



2006 ANNUAL REPORT



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President's Note

Written by Anand Raghavan

As another year of successful fundraising and partnering with dedicated project partners comes to an end, we would like to thank you for your continued support of our work. Without you, we would not be able to make a difference in the lives of so many underprivileged children in India.

2006 was a wonderful year in terms of fundraising. We crossed \$3 million once again, in terms of funds raised. Our flagship nationwide fundraisers were also great successes. The Work An Hour program raised over \$120,000 towards 11 projects in India that were selected for support this year. As part of the Notes of Hope concert series, we hosted Pandit Shivkumar Sharma in three different cities. Our Team Asha marathon training program raised over \$600,000 from runners all across the country.

The money we raised from your generous support to these events as well as through your continued donations on our website helped us disburse over \$2 million to 212 partners in India. This included intervention in government schools through teacher training and empowerment of local community like Shikshana Vahini, Karnataka, projects reaching out to children in remote parts of India like Tripura, Ladakh and Assam, curriculum enhancement projects through Asha libraries in UP, projects with a tribal focus like Jaher in Jharkhand and several other worthy projects across the nation. You can find more information about these in this report and also on our website.

We also continued to place interns at Asha projects through the Asha Internships program. Our support for tsunami rehabilitation efforts continued this year as well in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. We also



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supported several Asha Fellows who were chosen for the key difference they were making in their areas of focus.

This year was also critical for education in India since the Right to Education bill was being taken up for discussion by the Parliament of India. Due to several reasons, the bill being taken up was a diluted version of what was recommended to the government. Asha for Education had several discussions with prominent educationists in India, and discussions among our volunteers. After these discussions we presented a list of suggestions to the Indian government in terms of what needs to be changed in the bill and urged them to table it for discussion in the Parliament. Asha volunteers in the San Francisco bay area demonstrated outside the Indian consulate on August 15th, met with the Consul General and presented their demands to him, urging him to forward those to the Indian government. We are hopeful that this landmark act comes into fruition in a better form soon, since it would make a critical difference to the lives of millions of children in India.

On behalf of all our volunteers and project partners, we thank you for your support towards our mission of empowering underprivileged children in India through education.



Asha In the News

Written by Srikanth Voorakaranam



Asha Fellow Kari Siddamma recognized by US Department of State

Asha Fellow Kari Siddamma has been recognized by the US Department of State as one of the Heroes Acting to End Modern Day Slavery.

The 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report (http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2006/67020.htm), released by the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, mentions:

Kari Siddamma has been working extensively with the marginalized Irula (a low caste) tribal communities in Tamil Nadu for more than 12 years. Her work includes freeing bonded laborers, organizing communities into cooperatives, and mainstreaming children into the educational system by providing motivational educational centers. With her intervention, an Irula movement has emerged that is now better organized to pursue indigenous legal rights from exploitive landlords. In one incident in 2004, Siddamma helped release over 1,000 bonded laborers employed in the rice mills of the Red Hills area of Tamil Nadu. With Siddamma's intervention, the plight of bonded laborers reached the Parliament and the laborers were ultimately released and rehabilitated. The Bharathi Trust designed a holistic program to address bonded labor including awareness camps, advocacy, day care services, and motivational centers for the eradication of child labor. In Tamil Nadu, this was the first time a tribal group had asserted itself in such a way.

Siddamma helped release over 1,000 bonded laborers employed in the rice mills of the Red Hills area of Tamil Nadu.

Asha-Arizona Kids' Chapter volunteers win President's Environmental Protection Award.

Three years ago, Smitha Ramakrishna, Pooja Ramesh, Amol Lingnurkar, and Akash Khare formed their own Asha Kids' Chapter in Arizona. With Mahatma Gandhi as their role model, they adapted the famous motto, "Think Globally, Act Locally" into "Think and Act Locally and Globally."

With the belief that it is inexcusable to waste water in the arid Arizona desert, the volunteers created an initiative called AWAKE (the Arizona Water Activists Karing for the Environment) to spread awareness about water conservation, preservation, restoration, sanitation and to provide access to potable water. They held booths at local events and reached out to more than 6000 people with this message. They tested local lakes and reclaimed water ponds for contaminants, and ran petition drives. Furthermore, they organized annual walk-a-thons, raising money to build reverse-osmosis systems and rain water harvesting systems to provide safe, potable drinking water to 3150 Indian kids.



These activities have aided the cause of helping the local and global community and have been recognized with the President's Environmental Protection Award. The foursome was one of the 10 winners nationwide to receive the prestigious award.

Excerpts from an EPA Publication (http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/peya/peya2006.html#9) reads: The students of AWAKE believe that, by increasing the public's awareness about water conservation and pollution, adults and children will start using water responsibly and make lifestyle changes to help benefit themselves and the environment. They try to follow this quote from Mahatma Gandhi: "Be the change you wish to see." Adding to the goal of helping children in India, AWAKE also aids the efforts of the Save the Peaks Coalition and raises local awareness on pressing local water issues in the communities. The Save the Peaks Coalition is an

organization formed by 14 Native American tribes who are against the creation of machine-made snow, made from recycled sewage water, on the San Francisco Peaks, a mountain range considered sacred by the native people.

Asha Tops Charity Navigator Ratings of Slam Dunk Charities

Charity Navigator, an independent charity evaluator with a database of over 3,000 organizations, recently released its latest report on the top charities in the United States. Asha ranked #1 in the Lists of 10 Slam Dunk Charities and 10 Charities Worth Watching. "The statistics presented by Charity Navigator highlight what we believe to be the greatest strength of Asha for Education - our zero-overhead policy, with only minimal expenses associated with credit card processing fees and fundraising, enabling 100% of all donations to go directly to our project partners in India. Add to that the fact that we are an organization that has no paid members and operates with minimal hierarchy, where chapters work with a great degree of autonomy and you have the recipe for an extremely dynamic group of people who share the same concerns, and work together toward a common goal", says Anand Raghavan, Asha's president, on the recognition.

Charity Navigator is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization under the Internal Revenue Code and does not accept any contributions from any charities evaluated. For more information about the evaluation, please read Charity Navigator's methodology.





Asha Fellow Siddamma Addresses United Nations

Asha Fellow Siddamma addressed the UN on Feb 1, 2006 as part of the presentation leading to the report "Tsunami Response: A Human Rights Assessment".

The report was prepared by three international aid groups: ActionAid International, Johannesburg; PDHRE, People's Movement for Human Rights Learning, New York City; and Habitat International Coalition, New Delhi.

http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=17 364&Cr=tsunami&Cr1=

Siddamma has been working in collaboration with ActionAid to address the issues facing some of the communities in Tiruvallur.

The report says that governments are violating the human rights of their own citizens as tsunami survivors endure discrimination, inadequate housing and assaults one year after the tragedy swept through Southeast Asia and that government officials squandered the opportunity to protect women, children and other vulnerable citizens as relief and recovery operations took hold.

Among its 10 recommendations, the report calls for the UN system to play a larger role in monitoring human rights compliance and for the international community, including global institutions providing financing to the devastated areas, to integrate human rights into their humanitarian donor policies.

Google Grant Awarded to Asha

Designed for 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations, Google Grants is a unique in-kind advertising program to support organizations who share the philosophy of community service in various areas including, but not limited to, education, public health, youth advocacy etc.

It harnesses the power of Google's flagship advertising product, Google AdWords, to non-profits seeking to inform and engage their constituents online. The Grant allows Asha the free use of the AdWords advertising on Google.com to raise awareness and increase traffic to Asha's website. Under the campaign, Asha can specify certain keywords and Google will place relevant Ads on searches performed on Google using those keywords.

Google Grants has awarded AdWords advertising to hundreds of non-profit groups whose missions range from animal welfare to literacy, from supporting homeless children to promoting HIV education. Applications are screened and grants are approved on a quarterly basis.

http://www.google.com/grants/index.html

SPAN Profiles Asha

SPAN, the bi-monthly magazine of the United States Embassy in India, featured Asha for Education in the Social Development section of their November edition (http://span.state.gov/wwwfspnovdec0646.pdf).

The feature writes "The international collective's efforts to increase educational access spells hope for underprivileged children in India. Seed funding from Asha has often proven critical for the success of unique educational programs that may have been overlooked by mainstream funding agencies".

It also notes that though raising funds for educationrelated projects in India is central to Asha's work, volunteers see raising awareness within their own countries as an equally important focus.





Work An Hour

Written by Alivia Sil

Take a Minute. Donate An Hour. Change A Life

Work An Hour, or WAH as it is popularly known, is an online fundraising campaign that runs on a simple concept: donors contribute an hour's worth of their salary or more towards children's education in India. This global campaign runs from July to September each year, peaking around India's Independence Day on August 15.

The WAH campaign started in 1998. Since then, the campaign has enabled Asha chapters to support major funding needs of their project partners across India every year. WAH is a major fundraising event for several student chapters whose volunteer bandwidth and monetary resources are limited. Yet, enthusiasm and eagerness drives these volunteers to help a section of the society that has the ability and aspiration but needs significant financial and moral support to walk handin-hand with the mainstream student population.

Projects are selected to be beneficiaries of the event depending upon various parameters set by the WAH project co-ordination team. WAH 2006 selected 11 projects that required a large amount of funding that is difficult to raise by chapters through their individual fundraising events. This year's projects were a collection of outstanding, noteworthy and unique initiatives that touch the lives of many underprivileged children. Reaching out to child laborers, children with special needs, slum children and children in villages,

these projects exemplify Asha's work. Save Children Save Society (SACSAS) located in Moirang, in the Bishnupur District of Manipur had the smallest budget of \$5400 while the highest budget of \$25,597 was for Mahila Swarojgar Samiti (MSS) located in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. Please visit

http://www.ashanet.org/workanhour/2006/projects. html# for further information about the projects.

