

Fundraising through the recession

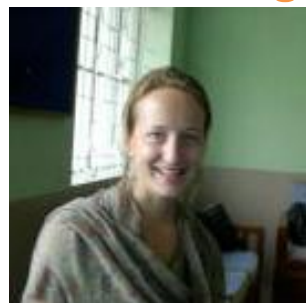
In spite of the restrictions in the economy, it is pleasing that our supporters have maintained their generosity for the work of Valerie at CRP. Part of this is from many different special events, some with Just Giving and others locally arranged, such as concerts, sponsored events. 40% of total donations come from these valuable initiatives.

The majority of income is for Unrestricted Funds, meaning that CRP can use the income as they wish. This is the most useful Core funding and essential to all charities.

Mention should also be made of Restricted Funds, which make up 18% of all donations we receive. These are specially allocated to an objective, identified by Valerie as needed at CRP. They have specific accounting records to allow the donors to have transparency for their donations. Objectives include such items as new buildings, training grants, operating and education costs.

The Gift Aid scheme is also significant as it adds 11% to our income and is encouraged whenever possible. The present 28% refund of tax paid is only available until 2011, beyond which it is unknown at present. If you are eligible, please register your declaration with us and allow us to use the scheme whilst it is available.

Volunteering at CRP



In Northern Ireland eight years ago when 24 year old Helen Cooke was still at school and trying to decide on her future career, she heard Valerie give a talk about CRP in Bangladesh. The talk proved to be a life changing moment – it made Helen decide to train as a physiotherapist. James and Patience Holt, ardent supporters of Valerie and CRP over many years, had organised the event and were delighted with Helen's choice of career - Patience Holt is her first cousin.

After completing her physio training at Queen Margaret's, Edinburgh in July 2009, Helen decided to volunteer at CRP Savar for three months. In mid-February, after working at a variety of jobs including being a cook to finance her trip, Helen arrived at Savar via India where she had completed a course as a yoga teacher.

Having been a volunteer in other developing countries, Helen has been pleasantly surprised by the accommodation and facilities available for volunteers at CRP. "There is a great camaraderie among volunteers here at the moment," she said. "Four of us share accommodation so we are pooling our resources for cooking. Asked about first impressions Helen mentioned the local form of Stryker bed and the head callipers which were a 'first' for her. She has been shocked by the size of the bedsores of some patients referred to CRP for treatment. She found the Paediatrics department "very well set up and focussed". Visit www.crp-bangladesh.org for more information on volunteering at CRP.

Friends we have lost...

VTT would like to say goodbye to some friends who have passed away recently.

Alec Mortimer, a long term supporter, sadly passed away in Thailand on 14th December 2009 following several periods of ill health. Alec had volunteered at CRP on many occasions and his achievements there include writing and directing awareness raising plays. He also secured a garden for the women at CRP-Gonokbari,

We have received many comments about Alec, which highlight the great affection felt for him. These include:

"Alec and Valerie were much alike, both selfless, dedicated, go-ahead and don't count the cost or heed the wounds kind of people"

"A true gentleman, with great compassion for the poorest"

"Valerie found the laundry man who had a stall by the gates of CRP in floods of tears, devastated at the news of his death"

Reverend Biswanath

Chowdhuri, also known as Bishu, sadly died after a period of ill health in February 2010. His funeral was on 19th February. Bishu was a founder trustee of the Trust for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (TRP) and served most faithfully over the years in this capacity.

Valerie met Bishu in 1970 when she invited him to visit the patients at Chandraghona hospital. This was a Christian Mission Hospital in the Chittagong Hill Tracts where Valerie worked as a volunteer physiotherapist prior to founding CRP.

Spring
2010

Online Donations to VTT

We've teamed up with Justgiving.com, the UK's leading online fundraising website, so you can donate and raise funds for us online. Using Justgiving saves us costs and reduces our admin burden, so going online is by far the most efficient way of supporting us.

