

# KAILAKURI HEALTH CARE PROJECT

(In association with Indigenous Peoples Development Services)

Village Kailakuri, Madhupur Thana, Tangail District, Bangladesh

## DECEMBER 2018: “Saved in the nick of time”

Kailakuri is relying on Bangladesh in-country funds as it awaits budget approval for 2019-2020 from the Bangladesh NGO Bureau and visa extensions for Jason and Merindy. We are a few steps closer to receiving approval for the “Dr Baker’s Organisation for Well-Being” NGO to bring in foreign funds.

### By Sujit Rangsa (Acting Medical Co-ordinator, KHCP)

I would like to share the stories of two patients. They are Robita Rangsha and Hajera Begum. Robita is from Sherpur district, near the Indian border. She is an indigenous girl, the fourth child of her parents. She lost her father when she was an infant. Her mother is disabled. Her mother’s younger sister lives at home with them, and she became disabled also.

Robita has not studied much. She had to go to Dhaka to work at a beauty parlour when she was 14 years old. The money she earns from her beauty parlour job is sent home to her mother and aunty. She also needs to pay for their treatment costs. Unfortunately in 2003 Robita was diagnosed with TB of the spine at KHCP. The symptoms had begun two years earlier. She sought treatment in various places but there was no improvement.

One day, Robita made a phone call to Sujit. She came to the hospital on 6 June 2011. Her TB treatment continued from June to September but the paralysis in her legs had not improved at all. Her condition was becoming worse. At the end of September, Doctor Bhai communicated with Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) and sent her there. Sister Valerie advised to carry out an operation. As the operation was very expensive, the patient could not afford it and neither could KHCP. Finally, Sister Valerie A. Taylor, the founder of CRP, carried all expenses for the operation. Robita needed to take TB treatment for two years after this. She stayed at CRP for eight months then came back at KHCP and stayed one year at KHCP with her mother. KHCP covered all food, accommodation and medical expenses for Robita and her mother during this time. Roton and Sujit from the staff visited their house when Robita and her mother were released from KHCP in 2014.

We were surprised after seeing her situation that Robita and her family did not have their own house. They were living on other people’s land in a small house. We visited Robita’s house at CRP’s request to see whether the community would take care of Robita until she was able to work. We had a discussion with community leaders.



Robita and her son in Dhaka

They were friendly and undertook responsibility for her until she was able to work. After one year, she returned to her previous profession (at a beauty parlour). In 2016, she got married to a Garo-community man from the Madhupur area. Her husband also works in Dhaka. Their family has been doing well with their income. They were blessed with a baby in 2017. They are very happy. Robita often expresses her thankfulness to KHCP. We know that this gratitude extends to all friends of KHCP.

Hazera Begum is from Kailakuri. Her parents' house is five kilometres away. There is a tradition for Bangladeshi Muslim women that their first baby needs to be born at their parents' house. There were some disputes between her parents and father-in-law's house about this. Eventually she went to her own parents' house to give birth.

When she started feeling delivery pains, Hazera's husband came to my house at 3am and woke me up. He told me about his wife's delivery. After hearing this, I suggested he bring his wife to Kailakuri. The man said that his wife was at her parents' house and they would not agree to bring her to the hospital. He requested that I provide a village health care staff. He wanted Moriam as she is a good midwife. We woke her up at that time. When Moriam arrived, she was surprised that the baby had already been delivered. She discovered that the mother was bleeding and had become very weak. Mother and baby were lying down on the bed. The baby was not breathing.

Nevertheless, the people of that house didn't allow Moriam to check the baby. They brought in a village doctor. Moriam explained the baby's condition to them and only then was she allowed to see the baby. She saved the baby by breathing into its mouth. Seeing this, they released the village doctor and allowed Moriam to see the mother. She was unconscious and it was difficult to find her blood pressure. She had a vaginal tear that extended from the urethral opening as far as the rectum.

Finally the family put their trust in Moriam. Moriam brought mother and baby to the hospital. She regained consciousness and KHCP sent her to the Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital. They repaired the vaginal tear. They are now very happy. This is how the mother and child survived that day. Now they express their gratefulness to KHCP.



Moriam and her healthy child

### News from Jason and Merindy



We have been doing well. We are about halfway through our Bangla language lessons. If all goes well, we will be moving to Kailakuri in late March.

We were able to go to Kailakuri in September for Dr Baker's remembrance service and will be going again for Christmas. The kids love being at Kailakuri. The staff are very loving and caring for the kids. The kids also like being able to run around outside in the dirt and the rain.

**Message from the NZ Coordinator**

We are able to look back at another successful year of Kailakuri providing health services for the poor by the poor. A big thanks to everybody who has made that possible - the faithful staff, the Committee members, IPDS and each one of you who have helped finance the budget.

We look forward to the coming year confident that Kailakuri can only go from strength to strength with Dr's Jason and Merindy in residence. Please continue to help this happen. Your donation makes a big difference and is really appreciated by the Kailakuri community.

Wishing you all a joyous Christmas and a wonderful 2019 - **Peter Wilson**

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**FACEBOOK** [www.facebook.com/kailakuri](http://www.facebook.com/kailakuri)  
(Like our Facebook page and receive regular updates)

**GIVELALITTLE** [www.givealittle.co.nz/org/khcp](http://www.givealittle.co.nz/org/khcp)

*Donations can be made by...*

- From New Zealand:
  - Making an online payment to our New Zealand bank account (ANZ, Whakatane). Account name: Kailakuri Health Care Project – Link Group; Account number: 01 0486 0185024 00.  
Please email Glenn Baker at [treasurerkhcp@gmail.com](mailto:treasurerkhcp@gmail.com) with your donations and contact details for receipts, also details of any regular automatic payments set up.
  - Posting a cheque to “Kailakuri Health Care Project – Link Group” to KHCP-NZ Link Group, PO Box 522, Whakatane 3158, New Zealand.
- Internationally:
  - Making a telegraphic transfer (TT) payment to our New Zealand Bank Account (ANZ, Whakatane, New Zealand). Account Name: Kailakuri Health Care Project - Link Group; Account Number: **01 0486 0185024 00**, SWIFT code **ANZ BNZ 22**. Please email Glenn Baker at [treasurerkhcp@gmail.com](mailto:treasurerkhcp@gmail.com) with your donation and contact details.
  - Please get in touch with Pijon Nongmin at [drbakersonorganisation@gmail.com](mailto:drbakersonorganisation@gmail.com) for options to donate within Bangladesh.
- If you live in the United States, you can write a cheque to “Asia Connection Inc”. Please indicate on a separate note that the donation is for Kailakuri and send to Ted Rose, Treasurer, Asia Connection Inc, 1226 Scott St, El Cerrito, CA.94530-2458, and give your contact details for a receipt.

For any changes to your contact details or if you would like to receive your newsletter by email please contact Pijon Nongmin at [drbakersonorganisation@gmail.com](mailto:drbakersonorganisation@gmail.com) (international) or Hilary Lynch at [tui\\_eden@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tui_eden@xtra.co.nz) (NZ)

*Thank-you so much for your support.  
Our greatest need is gifts towards on-going running costs.*