By the time it concluded in September, WAH 2006 raised \$121,378 through contributions from 1118 donors worldwide. But the preparation for the campaign started off much earlier - in March - when Asha chapters across the globe were invited to collectively take part in the effort. Teams for publicity, project coordination, web design and development were formed to work towards various aspects of the campaign. Since the effort involved participation from volunteers across multiple Asha chapters, the campaign had to be co-coordinated entirely through electronic means. Regular conference phone calls, e-mails and online chat sessions formed the backbone of the campaign. Even without knowing most of their team members personally or professionally, Asha volunteers worked hand in hand to make the campaign a big success. We believe this to be the most unique, amazing and challenging aspect of WAH that makes it different from any other campaign or fundraiser.

We hope this event will continue to bring more people together to support this noble cause in the years to come.





Project Initiatives

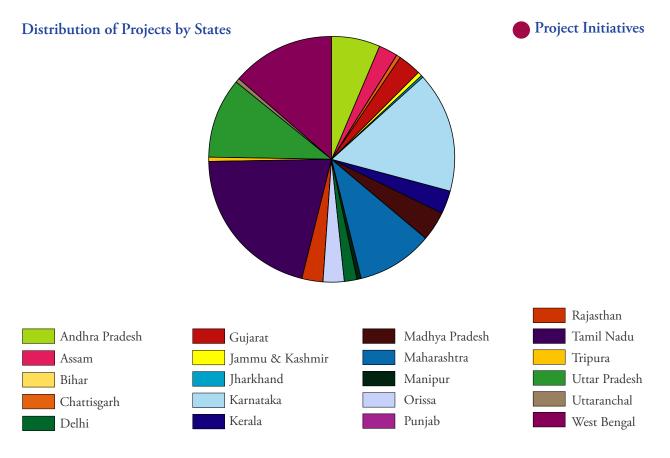
Written by Srikanth Voorakaranam

Asha works with a variety of project partners and community groups in many educational and development related endeavors. Our mission is not only to look at issues concerning access to education, but also to ensure that every child has access to an education that is meaningful. We try and ensure that nutrition and health care needs of the children are met. With the increase in bondage with our partners and communities, we provide support to make the community impact more tangible by supporting areas of need such as women's issues, community awareness related issues and more. With these thoughts in mind we have invested our energies in supporting different types of endeavors as described in the following sections. Our support in each of these areas not only helps the individual efforts but also helps us realize the problems faced by different communities and the important role played by each type of endeavor.

During 2006, Asha worked with 212 distinct partner organizations across 22 states of India. Funds disbursed were \$1.97 M out of total revenue of \$3.01 M. The disbursal rate of 68.21% was a significant increase from 52.8% achieved in 2005. This was due to an increased emphasis on the projects front - identifying and working with worthy new initiatives, and increasing the depth of involvement at ongoing initiatives.

The number of project partners increased to 212. Of these, 17 initiatives received more than \$25,000 each. 39 project partners were given grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$25,000. Asha maintained its unique focus on working with small project partners who would typically otherwise not have access to resources from other sources of funding. 156 such initiatives received grants that were less than \$10,000 each.

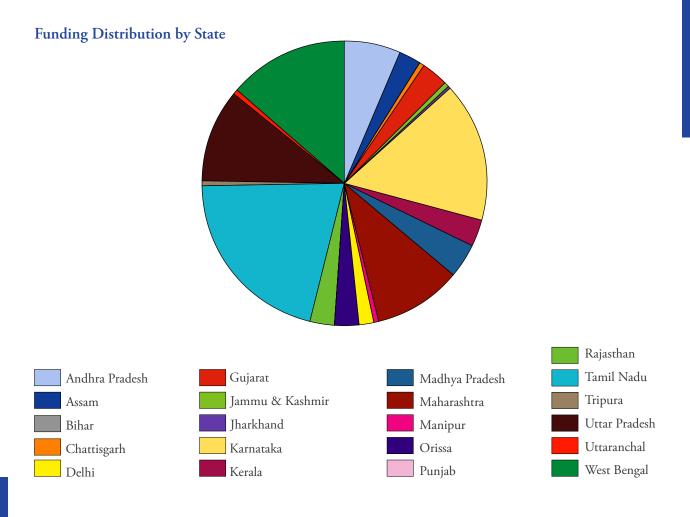




State-wise allocation of funding is given in the table below.

State	Number of Project Partners	Funding	Funding Percent
Andhra Pradesh	18	130548	6.61
Assam	4	46052	2.33
Bihar	2	2673	0.13
Chattisgarh	1	10020	0.51
Delhi	6	32400	1.64
Gujarat	4	59746	3.03
Jammu and Kashmir	3	10400	0.53
Jharkhand	2	6800	0.34
Karnataka	25	314927	15.95
Kerala	6	56455	2.86
Madhya Pradesh	4	76565	3.88
Maharashtra	21	196436	9.95
Manipur	2	14000	0.71
Orissa	7	56080	2.84
Punjab	1	1500	0.07
Rajasthan	7	53096	2.69
Tamil Nadu	48	412139.3	20.87
Tripura	1	7316	0.37
Uttar Pradesh	26	208826	10.57
Uttaranchal	2	13089	0.66
West Bengal	22	265526	13.45
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Early Childhood Education Gram Vikas Trust (Bharuch, Gujarat)

Gram Vikas is working with a focus on creating strong and independent rural societies without inequalities where women and children have access to education, healthcare, sustainable livelihood and essential infrastructure.

This assumes greater importance in a drought-prone district such as Bharuch (Gujarat) with poor soil quality, dependence on monsoons resulting in farmers migrating to work as day laborers in chemical factories and salt mines leading to high illiteracy rates and exploitation. Under the circumstances, the education of the children suffers. Asha helped Gram Vikas construct two Balwadis in Dahej and Khadodara to take care of the education of the children while the parents go out on work. The Balwadis also prepare children for formal schooling. A heart-warming story from the program is that one of the kids who received support from the SAC (Support A Child) program is in turn supporting two kids now





Reaching out to Remote Corners Dhamma Dipa School (Tripura)

Schools in big cities and in villages of the well-connected states are typically able to attract resources since there are several non-residents who originate from these areas. The primary motivation of the Asha Stamford Chapter in picking the Dhamma Dipa school (DDS) was to serve a part of India that is largely underserved.

DDS is an English-medium boarding school in Sabroom, the southern-most district of Tripura. The school was founded by Dr. Dhammapiya, a Buddhist monk who earned his PhD from University of Bombay and returned to Tripura. There are currently 250 students in kindergarten through sixth standard. Dr. Dhammapiya plans to expand DDS by one standard each year, and eventually make it a degree college.

Asha's support goes largely towards teachers' salaries and for setting up a library with books of educational and recreational value in addition to text books.

Asha volunteer Ajay Dalmia who visited the project wrote: DDS is situated on a hill top. Dr. Dhammapiya has arranged resources from the village to level the land and create a haven for kids. He has a lot of energy and vision. Dr. Dhammapiya has managed to impart the confidence and ability in the kids to converse in English. I did not get a sense of any religious bend to any of the activities on the campus. There are separate boys and girls hostels in the campus with a common dining facility. All the kids looked very happy.

Jaher (Hazaribagh, Jharkhand)

Jaher Development Samiti was formed by Santhals and works in the areas of health, education and development in the Churchu and Mandu blocks of Hazaribagh dist., Bihar. Emphasis is placed on incorporating their language and culture in the school so that there is no identity crisis or a sense of lack of self-worth.





Asha has been supporting the non-formal education center from class I to V for teacher salaries, food for the children who stay in the hostel, school stationery and games. There are 166 children in the school with 74 being girls. Asha has also helped the local women start fish ponds with the intent of providing them with some income, part of which can be channeled back into running of the school. Seven children from the school have been selected for archery training in Tatanagar Archery Club.

Working with the Government Shikshana Vahini (Mysore)

Government schools in India cater to the poorest sections of society and have suffered from years of indifference to the dismal plight of schools. They are plagued by several problems including poor infrastructure, poor teacher attendance and poor quality of teaching and lack of sensitivity to the communities they cater to.

Asha works with partners to reform the type of education that is provided by government schools. Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM) is one such voluntary organization established in 1984, with the aim of providing low cost, rational, ethical medical care. Over the years, it has evolved into an Integrated Community Development Project involving works in the fields of health, education, social and economic activities.

The Shikshana Vahini program targets a cluster of 312 government schools in Heggadadevanakote taluk, Mysore district, Karnataka. The goal is to strengthen primary education by increasing the enrolment & retention of the children and improving the quality of education in government schools with the involvement of the School Development Management Committee (SDMC), Gram Panchayat (GP) and parents.

The SDMC is a local school committee of nine members. Every government school in Karnataka has an SDMC and this committee oversees the





... 27 cents per child per year. This is mainly possible because of the extensive involvement of the government and the community.

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functioning and is responsible for the development of the school. Apart from SDMC members the Gram Panchayat (GP) members also have control on allocation of funds to the schools under the panchayat. These SDMC members and GP members are, in general, not completely aware of their roles and responsibilities. They either do not take effort in improving their schools or lack awareness of government schemes and policies. This initiative conducts special information campaigns and meetings for SDMC and GP members and facilitates a forum for several SDMC members to resolve issues of their schools. Apart from these meetings, special awareness campaigns on importance of education are conducted as part of the project.

