The 30th Annual Meet of Probini Foundation Inc. was held on 13th of September 2020 via Zoom starting at 10:30 AM New York time and 8 PM India time. This was something new for Probini as it is for rest of the world. Generally, we have been organizing our annual event and fundraising in April or May of each year matching with mid-April Baisakh New Year in India, Bangladesh and in many parts of Asia.

(continued in p 3)

OUR MOST RECENT BENEFACTORS: (MARCH 15, 2020 — OCTOBER 15, 2020)

Sponsor:  Mr. & Mrs. Rajinder Gandhi, Drs. Arvind Chandrakantan and Kripa Krishnan, Sachi G & Shefali S Dastidar
Patron:  Prabal & Swapna Mukherji
Contributor: Dilip Chakravorty, Jay Datta,
**Message from a Probini Supporter:**

Hi Dr. Shefali S. Dastidar: We are good friends of Dr. Kusumita Pederson. We are sending a donation of $500.00 to your foundation. Rajinder and Jyoti Gandhi

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**Probini’s New Board Members:**

Mrs. Nandita Bagchi of East Meadow, and Mr. Jayanta Datta of West Hempstead

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**Helping Ispad through your Internet Search and Internet Shopping:** Now you can help Indian Subcontinent Partition Documentation Project just by doing your routine Internet search. By using www.goodsearch.com (in place of Google, Bing, etc.) a Yahoo search engine, for your searches Yahoo will give Ispad 1c for each of your searches. It is a good way to help us in addition to writing a check. The first time when you go to www.Goodsearch.com please identify Indian Subcontinent Partition Documentation Project, a non-profit tax-exempt organization in New York, as your cause to help. After that you don’t have to do anything. In gooshop.com, a part of good search, all businesses from A to Z are listed. If you buy through them then Yahoo will donate a small part of the cost to Ispad.

**REMEMBER!**

Donations to Probini are fully tax deductible.

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**Probini Foundation’s Indirect Beneficiary; Repairing a 500+ Year Old Sri Bishnu/Vishnu Temple in Bangladesh**

Bari Mandir temple in Barisal district.

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 were 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 17th Century Black Mother Kali Madir temple was demolished during that pogrom.)

Seeing the visitors locals of the village came rushing asking for help for repair as they are extremely poor. They also mentioned that recently a gang tried to torch the building. Visitors told them it is beyond Probini’s scope, although very worthy.

Soon Sachi G. Dastidar informed some of the descendants of the village living in America, India, Canada and Singapore. Wow!! Many of the descendants living in the U.S., India and Singapore replied and funded the poor villagers. All Bangladeshis said we should celebrate when repair is finished.

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**Probini Projects**

- 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 Purunkonda Ashram school for the poor.
- Barisal Poor Student Scholarship at Ramakrishna Mission, Bangladesh.
- Calcutta Sishu Kalyan Parishad [Children’s Welfare] Orphanage, Inc. – Probini gives scholarships to girls living at the orphanage.
- Comilla Ramakrishna Orphange, Bangladesh - Probini is providing scholarships to several resident boys.
- Dhaka Girls Orphange Society, 1908, Bangladesh — Probini is providing scores of scholarships to girls for school education.
- Dinajpur Harijan Pali Sri Ramakrishna Free School at the Sweeper’s Colony Bangladesh — salaries for teachers.
- Dhowa Danga Santhali Tribal Village School, Bardhamaan, India—providing teachers at school.
- Doihari Sahid Smriti (Martyr’s Memorial) Girl’s High School, Swarupkathi, Bangladesh: Probini has rebuilt the cyclone-destroyed school and dorm.
- Forgapur 12 Separate Schools - Probini is providing salaries for teachers.
- Gandhi Ashram Trust, Noakhali, Bangladesh - Probini is providing scholarships for school children.
- Jagatpur Ashram Orphanage (1898), Chittagong, Bangladesh — supporting boys’ & girls’ education.
- Madipur Pranab Ashram, Bangladesh - Probini has built a boys’ dormitory, and is completing a second hostel.
- Mahilara Ashram School, Barisal, Bangladesh - Probini is providing teachers’ salary and has built a school.
- Mizoram State, Tuichawng Village, India— Probini has built a school at that poor, remote, isolated, picturesque place, and has built a hostel.
- Nandigram, Medinipur, India— Probini is providing teachers at Kasturba Gandhi Memorial School.
- Nayagram, Paschim Medinipur, India— Probini has provided books for tribal school, library & funding a hostel.
- Netrokona Manab Kalyan Kami [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 hostel and a school building.
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 ___________________________

(Continued from Page 1)

Namaskar (Greetings) to You!

