to help

Please make checks payable to The Probini Foundation

[ ] Sponsor $500 [ ] Patron $250

[ ] Donor $100 [ ] Contributor (any amount) $________

Name ____________________________________________________________

Address __________________________________________________________

E-mail ____________________________________________ Phone ____________
4. Purbachal Ananda Foundation, Bankura and Durgapur:

The organization is running 4 Homes where shelters are provided for urban homeless people who are poor, aged, infirm and vagabond. Each home can afford 50 shelter less people who are provided with food, shelter, medicine, education and entertainment.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair, followed by a sumptuous lunch and networking.

Good News from Twichang Girls’ Hostel in Mizoram State, India

Since our Fall 2019 newsletter with an appeal from Twichang school, Probini Foundation was able to raise funds to complete the girls’ dormitory. Hopefully, it will be completed before monsoon! Thanks to all supporters!

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Books by Probini supporters:

(Proceeds go to Probini or Ispad)


2020 ISPaD: Partition Center Journal; authors include Prof. Atanu Sarkar, Arijit Aditya, Prof. Mohindar Singh Seehra, Prof. Sachin G. Dastidar, Sudipto Das, Prof. Pervez Hoodbhoy and Dr. Youngsoo Kong.

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