The beneficiaries of the project will be an estimated 43,000 school children and 1200 teachers of the 312 government run schools located in the interior areas of 216 villages and 110 tribal colonies in the taluk. "The actual expense incurred on each child for the entire duration of the project (3 years) works to just 81 cents, or in other words to 27 cents per child per year. This is mainly possible because of the extensive involvement of the government and the community. If this project succeeds, it could very well be a role model for community based education in India" says Dr. Balu of SVYM.

Asha Fellowships Manish Dhobi (Lucknow)

Asha's fellowship program supports individuals of unquestionable dedication whose work can, in time, have a large positive impact by creating an

institution or a methodology. Fellowships are reviewed after the potential fellow has been nominated by a nominator actively working in India. The area of support is typically of current importance with potential to make large social impact to reduce poverty and injustice in the life of the underprivileged of India. The area of support includes education, income generation and women's empowerment, integrated rural or slum development, addressing dominant social concerns like child labor, bonded labor and other areas.

Healthcare is a basic human need. Poorer sections of India living hand-to-mouth go without adequate access to healthcare. In addition to economic reasons, low awareness about medical conditions and the healthcare system in far-away cities, lack of medical facilities, and shortage of qualified medical practitioners in rural India make the problem even worse. These multiple factors lead to diseases going undiagnosed and untreated until they reach an advanced stage where patients require urgent medical care. Consequently, a major medical event in a poor family can cause serious devastation, especially if the individual who falls ill is the breadwinner in the family. Medical loans taken for treatment can often plunge the family deeper into poverty - and may prevent them from ever recovering.

Lucknow and the surrounding rural areas is one of thousands of such places in India where people face these issues. Manish Dhobi, an Asha Healthcare Fellow, has found his life's calling in helping patients navigate the healthcare system, and providing them support during their sickness. This healthcare activity is in collaboration with Asha Lucknow and the Lucknow government medical college and police department.



Manish has been a strong and efficient advocate of these people for the past two years and has earned respect from not only patients but physicians, nurses, government officers and laboratory staff who respect and support his work. He leverages this network by bringing needy patients to physicians who treat patients for free or at minimal costs and hospital staff who will provide medicines to Manish for these patients at minimal cost.

Manish helps find families of destitute patients, and if no family member can be found, he provides them with support throughout their stay in the healthcare system, brings them food, and if necessary finds them shelter in government facilities. He helps between 10-20 patients per month. Because of the different kinds of diseases and traumas his patients suffer from – his assistance can sometime mean the difference between life or death, good recovery or life-long disability. A negative patient outcome can lead to many spillover effects for the families and communities.



Asha-Delhi is working on a unique effort aimed at ensuring the effective implementation of the "10% clause" so that the children coming from economically backward backgrounds get their rightful place in the private schools in Delhi.

The Delhi Government provision stipulates that private schools which obtained land at a very nominal rate have to enroll children from Economically Weaker Section (EWS) of the society into these schools. 10% of seats, therefore, should be reserved



the public and was being violated by the school since 1962 until 2004 when a social activists' group filed a PIL in court regarding this.

In the belief that education is a critical pre- requisite for socioeconomic change, Asha works on getting qualitative education for all the children of the society irrespective of their social status. Asha Delhi supports this project as this enables usage of a provision within the law – leading to a systemic correction, even of the mindsets of the fee paying parents, bringing in social harmony. For the academic session for 2005-06, Parivartan, a Citizens group based in Delhi, promoting the usage of the Right to Information Act, 2005, enrolled 40 children living in Seemapuri into private schools and found that these children did extremely well in the school. The Right to Information Act was used as a tool to facilitate the admissions.

Asha-Delhi and Parivartan collaborated to expand the program to other areas of the city. Project personnel identify children who are not economically well-off, and work with the schools and government officials to get the program implemented and the children enrolled. As the children might face difficulties coping with the teaching, the program provides tuition classes in the evening to enable these children to keep up with the teaching in the school.



Project Initiatives



Non-Formal Education Mahila Vikas (Gajapati district, Orissa)

Rayagada block in Gajapati district of Orissa is one of the most backward areas in the state. It is inhabited by Saura Tribals. Due to limited school capacity and the inability of parents to send their girl children to government schools far away, an estimated 2000 girls have dropped out of school.

With support from Asha, Mahila Vikas is undertaking a project titled "Promotion of Girl Child Education of Primitive Tribals" in the area. Mahila Vikas has a wealth of experience in tribal development and has successfully executed other social welfare projects in the area ameliorating the economic and social status of women (accelerated female literacy project helped educate about 15,000 tribal women in the 15-35 year age group). It also works on organizing micro-financing self-help groups, and towards the improvement of water and sanitation. It involves people in various facets of decision-making and utilizes existing infrastructure in the villages. All the volunteers in Mahila Vikas, including the founder, are from the Saura tribal community.

Mahila Vikas will establish a learning center for the children attending grades 1 through 3, and subsequently transit them into a government school. There is a great degree of community support for the project

and a strong desire to remedy the situation. They also plan to run 15 bridge centers to enroll dropout and non-school going children in govt schools.

Large Scale Initiatives AVEHI-ABACUS Sangati Program (Maharashtra)

AVEHI, Audio Visual Education Resource Center, is a resource center for development and dissemination of material that contributes to the cause of education in its widest sense.

Formal education is fragmented and typically not linked to the realities of the everyday world. It does not permit children to voice their opinions and learn from their experiences. The system in fact instills unquestioning obedience to power. As a result, people seldom exercise their capacity to creative decision-making or take control of their own lives even as adults.

The Sangati program initiated by Avehi under the ABACUS project attempts to address the above lacunas. It seeks to provide space in a regular classroom for socially and environmentally relevant issues in an innovative and creative manner and sensitize children, teachers, families and society to them. Such an attempt is probably the first of its kind in our country.



Project Initiatives

Sangati helps the teacher

- to enrich and supplement the regular curriculum
- to help children bring together what they learn in school and what they learn outside
- to enhance thinking, analyzing and decision making skills.
- to encourage children to listen to different opinions while forming and expressing their own
- to foster values promoting harmony and celebrating diversity.

Asha has been supporting AVEHI in the creation of the Sangati curriculum package as part of the ABA-CUS project. From modest beginnings in 1990, the curriculum has now been expanded to ALL 900 municipal corporation schools as a three-year course in Mumbai for children studying in class V to class VII. The outreach is expected to reach 1522 teachers and 56,541 students in 2006-2007. Sangati and its impact on learners and teachers has been studied by many experts in the field of education and has been found overwhelmingly useful and having a positive impact on improving the quality of education.

Children With Special Needs Ashraya (Kerala)

Only 10% out of an estimated two lakh challenged children in Kerala get some form of institutional care. A vast majority of them are left to fend for themselves. The deplorable condition of these children, particularly that of the female challenged child, and the helpless situation of the parents acted as an inspiration and motivation to launch Ashraya in 2000.

Ashraya focuses on providing residential rehabilitation to mentally and physically challenged girl children stricken with polio, cerebral palsy or mental retardation and to develop them to a level of independence by which they could lead a life comparable to that of a normal child and be capable enough to work as teachers in rehabilitation centers for the future generation of challenged children in their villages. It is noteworthy that Ashraya, by policy, employs only handicapped female graduates as teachers.

Ashraya employs a mix of formal and creative-informal teaching/training methods designed for their overall development with special emphasis on behavior modification and imparting training to be self reliant and independent. Physically challenged children are imparted regular teaching. Physiotherapy and aerobic exercises, clay modeling and needle work for developing gross and fine motor control are part of the training. In addition, for the mentally challenged children, an unique approach of utilizing sound vibrations arising out of group chanting of ancient Vedic hymns and regular recitation of Indian classical music is used. Ashraya daughters have responded very well to the training and measurable progress is observed.

With support from Asha and other local sources, Ashraya is extending existing infrastructure with a classroom that also doubles up as a retiring room at night. Four toilets and three bathrooms are also planned to be constructed.

Regular school going Ashraya daughters with all their challenges did compete with able-bodied classmates at their school youth festival and won six first prizes for various cultural events. This is not all - two of them were selected for the sub-district cultural meet where over 25 schools participated and both of them proved their mettle.





... Ashraya takes to nurture and develop each of it's daughters into as self-reliant individuals as possible.



Praveen Gopalakrishnan from the CNJ chapter, after visiting the group, writes:

Overall, the visit created a very positive image in my mind of the holistic view that Ashraya takes to nurture and develop each of its daughters into as self-reliant individuals as possible. Ashraya has helped me understand that taking on the task of transforming one challenged child, let alone 24 or more, is a very time and resource consuming, demanding yet creative and extremely fulfilling task.

Real change (like what is reflected above) is hard and is the result of unparalleled dedication by the entire Ashraya team. I hope Asha will get more chances to serve Ashraya and its daughters and I get more chances to be part of such inspiring and humbling site visit experiences!!

Educational Aids Mukti (Sunderbans, West Bengal)

MUKTI was established in 2003 from the vision of a Sunderban native Sankar Halder. Sankar grew up in an underprivileged family in the Sunderban and went through the trials and tribulations that people living in Sunderbans suffer through. Sankar decided to involve educated and energetic local youth to develop themselves and their communities through various developmental projects. This vision led to the foundation of MUKTI.