The annual Probini Foundation luncheon and fundraising was held virtually via Zoom on September 13. This is the first time we couldn’t do in-person luncheon. This was organized by our new Board Member Mr. Jayanta Dutta via Zoom. There was a wonderful cultural program attended by presenters from the U.S., India and Bangladesh.

The presentation was followed by a prayer poem of Sri Chinmoy by Board Member Prof. Dr. Kusumita Pedersen while the original Bengali version was read by another Board Member Dr. Shefali S. Dastidar at Dr. Pedersen’s request.

Then Professor Sachi G. Dastidar spoke on the history and activities of Probini highlighting over three decades of work in Bangladesh, and in Indian States of West Bengal, Assam and Mizoram. He also talked about pleasure and pain in helping the poor and the orphaned during turbulent times. Dr. Dastidar paid tribute to Board Member Jay Hyman and Mr. Chet Szarejko, both Probini supporters from its inception for over three decades. Probini mourns their loss.

This was followed by a cultural program when young and not-so-young joined to celebrate the event. Young Alvan Chowdhury, student of Bangladesh Institute of Performing Arts and Probini Honoree Selima Ashraf sang a beautiful Bengali song, followed by recitation by little Jishnu Bandyopadhyay and little Shriya Ghosh Dastidar. Mrs. Nandita Bagchi, a new Probini Board Member enchanted all by reciting an English poem, of original Bengali work of poet Rabindranath Tagore. Mr. Shuvo Dastidar, Executive Secretary of Probini, then presented an Annual Report of Probini work and discussed various social networking sites where Probini is present and ways of donating to Probini and connect with us.

The program was inaugurated with a prayer by Hindu monk Swami Satyapriyananda of Bangladesh, who runs one Probini-rebuilt Chhatrabash meaning boys’ dormitory. (The centuries-old hostel was demolished during Bangladesh’s Independence War.) Probini is now helping ashram build a second hostel (dormitory.) The number of boys living at the ashram is more than 50 students. Swamiji then spoke about his projects for the poor. It is worth mentioning that because of swamiji’s guidance and personal help Probini has been able to build hostel for boys and girls in at least half-a-dozen schools. Below is a Bengali song written and composed by swamiji to defeat COVID.
President of Purbachal Ananda Foundation Mr. Gautam Ghosh assisted by Mr. Arindam Bandopadhay elaborated on the activities of their children’s home in Bankura district, West Bengal, about 150 miles northwest of Kolkata in eastern India. Probini supports Purbachal in educating poor and the orphaned in India. Purbachal supports orphanages, schools, senior center and many other projects in West Bengal’s Bankura and Bardhaman districts.

Salitha, Faridpur District, Bangladesh
We are happy to share that Bangladesh Ashram where Probini has rebuilt a century-old terror-destroyed dormitory (hostel) has been approached to take charge of a 150-year old property in nearby Faridpur district of Bangladesh, about 50 kilometers from the ashram. Head of the ashram has signed a contract to establish a new center there. The property contains an old Bengali-style Zamindar Baari or Home of the Landed Gentry and an old Durga Mandir (Temple) there which conducted a puja celebration from October 22 through 26 inviting the Mother to destroy evil on Earth. We at Probini are hoping that the monk will be able to restore one more heritage site in Bangladesh and renovate old structures for all to enjoy the beautiful countryside and Bengali heritage. The property belonged to a noted Hindu family of the region.

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Loss:
Probini lost Mr. Chet Szarejko, a supporter of Probini from the beginning, and a regular attendee of Probini luncheon in Queens, New York City. Mr. Szerejo was award recipient of Probini Foundation.

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Dear Probini:
My sincere sympathy in the passing of Jay (Hyman). He was always so entertaining. We always enjoyed his company.

He was such a good friend to your family and vice versa. Jay will always be in our heart and will always be remembered.

My prayers are with all of you during this sad time.

Love, Linda  April 2020

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COVID FOOD RELIEF TO SCHOOLS
Dastidar Family has donated funds for food to Probini-supported schools as COVID lockdown affected donations reaching them, as Probini charter didn’t allow to do that. Dastidars sent directly to the following Probini-supported projects: Dhaka (twice), Madaripur (twice), Netrokona, and Pirojpur in Bangladesh as well as to Minority Watch organization there. They also sent funds to India’s Bankura, West Bengal State, Our Association for Remedy Street Schools of Kolkata and to Shishu Kalyan Parishad (Children’s Welfare Association) Orphanage of Kolkata. They also sent funds to Mizoram school in India.