It's easy to make a single or monthly donation with a credit or debit card online:

All you need to do is visit www.justgiving.com/vtt/donate



Fundraising Events

We also have a number of fundraising events online that you can follow.

Why not make a donation in support one of our Marathon runners....



....or you could set up your own online fundraising event now!

<http://www.justgiving.com/vtt/Raisemoney>

STOP PRESS.... STOP PRESS....

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Valerie Taylor Trust

Supporting the work of Valerie Taylor in Bangladesh

A Message from Valerie...

Where would CRP be without its friends and supporters all around the world and how would we manage without you? Our message from CRP is one of warmest thanks for partnering with us in this work. Whether it is the sharing of medical techniques or playing a guitar to our disabled school children, every kind of help is most gratefully received and much appreciated. Thank you for supporting a wonderful first 30 years of CRP.



Valerie Taylor meets with VTT Chairman, Bertie Woolnough at CRP-Gonokbari.

Very best wishes, Valerie

Chairman's Letter

I am often asked what difference VTT makes to Valerie's work in Bangladesh. Last year, your donations represented just over 7% of CRP's annual income. Without them, CRP would have had considerable difficulty in meeting its target of giving free treatment to at least 50% of Spinal Cord Injury patients. The work of volunteers is also highly valued. So rest assured that your support does make a real difference to the lives of some of the poorest in Bangladesh. So highly valued is this support from the UK that the Chairman and Trustees of CRP in Bangladesh asked that their gratitude is passed on to all of you.

During my visit to CRP in February/March, I visited many departments and saw at first hand the tremendous work that is going on. I never cease to be amazed at the wide range of activities and new developments taking place. For example last year over 23,000 out-patients were treated – an impressive figure. The new Executive Director, Emdad Moslem, has settled in extremely well and has now taken on much of the workload previously borne by Valerie.

The need for our contribution, both financial and by volunteers, is undiminished. So our challenge for the coming year is to recruit more VTT members and volunteers for CRP and so help to give a better life to many of the poorest in Bangladesh.

Thank you for your support.

Bertie Woolnough CBE

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Valerie Taylor Trust is a charity registered in England and Wales (number 1122245)

CRP 30th Anniversary Appeal

In response to our CRP 30th Anniversary Appeal, over £6350 has been donated so far and ,additionally, over £950 will be reclaimed through the Gift Aid Scheme., What a terrific response!!!

CRP 30th Anniversary Celebrations

The main celebrations to mark the 30th Anniversary of the founding of CRP were held on Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th November, 2009 during the continuation of the hot and, sometimes, humid weather that Bangladesh had been experiencing.

On Wednesday 11th, CRP held an in-house celebration which brought together, first thing in the morning, a large gathering of patients, staff and schoolchildren around the fountain at the front of CRP. Later, there was a film show of CRP's films and, in the evening, the first of the cultural programmes was held.

On Thursday 12th November, the main celebration was held in the Reddaway Hall with a lengthy programme covering the 30 years of CRP's history. VTT was represented by Trustees Mokhtar Hussain (Khokon) and Dr. Bryan Whitty, and the VTT Administrator, Brian Woodgate. The initial speeches were delivered by Emdad Moslem, CRP Executive Director, who welcomed everyone to the celebration, and Motilal Mazumdar, (Khokon) the longest serving member of staff at CRP. Valerie then recalled some moments from the past before setting out her vision for the future, which included the development of Speech and Language Training in a specially built unit. Her main vision is to see the provision of treatment facilities by CRP, based on the Government hospitals in all the district towns. After the formal celebration ceremony was completed, a cultural programme was undertaken for the rest of day celebrating the past 30 years of CRP.

All in all it was a very enjoyable and uplifting experience, especially to see the commitment of the staff and the progress that is being made. Everyone seems so happy and positive and the patients can see that there is a better life awaiting them after they have completed their treatment and rehabilitation.