MUKTI's mission is to implement programs for upliftment of the underprivileged, illiterate, poor and backward people of mainly the Sunderban region by way of motivation and human resources development thus building a self-reliant society by efficient and effective utilization of local resources and implementation of environmentally sound policies.

Since the local government does not provide textbooks for boys after Grade 5, the expenses of continuing education is cost-prohibitive for many parents. In response, Asha NYC-NJ in collaboration with Asha Yale has started the book bank project that currently provides textbooks to over 2500 students in Purbasridharpur region.

What is particularly innovative about the book bank project is its self-sustainability. At the end of each academic year, the children return the textbooks they have been provided to Mukti. Those textbooks are then passed down to the next class.

Asha Bal Pustakalay (Libraries) in North Indian Schools

The Asha Bal Pustakalay project was launched to provide children of Asha supported projects with access to the books. It allows children over 10 years of age to take books home for 2-3 days, and encourages teachers to use these books as part of the learning process.





The library model was introduced at two Asha projects, Mahila Swarojgar Samiti, Varanasi and Jeevan Daan Samiti, Gazipur, in 2004. Based on the success of these two libraries the project has been expanded to other Asha projects with a detailed plan for operation and monitoring. Currently most of the eastern UP projects are covered by this endeavor.

45 Indian publishers were contacted to send lists of books and sample books. A shortlist of 550 books pertaining to songs, pictures, drama, quiz, science, environment, history and fun were selected. Asha volunteers organized workshops for individual library project volunteers and provided them with training and documentation for maximum use and upkeep of

the books and operating the libraries. Follow-up visits were made to different centers to check the condition of the libraries.

Community-Based Initiatives Project Confidence - Bhagavatula Charitable Trust (Vishakapatnam, Andhra Pradesh)

Project "Confidence" is the vision of the Bhagavatula Charitable Trust (BCT) to transform 100 villages in 3 mandals, viz. Yelamanchilli, Atchyutapuram and Rambilli of Visakhapatnam District, Andhra Pradesh into model villages in such a way that all able bodied persons are gainfully employed, that substantive



improvements in the state of literacy, health and economic sustenance take place and that local leadership and facilitation is fully developed. The mission of BCT is to create opportunities at the doorsteps of the villagers, continuous self-improvement in the quality of their lives and to generate their leadership in solving their problems & to utilize their resources most effectively.

Association of Asha Toledo with BCT started in 2004 and a project proposal was submitted to Work An Hour (WAH) supporting the project "Confidence" for setting up an Academy called Academy of Humans as resources (AHAR). The academy is intended to offer various self sustaining training courses: dress making for women, electrical repairs and pump maintenance, carpentry, masonry, agricultural skills like floriculture, vegetable gardening, Etikopakka toys (toys made by application of lacquer on wood to create a distinctive appeal, studded with gold and precious stones, beads, colored glass, mirrors etc), hand made paper from rags, waste banana fiber, screen printing, soap and detergent making, bakery and biscuits, washing soap production, computer operation and repair.

With the help of Toledo Rotary Foundation and an anonymous donor, dress making, electrical maintenance and masonry courses have been started this year.

Anantharamprasad Dadi from Asha Toledo, who visited the project recently, writes:

BCT is doing a wonderful job in taking good care of the villages and transforming villagers and students in that region. Its ability to involve the local villagers to take part in the huge project like 150 primary schools teaching nearly 7,500 students is a really commendable and splendid achievement. The project's primary schools and model high school impart value based education; vocational training courses provide life sustaining skills and agricultural skills provide the scope for village development.



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Muskaan (Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh)

Muskaan started in 1997 as an effort to provide meaningful education to twenty children from deprived backgrounds in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. Currently, Muskaan works extensively with six slums in Bhopal: Ganga Nagar, Gautam Nagar, Rajeev Nagar, Basti near Sargam, Bapu Nagar, and Banjara Basti. It runs two educational centers for primary schools - the teaching center and the Muskaan center. The youngest children attend Baldwadis; four of them operate in the slums. About 400 children and their families participate in Muskaan's programs. Asha has been supporting different aspects of Muskaan's work since 2001.





Project Initiatives

Daily interactions with the slums in which the children resided encouraged Muskaan to extend its educational programs and to initiate community and health care initiatives for the children's families. In addition to restoring the rights of food, shelter, education and health to deprived children, the group also promotes economic independence by providing opportunities for learning basic skills to youth and women and raising awareness of social problems.

Community programs include women's savings groups, a men's savings group, and a woman's livelihood group. Health care initiatives include vaccinations, young couple counseling, and group counseling. Jhadu (broom) making, paper bag production and sewing training is being done as part of the income generation initiative. The 8 women savings groups get loans at a nominal rate of 2%. Health awareness meetings have been held in the slums covering pregnancy care, child care, immunization and hygiene.

Tsunami Rehabilitation

Asha continued working on the Tsunami rehabilitation efforts with partner organizations in the affected districts of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Working with Bharathi Trust, 25 stabilized mud houses and fish drying platforms were constructed on land procured in the villages of North Pichavaram.

Asha Chennai volunteers were also involved in a "Back To School" program for 2562 children from 18 villages of Vizhupuram.

In Tada mandal of Nellore in Andhra Pradesh, project partner Sahanivasa coordinated rehabilitation efforts. 20 Kattamaram boats were procured for 60 families. 22 families were given fishing nets and 68 families were provided support for building thatched houses. Bank accounts were opened for 108 families, each of whom was given Rs.1000, so that they can start fish vending business in the local village markets. The significance of all these initiatives was that groups of 15 women (one per family) collectively planned the rehabilitation needs of the area.

The Sinthanai Sirpi Nursery and Primary School in Akkarapettai of Nagamandalam district bore the brunt of the tsunami. 28 children of the school died in their homes. Asha Chennai and Asha Arizona took up rehabilitation efforts at the school providing school furniture, teaching/learning material (bags, books, notebooks, uniforms and materials for the next academic year) and teachers' salaries.



Asha for Education, with a better understanding of the learning levels, school functioning, and the problem areas of the school can now devise more effective ideas for a catalyzed change.

Asha Internship Program

The objective of the internship program is to connect individuals who want to spend time volunteering onsite in India for some time with suitable Asha projects. Through a careful process of screening, documentation and matching, Asha endeavors to create a synergistic internship experience where the intern, Asha and the project partners all benefit.

In the last 12 months, the internship program has received 210 inquiries from all across the world. Most of them are second generation Indians in their 20s, in college or recently graduated, who have a deep desire to do something meaningful for India's forgotten children. They typically get to know about the program through word of mouth, with no active publicity on Asha's part. The interns completely take care of their travel, visa, and financial support with some logistical support from the Asha internship team, volunteers of local Asha chapters and the project partner.

Following a phone interview which considers the level of motivation, maturity and financial independence and careful matching of the intern's interests with the needs of the projects, interns have been placed at projects throughout India ranging from cities such as Bangalore, Ahmedabad and Chennai to rural Uttar Pradesh.

A few of the internships are profiled below along with feedback from the interns.

Improving government schools in Bangalore Rajni Chandrasekhar, a student of Northwestern University in Illinois, US, spent a few weeks in the summer of 2006 working closely with Asha Bangalore to evaluate learning efficacy in a government school in cosmopolitan Bangalore, the IT capital of the county. Rajni used material developed by the National Institute of Advanced Studies at IISC-Bangalore, evaluating the 4th through 7th grade classes, and helping Asha understand how we can better use our resources to assist the government schools.

Intern feedback

Upon observation, there are a great many problems related to the general functioning of the school. In most basic terms, the school does not have an adequate number of classrooms and teachers to support its strength. The school also seems to have little intention to curb enrollment and petition for better infrastructure, let alone more teachers. The SDMC functions almost entirely through the work of one person, and the parents in the school, while perhaps generally interested in their children's education, have shown no interest in improving the conditions of the school through their own efforts. Asha for Education, with a better understanding of the learning levels, school functioning, and the problem areas of the school can now devise more effective ideas for a catalyzed change.





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Empowering people and helping sex workers

in rural Uttar Pradesh

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Ashika Mehta, a resident of New Jersey, US, was placed in the summer of 2006 at Sahyog, a refugee camp that rehabilitated poor children who were affected by communal violence in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Within the camp, there are pre-school kids who go to a balwadi, there are school dropouts, and also school going kids. In addition to the regular education, a lot of emphasis is placed on the power of play to help heal the children, many of whom have been witness to horrifying scenes of violence.

Intern feedback

I had an amazing time and learnt a lot. The teachers were so amazing. It was probably one of the most rewarding things I could have done and I wish I could have stayed.

Helping children with disabilities in Hyderabad

Devi Yalamanchili, a resident of Louisiana, US, was placed at Shradda, a school for slow learners in Hyderabad, where she helped teachers in educating children with disabilities in the summer of 2006.

Intern feedback

The staff and students were very supportive of my ideas and work during my two-month stay, for which I am very grateful. It has been such a great learning process for me, allowing me to gain insight into the everyday lives of children with disabilities and their different needs in the area of education. In my ambition to become a doctor, this experience will be invaluable in helping me to pay heed to the different needs of my patients.



Notes of Hope 2006

Written by Alivia Sil

Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma in jugalbandi with Rahul Sharma accompanied by Aditya Kalyanpur on the Tabla

Three Asha chapters from NYC/NJ, Washington DC and Cornell hosted the Notes of Hope (NoH) 2006. World renowned "santoor" maestro Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma along with his son Rahul Sharma and Aditya

Kalyanpur enlightened the minds of audiences with the rhythmical music of "santoor" blended with the appropriate rhythm of "tabla".

