

## 2003

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*2003 proved to be a banner year in which Rohatgi's have achieved following milestones:*

- In India we had sting of good fortune when we visited Nanaji Deshmukh at DRI, Chitrakoot and met two Samaj Shilpies in the U.P. and M.P. states. We attended a Seminar on Auyrvedic medicines at DRI and met CSIR Director General of India and other important people. On Nanaji's request to get funds from the NRIs we eventually will be able to raise \$50,000
- We also visited numerous projects run by Seva Bharati and others, which were funded by IDRF in Earthquake affected areas of Gujarat. They include Schools, Township, Orphanage, Hostel, Medical centers etc. During this trip we twice met the Chief Minister of Gujarat. This time we went during hottest period but we decided to enjoy it instead of complaining.
- With the help from Gaurav, Tara and Meghan, supported two girls who hailed from eastern states and are studying in a school in UP, with their annual boarding cost.
- Our project Sursardham, 114 homes completed and Community hall will be done in Jan 2004.
- During our India visit we also went to Himachal and Utteranchal to see our relatives and had a fortune to meet Padam Shri Bharat Bhushan ji in Sharanpur who is a social and spiritual leader.
- Dispersed funds for the first time from Babooji's trust to Jan Madhyam in New Delhi. They are working with mentally challenged children to become earning and productive part of society.
- When we came back to U.S. in June, Yash and Lavi surprised us with their beautiful new home in Fort Gratiot MI. We have had several very enjoyable parties in their home since then.
- Gaurav, Tara, Meghan came to visit us Twice in MI and we went to see them twice as well in MA. Time spent with our grand daughter is always the best.
- We wrote more articles, 5 in Hindi and 8 in English adding to our previous lot. Some of these are translated in Nepali, Gujarati, Marathi etc. published in India Nepal and USA. CD of all our articles and project photos has been produced for us by Yash which can be shared with you, if you want, please ask.
- Narain Bhai And Madhu Basu, Managing Trustee of NGOs SBKK/ERDS visited us in USA. We shared our thoughts and ideas with them about education, self-sufficiency in employment and good health practices in villages. Very soon together we will start a project in West Bengal implementing these ideas in year 2004. Basu will translate our articles in Bengali.
- While Back in USA, we were actively involved with our pet project of helping Homeless through AFOTH, had a Garage sale at our home in July and raised \$ 1500 in three days. We also volunteered at "Parisian" for their Charity Day sale and for Prison Outreach Program.
- Attended three events about the Rural Development in India,; A teleconference with 14 people from all over USA at Chicago in July. One day Seminar at College Park, MD in Aug 2003 organized by North South Foundation. A seminar at Chicago in Oct 2003, co-organized with Mohan Jain for NRI seniors' benefit to achieve Gram Swaraj. It was covered by Indian newspapers in USA.. We shared our experiences of visiting Indian villages, project Sursardham, demonstrated effective, simple and economical substitutes for expensive commercial products.
- Helped guide quite a few friends who wish to do something for India's Rural Development.
- Through my mother's kindness facilitated funds for Kutambakkam in Tamil Nadu and Orissa flood and sent two, ox driven Mechanical Ploughs made in India by L.N.Modi, New Delhi to Orissa, Tamilnadu villages. With these even women can plough their land sitting comfortably.
- Raised funds for Sursardham from friends and family, AFOTH and Rotary of Novi (\$10,000).
- Helped/Started much needed libraries in four places spread over three states of India in schools of UP, Gujarat and Maharastra by sending books and donations.
- Traveled twice to Nashville to meet Shri Krishn Mani ji Maharaj. We attended Pranami Mahotsav and gave lecture about 'How to be Happy'.

- Rashmi is enjoying teaching Hindi, at home since October, to interested children.