

About Uddami

UCTC (Uddami Computer Training Centre)

UCTC SCHOOL: We teach practical, job-oriented computer skills to the underserved in Kolkata. The basic UCTC course is free on a first come, first serve basis. Our students are young people who know computer skills will get them a better job and women who would like to acquire employable skills that would give them some financial security. All of our students are from economically disadvantaged backgrounds or there are special circumstances which have considerably lowered their economic status.

Achievements

- Three UCTC teachers are graduates of our school:
 - RABIA KHATOON (2003-Present) UCTC Teacher; Trainer for teachers we place in other NGOs
 - MAHUA BERA (UCTC Graduate 2004) UCTC Teacher
 - SOMNATH SARDAR (UCTC Graduate 2004) UCTC Teacher for nominal fee-based computer courses; the fees pay for Somnath's salary
- 47% of our graduates are working; 36% have gone on to further education
- 51% of our students this year are women
- 18% of our students this year are deaf
- Four of our graduates are working as computer teachers in other nonprofit projects – SOMNATH SARDAR, RABIA KHATOON and SUKLA MAZUMDAR in TOMORROW'S FOUNDATION and SANCHITA GHARAMI in DAYWALKA.

UCTC Website: The website is now created and updated entirely by Rabia Khatoon, UCTC's teacher of four years. Rabia keeps our current student photos up to date, uploads our students' webpages and creates new webpages as needed. <http://www.uddami.org/uctc>

UCTC LIBRARY: MARC GOLD and his organization 100 FRIENDS gave us seed money to start a library in 2003. Our library now has over 200 books, in English and Bengali. The library is open to all UCTC students and graduates as well as students and teachers from the local community.

UCTC SPOKEN ENGLISH CLASS: Due to repeated requests from our students we offer a free spoken English class on Saturday morning taught by Alison. The class includes students, friends and three teachers from Parivari, a primary school near UCTC.

Workforce Development & Partnering

The method of teaching computer skills we have developed over the last six years in UCTC has been spreading through Kolkata. During the last two years we have helped three other organizations (NEW LIGHT, TOMORROW'S FOUNDATION AND DAYWALKA) develop a computer program based on the UCTC model. We encourage small classes and hands-on training. When we partner with another organization we provide our curriculum and expertise. Our graduates who teach are great role models because they are usually from the same kind of background as the students that they teach.

PARTNERS

- TOMORROW'S FOUNDATION – we continued and expanded our joint computer program with the help of a grant from GOAL INDIA FOUNDATION and one from JEAN CLEMENT and TABLE DE CANA. Three UCTC graduates have been placed in this school as teachers. The program introduces the computer to students of TF's school. Twenty-five older students are following a more advanced vocational computer curriculum (a smaller condensed version of the UCTC course) to get them ready for a job.

- DAYWALKA – this is a new partner for us and we have placed one of our graduates, SANCHITA GHARAMI, as teacher of their computer program. DAYWALKA is new to Kolkata but they have been working with trafficked women and girls in Nepal since 1995.

Help for Individuals

UDDAMI is primarily an educational organization but sometimes our students or people in the community need financial aid. We look at each person individually and if we feel it is appropriate to try to help, we look for a sponsor. It is not always easy to know who really needs help here. Because we work with the individuals we help we are in a unique position to know and understand the circumstances and urgency of their situation.

SUKLA MAZUMDAR – KEVIN BARKER (one of UDDAMI's donors) is sponsoring her daughter MEGHA's education. Sukla lost her job and was surviving on "rice water" (the water left over from cooking rice) – she gave the rice to her daughter. Sukla graduated from UCTC this year and is now working as a computer teacher for TOMORROW'S FOUNDATION.

SK. KHALEK – Rabia's older brother had little education but wanted a chance to show that he could help support his family. MARC GOLD donated seed money through 100 FRIENDS to help Khalek start a lemonade cart. It's been a rocky start, his cart has twice been vandalized (with the knowledge of both the police and the union) but Khalek is determined to make this business a success.

MONIKA GHOSH – one of our graduates needed some help with her last two years of school so we have been providing her monthly tuition.

PRASANTA DAS - This 6 year-old boy lives with his mother and grandmother in a one-room shack near the school. For the past year he has been coming to our centre almost every day to talk with the teachers and practice his alphabet on the board and on the computer. Prasanta is a bright boy and the only thing holding him back is his family's poverty. We just enrolled him in a very good English medium school. For someone with Prasanta's background a good education is essential for his future. Learning English is also important because this is a skill that increases opportunities exponentially.

Of Interest

- First annual UCTC picnic in January was attended by 75 past and present students and teachers.
- Uddami is in a best-selling book in Spain by HERNAN ZIN called LA LIBERTAD DEL COMPROMISO along with five other projects - two in Calcutta, one in Tibet and two in South America.
- NIVEDITA PAL, UCTC's Assistant Director, added Bengali text to a slide presentation that will be used for a research project on hepatitis prevalence in the sex worker population of Calcutta – this presentation explains all types of hepatitis in detail.
- With a grant from SHADHIKA FOUNDATION we purchased a battery inverter so that we never need to cancel class again due to power cuts.
- Our graduates SANJAY DAS and SOMNATH SARDAR are tutoring two six-year-old boys from the neighborhood in English.
- UDDAMI INDIA FOUNDATION (UIF) was registered in April as a Public Benefit Trust in India.

Offshoot of Uddami

We've created a for-profit company called UDDAMI SOFTWARE SERVICES or USS. USS will hire UCTC graduates and manage their work on domestic and international outsource contracts. The contracts are in the areas of data entry, software testing and quality assurance, web site development, word processing and any other skill taught at UCTC. Employees of USS will be paid a market rate salary and profits from their work will be donated to UCTC. <http://www.uddamisoftwareservices.com>

Financials - Expenses & Donations