"Santoor" is a Persian word which means 'hundred strains'. The instrument is flat and trapezoid shaped which means it tapers at one end. It is a wooden frame where the wide end is used to create base notes or low pitch notes and is tapered at the other side for high pitched notes. It is one of the





oldest string instruments of India. The "Santoor" in India originated from the valley of Kashmir and was part of the Sufiyana music. Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma's father, Pandit Uma Dutt Sharma was the first one to realize the Santoor's potential for Indian Classical Music. He did extensive research on the instrument and later his son took up the task of bringing this fine instrument into the classical arena.

NoH 2006 gave us the opportunity to interact with renowned maestro Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma. I believe that all three chapters will remember him, his son Rahul Sharma and Aditya Kalyanpur not only for their extreme melodies and rhythmic performances but also for their gentle, pleasant and humble personalities. Inspite of being a world renowned maestro, Panditji interacted with every volunteer in a warm, cordial and humble manner, which is worth mentioning here.

I think I must mention an event without which this article would be incomplete. Pt. Shiv Kumar was supposed to arrive in Cornell a day ahead of the concert. Every arrangement was made for their arrival. They were scheduled to fly from Washington DC. But unfortunately due to bad weather and unpredictable air traffic condition they could travel upto NYC. After that their flight was cancelled for the day. Hence they drove to Cornell and reached around midnight 2 a.m. Initially they decided to complete their dinner on their way at any roadside restaurant. But thanks to mountainous upstate NY and equally bad weather, they could find none. So at 12 midnight, we received the news that they need a simple meal of rice, roti, sabji and chicken, when

they arrive at Ithaca in about an hour. It was really an experience. Thanks to the 24 hours grocery stores where we could somehow grab the ingredients. Then I, my husband Dwaipayan and a few Asha volunteers managed to prepare a superfast delicious 'Gobi Ki sabji', 'Chiken Curry' and 'Raita'. One of our friend, Parthanil's mother was visiting Cornell during that time. She helped us with the 'Dal' and 'Roti'. We successfully served them dinner/coffee at the wee hours of the night. Our biggest satisfaction was the acknowledgement we received from Panditji, Rahul and Aditya for the home made delicious food. The only thing they were unable to consume was the bottled water that we served. Well, not their fault really. In the rush, Dwaipayan, picked up a huge crate of bottled water, to be specific "raspberry flavored water". But they were extremely polite and humble while rejecting it. It was really one of the honorable moments for us. At least the incidence gave us confidence that if every thing fails in life we can try our luck to open a restaurant, Ha Ha Ha!!!!!!

The funds raised by all the three chapters from the concert consolidated to around \$20K. The amount raised was fully utilized to fund our new and existing educational projects in India. Our main sponsor of this event was MakeMyTrip.com, who sponsored the international airfare for the artists. On behalf of all the team members of Asha for Education I take this opportunity to cordially thank all our sponsors, patrons and volunteers and all the audience as with each individual's help we could meet our goal and contribute a substantial amount towards the fulfillment of our mission.



Right to Education Bill: Where are we going?

Written by Asha Seattle Volunteers

After more than 50 years of independence nearly 14 million children are out of school in India (from ASER report 2005). However the constitution guarantees the right to education to all children between the ages 6 to 14. Originally the constitution of India contained Article 45, as one of the directive principles of State policy which talked about free and compulsory education for all up to the age of 14. In a judgment (Unnikrishnan vs State of Andhra Pradesh), the Supreme Court of India in 1993 recognized the Fundamental Right to Education for children up to the age of 14 and asked the government to implement the same. In 2002, the 86th Constitution Amendment Act added Article 21A affirming that every child between the age of 6 and 14 years has the right to free and compulsory education making it a fundamental right. A Right to Education (RTE) bill was finally drafted in 2005 to give effect to this amendment. You can access the entire bill at: http://educationforallinindia.com/RighttoEducationBill2005.pdf.

There had been many schemes and programs initiated by the government of India like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and DPEP (District Primary Education Program) to improve the literacy level in India. Though some of those schemes have been successful in increasing enrolment at primary level, none of those tried to look at the complete education system picture in India. In fact, in many cases the quality of education suffered and though enrolment was high at the initial level, the dropout percentage was very high. RTE was the first time when education was recognized as a fundamental right and an effort was made by the government to look at the entire education system holistically to come up with a comprehensive bill. This is a very critical bill that has the potential to bring about a significant transformation in the education system in India in the years to come.

In Asha, an organization primarily working in the area of education, we felt that it's our responsibility to actively take part in finalizing this bill and lobbying for it as appropriate. We have diligently gone through the entire bill, sought comments from our partner groups in India and analyzed different aspects of this bill.





This bill asserts that every child in the age group of 6 to 14 has the right to free and compulsory education of equitable quality. Some highlights of this bill are:

- Every neighborhood will have a school, such that every child has access to a school within the neighborhood of the residence of the child. The bill also defines a set of minimum standards that every school has to conform to including basic infrastructure requirements to teacher-student ratio etc.
- Introduces 25% reservation in state schools of specified categories and unaided private schools for children from the weaker section.
- Any screening procedure while deciding admission to any school at elementary stage or accepting any form of capitation fee is prohibited in this bill.
- Introduces an administrative body called the School Management Committee (SMC) that not only oversees the functioning of the school, but also takes part in day to day administrative work of the school including managing the assets of the school, disbursing salary of the teachers, facilitating development of the school using grants.
- Mandates a minimum school infrastructure. This is crucial since it implies that many private schools, SSA schools and non-formal education centers that fail to adhere to the requirements will become illegal.
- Central government will constitute a body called the National Commission for Elementary Education (NCEE) that will continuously monitor the implementation of this act and recommend corrective measures where necessary.

This draft bill has received a lot of comments and criticisms from various circles. Some of the major criticisms include:

- 1. Excluding the 0-6 age group out of the bill. Addressing the age group of 0-6 is especially important since lack of nutrition and health care in this age group effects educational opportunities in their future. This is particularly relevant in India as more than 50% of children under 5 are malnourished.
- 2. Giving the SMCs too much power and responsibility including day to day administrative responsibility with a very short ramp-up time.
- 3. Lack of clarity about the rights of children with special needs and how those will be implemented. Also the draft bill should specifically address the needs of girl children in the context of closing the gender gap.
- 4. The lack of government responsibility and financial commitment for the bill to get implemented. The Central Government must ensure that the bill gets implemented in its entirety, and must provide sufficient resources/legislation to ensure this, particularly with regards to states that lack funds.

These are just a few of many comments raised by various groups. The Asha RTE campaign webpage (http://www.ashanet.org/campaigns/rte/) has more details.

With all its shortcomings and ambiguities, the RTE bill is still seen as a ray of hope with the potential to significantly change the elementary education arena in India and a good first step. It was shocking,





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Various civil society groups working in the area of education are staging protests against this shift of responsibility from center to state. Volunteers of Asha, Silicon Valley chapter, Association for India's Development (AID) Bay Area, and India Literacy Project (ILP) protested in front of the Indian embassy in San Francisco, against the government's decision to drop the Right to Education Bill. In Asha, we raised the following demands:

- 1. The center should not abdicate its constitutional obligation of providing education as a fundamental right.
- 2. The central government should recognize the importance of elementary education and allocate the right amount of funds for it. Lack of funds as a reason to eschew the RTE Bill is completely unacceptable and that too when the government spends less than two percent of GDP on elementary education. Legislation and funds must be directed as needed to make sure this bill is enacted and the required infrastructure is provided.
- 3. Present the Right to Education Bill in Indian Parliament. Four years have passed since the 86th Amendment and no action has been taken so far. This needs to be done without further delay.
- 4. The Central Government must ensure that entirely free education of equitable quality is guaranteed and must cover all costs of education, not merely fees.
- 5. Make Right to Education enforceable and justiciable. The Central Government must be held accountable if it fails to provide this fundamental right to a child.



- 6. Provide space for public feedback and criticism. In contrast, the so-called model bill has not been made available to the public for comments.
- 7. Provide for timely implementation of the bill. The timetable must include guarantees about infrastructure and general quality of education in all government schools. In addition, a high-level task force must be set up under the leadership of the Prime Minister of India to drive the implementation of the bill. For details of our demands please visit http://www.petitiononline.com/rteindia

This bill is important because it is the first step towards making a paradigm shift in the Indian education system – which doesn't only look at the problem of drop out or enrolment, but the complete gamut of the ecosystem including curriculum, monitoring, finances, teachers', students' and parents' rights. It mandates that no child in the age group of 6-14 will be employed. However, the central government's reluctance in bringing this bill to the table is a clear abdication of responsibility for not giving the Right to Free and Compulsory Education enshrined in the constitution. Now most of the state governments have rejected the model bill and passed the buck back to the center. We will have to keep our struggle alive and make Right to Education a reality! This campaign needs a much wider debate in the civil society. Reservation is a hotly debated topic among the common people and regardless of which side of the debate they are almost everyone agreed that the situation needs to be tackled at the primary level. However, RTE generated much less enthusiasm and discussion from the rich & middle class, which has the promise to improve the primary education and may be one day, not necessitate reservations. Everyone needs to participate in this debate and this needs to become a mass movement such that the central government will be forced to act on it.



