

Our summer with CanSupport in New Delhi, India



Sasha Lieberman '15

and

Joseph Laseter '15



What is CanSupport?



- ✦ CanSupport is the largest palliative care NGO in Northern India.
- ✦ Established in 1996, this organization provides free home care for over 1000 cancer patients.
- ✦ CanSupport has 15 teams based in 9 different locations around New Delhi.
- ✦ Each team typically consists of a doctor, nurse, and counselor.

What did we do?



- ✦ Shadowed the teams on home visits
- ✦ Volunteered at DayCare
- ✦ Taught English classes
- ✦ Created marketing materials
- ✦ Drafted a research protocol and grant proposal
- ✦ Created new charts and a database to record patient information
- ✦ Created an educational online database for nurses



“We can’t add days to their lives, but we can add life to their days.”

Home Visits



“ I can remember one particular home visit at the end of a long day. We went to see the last patient, a gentleman missing a large portion of his face. When we first arrived, he seemed dejected, and his wife wasn’t even able to comfort him. It was only after the team came in and began talking to him that he began to liven up. That’s when I realized that caring for patients is not just about medicine. It’s about much more.”

Teaching English



“Teaching English to the nurses and counselors ended up being one of the most rewarding aspects of my internship. It was really difficult because we would teach a group of about 30 people of all varying levels and abilities, but the moments I remember most are those immediately following a couple of classes. Some nurses and counselors would thank us for a good class, and ask for handouts to take home and review. They really wanted to improve their English but just hadn’t had much opportunity to.”

Our Impact

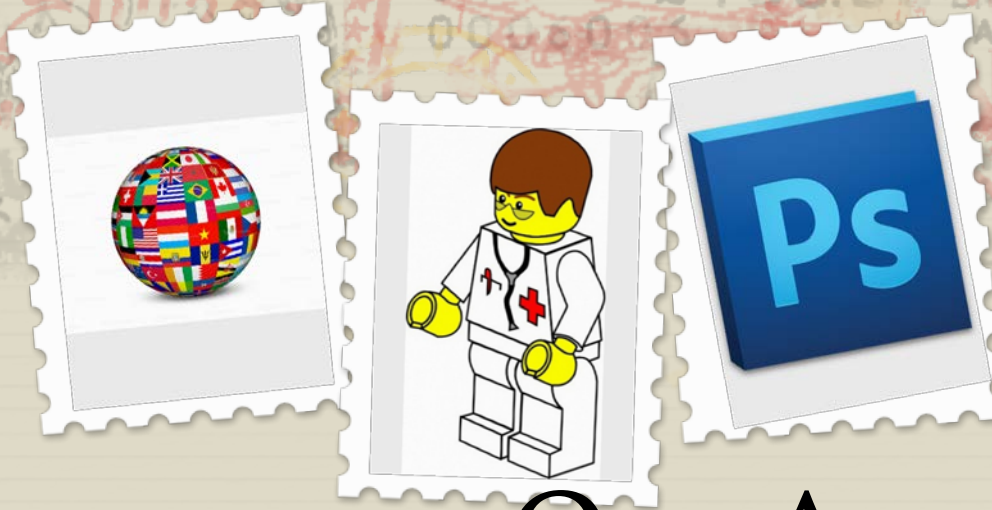
- ✦ We came to CanSupport at a time when the nurses had to take on more responsibility.
- ✦ We helped in this process by providing the nurses with various supports to increase their confidence:

Teaching the first series of English classes, which will be continued.

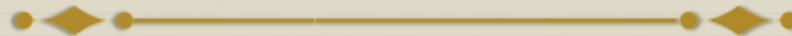
Rewriting procedure standards

Creating a database where they can access educational materials





Influence on Our Academic Life



- ★ Solidified our focus on global development and health care
 - ★ Shaped our perspectives on patient care
 - ★ Helped us garner other skills and interests



Riding into the Indian Sunset



Lessons Learned

- ☆ Travel at every opportunity
- ☆ Always take your medicine
- ☆ Spend some time with a great NGO
- ☆ Don't be afraid to ask for help
- ☆ Reach out to alumni in your area
- ☆ Make time to explore the city!
- ☆ Approach every situation with an open mind