

Newsletter February 2025

INDIA

Anniversary Tributes at the School for the Blind

Dear Friends and Supporters,







When the School for the Blind in Cooch Behar, India, celebrated its 60th anniversary on January 9-10, 2025, six people, along with the chair of the Board of SB Foundation, traveled there (all at their own expense) to be present. In the picture above, from the left, stand Raj, the head of the School for the Blind, Lena (the Foundation's chairman), Kjell, Lotta, Karin, Marju, Margareta, and Yulia. A large sign announcing the anniversary hung on the gateposts at the entrance to the boarding school area. As soon as we arrived at the School on January 7, after a long journey on flights from Stockholm/Arlanda – Istanbul – Delhi – Siliguri, followed by a four-hour car ride, we sere greeted with a warm welcome by students playing drums and memelodicas.







In Indian schools, students are required to wear some form of school uniform; for the anniversary celebration, all students at the School for the Blind received a stylish blazer with the school's emblem. In the small and remote villages where families live in poverty, they cannot afford expensive clothing. The parents who attended the start of the school term and the anniversary celebration felt an extra sense of pride that their children were wearing such fine garments – it seemed like a symbolic kind of atonement and a silent proclamation of the equal worth of all humans. The Bible expresses this with: *You shall love your neighbor as yourself*; or, as Ingmar Olsson expresses it the Swedish hymn no. 791: *You must know that you are worthy, That you matter here and now, That you are loved for your own sake, For no one else is just like you.*



SB Foundation sends gratitude via us on the board – *Arne, Elisabeth, Gloria, Lena, and Roger* – to everyone who supports the School for the Blind.

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