Annual Report 2006 Asha for Education

Asha for Education Financials 2006

Written by Consolidated effort of the Asha Treasury Team of 2006

Chapter Financial Summary

Chapter	Opening Balance USD	Total Revenues USD	Total Expenses USD	Closing Balance USD
Ann-Arbor	3,439.50	(126.50)	0.00	3,313.00
Arizona	63,764.44	43,066.60	59,960.93	46,870.11
Athens	8,518.43	7,640.57	10,473.50	5,685.50
Atlanta	20,202.94	30,411.44	13,010.00	37,604.38
Austin	29,561.33	113,646.72	58,990.50	84,217.55
Bangalore	6,501.55	7,841.69	6,790.00	7,553.24
Berkeley	67,321.72	11,239.97	7,798.00	70,763.69
Boston/MIT	57,748.78	66,020.60	51,900.36	71,869.02
Canada	116.40	(125.40)	0.00	(9.00)
Central NJ	53,474.54	62,636.53	49,402.00	66,709.07
Chennai	6,628.27	42,459.37	25,677.15	23,410.49
Chicago	45,507.71	83,431.11	21,895.00	107,043.80
Cincinnati	6,870.02	6,273.03	2,000.00	11,143.05
Cleveland	47,307.27	10,079.26	25,304.80	32,081.73
Colarado	89,037.79	68,907.33	61,943.77	96,001.35
Cornell	19,593.05	23,961.66	10,240.10	33,314.61
Corvallis	14,993.23	6,577.00	15,000.00	6,570.23
Dallas	18,438.25	20,670.62	17,568.00	21,540.87
DC	63,905.01	93,330.90	55,637.00	101,598.91
Delaware	12,795.78	1,631.47	5,129.53	9,297.72
Delhi	5,051.38	2,554.94	1500.00	6106.32
Detroit	28,128.69	44,067.35	34,526.96	37,669.08
Endhoven	0.00	409.34	0.00	409.34
Flint	8,273.44	5,499.91	0.00	13,773.35
Houston	20,324.15	5,985.39	6,800.94	19,508.60
Hyderabad	4,701.59	7,342.26	6,752.00	5,291.85
Irvine	5,130.43	1,384.30	1,250.00	15,264.73
Kanpur	1,068.94	5,276.37	5,000.00	1,345.31
Kolkata	4,551.24	843.90	0.00	5,395.14
LA	39,963.58	119,443.35	113,852.33	45,554.60
Lalpur	0.00	5,418.42	0.00	5,418.42
London	453.65	(452.79)	0.00	0.86
Madison	26,498.00	485.00	0.00	26,983.00
Master	663,956.23	234,921.35	12,906.37	885,971.21

Chapter	Opening Balance USD	Total Revenues USD	Total Expenses USD	Closing Balance USD
MHV	102,876.92	59,908.26	20,000.00	142,785.18
Minnesota	58.92	6,477.86	1,621.00	14,915.78
MSU	1,734.21	4,493.36	3,060.00	3,167.57
Mumbai	3,853.36	2,292.83	0.00	6,146.19
Munich	0.00	(53.80)	0.00	(53.80)
NYCNJ	251,629.58	255,450.45	105,023.33	402,056.70
Philadelphi	a 5,635.69	3,478.13	2,808.00	6,305.82
Portland	16,380.27	3,726.88	2,225.00	17,882.15
Princeton	30,098.54	37,446.74	23,029.00	44,516.28
PSU	2,432.75	7,169.06	4,466.78	5,135.03
Pune	1,406.57	335.62	0.00	1,742.19
Purdue	6,062.68	4,786.77	5,670.00	5,179.45
Rajatalab	0.00	121.25	0.00	121.25
Redlands	10,343.77	8,576.47	4077.00	14,843.24
Santa Barba	ara 226.52	3,897.34	1,436.52	2,687.34
Seattle	1,302,837.77	728,931.76	618,996.79	1,412,772.74
San Diego	0.00	7,673.12	0.00	7,673.12
Silicon Valle	ey 617,240.87	445,266.24	238,837.52	823,669.59
Singapore	0.00	48.50	0.00	48.50
SLC	2,754.69	1,250.35	0.00	4,005.04
St Louis	13,503.79	9,697.55	6,173.48	17,027.86
Stamford	41,850.95	30,259.89	23,239.00	48,871.84
Stanford	42,217.19	26,172.35	48,790.00	19,599.54
Toledo	28,640.25	37,164.65	34,083.00	31,721.90
Tsunami	211,078.79	12,531.31	74,389.00	149,221.10
Uflorida	1,549.07	5,222.04	1,250.69	5,520.42
UIUC	18,025.47	23,415.81	11,343.00	30,098.28
WAH	18,645.09	121,458.49	91,106.45	48,997.13
Yale	18,431.28	22,835.72	20,098.00	21,169.00
Zurich	242.50	171.60	0.00	414.10
Total	4,203,584.82	3,012,959.66	2,023,032.80	5,193,511.68



Project Disbursement

Chapter	Project	Amount Funded
Arizona	Matrichaya Literacy Project (BLESS)	\$3,900.00
Arizona	Tsunami Akkarapetai Project - Asha Chennai	\$13,792.00
Arizona	Jeeva Jyothi	\$9,750.00
Arizona	Asha Samajik Vidyalaya	\$5,908.00
Arizona	Tsunami Back II School Projet Phase 2	\$9,657.66
Arizona	Children's Lovecastles Trust (CLT)	\$3,500.00
Arizona	Sai Kripa	\$3,500.00
Arizona	Swami Vivekananda Educational Society	\$4,000.00
Arizona	Deena Bandhu Trust	\$5,800.00
Athens	Sandhya Sanwardhan Sanstha	\$10000.00
Atlanta	Centre for Communication and Development	\$3,000.00
Atlanta	Nishtha	\$4,000.00
Atlanta	Vanavasi Ashram - Kerala	\$4,250.00
Atlanta	Vivekenanda Kendra	\$1,760.00
Austin	Gramin Shikshan Kendra, Rajasthan	\$5,000.00
Austin	BJSA	\$2,000.00
Austin	ASS	\$2,600.00
Austin	Nandlal Fellowship	\$2,700.00
Austin	Bharathi Turst	\$23,920.00
Austin	Shristi Special Academy	\$5,032.00
Austin	Banyan	\$4,284.00
Austin	ASS	\$3,450.00
Austin	Prasanna Jyothi	\$5,476.00
Austin	Sankurathri Foudnation	\$304.00
Bangalore	Asha India (Balia Project)	\$475.00
Bangalore	Kalpavriksha	\$2,315.00
Bangalore	Govt. School Project(Asha India)	\$4,000.00
Berkeley	Shilpa Society	\$2,000.00
Berkeley	AHEAD	\$4,150.00
Berkeley	WAYSSS	\$1,500.00
Boston/MIT	SVYM - Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement	\$1,500.00
Boston/MIT	Jaher	\$2,900.00
Boston/MIT	Seed in Madurai	\$9,476.50
Boston/MIT	SPRAT	\$3,834.00



Chapter	Project	Amount Funded
Boston/MIT	Sahanivasa	\$19,000.00
Boston/MIT	TEA - Team for Education and Action,	\$2.269.00
	Voice - Voluntary Organanization of Community	\$2,268.00
Boston/MIT	Enterprise	\$5,000.00
Boston/MIT	Natpurwa	\$5,137.00
Chennai	Asha Chennai scholarships	\$18,310.15
Chennai	Sinthanai Sirpi Tsunami	\$1,208.00
Chennai	ECTAL	\$1,175.00
Chennai	First Step : Ekambaram Pillai	\$1,325.00
Chennai	Project Dream	\$1,224.47
Chennai	Project Health Care	\$500.00
Chennai	Sangamam : Poondi	\$1,934.53
Chicago	Gramya Sansthan	\$8,800.00
Chicago	Asha India (Navjyoti)	\$6,911.00
Chicago	Asmita	\$552.00
Chicago	Asha India	\$502.00
Chicago	Aralu	\$5,130.00
Cincinnati	Asha Chennai	\$2,000.00
Cleveland	Saathi	\$650.00
Cleveland	Uma's Fellowship	\$2,667.00
Cleveland	Prayas	\$6,003.00
Cleveland	Vidyarambam	\$10,000.00
Cleveland	Padmashree Society	\$940.00
Cleveland	SRISHTI	\$4,300.00
CNJ	Ashraya	\$13,500.00
CNJ	Kushi Development Society	\$1,600.00
CNJ	Gram Vikas Trust	\$15,101.00
CNJ	Samayita Convent School	\$1,500.00
CNJ	Asha Samajik Vidyalaya	\$4,600.00
CNJ	Eureka Library Project	\$3,000.00
CNJ	Prabodhini Trust	\$5,000.00
CNJ	SrividyaAshram	\$5,000.00
Colorado	Harsha fellowship	\$2,600.00
Colorado	Mahatma Gandhi Residential School (MGRS)	\$3,000.00

