

We now need your support and urge you to join us in our journey to achieve our GOAL of a ZERO THALASSEMIA MUMBAI DISTRICT.

Donor passes for the evening with Pankaj Udhas is available in the denomination of Rs. 2500/-, 1500/-, 1000/- & 750/-.

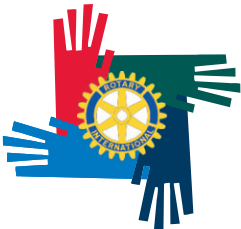
Please send us your generous contributions favouring "ZERO THALASSEMIA". The titled Project is being carried out under the auspices of "Rotary Club of Worli Bombay Trust" and all donations are eligible for Tax Exemption under Section 80-G of the Income Tax Act.

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Team Thalassemia
ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY WORLI



Address for correspondence:

c/o N A Shah Associates, 65C Mittal Tower, Nariman Point, Mumbai: 400 021
Tel No: 4073 3000, Fax No 4073 3090
Email: zerothal@nashah.com **Pankaj Tanna: 98202 29309**

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This is what our future children
may need to survive.

You can help prevent it.



Team Thalassemia
ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY WORLI

THALASSEMIA

If Cyprus could become Zero Thalassemia, why not Mumbai!

Diseases like cancer, heart diseases, diabetes, strokes and AIDS all evoke immediate response, sympathy and even fear. However, over 95% of the educated Indian population is unaware of the agony and trauma that a Thalassemia Major patient and the family undergo.

Thalassemia is a life threatening blood disorder passed on by a genetic defect in the blood of both the parents. A Thalassemia Major child requires Blood Transfusion every 15-30 days for life to survive. This blood leads to a build-up of iron in the body which needs removal by medications. Some medications require that the injection needle remains in the body for periods of up to 8 hours a day. A Thalassemia Major patient faces almost 300 needle pricks per annum. They are exposed to problems of the heart, liver, spleen, bones and need to have regular tests/scans. The cost of proper management of a Thalassemia Major is Rs. 1.5 - 2.00 lakhs per annum. The mental trauma of a parent undergoing all this is unimaginable. And to add to the misery, they come to know that all this was preventable had they been AWARE and had done a simple blood test!

A Thalassemia Major child can be born only if the Mother AND the father BOTH carry a genetic blood defect called Thalassemia MINOR Trait. Since they "transmit" the defect to their child they are called "Carriers".

Approximately 4 per cent of the Indian Population is unknowingly a "carrier". But those having it are healthy and hence never bother about their status. Even you could be a "Carrier"! Certain communities like the Sindhis, Lohanas, Bhanushalis, Punjabis, Gujaratis, and Bengalis have a higher prevalence.

The only way one can find out if he/she is a Thalassemia Minor is through a specific Blood Test (or ironically after giving birth to a Thalassemia Major Child).

APPROACH TO MAKE SOCIETY THALASSEMIA FREE

If unchecked, India would have over 2,25,000 Thalassemia Major Patients by 2025. Over 5 million units of blood would be needed just for their survival. This huge requirement of blood would put a strain on the Blood Banking/Healthcare system, which it would not be able to bear. A similar situation arose in Cyprus in the late 1970s. An active awareness and Prevention Campaign was started in 1979, and within 12 years, Cyprus became a ZERO THALASSEMIA BIRTH country. India is also at the same crossroads - prevention of the growth of Thalassemia in India is a necessity and not a choice. And in the case of Thalassemia, a simple Blood Test and awareness is the KEY to Prevention. The Rotary Club of Bombay Worli (RCBW) has embarked on the prevention of growth of Thalassemia Major in the Rotary District 3140 covering Mumbai and Thane, with a GOAL to make it a ZERO THALASSEMIA DISTRICT, with the support of other Rotary Clubs, The Mumbai Thalassaemics Society (MTS) and PATUT. In the first year, we will conduct Thalassemia Screening test for 50,000-60,000 college students. RCBW in cooperation with other Rotary clubs have already conducted 4000 screening test under the banner "Team Thalassemia".

The C. B. Patel Research Centre (Thalassemia Detection Unit) would be conducting the Thalassemia Minor Screening Program and Testing. They are part of the Shri Vile Parle Kelavani Mandal.

FUND RAISING PROGRAM- EVENING WITH PANKAJ UDHAS

In order to raise funds for the Project, we are organizing a unique and enthralling "Evening with Pankaj Udhas" on Friday, 20th November 2009, at the Nehru Centre Auditorium.

Padmashree Pankaj Udhas is a world renowned Ghazal singer-The Man With The Golden Voice. As the President of Parents' Association Thalassemic Unit Trust (P A T U T), he has been supporting the cause of prevention of Thalassemia, and will be once again performing for the fund raising event gratis. He has dedicated this night in support of our GOAL ZERO THALSSEMIA, a Goal he too has dreamt of and cherished for a long time, and the evening promises to be a special one.



BACKGROUND OF ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY WORLI (RCBW)

Being part of a 104 year old International Institution, Rotary, RCBW has completed 22 years of existence and through this journey, has been active in community service projects in the fields of Education, Health and Medicine. RCBW's philosophy is to handle long term projects and also be pioneer of projects. Some of the notable achievements of RCBW have been:

A) Pioneered the setting up of India's first Stroke Support Group nine years ago. The Stroke Support Group continues to be active in addressing the issues faced by patients and family affected by stroke and also to spearhead awareness/prevention of stroke, with meetings at the Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital at Andheri.

B) Set up the Mobile Domiciliary Van Project with All India Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Center, Haji Ali (Government of India Undertaking) to reach the physically challenged individuals in Urban Slum areas. The project was set up in 2005 and is in operation till date. Seeing the benefit of the project, World Health Organization has initiated a similar project for other areas of Mumbai.

C) At the BMC School at Worli Naka we provided necessary infrastructure facilities (toilets, water drinking room, computers, colourfully tiled corridors etc.). The hygienic conditions of the school have remained one of the best since the involvement of RCBW and the School received many awards for the cleanliness maintained.

D) Supported the cause of burns victims by not only holding various seminars but also by donating a Specialized Ambulance (first of its kind in Mumbai) to The National Burns Centre, Airoli. RCBW was the pioneer with Dr Sunil Keswani to spearhead the Skin Donation program. The association with the burns program is in its Sixth year.

E) Project for the Lamina Flow Equipment, training and upgrade of Specular Microscope for the Eye Bank Coordination & Research Centre (EBCRC), at Bachoo Ali Hospital, Parel. The project enables successful surgical outcome of the cornea transplantation.