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# news release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Relief ministry sends poor, homeless children in Kolkata, India to school**

**Mustard Seed International provides education, care to more than 3,000 children**

**CHARLESTON, S.C., May 21, 2010** – [Mustard Seed International \(MSI\)](#), a relief ministry that meets the needs of suffering people in war-torn and poverty-stricken places around the globe, is impacting the lives of more than 3,000 of Kolkata, India's poorest children by providing them with access to a quality education that is academically and spiritually-focused.

Through its ministry partners on the ground in the Kolkata region of India, one of the most populous urban areas in the world, MSI operates eight schools, two mobile schools for homeless children, two homes for orphaned and abandoned children and many after-school programs. The schools provide curriculum for children from the kindergarten to secondary school grade levels.

MSI's mobile schools are the only hope for education for hundreds of children who live on the streets with their families in Kolkata. They often also provide children with the only meal they will receive that day. The mobile school program transports homeless children via bus to and from the city dump or their makeshift cardboard homes on the street where they live. At school, these children receive food, baths, clothing and the books and supplies they will need in the classroom.

"Our schools meet the immediate physical needs of these poor, desperate children, while also providing them with hope for a more fulfilling and productive life through education," said Bill Deans, president of MSI. "We seek to provide Christ-like compassion, kindness and love to a people plagued by abject poverty."

Most recently, MSI opened the doors of a special baby care center in Kolkata, providing free day care and feedings to babies and small children of homeless families, while their parents seek out employment. The center currently supports more than 30 children.

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While many of MSI's schools are held in local churches across Kolkata, the ministry also funded the costs to renovate several old school buildings in need of repair. These repairs provide students today with better lighting, air circulation and deep wells of fresh, clean drinking water.

Founded after World War II by missionary Lillian Dickson, MSI is headquartered in Charleston, S.C., and serves suffering people in Africa, India, Southeast Asia, Taiwan and Eastern Europe. In Sudan, MSI operates the [Akot Medical Mission](#), a medical facility that has been deemed one of the best in the nation by the local Sudanese.

In a commitment to send 100 percent of all contributions directly to MSI mission locations, the leadership and administrative staff of MSI are all volunteers. MSI goes to the places where they believe there is the greatest need, following Lillian's example to "present Christ to all we meet, to heal disease and all manner of suffering and to love sincerely and deeply those whose lives we are privileged to touch." For more information, visit <http://www.mustardseed.org> or become a fan of the Mustard Seed International page on [Facebook](#).

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**Note to Editors:** For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Jodi Phillip at 972.267.1111 or via e-mail at [jodi@alarryross.com](mailto:jodi@alarryross.com). Additional information about MSI is available at <http://www.mustardseednews.com>.