Chapter	Project	Amount Funded
Colorado	Jeevan Daan Samiti	\$2,140.00
Colorado	Padmashree society	\$1,400.00
Colorado	Namma Bhoomi	\$50,000.00
Colorado	Samajik Navnirman Sanstha	\$1,850.00
Colorado	Digraj School	\$800.00
Cornell	BTS - Baikunthapur Tarun Sangha	\$4,000.00
Cornell	ISW - Institute of Social Work Primary Education Project	\$2,000.00
Cornell	Gramonnayan Milan Samiti	\$2,500.00
Cornell	Matrichhaya	\$1,002.00
Corvallis	UP Library Project	\$3,000.00
Corvallis	AP School Project	\$8,000.00
Corvallis	Bhainsaha school	\$4,000.00
Dallas	Odanadi Seva Samasthe	\$5,000.00
Dallas	Asha Stars Prerna Shishu Vidyalaya	\$1,368.00
Dallas	Adarsh Vidya Mandir, Kadodara, Gram Vikas Trust	\$5,000.00
Dallas	Bachpan Bachao Andolan	\$6,200.00
DC	Nalamdana	\$3,500.00
DC	FORWORD	\$4,000.00
DC	Odanadi Seva Samasthe	\$10,000.00
DC	Library Program	\$3,000.00
DC	PEAK project	\$2,135.00
DC	Child Right Project	\$5,140.00
DC	Asha Samajik Vidyalaya	\$8,222.00
DC	Mahesh Pandey Fellowship	\$3,000.00
DC	Sanctuary schools	\$5,000.00
DC	Nalamdana	\$3,500.00
DC	Sahyog	\$3,289.00
DC	BTS	\$4,000.00
Delaware	Mother Indian Community Development Association	\$5,000.00
Delhi	Parivartan	\$1,500.00
Detroit	Bharat Integrated Social Welfare Agency (BISWA)	\$5,660.00
Detroit	Kuvempu, Karnataka	\$13,872.00
Detroit	Purna Pragna Trust, Karnataka	\$5,229.00
	Shanthi Sadana Ashram - ASSAM	\$8,700.00

Chapter	Project	Amount Funded
Houston	SACSAS Academy, Manipur	\$4,000.00
Houston	Project Build Pasumai Trust, Chennai	\$2,000.00
Hyderabad	Project NICE	\$6,752.00
Irvine	Ananda Bharathi	\$1,250.00
Kanpur	Ek Kadam	\$5,000.00
LA	Tomorrow's Foundation	\$3,000.00
LA	Vanashree Trust	\$2,500.00
LA	Mithram	\$3,000.00
LA	Bharathi Trust	\$2,700.00
LA	Punjab Istri Sabha	\$1,500.00
LA	Star English High School	\$1,000.00
LA	Bal-Seva (Rajasthan)	\$1,000.00
LA	Youth Dreams	\$2,050.00
LA	Parikrma	\$94,706.97
LA	Basera-E-Tabassum	\$2,000.00
Master	Society For The Development Of The Depressed	\$1,910.00
MHV	Haritha Ecological Institute	\$3,200.00
MHV	UP Library project	\$10,000.00
MHV	Vivekananda Educational Society For Children	\$6,800.00
Minnesota	Asha Libraries in North India Schools	\$558.00
Minnesota	Kaorakhali Jana Sevashram Schools	
	ISDGEI – Institute for Socially Disadvantged Groups	
MSU	Educational Improvement	\$3,000.00
NYCNJ	AID-INDIA(Eureka Makkal Noolagam)	\$5,000.00
NYCNJ	Seva Chakkara Samajam	\$5,000.00
NYCNJ	Sarada Kalyan Bhandar	\$2,700.00
NYCNJ	Sarada Kalyan Bhandar	\$13,500.00
NYCNJ	Sarvodaya Parivar Trust	\$8,020.00
NYCNJ	Sankurathri Foundation	\$8,000.00
NYCNJ	Mukti (Asha India)	\$4,351.00
NYCNJ	Seva Chakkara Samajam	\$2,840.00
NYCNJ	Seva Chakkara Samajam	\$6,300.00
NYCNJ	NIPWD	\$4,400.00
NYCNJ	Sarada Kalyan Bhandar	\$10,500.00



Chapter	Project	Amount Funded
NYCNJ	Saathi	\$5,000.00
NYCNJ	Door Step School	\$13,395.00
NYCNJ	Sarvodaya Parivar Trust	\$8,502.00
NYCNJ	Chintan	\$4,044.00
Philadelphia	Vikahar Project	\$2,028.00
Philadelphia	Gonwara Project	\$680.00
Portland	Krishi Bharati-Trivediganj	\$2,000.00
Princeton	Khajurdaha Nabankur United Club	\$7,400.00
Princeton	Vasundhara Public	\$4,000.00
Princeton	SUPPORT	\$2,735.00
Princeton	Tribal Health Initiative	\$4,200.00
Princeton	Vasundhara Public Charitable Trust	\$3,500.00
Princeton	SUPPORT	\$1,194.00
PSU	MSMEVS Project	\$4,400.00
Purdue	Ashraya	\$2,600.00
Purdue	Aasara	\$1,001.00
Redlands	Adarsh Ilm Vidyalaya	\$4,077.00
Santa Barbara	SEED - Society for Economic and Educational Development	\$1,400.00
Seattle	Adruta Children's Home	\$30,000.00
Seattle	AHEAD	\$11,000.00
Seattle	Aralu	\$5,020.00
Seattle	Asha Sanctuary	\$2,800.00
Seattle	Astha	\$6,776.00
Seattle	Avehi Abacus	\$63,000.00
Seattle	Baikunthapur Tarun Sangha	\$5,411.00
Seattle	Betsy Elizabeth Trust	\$11,300.00
Seattle	Bharathi Trust	\$3,500.00
Seattle	Bhoomi Heen Sewa Samithi	\$53,250.00
Seattle	Bhopal Gas Crime	\$4,000.00
Seattle	Champa Mahila Society	\$75,486.00
Seattle	Digantar	\$24,893.00
Seattle	Each One Teach One	\$2,700.00
Seattle	Gramya Sansthan	\$3,000.00
Seattle	ISDGEI	\$5,000.00



Chapter	Project	Amount Funded
Seattle	Jagriti Bal Vikas Samiti	\$10,200.00
Seattle	Jeevan Gnanodaya	\$21,876.00
Seattle	Kuvempu	\$1,380.00
Seattle	Learning Network	\$4,880.00
Seattle	MICDA	\$9,500.00
Seattle	Muskaan	\$57,650.00
Seattle	Nitya Seva Society	\$9,000.00
Seattle	Ravi Aluganti	\$6,550.00
Seattle	RHEDT	\$8,000.00
Seattle	Rishi Valley Rural Health Center	\$2,750.00
Seattle	Rural Development Trust	\$42,037.00
Seattle	Samatha Pratisthan	\$10,000.00
Seattle	Shastri School	\$7,468.00
Seattle	Sikshana	\$6,500.00
Seattle	Spastics Society	\$7,000.00
Seattle	Sumavanam	\$1,750.00
Seattle	Support	\$22,066.00
Seattle	Swarnivar	\$2,345.00
Seattle	Tomorrow's Foundation	\$14,327.00
Seattle	Uthnau	\$22,756.00
Seattle	Vatsalya	\$5,000.00
Seattle	Vigyan Ashram	\$11,000.00
Seattle	Vigyan Vijay Foundation	\$5,000.00
Seattle	Vikasana	\$8,060.00
Seattle	WHY	\$11,880.00
Silicon Valley	Reward Trust	\$18,082.00
Silicon Valley	Savidya Upasamiti	\$10,954.00
Silicon Valley	Shikshana Vahini, Mysore	\$13,615.00
Silicon Valley	Vanavasi Ashram Trust	\$6,750.00
Silicon Valley	Vanavasi Ashram Trust	\$11,990.00
Silicon Valley	Fellowship - Hameed Manjeshwar	\$6,912.00
Silicon Valley	Kuno Education Project	\$5,915.00
Silicon Valley	Sri Saradatirtham	\$5,610.00
Silicon Valley	Shikshana Vahini, Bijapur	\$19,510.00



Chapter	Project	Amount Funded
Silicon Valley	Project RightStart	\$1,480.00
Silicon Valley	VARUN	\$3,847.00
Silicon Valley	Fellowship - Vallabhacharya Pandey	\$3,240.00
Silicon Valley	Nanhi Kali	\$10,020.00
Silicon Valley	Kondh Tribal Children Education	\$3,980.00
Silicon Valley	Asha Darshan - Assam	\$25,250.00
Silicon Valley	ASV Deoria and Kushinagar	\$4,634.00
Silicon Valley	Jagriti Bal Vikas Samiti	\$8,511.00
Silicon Valley	Jagriti Bal Vikas Samiti	\$8,340.00
Silicon Valley	Sowbhagya Higher Education Project	\$11,850.00
Silicon Valley	CDDP - Center for Development of Disadvantaged People	\$18,719.00
Silicon Valley	Ankur	\$11,251.00
Silicon Valley	Tomorrow's foundation	\$9,400.00
St. Louis	Baikunthapur Tarun Sangha	\$2,800.00
St. Louis	Kerala Bal-Vihar	\$2,555.00
Stamford	Tribal Empowerment	\$6,778.00
Stamford	Assam Centre for Rural Development	\$6,500.00
Stamford	Dhamma Dipa School	\$5,000.00
Stamford	Namgyal Institute for People With Disabilities	\$4,000.00
Stanford	People's Action for Transformation (PAT)	\$3,640.00
Stanford	Ananya	\$3,621.00
Stanford	Abhas	\$3,200.00
Stanford	Swanirvar	\$6,150.00
Stanford	Vanavasi Ashram Trust	\$6,500.00
Stanford	Childlink India Foundation (Magic Bus project)	\$1,770.00
Stanford	People's First Educational Charitable Trust	\$1,993.00
Stanford	Humana People to People	\$5,000.00
Stanford	Mandra Lion's Club	\$5,200.00
Stanford	Bharat Vidyalayam	\$3,500.00
Stanford	IRDMS	\$2,550.00
Stanford	Mahila Vikas	\$4,040.00
Toledo	Project Vision II	\$2,550.00
Toledo	Project Confidence	\$16,500.00
Toledo	Project Challenge	\$2,540.00
Toledo	Project Freedom	\$7,000.00
Toledo	Project Arogyaseva	\$1,500.00