By Brian Woodgate

Dr. Bryan Whitty will also have many special memories from the celebration including the decorations and the lights at CRP, the procession of wheelchair patients going from the centre to the local bazaar and park, the international atmosphere enhanced by the many Foreign staff and visitors ast the centre and the commemorative brochure, plates and T shirts

He recounts “a marvellous event, and one which will forever remain in our memories. A real recognition of the achievements and wonderful work of Valerie and her team over these 30 years”.

Changing work practices may prevent spinal cord injury

Over the past five years, 25% of CRP's spinal patients were injured by falling while carrying a heavy load on their head. Valerie has been campaigning about this issue for several years, and now CRP plans to add weight to the campaign by carrying out a research project which involves gathering detailed information about the problem, then raising awareness and offering an alternative way of handling heavy loads. As part of the project a televised documentary will be made with the help of the CRP wheelchair user's film group.

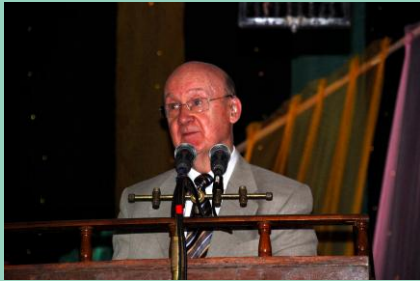
Celebration Photos



Chief Guests at the CRP 30th Anniversary celebration.



Children from the William & Mary Taylor Inclusive School, dressed in white, performed a traditional song.



VTT Trustee, Dr. Bryan Whitty, speaking at the celebration.



Patients from the CRP Women's Centre in Gonokbari also sung during the programme on Thursday.

CRP Commemorative Postage Stamp

Any budding philatelists may be interested to know that on 12 November 2009, two commemorative postage stamps were issued in Bangladesh to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of CRP.

Pictured on the stamps are Valerie, the CRP entrance and a number of the patients and services offered by the centre. First Day Cancels on Envelope (more commonly referred to as “first day covers”) were also issued to mark the event. The cancels were stamped by CRP Savar local MP, Mr. Talukder Muhammed Towhid Jung. This is the first time the Bangladesh Post Office has issued a stamp in honour of Valerie's work in Bangladesh.



News from the West Country...

Bicknoller and the surrounding villages were treated to a Sunday afternoon of delightful toe-tapping music courtesy of “Bev's Band” (age range 12 to 82), raising over £1000 for VTT.

A donation of over £5000 has been received from the churches of the Quantock Deanery who adopted VTT as the year's Missionary Project.

CRP Open Days



On 25th-26th February 2010, The Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) in Bangladesh held its annual open days at CRP-Head Office, Savar and CRP-Gonokbari.

The Open Days gave visitors the opportunity to visit CRP's spacious headquarters in Savar where Valerie's work can be seen at first hand. Cultural and sports events were also held to celebrate both traditional and modern Bangladeshi culture

Handicraft stalls were also present at Savar and Gonokbari with items for sale produced by the Income Generation Unit at CRP.

Donation of lecture ticket proceeds



Keith Skene is a Lecturer in Natural History at Dundee University and an evolutionary ecologist. He has recently written a book turning the current thinking of evolution on its head that is entitled "Shadows on the Cave Wall - A new Theory of Evolution". On the 10th

February 2010, Keith took part in a debate at Dundee University and half of the ticket proceeds were donated to VTT.

Please note: The views expressed in Dr Skene's book are the views of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Valerie Taylor Trust or its members/supporters.

Run for VTT



Iain Whitty and Craig Whitty raised over £700 when they ran the Devil O' The Highlands, a 43 mile footrace starting from Tyndrum to Fort William in the Highlands of Scotland, in August 2009.

Graeme Whitty and Denis Ignatjev raised over £400 when they ran the Athens Classic Marathon in November 2009.

Alison Pattison raised over £100 when she ran the Bath ½ Marathon in March 2010.

Susan Ivin raised over £250 when she ran the London Marathon in April 2010.