Project Disbursement Countinued

Chapter	Project	Amount Funded
Toledo	Project Mosur Village	\$3,750.00
Toledo	Project Trigger	\$131.00
Tsunami acct	Project Pride	\$10,501.00
Tsunami acct	Anawim Trust	\$3,750.00
Tsunami acct	Bharathi Trust	\$34,192.00
Tsunami acct	Sahanivasa	\$14,000.00
Tsunami acct	Vizhupuram Tsunami Project	\$11,916.00
UFlorida	Ramakrishna Sewa Samithi	\$1,000.00
UIUC	Kalyan Sangha	\$4,164.00
UIUC	Chilla	\$3,310.00
UIUC	SMVS - Swati Mahila Vikas Samiti	\$1,904.00
UIUC	Shruti	\$0.00
UIUC	Kaorakhali Jana Sevashram	\$1,250.00
WAH	Puvidham	\$4,842.00
WAH	Saathi(Sahyog Gujarat)	\$11,000.00
WAH	Khajurdaha Nabankur United Club	\$4,096.00
WAH	Guria Swayam Sansthan	\$14,020.00
WAH	Sarada Kalyan Bhandar	\$10,000.00
WAH	Asha India (Project Build : Pasumai)	\$5,086.00
WAH	Aralu	\$4,100.00
WAH	Dhamma Dippa School	\$2,316.00
WAH	Sahyog, Gujarat	\$5,000.00
WAH	FORWORD	\$4,500.00
WAH	Asha Darshan (Asha India)	\$5,602.00
WAH	NICE (Asha India)	\$7,362.00
WAH	Tribal Empowerment Project (Asha India)	\$3,222.00
WAH	Sandnya Sanwardhan Sanstha	\$9,924.00
Yale	Shamayita Convent School	\$1,500.00
Yale	Mann Vikas	\$2,500.00
Yale	Scholarship for Tsunami affected kids	\$800.00
Yale	Pride (STAR project)	\$840.00
Yale	Mukti	\$4,400.00
Yale	AHA fellowships for Mr.Chandravel and Mr.Jeba Durai	\$4,800.00
Yale	Sikasana Project	\$3,000.00
Yale	Mukti - Coaching Program	\$200.00
Yale	Sarada Kalyan Bhandar	\$2,000.00
		\$1,974,614.28



Consolidated Statement of Income

(Financial Year 2005)

Fiscal Year		2005		2006
Revenues				
Direct public support	1,824,732		1,758,110	
Indirect public support	440,711		346,427	
Government grants	0		0	
Total contributions, gifts and grants		2,265,443		2,104,537
Program service revenue		0		0
Membership Dues			0	0
Interest on savings and temporary cash investments		33716		81,645
Dividends and interest from securities		0		0
Gross rents	0		0	
Less: Rental expenses	0		0	
Net rental income (or loss)		0		0
Gross revenue from sale of assets other than invento	ry 0		0	
Less: Cost of other basis	0		0	
Net income from sale of assets other than inventory		0		0
Gross revenue through special events and activities	1,066,570		1,107,778	
Less: fundraising expenses	-256,460		-262,033	
Net income/loss from sale of inventory		-7,127		-11,581
Other revenue *		11,667		13,770
Total Revenues		3,113,809		3,034,116
Expenses:				
Grants and similar amounts paid		1,644,726		1,974,614
Management and general **		22,258		18,950
Fundraising (indirect) ***		28,965		5,491
Payments to affiliates		0		0
Total expenses		1,695,949		1,999,055
Excess (or deficit) for the year		1,417,860		1,035,061
Net assets and fund balances at the beginning of the	year	2,740,590		4,158,450
Net assets and fund balances at the end of the year		4,158,450		5,193,511

^{*}Collections towards Admin expenses

^{***} Postage, shipping, printing, publications, publicity, ads



^{**} Banking expenses, operational expenses, PO Box fees, Auditing expenses, and miscellaneous fees

Disbursement Ratios

Chapter Name	Total	Grant	Opening	Disbursed/	Disbursed/
	Revenue	Expenses	Balance	Revenue	Opening
Ann-Arbor	-126.50	0.00	3,439.50	0.00%	0.00%
Arizona	43,066.60	59807.66	63,764.44	138.87%	93.79%
Athens	7,640.57	10000.00	8,518.43	130.88%	117.39%
Atlanta	30,411.44	13010.00	20,202.94	42.78%	64.40%
Austin	113,646.72	54766.00	29,561.33	48.19%	185.26%
Bangalore	7,841.69	6790.00	6,501.55	86.59%	104.44%
Berkeley	11,239.97	7650.00	67,321.72	68.06%	11.36%
Boston/MIT	66,020.60	49115.50	57,748.78	74.39%	85.05%
Canada	125.40	-0.00	116.40	0.00%	0.00%
Central NJ	62,636.53	49301.00	53,474.54	78.71%	92.20%
Chennai	42,459.37	25677.15	6,628.27	60.47%	387.39%
Chicago	83,431.11	21895.00	45,507.71	26.24%	48.11%
Cincinnati	6,273.03	2000.00	6,870.02	31.88%	29.11%
Cleveland	10,079.26	24560.00	47,307.27	243.67%	51.92%
Colarado	68,907.33	61790.00	89,037.79	89.67%	69.40%
Cornell	23,961.66	9502.00	19,593.05	39.66%	48.50%
Corvallis	6,577.00	15000.00	14,993.23	228.07%	100.05%
Dallas	20,670.62	17568.00	18,438.25	84.99%	95.28%
DC	93,330.90	54786.00	63,905.01	58.70%	85.73%
Delaware	1,631.47	5000.00	12,795.78	306.47%	39.08%
Delhi	2,554.94	1500.00	5,051.38	58.71%	29.69%
Detroit	44,067.35	33461.00	28,128.69	75.93%	118.96%
Endhoven	409.34	0.00	0.00	0.00%	
Flint	5,499.91	0.00	8,273.44	0.00%	0.00%
Houston	5,985.39	6000.00	20,324.15	100.24%	29.52%
Hyderabad	7,342.26	6752.00	4,701.59	91.96%	143.61%
Irvine	1,384.30	1250.00	15,130.43	90.30%	8.26%
Kanpur	5,276.37	5000.00	1,068.94	94.76%	467.75%
Kolkata	843.90	0.00	4,551.24	0.00%	0.00%
LA	119,443.35	113456.97	39,963.58	94.99%	283.90%
Lalpur	5,418.42	0.00	0.00	0.00%	
London	-452.79	0.00	453.65	0.00%	0.00%
Madison	485.00	0.00	26,498.00	0.00%	0.00%

Chapter Name	Total Revenue	Grant Expenses	Opening Balance	Disbursed/ Revenue	Disbursed/ Opening
Master	234,921.35	1910.00		0.81%	0.29%
MHV	59,908.26	20000.00	663,956.23 102,876.92	33.38%	19.44%
Minnesota	16,477.86	1558.00	58.92	9,46%	2644.26%
MSU	4,493.36	3000.00	1,734.21	66.77%	172.99%
Mumbai	2,292.83	0.00	3,853.36	0.00%	0.00%
Munich	-53.80	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00%
NYCNI	255,450.45	101552.00	251,629.58	39.75%	40.36%
Philadelphia	3,478.13	2708.00	5,635.69	77.86%	48.05%
Portland	3,726.88	2000.00	16,380.27	53.66%	12.21%
Princeton	37,446.74	23029.00	30,098.54	61.50%	76.51%
PSU	7,169.06	4400.00	2,432.75	61.37%	180.87%
Pune	335.62	0.00	1,406.57	0.00%	0.00%
Purdue	4,786.77	3601.00	6,062.68	75.23%	59.40%
Rajatalab	121.25	0.00	0.00	0.00%	<i>J</i> 9.40%
Redlands	8,576.47	4077.00	10,343.77	47.54%	39.42%
Santa Barbara	3,897.34	1400.00	226.52	35.92%	618.05%
Seattle		616111.00	1,302,837.77	84.52%	47.29%
San Diego	728,931.76 7,673.12	0.00	0.00	0.00%	4/.29%
U	445,266.24	227765.00	617,240.87	51.15%	36.90%
Silicon Valley					36.90%
Singapore SLC	48.50	0.00	0.00 2,754.69	0.00%	0.00%
St Louis	1,250.35 9,697.55	5355.00	13,503.79	55.22%	39.66%
Stamford Stamford	30,259.89	22278.00	41,850.95	73.62%	53.23%
Stanford		47164.00		180.21%	
Toledo	26,172.35		42,217.19		111.72%
Tsunami	37,164.65	33971.00	28,640.25	91.41%	118.61%
	12,531.31 5,222.04	74359.00	211,078.79	593.39%	35.23%
Uflorida UIUC		1000.00 10628.00	1,549.07	19.15%	64.55%
	23,415.81		18,025.47	45.39%	58.96%
WAH V-1-	121,458.49	91070.00	18,645.09	74.98%	74.98%
Yale	22,835.72	20040.00	18,431.28	87.76%	108.73%
Zurich	171.60	0.00	242.50	0.00%	0.00%
Total	3,012,959.66	1,974,614.28	4,203,584.82	68.21%	135.61%



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Annual Report Team

Alivia Sil, Avanti Kulkarni, Shachi Patel, Sudeshna Das, Srikanth Voorakaranam, Venkatesh Iyengar. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the past and present co-ordination team and every member of Asha For Education for their valuable inputs and suggestions.

Annual Report Design

Sudeshna Das





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